

# Summer Edition Summer Summer Edition



THY WORD...
LIGHT UNTO MY PATH

CHILDREN



# Also inside:

- Testimonies
- Products
- Itinerary
- Partnership and more..

DISCIPLING THE NATIONS FOR THE GLORY OF GOD ...

# To our friends all over the world,

We pray that this summer edition of our Wisdom Digest will bless you greatly. As always, may the articles enlighten you and set you free to be all that God wants you to be.

Please do also feel free to send in your prayer requests and testimonies. We love to hear what God is doing in your lives through our publications.

Remember that you can also subscribe to receive our Wisdom Digest magazine on a regular basis by contacting one of our offices.

We hope to hear from you soon. Have a blessed summer!

FOWM Publications Team



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# Salvation Prayer

A re you saved? Do you have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ? Do you know whether you are going to heaven or hell when you die? (Rom. 6:23) If the answer to any of these questions is 'No', we invite to pray this simple prayer. "Lord God, I ask you to forgive me for my sins and make me a new person today. I believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead for my salvation. I receive Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour. I receive forgiveness, healing and deliverance today. I ask you to fill me with your Holy Spirit. Help me to know you and follow you from this day on. Thank you for saving me!" The Bible says that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. (Rom 10:14) If you have just prayed this prayer for the first time, please get in touch with us, so that we can send you some materials to help you to grow in your new relationship with God.

# Publication Information

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

Please send us names and addresses of friends you know who would benefit from receiving a copy of this magazine, 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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# Light unto my Path

# THE ENTRANCE OF THY WORD GIVES LIGHT

(Psalm: 119:130)

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105) Years ago, when we were studying the subject of strongholds and how they affect our thought processes and therefore our decisions, actions and hence outcomes in our lives. We saw that, unless the Lord opens our eyes to see these strongholds and their influence upon our lives, we will remain in the dark concerning these things. We learnt to cry out 'Lord, light my candle'. When God's Word gains 'forceful' entrance into our lives and brings light into us, strongholds show up in our minds and we are enabled to see them for what they really are: 'things that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God'. (2 Cor. 10:3-5) The psalmist says 'thou wilt light my candle' (Psalm 18:28) and the book of Proverbs says 'the spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly'. (Proverbs 20:27) How we need light in these days. Jesus says we should be careful that our lights do not become darkness. (Matt. 6:23) When we allow hatred, bitterness and a critical attitude, the 'light' in us becomes darkness. The light of the Gospel must shine in the midst of darkness.

Darkness means spiritual ignorance. It can imply sinfulness and the secrecy that sin compels us to harbour when we yield to it. The light we need is that which God grants as His Word gains entrance into our hearts. The conditions of our heart matter if we are to receive the light from God's Word. Many read what they believe rather than believe what they read. They read with their religious or lascivious sun glasses, depending on who they are.

(Continued over page..)

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The first thing that the prince of darkness wants to do is to quench the light inside the believer. The light does not shine with all its brightness from the start; it starts like a small glow that needs to be fanned into flames. If there is no hunger for God, the light can easily go out. When Eve was speaking to Satan, he tried to snuff the light out with a question, 'did God say?' When the light in us becomes darkness, then the darkness will be great. The following are some heart conditions that will enhance the entrance of the Word to bring light to us: hunger, humility, meekness (teachableness), intimacy with God, the fear of God and understanding Godly boundaries.

Jesus exemplified humility as He healed the sick, raised the dead and still said 'the Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do'. (John 5:19) Peter went from saying to the man born blind 'look on us'(Acts 3:4) to saying 'why look on us, as if by our holiness we made this man whole?' (Acts 3:12) That was humility. He did what he did and gave the credit to the Lord like Jesus did to the Father. Humility includes knowing that we are not the source of the things in our lives; we are channels in the hands of God.

# **MEEKNESS**

This is teachableness. When we know

"Hunger is a sign of a healthy appetite. Spiritual

hunger is also a sign of spiritual health."

HUNGER

In the natural, hunger is a sign of a healthy appetite. Spiritual hunger is

also a sign of spiritual health. This needs to be cultivated in the place of desire and prayer. Feeding oneself with natural junk will affect natural appetite. The same is true with spiritual appetite if spiritual junk is fed on. We were made in the image of God and designed to depend on Him. In His redemption plan, we are designed to be conformed to the image of His Son Jesus. Since God never forces Himself on us or forces us to do what we do not want to, we need to sincerely cultivate this quality, called hunger for God. The psalmist says 'As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God'. (Psalm 42:1)

# **HUMILITY**

Humility is taking our place in God's scheme of things. Many find it tough to take their rightful place in God. What you have was given, so what is there to boast about? that there is still so much that we do not know and we are willing to learn, we stay teachable. We do not get too embarrassed with our good intentions but incorrect actions. We are quick to repent and forgive others. Both humility and meekness come from the same root word in the Greek. They are from a word used to describe a war or race-horse, a stallion, under the control of its owner or master. Humility implies endurance and meekness perseverance in obedience to God. The

meek will he guide in judgment: and

the meek will he teach his way. (Psalm

# THE FEAR OF GOD

25:9)

If there is one virtue that ranks high in God's agenda alongside these other ones mentioned already, it is the fear of God.

always believed and preached that our lives should be built on the Word of God. The one quality that will cause the Word of God to remain a final authority in our lives is the fear of God. Walking in the fear of God is to have a healthy reverence for Him. It is the beginning of wisdom. (Proverbs 9:10) Little wonder why wisdom is a scarce commodity amongst many today. The fear of God causes us to esteem God's Word as precious, worthy of our submission and deserving of our surrender to the demands in His Word. The Word carries the ability to overrule our human feelings as we subject all things in us to His expectations of us. We are not robots and He is not asking for a

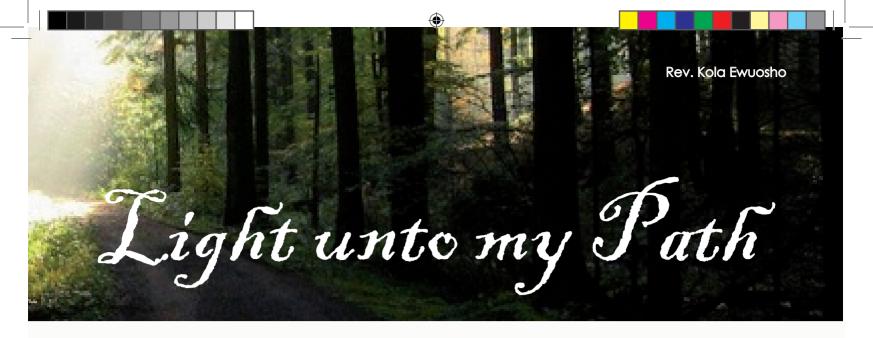
mindless, thoughtless obedience but an intelligent and willing acceptance of His authority to rule over us as Lord. Without the fear of the Lord, the presence of the Lord will not be a regular

occurrence in our lives. Joseph had the fear of the Lord, experienced the presence of the Lord and he knew his boundaries. He avoided sinning against God when he was given opportunity to have an affair with Potiphar's wife. His intimacy with God and his understanding of boundaries produced in the young man a strength that could carry him through the falsehood he had to face.

# **INTIMACY WITH GOD**

Intimacy needs to be cultivated in any relationship we desire to have it in. Intimacy is a function of love. The scriptures say "You shall love the Lord thy God with all your might, and mind", (Matthew 22:37) and "If you love me, keep my commandments." (John 14:15) The proof of love is keeping the

commandments. Our love for God will This is the true foundation for a lasting drive us to obedience. Loving God should and genuine walk with God. Once again be the basis of our obedience to Him. these virtues need to be nurtured. I have Real intimacy with God is guaranteed www.fowm.org



when we balance our love for God with an honour and respect for Him. This comes as a result of our fear of God.

There are things that hinder intimacy. These include; not wanting to be vulnerable before another, fear of rejection, fear of being taken advantage of, suspicion and fear of ulterior motives. The love of God and the love for God are antidotes for these hindrances. When we get born again and filled with the Spirit of God, the love of God is shed in our hearts and by revelation, the Spirit of God impresses on our hearts just how much God loves us. As we study and apply God's Word in our lives, our knowledge of Him increases and we grow in confidence towards Him. We cultivate intimacy by desiring to communicate regularly through all kinds of prayers: adoration, supplication, thanksgiving and worship. Then we ask Him questions and maintain communion with Him. Intimacy does not just happen; it takes time to build it. All the factors mentioned here will lead us to intimacy and our discernment will be sharper as we grow in grace.

# LIGHT UNTO MY PATH

When the Word gains entrance into the human heart, light from God breaks into

the life of the person. That light now shines and reveals the path to tread upon. This usually happens in many ways. One

instructions from the spirit through the mind. There are areas we need God to reveal the certainties to our hearts.

"All that the men of old went through, that were documented, have a message for us in our time. A path is that which others have walked on."

of these ways is when the Holy Spirit quickens verses of scripture, or an image of an event in the Word. Impressions, perceptions and intuitions come in here. The Word becomes the 'raw material' that the Spirit of God can use to give us direction. Many get mislead here as there are many voices and different sources of impressions and perceptions. Since His Word can be a light to our path, our interaction with the Word is a necessary foundation for depending on our perceptions and impressions. Just as the body and mind of man can be developed to carry out some unusual feats, the spirit of man can so be developed to do some things too. The words Jesus speaks are spirit and (contain or are full of) life. (John 6:63) Meditation, confession and application of the principles and instructions in God's Word will develop the human spirit. The human spirit will better cooperate with the Holy Spirit to carry out God's will on earth. The human spirit is capable of educating the mind whilst the body simply follows

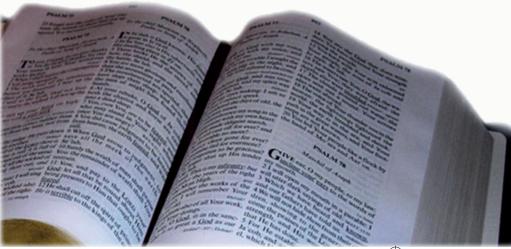
We need to settle in our hearts that God is a good God. (Jeremiah 29:11) New creation realities and our new position in Christ also need to settle in our hearts. We have been translated into the Kingdom of the Son of His love. (Colossians 1:13) The authority vested in us as believers needs to be settled in our hearts. (Luke 10:19). These foundational understandings hold us in good standing as we are processed into the destiny God has for us.

# **PROCESS**

Progress in God is accomplished through process. This is what we go through experientially in our challenges as we seek to obey God fully. They are steps we take, principles we internalise and adjustments we make as we grow into the pure and holy habitation for God. God wants to dwell in us and demonstrate His power in and through us. We pass the tests and become who He wants us to become. All that the men of old went through, that were documented, have a message for us in our time. A path is that which others have walked on. When we face our giants we remember David. When rejected we see how Joseph handled it in his time. Their process becomes our prophetic direction. If they came out successful then we can anticipate the same outcome they had. Another reality we see is that our process has phases. Recognition of what phase we are in and how to go through it is one

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of the advantages we have when we have the light of God at work in us. Joseph's coats represent different phases of his life. The coat of many colours represented a 'beginning' phase for him. The coat of slavery in Potiphar's house represented another phase. The prison clothes represented another phase. Then, coming before Pharaoh, he had to change his coat again. It is usually the hiding phase that enhances internal dealings.

# BE WILLING TO PAY THE **PRICE**

"There is a price to pay and a position to take for the privileges to be enjoyed". This statement has become a popular slogan in our churches in Nigeria especially after it was made popular by the music of the gospel artist, Favour Johnson, who is a part of the church family there. There is a price tag on any and everything. When the price is too high to pay, the privileges begin to diminish. When we read "freely ye have received, freely give" (Matt. 10:8), it is based on the supposition that we have cultivated a lifestyle that has positioned us to 'freely' receive. That lifestyle is the price

# "The path God has for us is not without a price."

you pay. Jesus disciples were told to freely give as they had freely received, but they became His disciples as they left all to follow Him. Without being His disciples they would not have 'freely' received whatever He told them to 'freely' give. Jesus' blood was shed for our salvation. He paid with His life. We pay a price with our faith and obedience to bring this salvation to others. Those who receive pay a price by their believing and adjusting their hearts in repentance to begin the process of salvation. The process continues as they

are willing to keep having heart adjustments and become willing and obedient too. Discipleship involves learning, following, obeying and honouring the Lord. We should become cost-minded rather than benefit-minded if we are going to have lasting results. Look for the price and be willing to pay it. Daniel prayed for 21 days before the angel showed up. He had been released from the first day Daniel prayed. The church in Jerusalem prayed without ceasing until Peter showed up. What if they prayed for 30 minutes then all went home to sleep? What did the apostles have in mind when they refused to be distracted from 'prayer and the ministry of the Word'? (Acts 6:4) Are we willing to pray the price? It is when we are in fellowship with the Holy Spirit that He will help us to know and pay the price. All we need to do is obey Him. The path God has for us is not without a price. Many have the notion that God's will is easy or for softies. Far from the truth. It is for those who will endure hardness as a good soldier and for him who seeks to please Him who enlisted Him (2 Timothy 2:3-4). His Word, Spirit and grace are sufficient

to reveal as well as empower us to do His will as it is revealed on the mountain top. We should be willing to go through process, grow in grace and learn to cultivate the lifestyle

that keeps paying the price. With these, His Word will indeed be a light unto our path and the entrance of it will keep giving us light. We need this light to navigate accurately in life to see His Kingdom come and His will done.

God bless you, Rev Kola Ewuosho

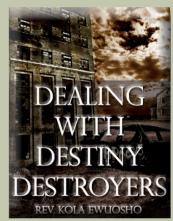
Please contact our office to purchase Rev. Kola Ewuosho's best-selling message, 'Lord, Light my Candle', on CD. (Only £5)

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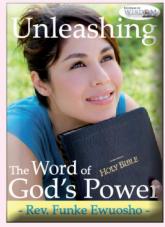
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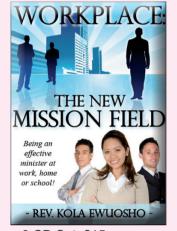
# Product Reviews

This season we review two of our best-selling messages by Rev. Kola and Rev. Funke Ewuosho 'Unleashing the Word of God's Power' and 'Workplace: The New Mission Field'...

"After listening to **Unleashing the Word of God's Power**, my eyes have been opened to the Word of God and I am stronger because His Word has given me the power to stand in every challenge I face. My life has taken on a new dimension and changes are still taking place in my life because of this message. I have learnt to cast my worries, fears, uncertainty about my professional career, my marriage and my relationships with others, including my own family, to God. And most of all I have learnt to look at God as my only way in life. What an awesome and powerful message! I learnt to wait on the Lord with all my heart because I now know the benefits of God's Word. I have started reading the Bible twice every day because I realise that I can only unleash the Word of His power if I have the Word! This message taught me to direct my prayers using God's own Words. It was a full blessing to have been able to hear this message. I thank God all the time and ask Him to continue to pour the Holy Ghost in His servant for us to receive such blessing. I pray that more people will encounter this message and I am sure they will experience the power and spiritual peace at every step of their life." (I.N)



4 CD Set: £20 4 DVD Set: £32



"Workplace: The New Mission Field has challenged me to live a life for God in my workplace. There are certain short cuts done at work by all staff members and I had just gotton onto that same bandwagon. Since listening to this message I have started doing things the correct way even if it takes longer, so I can live a Christ-like life and be an influence in the workplace." (C.N)

"This series gave me altogether a new perspective of my idea of workplace. I had never thought of my workplace as a mission field before. I now know that workplace is not just a place where I work 8 hours per day to get my pay cheque but it's a place where I should draw people to God and excel in all I do. I also learnt to pray before I take any decision or before I go for a meeting which helps in God guiding me through." (D.F)

3 CD Set: £15 3 DVD Set: £24

These products can be purchased from www.wisdomestore.com or by contacting one of our offices.



# -Mini Article-

# Partnership

"In Peter's

fishing business

he needed his

partners to help

carry all the fish

that were available

to be caught

through the

instruction he

received from

Jesus."

The principle of partnership is a scriptural and covenant-based means of the effective spreading of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. In the days of Jesus, the Bible says the people who received of His ministry also ministered back to Him of their substance. (See Luke 8:3). In Peter's fishing business he needed his partners to help carry all the fish that were available to be caught through the instruction he received from Jesus. (See Luke 5:7). In the Old Testament we see Abram having allies as he went in search of the deliverance of Lot. We see David sharing the goods with the men who did not go to battle but stayed with their goods while they went to fight. He said they all were to share alike. (See Genesis

In the light of the massive harvest of souls and of the benefits of partaking in the grace that this Calling and Ministry carries, as the Apostle Paul said to the Phillipian church in Phil.1:3-8, we believe God will have us extend the privilege of partnership to as many He would impress upon their hearts to become our partners. As doors open for us in the various nations of the earth we need our partners to stand with us in prayer, in giving and receiving so that, like Peter and Paul, we also can carry

14:13 and 1 Samuel 30: 24-25).

out our God-given mandate to the nations.

You can partner with us in various ways. As a <u>Prayer Partner</u>, you can help us carry the spiritual load of the nations coming into alignment with God's plans and purposes.

As a Financial Partner you can partner with us in many ways: as a Media Partner you will help carry the financial load of our media outreaches through TV, radio, and other media outlets we already have and hope to have. There is also the Outreach Partnership where you can help us in bearing the financial burden of our conferences around the world. Your involvement can enable us to do more conferences in the nations. You can also be involved with us as one of our Missions partners. We partner with various missionary agencies especially in developing nations to get the Gospel to the grassroots. We have been involved with helping churches to be planted and established in rural areas in Africa.

There are many more ways you can partner with us but the details can be made known to you if you get in touch with us indicating your interest in partnership with us. Some may want to give a one time gift which is possible via our website or by phoning our nearest office and arranging the payment by cheque or card.

We take our partners seriously and regularly pray for them and minister to them in as many ways as God enables us, including granting some partner discounts on our products as well as giving gifts and attending to their personal needs through

prayer. We pray you will become one of our partners by your prayers and regular giving so that together we can carry this Gospel to the Nations of the earth.

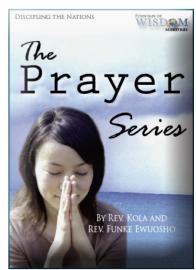
Rev. Kola Ewuosho



# Real life Testimonies

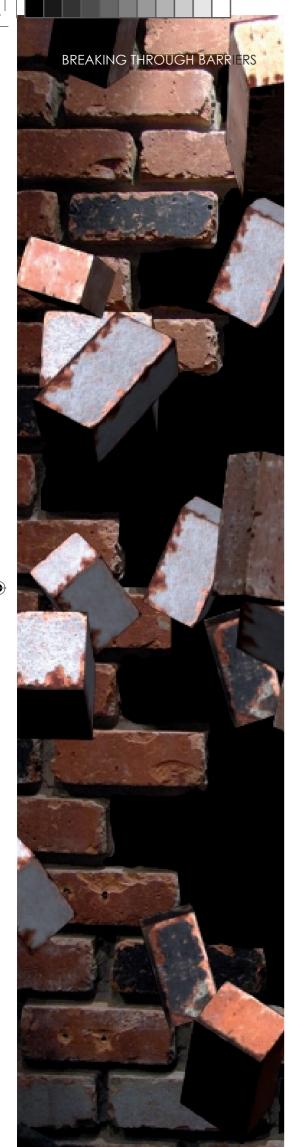
The first time my sister introduced me to Rev. Kola and Rev. Funke's series of messages on prayer was during the formative stages of my walk with God. I wasn't really mature so it sounded like jargon to me and I just didn't understand! Two years later, which is today, God having placed on my heart a burden for lost souls, I found the CD pack "The prayer Series".It changed my prayer life! I started listening to those CDs every week and the revelations, knowledge and power I received from the wisdom that comes out is just incredible. It built my confidence in God and in my prayers. Now I can count how many prayers I can say I haven't recieved an answer to or that God hasn't said anything about! I bless the Almighty God for the wisdom and understanding that has come through Rev. Kola and Rev. Funke. May you be increased in all spheres.

> Tawanda Mubaiwa Pretoria, South Africa



The Prayer Series is available to buy from our on-line store. Visit www.wisdomestore.com.





# Breaking THROUGH I BARRIERS

# REV. FUNKE EWUOSHO



According to the Oxford English Dictionary a barrier is defined as a fence, rail, etc, barring advance or preventing access; and also a circumstance

that prevents progress or communication.

A barrier could therefore be an object or a circumstance aimed at barring us from making progress or access into certain things in life! Note also that people, the environment, and even satan himself, could constitute barriers in our lives. The devil is actually called "your adversary" in 1 Peter 5:8; that is, the opponent or opposer; the one who resists or sets himself against or withstands you!

Abraham was seventy five years old when he left Haran to go to Canaan. What of folks like Moses (Ex. 4:10-12), the paralytic (Mark 2:3-4), the woman with the issue of blood (Mark 5:27-34), blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46-52), the man at the pool of Bethesda (John 5:5-9) and a host of others, who overcame one physical disability or the other? The Bible says that when blind Bartimaeus heard that Jesus was passing by, he cried out, 'Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" The people around him warned him to be quiet, but he cried out all the more. Then Jesus stood still and commanded them to call blind Bartimaeus. They said to him "Be of good cheer. Rise up, He is calling you." If you would not allow the opinion and comments of others to stop you, they will be the same ones to cheer you on as you break through in life! People are fickle-minded, they change

The Bible "an object or a circumstance aimed at barring us from people who faced such barriers but "an object or a circumstance aimed at barring us from making progress or access into certain things in life"

praise God, were able to break through them. God said to Jeremiah "Do not say 'I am a youth', for you shall go to whom I send you and whatever I command you, you shall speak". (Jer. 1:7) Paul told Timothy not to let anyone to despise his youthfulness (1 Tim. 4:12). Elizabeth, who was called barren, conceived a son in her old age (Luke 1:36,37). Sarah received strength to conceive and she bore a child "when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised". (Heb. 11:11) "They shall still bear fruit in old age, they shall be fresh and flourishing". (Ps. 92:14) Note that

their mind so easily. Their opinion should therefore not be strong enough to stop you from going forward!

In John 5 Jesus asked the man at pool Bethesda, "Do you want to be well?" He had an infirmity for thirty eight years and was at the pool waiting for his turn to get healed. I believe that Jesus, was challenging the man's mindset, his belief system and his thought-pattern. Listen to the man's reply to Jesus' question. "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up..." But Jesus simply said to him; "Rise, take up your

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# **BREAKING THROUGH BARRIERS**

bed and walk." Jesus was challenging an unhealthy dependence on man. Think of so many people who are stuck today in their predicament because they are waiting for a man or something else to get out of it

Take note of Jesus' three-fold instruction to the man. 'Rise, take up your bed and walk". The man needed to rise in his thinking; he needed to rise on the inside above his immediate situation and environment. He needed to rise above everything around him so he could begin to see new possibilities. Do you know that where you are would determine what you see? Isaiah 60:1-4 "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 rise 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..." Note, you can't shine if you do not arise in the first place! So, the first step of Jesus' instruction to the man was 'Rise'. There is a physical rising, as well as a mental and a spiritual rising; the three are very necessary for us to experience a breakthrough in any situation.

I, therefore, define a barrier as, that which one has accepted to be the reason or reasons for failure or lack of productivity or progress. The greatest barrier is the one inside us, because no matter the number of barriers that are out there, they can't stop you, unless they first get inside of you. Satan, over the years, through people, our environment, circumstances, our background, temperament, our experiences, etc, has created barriers in our minds, and we need to break through every single one of them to be and to do all that God ha in store for us!

The Bible is full of people who faced and broke through all kinds of barriers. A failure is not someone who failed while trying but is someone who didn't attempt to do anything at all. A failure is someone who gives up, someone who quits trying. Quitters never win and winners never quit! If you could just hang in there and not quit, you will not only learn many ways not to do things but will also succeed eventually! 'Tough times never last, but tough people do!"

Show me anyone who succeeded in life and I will show you one who has learnt to break through barriers of race, colour, class, nationality, culture, age, gender, experiences, etc; to win in life! Joseph broke through nationality, culture, class, etc barriers, to become the prime minister of Egypt! Rahab, referred to as "the harlot" (Heb. 11:31) broke through race, religion, etc barriers to get into the lineage of Christ! (Matt. 1:5) Not to mention Ruth, Bathsheba, Tamar and others! One thing that was common to them was that they did what it took to break through barriers. They did not allow the barriers to stop them. Someone said, 'you can't stop a man from rising, who has enough yeast in him to rise!' Jesus was a man who broke through every barrier of His time. He ministered in the most impossible places and conditions. He broke through barriers of religion, tradition, race, gender, class, people's opinion and expectations, etc. He said "My food is to do the will of Him who sent me and to finish His work". (Jn. 4:34).

And on the cross, He declared "It is finished".

Jesus ate with sinners and tax

collectors; He healed on the Sabbath days; He refused to condemn the woman caught in the very act of adultery, etc. When Jesus spoke to the woman at the well in Samaria He broke through many barriers at a go! So much so that the woman said to Him; "How is it that you, being a Jew, ask a drink from me a Samaritan woman? (Jn. 4:9) The Bible adds: "For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans". Not only was she a Samaritan she was also a woman. Jesus was not just a Jew, He was a rabbi and rabbis didn't speak with women in public! The Bible says when His disciples returned, "they marvelled that He talked with a woman." Not only



was she a woman, she has had a very colourful past! She had five husbands and was living with a man who was not her husband. And Jesus knew all that and yet spoke to her! The woman said to the men of the city "Come, see a man, who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?" (Jn. 4:29)

# How to break through barriers

# 1. An encounter with Jesus

That is one thing that will position and empower you to break through every barrier in your life! "So we have stopped evaluating others by what the world thinks about them. Once I mistakenly thought of Christ that way, as though He were merely a human being. How differently I think about Him now! What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old is gone. A

"no matter the number of barriers that are out there, they can't stop you, unless they first get inside of you."

new life has begun!" (2 Cor. 5:16,17 N.L.T) Philippians 3:3 says we are the circumcision, who worship (i.e. serve) God in the Spirit, we rejoice in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh! And in Galatians 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male or female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus! (Col. 3:11) That immediately breaks down race, social and gender barriers! Apostle Paul said "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me". (Php. 4:13) The Psalmist said "For by you I can run against a troop, by my God I can leap over a wall" (Ps. 18:29) and in verse 32 "It is God who arms me with strength..."

# 2. Change

It is said that you can change without growing but you can't grow or make progress without changing! Change is a necessary thing we must learn to love and embrace. Everyone who broke through barriers embraced changes. You need to change the way you think- "As a man thinks in his heart, so is he." (Pr. 23:7) Mordecai confronted and challenged Esther's thinking- "Do not think in your heart that you will escape in the king's palace anymore than all the other Jews". (Es. 4:13) Confront and challenge your own thinking with the reality and the

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REV. FUNKE EWUOSHO

Word of God! Change what you believe! What do you believe about yourself? Your situation? The psalmist said "I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living". (Ps. 27:13) Some people believe that they will see the goodness of the Lord, but in the "sweet by and by". Jesus said to Martha, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" (Jn. 11:40) Jesus saw a man who was blind from birth and His disciples asked Him; "who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (Jn.

9:2) But Jesus answered, "Neither the man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him" (v.3).

Change the way you see your problems. Do you see a stumbling block or a stepping stone? What you see determines what you get. God says "Behold I will do a new thing, now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert". (Isaiah. 43:19) Note that, this isn't about what you can see with your physical eyes. 2 Corinthians 5:7 says "For we walk by faith, not by sight." God says "I will bring the blind by a way they did not know; I will lead them in paths they have not known. I will make darkness light before them, and crooked places straight. These things I will do for them and not forsake them." (Isaiah 42:16) Believing is seeing! Jesus said "If you would believe, you would see the glory of God". Change your speaking. Jesus said you shall have what you say (Mk. 11:23). He said we should speak to the mountain. A lot of folks never speak to their problems but they speak to every one about them. Jesus spoke to both animate and inanimate things. He cast out spirits with His words! He 'answered' the fig tree. He spoke to seas and winds and they obeyed Him! Proverbs 18:21 says "Death and life are in the power of the tongue". In James 3:2-6, if we would control our tongue, we would control our whole body. And like the rudder determines the direction of our life the tongue can also defile our whole body and set the course of our life or our very existence on fire!

You also need to change your response to things, to circumstances and even to people. You have the

ability to choose your responses. Your responses are your responsibility. You may not be able to choose or determine all the events in your life, but you can choose your response to them! Someone once said "Events plus your response equals your outcome". In Matthew 5, Jesus said you should turn the other cheek to the one who slaps you on your right cheek (v. 39); go two miles when compelled to go one mile (v. 41); love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you and pray for those who despitefully use you and

"Do you see a stumbling block or a stepping stone? What you see determines what you get."

persecute you (v. 44). Change your attitude, change your lifestyle, change the things about your temperament that are negative! Change! Change! Change! And take note that no one is too young or too old to change what needs to be changed!

# 3. Overcome your fears!

Overcome the fear of people, the fear of failure, the fear of death, the fear of the future, the fear of the unknown, the fear of rejection, etc. Fear will keep you in bondage to the devil, to people, to circumstance, to the status-quo and even to yourself! Fear will hold you back from breaking through! Fear will keep you in mediocrity. Fear will stop you from trying anything new; from breaking new grounds and new territories. Fear will stop you from investing in anything or anyone. Isaiah 54:2-4, "Enlarge the place of your tent, And let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; Do not spare; Lengthen your cords, And strengthen your stakes. For you shall expand to the right and to the left... Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; Neither be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame".

The question is, "How much more would you be willing to do if you were sure you

would not fail?" Note that, the children of Israel didn't enter the Promised Land because of fear! Fear is a product of unbelief and it always leads to disobedience, if not overcome. To break through, you must confront and overcome your fears. Esther said "If I perish, I perish" but she never perished. The three Hebrews refused to bow to the image of gold and were thrown into the fiery furnace. But they didn't burn. If you will not bow to your fears, you will not burn! David's mighty men broke through the garrison of the Philistines to get water from the well of Bethlehem. (1 Chron. 12) Sometimes you'll need to break through the enemy territory to get what you need or desire! Jesus said "Behold I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you". (Lk. 10:19)

# 4. Hard work and diligence

"Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings. He

will not stand before unknown men" (Pr. 22:29). God rewards diligence. People reward diligence. Diligent people get promoted, e.g. Joseph,

as a slave in Potiphar's house and even as a prisoner! People don't want to get rid of or lose diligent workers e.g. Jacob in Laban's house. "The hand of the diligent will rule but the lazy man will be put to forced labour". (Pr. 12:24) "The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing. But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich." (Pr. 13:4) Note that, diligence isn't just hard work; it is hard work PLUS taking care, being thorough and being consistent!

# 5. Cultivate Healthy Relationships

There are things you can never break through as a one-man riot squad. In God's economy, there is nothing like a self-made man. In the maturing process, we move from dependence to interdependence and then to inter-dependence! We need others as much as they need us! A healthy relationship is not a dependent or independent one but an inter-dependent one. Daniel had his own company in his consecration and prayers (Dan. 1:11-16; 2:13-18). When Peter and John were released by the religious leaders, they went back to their own company, and reported all that happened to them. The Bible says when they heard, they all raised their voice to God in one accord

(Continued over page..)
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# **BREAKING THROUGH BARRIERS**

in prayers (Acts 4:23,24). Paul left Titus in Crete, so that he should set in order the things that are lacking and appoint elders in every city (Titus 1:5). Take note that Titus was to appoint 'elders' and not an 'elder'. Team leadership is the key because where one is weak, the strength of others can make it up. In a one-man leadership scenario, the organization will rise or fall on the one man. Jesus had twelve disciples. He also had the seventy. He never sent them out in ones, but in twos! One shall put a thousand to flight and two shall put ten thousand to flight. Ecclesiastes 4:9 says "two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labour".

# 6. Help the Dreams of Others

What you make happen for others, God (through others) will make happen for you. Jesus said "And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise!" (Luke 6:31)

You can't afford to be selfish. Joseph served his brothers. Joseph served faithfully as a slave in Potiphar's house and was promoted. He served faithfully in the prison and was put in charge. He served the Baker and the Butler by interpreting their dreams. He threw himself into service; and through serving others, he broke through his own barriers. The Butler remembered Joseph and Joseph was brought to interpret

"Joseph helped the dreams of others even when his own dreams were yet unfulfilled!"

Pharaoh's dreams. Don't forget that Joseph helped the dreams of others even when his own dreams were vet unfulfilled! Joseph named his first son Manasseh, saying that God has helped him to forget the pain of his father's house. He named his second son 'Ephraim' meaning 'fruitfulness'. (Gen. 41:51,52) You can't be fruitful until you get over the pain, the hurts, the betravals of the past! You can't help the dreams of others until you forget about your own self, your cares, your worries, your dreams, etc. "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time; casting all your care upon Him for He cares for you". (1 Peter 5:6,7) Leave your promotion and exaltation in the hands of God. One reason why some don't serve the dream of others is because they don't cast their own cares on the Lord. Ruth cast all her own cares on the Lord and served Naomi

faithfully; even when there was nothing visible in it for her! Boaz said to Ruth, "it has been fully reported to me, all that you have done for your mother-in-law, since the death of your husband and how you left your father and mother, and have come to a people whom you did not know before. The Lord repay your work, and a full reward be given you by the Lord God of Israel, under whose wings you have come for refuge". (Ruth 2:11,12) Jesus said, "And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?" (Luke 16:12).

# 8. Humble Yourself

"God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble". (James 4:6) We have been talking about breaking through barriers but those would be barriers, which are put in your way by satan, people or circumstances, not the one put there by God Himself! The above scripture says, God Himself, is the one resisting or setting Himself against or opposing, the proud! You can't fight against God and win. The only way to break through this kind of barrier is by humbling yourself. To humble yourself is to take your place under God and in His order or scheme of things. It is to let Him be God in your life. To be humble is not to think low of yourself, but to think nothing of yourself in the light of God. Jesus said "I can of my own self do nothing". He also said

to do my own will but the will of Him who sent Me". (John 6:38). God gives grace to the humble. Grace isn't only God's unmerited favour, it is also His ability given to us to break through any and every barrier! Jesus said to Paul "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness". And Paul said he would rather boast in his weakness, that the power of Christ might rest upon him. (2Cor 12:9).

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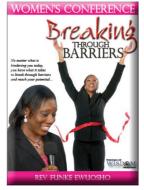
7. Pray

Learn to ask for God's help- in the areas you need changes, in the areas of your weakness, in the areas you need breakthroughs, etc. It, however, takes humility to ask for help. When some nations came against Jehoshaphat, the Bible says, he feared and set himself to seek the Lord. (2 Chron.

20:3). When Paul and Silas were in prison, the Bible says they prayed and sang praises. (Acts 16:23-26). When Peter was kept in prison by Herod, the church prayed to God constantly for Peter to be released (Acts 12:5). When the King Nebuchadnezzar wanted to destroy all the wise men including Daniel. Daniel and his three friends sought mercies from God. And God revealed Nebuchadnezzar's dream to Daniel. (Dan. 2). If we would ask God, He would help us break through our barriers.

The other dimension of prayer is the warfare dimension. In this dimension, we pull down strongholds, cast down imaginations and bring thoughts into captivity, etc. This is personal warfare. Don't forget that those barriers have found their way into our minds as reasonings, arguments, mindsets, thought patterns, belief systems, etc. So we need to get rid of them in warfare. We need to pull them down and replace them with God's Word. In addition to pulling down strongholds in our minds, we need to war against those spiritual forces that want to hinder us. Don't forget that the devil is called our adversary. Jesus said, "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons ..." (Mk 16:17). Note that not all problems can be solved physically or mentally. Spiritual problems must be solved spiritually! Jesus said some situations don't move except by prayer and fasting! (Mark 9:29). Ephesians 6:10-12 says, "Finally my brethren, be strong in the Lord and the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."

God bless you! Rev (Mrs) Funke Ewuosho



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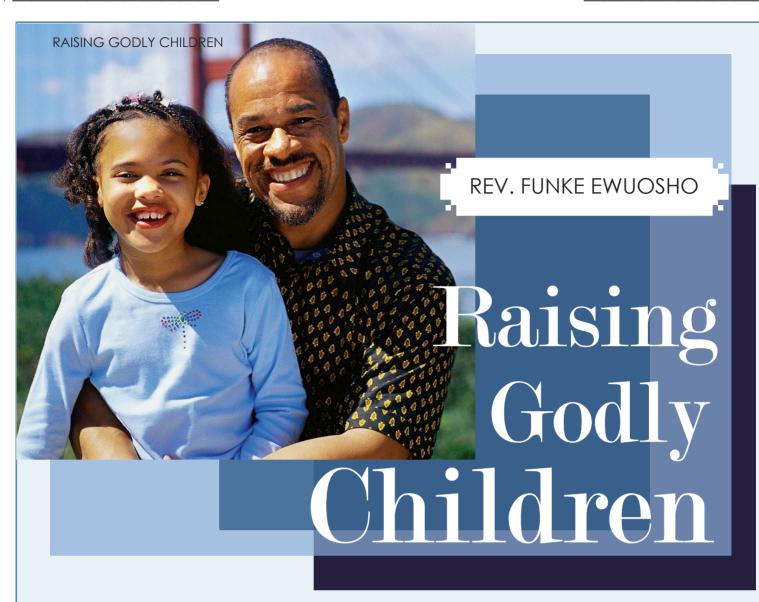
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Wisdom Digest / Summer





Parenting is one of the greatest challenges in the 21st century in view of the changes in the society, in the laws, etc, all in the name of civilization and modernisation. Children are put under severe peer pressure to be or have what they are not quite ready for. One of the activities of the anti-Christ is to "intend to change times and law" (Dan 7:25). Have you

noticed that children grow up so quickly now? Waiting is no more a virtue; they want everything now! Yet, maturity is said to be the ability to delay gratification. The prodigal son asked his father to give the portion of goods that falls to him, he took all, left for a far country and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living (Luke 15:11-14). Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 3:1-3, that there will be very difficult times in the last days, because among other things, people will be disobedient to their parents and ungrateful. They

will consider nothing sacred (eg marriage, sex etc); they will have no self control, and have no interest in what is good, they will be puffed up with pride and love pleasure rather than God. Yet the challenge is "Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think" (Rom. 12:2

NLT). We are to be in this world but not of this world. The enemy is bombarding the minds of children from every angle with all kinds of vices- through friends; school ideologies and theories being taught, the media, literature, etc. Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon took young men in whom there was no blemish, but good looking, gifted in

all wisdom, possessing knowledge and quick to understand, who had ability to serve in the King's palace and whom they might teach the language and literature of the Chaldeans" (Dan. 1:4). Note that the world (and satan is the god of this world) catches them young and goes for gifted and talented ones. Satan preys on precious souls.

There is a huge generation gap, yet God is a God of generations; He thinks generationally! He is the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob! God wants values and virtues to be passed on generationally. (Deut. 6:4-9)

The future of parents lies in their children e.g. What God said to Abraham and David depended on their children walking in God's ways (Gen. 18:19, 1 Kgs. 2:2-4). The future of every nation lies in the youths of that nation. Children don't trust their parents. Children think that they are wiser and better

than their parents. Parenting is becoming an obsolete thing. Proverbs 30:11-14 describes a generation that dishonours their parents, that is pure in its own eyes, that is proud and knows it all. God ordained the family and His plan is still that children be raised in the family structure. Even Jesus was raised in a family. He had earthly parents and siblings; the Bible says that He submitted himself to Joseph and Mary (Luke 2:51). Somebody said "Raising children is more difficult than raising the dead", but thank God with Him all things are possible. We can still raise godly children in an ungodly world. "and the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend (it overcame) it." (Jn. 1:5)

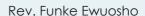
# How to raise godly children

1. Don't look to yourself alone. Ps. 127:1 "Unless the Lord builds the house they labour in vain, who built it. Unless the Lord guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain". The arm and flesh shall fail. Not by might or by power, but by My Spirit says the Lord. God says "All your children shall be taught by the Lord, and great shall be the peace of your children" (Isaiah 54:13). It is grace that teaches us to deny ungodliness and worldly lust and to live soberly and righteously and godly in the present age (Titus 2:11-12). Trust that grace to teach them. (Also Ish. 44:3b, Joel 2:28, Ish. 49:25)

"Raising children is more difficult than raising the dead", but thank God with Him all things are

possible."

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2. A paradigm shift. Ps. 127:3

"Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb is a reward". See your children as gifts from God. See yourself as a steward over those gifts, who also will give account to God. It puts a sense of responsibility on you. This mentality would change a lot of things in your parenting method.

3. Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not turn from it". Note that you don't train them in the way you want them to go, but in the way they should go. Ephesians 2:10 says we are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus for which works, God beforehand that we should walk in them. Find out the way your child should go and train them in that way- it is your responsibility. And remember that each child is different from the other- different gifting and talents, different purpose, different temperament and personality, etc. Deal with them knowledgeably.

# 4. Teach them

Deut. 6:6-9 "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk to them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down and when you rise up" (v.7). Don't assume they know it, teach them. (Prov. 23:22; 19:27, 1:8-9, 3:1-4). Teach them what you expect from them.

# 5. Discipline them

Don't be afraid to discipline your children when necessary. Prov. 29:15-17, 22:15, 13:24, 19:18. "Now no chastening (i.e- discipline) seems to be joyful for the present, but painful, nevertheless afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it" (Heb. 12:11). Remember, Eli and Samuel did not correct or restrain their sons.

# 6. Model things before them

Jethro said to Moses about the children of Israel, "And you shall teach them the statutes

and the laws and show them the way in which they must walk and the work they must do". (Ex. 18:20). Peter charged his fellow elders to be examples to the flock entrusted to them (1 Pet. 5:3). Timothy was also to be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love,

in spirit, in faith and in purity, (1Tim. 4:12). Note that children don't do just what you say, but what you do.

### 7. Be there for them!

Somebody said delegation without supervision abandonment! Don't abandon your children, don't leave them to themselves. Commitment breeds commitment. Whatever you would require of them, make sure you have first invested into them. "No deposit, no withdrawal". Jesus first

loved us, before we could love Him. A lot of parents want to reap from their children what they haven't sown into them. Invest time, money, love and yourself into your children. Bond with them when they are little. Give them good memories. Someone said "A happy childhood is one of the best gifts that parents have it in their power to bestow". Another said "the best thing you can give children, next to good habits, are good memories". Do things with them and for them. The family is God's answer to the decadence in the world today. God ordained the family to provide a safety net for children.

Jethro told Moses to appoint among the people able men who will judge small matters and will bear the burden with him (Ex. 18:21-23). When you have taught them, trained them and modeled things before them, invested in them, it is only appropriate for you to let them do things. You must train them to be responsible people. Let them share in family

# 9. Listen to them

Create the forum for a two way communication. Don't just talk, listen to them. Listen to their questions, their grievances, their woes, their pains, their confusions etc. "Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath, for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God." (Jas. 1:19-20). How would you know what is in them if you didn't listen to them? How would you know if they were following you, if you didn't listen to them? "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach and it will be given to him" Jas. 1:5. Listen to and judge cases among the siblings.

responsibilities and values. Give them those responsibilities proportional to their age and

### 10. Reward them

"A happy

childhood

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best gifts that

parents have

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power to

bestow"

God rewards those who 'diligently' seek Him. God honours those who honour him. God has a reward system. David asked "what shall be done to the man who killed Goliath and took the reproach from Israel?" We should not only correct or discipline our children, we must reward them also! We must reward them for being good children. We must reward their

efforts, even if they didn't score the full marks. We must reward their obedience. We also could introduce incentives; something to look forward to. Note that charity must begin at home!

# 11. Pray for them

Jethro said to Moses, "Stand before God for the people, so that you may bring the difficulties to God". (Ex. 18:19) Pray for them to be all that God wants them to be. Pray for them to overcome their challenges and all the assaults of the enemy. Pray for them to

make the right decisions in life. Pray about their future. Stand before God for them; like the Syrophoenician woman whose daughter was demon-possessed; like the father of the epileptic boy, etc.

### 12. Guide them

Guide them in making decisions, especially the very important decisions like the course to study; the universities or colleges; who to marry, etc. Don't abandon them. Note that the older children grow, the more they need their parents, as they are confronted with major life-defining decisions. I believe you don't have to lose your children to the devil or

the world. You can still win with your children!

God bless you, Rev (Mrs) Funke Ewuosho

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8. Give them responsibilities



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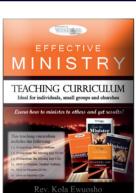


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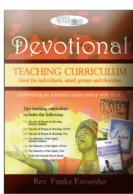
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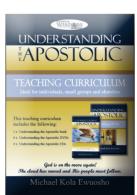
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