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# GOD'S EXEMPTION STRATEGY

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EMEKA ANSLEM

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**JUST BEFORE WE BEGIN...**

Never mind, let's begin.

**DO YOU EVEN NEED TO BE TOLD THAT...**

# **GOD HAS A PLAN?**

Imagine for a moment, what if the people of Israel left Goshen and entered into Egypt during the famine, do you think the famine would have affected them?

Oh, you probably don't know about that event. Though it's a long story, but to provide an answer to our question, let's read the following verses from the book of Genesis:

Genesis 45:

***9. Haste ye, and go up to my father, and say unto him, Thus saith thy son Joseph, God hath made me lord of all Egypt: come down unto me, tarry not:***

***10. And thou shalt dwell in the land of Goshen, and thou shalt be near unto me, thou, and thy children, and thy children's children, and thy flocks, and thy herds, and all that thou hast:***

***11. And there will I nourish thee; for yet there are five years of famine; lest thou, and thy household, and all that thou hast, come to poverty.***

That was Joseph, sending for his father, Jacob, to come down to Egypt with the people of Israel and all that he had. He acknowledged that there was a great famine, but that he would put them in the land of Goshen where they will be well nourished. In other words, no matter what was affecting others, they would be well nourished if they stayed in Goshen. Genesis 47:27 confirms

how nourished they were when it said "***And Israel dwelt in the land of Egypt, in the country of Goshen; and they had possessions therein, and grew, and multiplied exceedingly***".

The famine ended, and The Exodus began. Joseph had died, the king that had an agreement with Joseph had been replaced by several other kings. The new Pharaoh didn't care about them, he made them engage in very hard labour, day and night. And this lasted for over 400 years.

### **BUT THEY WERE STILL IN GOSHEN...**

God finally decided to deliver Israel out of Egypt. He called Moses, and mandated him to undertake that task. Of course, Pharaoh was obstinate, and he didn't want to let them go. But he didn't have a choice, Moses really

tormented him and the Egyptians. Let's read the following verses:

Exodus 9:

***23. And Moses stretched forth his rod toward heaven: and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and the fire ran along upon the ground; and the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt.***

***24. So there was hail, and fire mingled with the hail, very grievous, such as there was none like it in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.***

***25. And the hail smote throughout all the land of Egypt all that was in the field, both man and beast; and the hail smote every herb of the field, and brake every tree of the field.***

***26. Only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, was there no hail.***

Did you notice verse 26? ***"only in the land of Goshen, where the children of Israel were, was***

***there no hail***". There was thunderstorm and dropping ice-balls in the whole of Egypt, but Goshen was exempted.

Now back to our question, what if the people of Israel had left Goshen and entered into any other part of Egypt, do you think the afflictions in Egypt would have affected them?

Yes! Yes! Ofcourse Yes!

## **GOD IS PLACE CONSCIOUS...**

God puts His people in safe places to exempt them from challenging times. Remember how the angels told Lot to move into a safe place when they were about to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah? Even in the time of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, He guided them on where to

move to in order to avoid the hard times. When Jesus was born, He told Joseph to relocate, just to protect baby Jesus.

Even in famine, as long as you're in your place, you'd still prosper. Isaac planned to move to Egypt when famine came into Canaan, but God told him not to move. And the bible tells us that Isaac sowed in the land of Canaan, and reaped a hundredfold the same year. The challenge many believers have is not the economic recession of these times, but their personal displacement. They don't have a place. And until you find your place, you'd suffer the aches that come with displacement.

## **OKAY ANSLEM, HOW DO I FIND MY PLACE?**

Obadiah 1:17 says ***"But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and***

*the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions*". Mount Zion in the old testament is what we refer to "Church" in the new testament. And if I'd rewrite that scripture, it would read "But upon the Church shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possession".

The church of Christ is God's place of rescue from the challenges of this world. While the world may be like Egypt, the church is like Goshen; and no matter what is affecting the world, it's not permitted to affect the church. When the world is feeling the heat of the times, the church should be enjoying Peace and increase.

## **CAUTION, THERE'S A PLACE FOR EVERYONE!**

Going to church keeps you in touch with God. Deut 12:13-14 makes it clear that *"our*

*offerings and worship seeds are not acceptable in every place".* God has a chosen place where every believer is expected to meet Him and worship Him. It's in your place that you'd receive divine instructions on how to grow. Many Christians are not growing because they feel they can worship in every place. They go to a new church every Sunday, only to end up groaning. Let's see how the scripture put it:

Deuteronomy 12:

***13. Take heed to thyself that thou offer not thy burnt offerings in every place that thou seest:***

***14. But in the place which the LORD shall choose in one of thy tribes, there thou shalt offer thy burnt offerings, and there thou shalt do all that I command thee.***

Only God can choose where your worship would be acceptable to Him. The only reason

why God will accept your worship from a different place is if the place He has chosen is far from where you are. Deut 12:21 clearly states that ***"If the place which the LORD thy God hath chosen to put his name there be too far from thee, then thou shalt kill of thy herd and of thy flock, which the LORD hath given thee, as I have commanded thee, and thou shalt eat in thy gates whatsoever thy soul lusteth after"***. In other words, you may worship in any place your heart desires to, but only if the chosen place is far. But come to think of it, is it not better to worship where God has chosen than to worship where you desire to?

I live in Lagos-Nigeria, and the place that God has chosen for me to worship Him is in Ota-Nigeria. And that's about an hour drive. Sometimes you have to spend longer hours on the road when there are traffic jams or

road blocks. But guess what? I go there every Sunday.

## **BUT WHY DO WE HAVE DIFFERENT CHURCHES ALL OVER THE WORLD?**

You may also want to ask why we have different parts of the body fixed in their different locations. Even our two hands, legs, eyes, and ears have different names; they are identified with "left..." and "right...". Christ is the Head of the church, and we are the body. I don't know which part of the body I am, but I know that I'm serving a purpose as a part of the body. Every church, congregation, or individual with purpose acts as a particular part of the body. The Charismatics have a purpose, so they are acting as a particular part of the body. The Pentecostals have a purpose, and that means they also act as a particular part of the body. There are people

who attend Charismatic churches and still prosper, and there are those who attend Pentecostal churches and also prosper in life. On the other hand, there are those whose destinies are tied to either of these two, and if they try to do contrary, they won't prosper.

If you were about to ask "why?", then you should also ask why the hand cannot take the place of the leg, or why the eyes cannot take the place of the mouth. That's just how God created it, and we cannot change it. This is why I don't compel people to leave their churches and join mine, especially when they are doing well. The reason why I'd advise a person to change church is if he or she has been suffering a particular challenge for too long. But that's after I've investigated their commitment to the things they are being taught where they were. You'd be amazed to know that many people go to church to take

notes, but do nothing about the notes. My point is, when you see an eye that is closed, you'd know. And when you see a hand that is trying to act as a leg, you'd also know. That's how I identify those who are not meant for the churches they attend.

I've invited people from other churches to the church I attend. Of course, they enjoy the services, but many of them feel and function better in their church. This is a great lesson for every believer; we should not only go to a church because we enjoy the place, but because we feel and function better in the place. If you're a hand, don't go to a place where they'd teach you how to function as a leg. You may enjoy the preaching, but it won't add the expected value to you.

This doesn't mean we are divided as Christians or as the church of Christ; rather, it means we need each other. Just as the hand needs the leg, the congregation that teaches prosperity also needs the congregation that teaches holiness. Ignorance has made many believers think that "some churches are not preaching the gospel". That's not entirely true; it's just that every church must preach according to the assignment that God has given them. For instance, God told Bishop David Oyedepo of Living Faith Church to preach the word of faith, but told Pastor Kumuyi of Deeper Life Bible Church to preach the word of holiness. If you meet members from those two churches, they act differently, and that's because their assignments are different. Always remember, the hand will always be different from the leg, and they never discriminate against each other. The next time someone tells you that his church is

better than your church, don't argue, because it would be unwise to compare the hand to the leg. We are the body!

Many other religions are in disunity today, only because they don't understand the concept of The Body. We can't all act as legs, we can't all act as hands. But that's what other religions do. Some of them even ignorantly claim that they are in unity, yet they won't hesitate to kill their brothers and sisters. That's not unity!

## **ASIDES A PLACE, YOU ALSO NEED A PASTOR...**

Pastors are shepherds, people who take care of Christ's pasture. Remember that Ps 100:3 says "**... *We are the sheep of Christ's pasture***". Pastors are personal recruits of Jesus, and He recruits them for the sole purpose of feeding

His sheep. Remember how Jesus told Peter to "*feed His sheep*" if his claim of love was true.

Pastors have always existed. During the time of Joseph, the people of Israel were fed by the guidance of Joseph. And during the time of Moses, they also enjoyed God's blessings by the guidance of Moses. There was always someone to lead the congregation of God's people.

John the Baptist came, and all he did was to make a way for Jesus, our Shepherd. When Jesus was leaving the earth, He handed over to Peter. The church expanded to different states and countries since then, and pastors had to be assigned to every congregation of God's people in their different location.

## GOD WILL GIVE YOU A PASTOR...

Asides the place, God has also appointed a Pastor to you. Most times, your pastor will be in the place where God has put you. You're free to have many teachers, but you're not permitted to have more than one pastor. Scripturally, the best way to know your pastor is that he'd feed you with knowledge and understanding; and by that knowledge you'd experience multiplication and increases on every side. Let's see how Jeremiah put it;

Jeremiah 3:

***14. Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:***

***15. And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.***

***16. And it shall come to pass, when ye be multiplied and increased in the land...***

Notice from verse 14, as soon as you get to Zion, which is what we refer to as Church in the modern day, God will give you a pastor. And the pastor He assigns to you will feed you with knowledge and understanding, so that you can be multiplied in the land. Hallelujah!

Let me talk to pastors a little bit; feed your congregation with knowledge and understanding, that's the only way they can have faith to receive the promises of God. Remember that faith comes by hearing and understanding the word of God. For every word they understand, faith is formed. And when faith is formed, transformation is born. I lead a fellowship where every member is compelled to have a testimony weekly. And that's because I ensure they understand the things I teach them from God's word. The

gospel is not for enticement; rather, it's for demonstration of power. If your congregation don't feel empowered after you've preached the gospel, then I suggest you restart the preaching. Because the gospel is the power of God. It's the power of God to change the poor to the rich, to change the sick to the healthy, to change the ignorant to the knowledgeable. If any member of your congregation still suffers the same challenge for more than six months, then check your preaching, or check if they are doing what you're preaching. That's why you're their pastor!

## **I ALSO HAVE A PASTOR...**

When I joined Living Faith Church in 2010, God introduced Bishop David Abioye to me as my pastor. Not that we met physically, but I was sitting at the Hope Gallery of The Faith Tabernacle when I heard the voice of God

saying "Look at that man, he is your pastor". But honestly, if God didn't make him my pastor, I would have made him myself. You needed to hear the ecstasy that flowed from his words. My heart was instantly glued to his voice as he preached that night. I understood everything he taught, and I would explain them to anyone even in my dreams. Pastors and their pastures would always have a heart connection.

Amazingly, his station is not in Lagos, but I download his messages anytime his crew uploads them. And I listen to him daily. Actually, listening to his messages is part of my daily itinerary. I'm convinced that his teachings play a major role in my success story.

You're probably wondering how my pastor will be in Goshen-Abuja, while I am in Canaanland-Ota. Well, the place that God has put me is Living Faith Church Worldwide, it just happens that my pastor is in a different location.

“But isn't Bishop David Oyedepo in Canaanland, why isn't he your pastor?” Bishop David Oyedepo is not my pastor, he is the prophet God sent to me. He unveils God's plan for me per time. We'd talk more about prophets much later.

If you've found your pastor, then listen to him. Pastors play a major role in God's exemption plan. Things may be hard in the economy, but if you practice the things they teach you, you'd be exempted from all the struggles.

## **YOU NEED TEACHERS...**

The words of your teachers would always guide you in your adventure through life. Many believers don't listen to any other preacher except their pastor; I pray that God will give them understanding. I have a pastor, and I have plenty of teachers. Your pastor will definitely feed you with knowledge and understanding, but your teachers would teach you how to do many other things.

While selecting teachers, make sure they are also from your root or place. I find it easy to read or listen to anyone from Bishop David Oyedepo. I even go as far as listening to those people he also listens to and those people who listen to those he listens to.

There are many teachers of the gospel I can't afford to listen to. They may teach well, but it may contradict the things I learn from the place that God has put me. I've encountered such teachers before, and I had to struggle with my mind for many days, just to get their teachings off my head. Don't get me wrong, I have nothing against their preaching, but the problem is far more spiritual than physical. I feel like God doesn't just want me to listen to them. Of course, the people who those preachings are meant for will hear and prosper with them. This is probably why the bible says ***"the ways of the Spirit of God cannot be completely discovered"***, there is always something more to every scripture. I don't expect ten pastors to preach the same revelation from the same scripture.

However, remember I talked about us being different parts of the body of Christ. What

you hear determines what you'd be able to do as a body. If my spirit is reproofing me from hearing any message, then it's probably because the work behind the message isn't meant for me. God redeemed us for good works, and these works are discovered by our revelation of the word of God. This also implies that if what you're hearing isn't working for you, then change what you hear. Many believers are aware of this truth, but they'd tell you they can't change "because they're playing a very important role" in their group or church. What's the use of your important role if it adds no importance to your life?

## THOSE LITTLE REMINDERS MATTER...

Isaiah 30:

***20. And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not***

***thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers:***

***21. And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.***

Let me try to rewrite those two verses; although God may give you bread and water through the teachings of your pastor, even in the time of adversity and afflictions. Yet, the place of teachers cannot be neglected. You'd hear their teachings from time to time, directing you on steps to take in different cross roads.

I remember sometimes back when I was about to take a wrong decision, but I suddenly heard a word from one of the books I read. The word echoed loudly in my ear that it became impossible for me to take that

wrong step. Also, while I was praying one morning, I asked God a question about something that was a great concern to me. Though I didn't get an answer while praying, but surprisingly, God led me to a book in my office's book shelf. And when I opened the book, my answers were steering at me on the face. It was a book written by one of my teachers.

Teachers are recognized in the bible, even in the new testament. Ephesians 4:11 tells us that ***"Christ Himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, as gifts to the church"***. Teachers are gifts to the church, and just as you use every other spiritual gift, you should also use the help of teachers.

Teachers are everywhere; a pastor of another congregation can even become a teacher to you. When you see people who have special anointing in certain areas of life, especially the ones that your pastor does not possess, you can make such people your teachers. But don't forget that it's highly recommended that you select a teacher from your root. Let me give you a list of teachers that I listen to; Jerry Savelle, David Oyedepo Jnr, Kenneth Hagin, Kenneth Copeland, John Avanzini, Charles Capp, Joyce Meyer, Myles Munroe of blessed memories, John Maxwell, Paul Adefarasin, T. D Jakes, and many others. If you check all of them, you'd discover that they all have a connection with my root.

The teachings of these people have helped shaped my life in great measures. Your pastor may be good, but no matter how good he is, you need more than one man to fulfill

destiny. They say "every star rides on the shoulder of another star", but Jesus went from being the bright and morning star to being the Sun of Righteousness. I don't just want to be a star, I want to produce heat like the sun, so that the whole world will feel my impact. And it takes multitudes of teachers to achieve that height. No wonder the bible says ***"out of the multitude of counsel is a purpose established"***.

## **APOSTLES AND PROPHETS...**

God also sends a prophet and apostle to us, to deliver His plans per time. Apostles are agents of preservation; the people of Israel were enjoying the same protection as Moses. They were eating the same food, and having the same drink. Many of them were even disobedient to God, but they still enjoyed the apostolic covering on Moses.

We earlier remarked from Ephesians 4:11 that God gave prophets and apostles as gifts to the church. Amos 3:7 explains the function of a prophet, it says ***"surely God does nothing without revealing his secret to his servants the prophets"***. God may have personal plans for you which He can easily tell you, but when it comes to the church, He reveals it to the prophets. And whatever He reveals to the prophet is expected to be released to those He sent the prophet to.

While I was sitting, confused, and wondering why a man that is far away from me would be my pastor, I asked God "if Bishop David Abioye is my pastor, then who is Bishop David Oyedepo?". God didn't hesitate to reply that he is my prophet. Since then, whatever comes out of his mouth is what I do, whether it is

pleasing or not. Prophets are not pastors; they often act as God's mouth piece. They pass instructions from God directly to you. I don't debate or try to negotiate whatever comes out from the mouth of my prophet, I just go ahead and do what he says. I don't need to worry about not hearing God's voice, as long as I can hear my prophet, then God is still speaking to me.

According to scriptures, God sends prophets to His people to lead them through certain seasons of life. Let's see how Jesus described their function in Luke 4:25-27:

Luke 4:

***25. But I tell you of a truth, many widows were in Israel in the days of Elias, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, when great famine was throughout all the land;***

***26. But unto none of them was Elias sent, save unto Sarepta, a city of Sidon, unto a woman that was a widow.***

***27. And many lepers were in Israel in the time of Eliseus the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, saving Naaman the Syrian.***

Did you notice what Prophets Elijah and Elisha were sent to do? Elijah was sent to help the widow of Sarepta through the famine period, and Elisha was sent to cleanse Naaman the Syrian.

Many people have tried to debate the relevance of prophets in this new dispensation. They say once you've received Jesus, then you have all it takes to breakthrough in life. That's absolutely correct! But look around you, how many Christians are really prospering in life. Many

of them have become daily bread to the devil, instead of enjoying access to their daily bread from heaven. That's why prophets are still relevant; to deliver us from the hands of the wicked when we can't. I remember many years ago when the government wanted to demolish the house where my parents stayed, I was still a young believer and so I didn't know what I could do spiritually to stop them. They demolished the other houses around until Friday, and somehow they took a break for the weekend. Luckily for me, I was in church that Sunday, where I heard my prophet declare that "Our houses will not be destroyed". I still wonder how he knew, but like I said earlier, prophets often act as God's mouth piece. And true to that declaration, the house was not demolished. There are three houses standing in that area today, the one my parents lived in, and the ones that would have been demolished before and

after the one my parents lived in. Of course, those government workers came back to continue their work, but as they were getting close, I held on to the words of the prophet, and that was it.

I'm the kind of person who likes to resolve issues independently. I'd asked the Holy Spirit, I'd study, I'd fast, and I'd pray. But when my breakthrough is being delayed unnecessarily, then I'd run to a higher authority for intervention. No matter what is challenging me, there are some people who God has given authority over those things. That's probably why the bible says "***we should obey them that have rule over us, because they watch over our soul***".

But be careful, there are many false prophets everywhere. According to scriptures, the only

way you'd know a true prophet is that whatever he says must come to pass. If what he says comes to pass, then you should know he came from God, but if it doesn't, then it means He said he presumptuously.

### LET ME CONCLUDE WITH THIS:

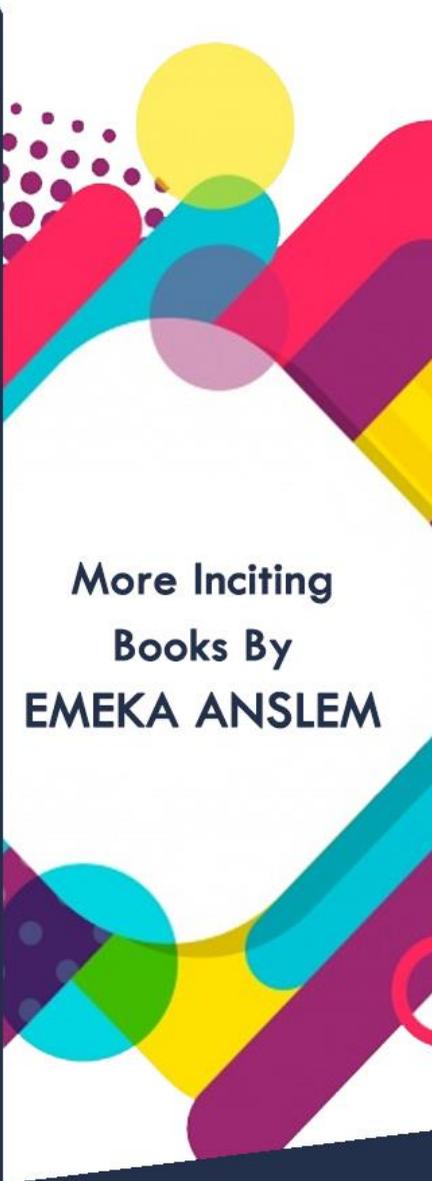
The content of this book is not a doctrine; rather, it's God's way of ensuring that you always find a way of escape. Remember that the bible says in 1 Corinthians 10:13 that ***"there hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it"***. All challenges are common to man; someone must have gone through what you may be going through. And if they've gone through them, then it means they are authorities in the area of the challenges you may be going

through. From experience, these people are either our pastors, teachers, or prophets. Running to them for intervention doesn't mean you don't trust God; rather, it means you're utilizing what God has provided for your exemption.

I have a place of worship, I enjoy apostolic covering, I have a God-sent prophet, I have a pastor, and I have teachers. If you ever want to enjoy the benefits of the kingdom and be exempted from the challenges of these times, then you must go in search of these people and place. And I pray that as you commit yourself to this search, God will give you quick answers, in Jesus name!

God bless you, I love you, and don't forget to send me your testimonies.

- PUTTING GRACE UNDER PRESSURE
- HOW TO RECEIVE YOUR DESIRED  
MIRACLE
  - COLOR IN WILDERNESS
  - THE BAIL OUT PLAN
  - WHERE ARE THE YOUTHS?
- HE BLESSES OUR BREAD AND WATER
  - WHERE THERE IS NO VISION
    - FOCUS
    - ACADEMIC DRIVE
- LEARN HOW TO FIND YOUR PURPOSE
  - MOTIVATING RIGHT EDUCATION
    - THE TIME IS NOT ENOUGH
    - A NEW CONFIDENCE
      - INTO THE DEEP
    - OVERCOMING DEPRESSION
  - TIMELY NOTES 30-DAY DEVOTIONAL
  - I COULDN'T FIND A SILVER SPOON
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  - NOW THAT YOU'VE BEEN  
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I am Emeka Anslem, the privileged writer of Timely Notes Daily Devotional, Founder of In-spirited Writers Training School, and President of The Solutionists. I received a divine call to be a teacher in April 2013, with an assignment to "Add value to lives by bringing knowledge to the people". By His grace, I've committed my life to this assignment, and I'm always willing to add value to lives.

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