

A person is shown falling into deep water, creating a large splash and a column of bubbles. The person is in a dark, almost black silhouette, and their arms and legs are outstretched. The water is a deep blue, and the bubbles are a lighter, frothy blue. The overall scene is dramatic and evocative.

Emeka Anslem

*into the*  
**DEEP**

Deep calleth unto deep... Ps 42:7

INTO THE  
DEEP

*Emeka Anslem*

## JUST BEFORE WE BEGIN...

Many Christians have asked “does God still answer prayers?”. Some have even given up on Him, because they pray almost every time, but none of their prayers ever return with a successful feedback.

What could be the problem? Is there even a problem? There is a popular saying that “God cannot change, only people change”. But have we ever considered that Seasons also change? The bible talks about the Sons of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel ought to do.

My experience on the harvest field has proven that we are in an entirely different season, and only those who understands the timing will make the most of it. This little book will unveil this season to you and help you make the most of it. God bless you richly!

# THE FIRST WAVE!

## ***#ADifferentSeason***

God did not put man inside this world just to go to school, get a job, start a business, get married, have children, die, and then buried. No! But apparently, that has been the circle of living. If you ask any student why he is in school, the answer is always obvious, "to get a job".

Our minds have been so defaulted to a point that we now believe that "a man without a paid employment will suffer". God never gave Adam a job, He gave him work. Everything Adam ever needed was available in the

garden, and the things that were unavailable were created for him. Eve was not available, but she was created when the need arose.

There are many individuals who are not on any paid employment, all they do is work hard for the promotion of God's Kingdom, and all their needs are supernaturally met. Matt 6:33 tells us that *if we make God's Kingdom our life's priority, all the things that people are struggling to get shall be added to us.*

Dr. David Oyedepo has often said that "no one can discover the secret to his prosperity until they discover his heart beat for God". He was not on a paid employment when he began ministry, but today, he has become a major employer of labor.

Unemployment has been a major problem in many nations today, but it is expedient that I mention that a problem worse than unemployment is near, it is called "No Employment". Companies that used to have hundreds of staffs in a department will dissolve to HODs alone. Imagine when one man begins to handle the job of a hundred people, all because there is no employment.

I should also mention that these things are not happening because the devil is wicked, but because there is a greater glory reserved for us. God needs our attention, and He is probably trying to show us the limitedness of this world's resources. Job 36:11 tells us that *if we will obey and serve Him, we will spend our days in prosperity and our years in pleasure*. According to Deut 8:18, we would discover that the power to get wealth has been shifted to the body of Christ. And if you

are not a practicing Christian, you would probably be suffering what the world suffers.

We were redeemed to work the works that God had created through Jesus Christ. As a matter of scriptures, we are God's workmanship. Which also means our purpose on earth is to promote the kingdom of God. That is the mentality we need to have.

God is still recruiting workers. The bible says "the laborers are few, but the harvest in plenty". God is not just looking for people, He is looking for workers. And if God is looking for workers, then it only means that people are too lazy, they do not want to work. Big irony right? They want a job, but they do not want to work. But I should mention, that working for God is the only way to escape the holocaust of the coming times. Working for God is a proof of your love for Him; and the

bible tells us that *"eyes have not seen, nor have ears heard, neither has it entered into the thoughts of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love Him"*.

The time is coming when believers that do not serve God with their job will lose their jobs. Believers who would not serve God with their family would lose the love from their families. Believers who have no intentions for God in their schools will not get admission into school. I remember visiting a boy who had finished his secondary school education and had waited for admission into the University for some years. I asked him this simple question; "what is your plan when you finally gain admission?". He gave me a list of everything he would do in school, but he never mentioned one activity that had a connection with God. I immediately told him to include God in his agenda, and he would see what God will do regarding his admission.



Surprisingly, he got the admission that same year.

A certain woman had been praying to God for the fruit of the womb. But it was like the more she prayed, the harder it became to get a child. And then she decided to stop praying for her need and focused on promoting God's Kingdom. She started praying for the salvation of souls, and also took practical steps to talk to people about Jesus. According to her, she took-in that same month. Another woman had elephantiasis; and ofcourse, she had prayed her heart out to God for healing, but all to no avail. Amazingly, in the presence of deep pain, she went out to win souls for God, and that same day, she was healed of all the ailments on her body. It was not that God did not love her, but that it is time for believers to take full responsibility.

Believers have often made remarks like "but unbelievers are making it"; that may be presently true, but it will not be for long. In a twinkling of an eye, dramatic changes will occur. Because there is a way that seems right unto a man, but the end is destruction. And we are already in the end times. God has waited for so long, and I do not think He is going to wait any longer. That is probably why He did not heal the woman with elephantiasis without her personal engagement. That is probably why He did not give that woman a child without her personal Kingdom involvement.

# THE SECOND WAVE!

## ***#TakeResponsibility***

People have said things like "God is partial", "Grace is sufficient for me", "God chooses who to bless". Well, these statements will become scarce in the coming times. These statements are fast changing to "God chooses and blesses the responsible". Malachi 3:17 says; *"And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not"*.

This simply means that a time will come when there will be a clear difference between those who are serving God and those who are not serving Him. The difference is likely going to be that those who are serving God will be enjoying promotions and breakthroughs on every side, they would be living in divine health, and even if they eventually fall sick, they would recover quickly.

I used to think that serving God meant to go to church on Sundays, and maybe any other service day, to hear the word of the Lord from the pastor. Honestly, it was not my fault, my parents always said "let us go for service", except that they never mentioned who was benefiting from the service. Going to a restaurant to eat is also going for service; the difference is that the church offers a teaching service, while the restaurant offers a feeding service. The restaurant takes care of your physical being, while the church takes care of

your spiritual being. This is probably why paying your offerings is as important as paying for your food in a restaurant. That does not mean you should not go to church if you do not have an offering.

Serving God is far beyond that. Imagine washing the dishes after everybody in the restaurant have been fed, imagine cleaning the floor and the tables, imagine talking to people everywhere you go about the good meal the restaurant offers. That is what serving God feels like, doing His work or interests whether in church or out of church. In church, I do not only sit to be taught, I spend more time taking care of the records of people who worship with us for the first time. And out of church, I tell people about what Jesus is doing in church, and possibly invite them for the next church service. Nobody will force me to do that, except for the fact that I have a sense of responsibility.

Responsibility means "Response to Internal Ability". God puts great abilities inside us, but it is our duty to respond to them. You do not have to be physically defected to be called a "disabled", ability without a corresponding response is disability.

## **I FOUND MY PLACE**

Anything I cannot translate into writing easily bores me. Humorously speaking, even when I get into trouble, I still think of how to convert the troubles into writing, as if writing it will solve it.

Mysteriously, I have discovered that every time I invested in writing an inspiration from my challenges, I also write the solution in the process. Any other means of solving a problem may not work for me until I think of writing it. And I believe it's because I've been

programmed to see life as a message that has to be written.

My friends were having an argument over a matter - which I was also expected to join the argument. But instead, I was actively observing their conversation. They stopped after a while and wondered why I wasn't participating, and one of them said "leave him alone, I'm sure he's thinking of what to write". To be honest, everything they were arguing about already had a solution in the write-up I framed in my mind.

Your gift will always give you a lift in life. A gifted singer sees life as a song and knows how to sing himself out of problems. A gifted artist sees life as a colorful artwork and knows how to paint himself out of problems. The gift of a man will always make room for him.

## **THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT THE REASON FOR OUR WEAKNESS!**

We're in the end times. When perilous times would come. Old men are expected to dream dreams that would change the world, and youths have an ordination to see visions that would advance their nations. God has since removed our dependency on the government and made Himself our sufficiency. It's only those who will dare to trust God that will survive in these times. The government is not the reason for our weakness; what we experience is a manifestation of our irresponsibility to the will of God. God is still the same. We just need to detach ourselves from the emotional attachments we have towards our needs.



David carried the government upon his shoulder when he singlehandedly faced Goliath. Joseph carried the government upon his shoulder when he agreed to manage the food in Egypt for fourteen years. There are many people, particularly youths in this nation that can singlehandedly resolve the economic crisis we are experiencing. We don't need to wait till we're elected, let's grab a vision and begin to run with it. If David didn't face Goliath, imagine what would have happened?

Jesus carried the government upon His shoulder, even though He was never elected as a king or a president. He was not driven by His needs, yet, His compassion for the needy never failed. In the old testament, God sent a man ahead of the children of Israel - to make a way for them. But in the new testament, He sent every believer. The bible says "as the father sent Jesus, He sent us likewise". That

means every believer is ordained to carry their government on their shoulder and not vice versa. We need to stop waiting for a government that will create job opportunities, and begin to manifest the gift of the Spirit within us. If one man could feed the world during famine for seven years, imagine what millions of committed believers would do?

Change comes from the government, but not necessarily by the elected ones. This is why I'm more bothered about our personal commitment to change our nation than who would be elected. There is a place we are ordained to occupy until Jesus comes, let us commit ourselves to finding that place and walk in it.

**HE PASSES THE BARTON**

When we were children, our parents did all they could to provide everything we needed. But the older we grew, the more that desire to satisfy us was abated. And as we grew much older, that desire quenched completely. A time came when they began to expect things, if not everything from us.

As children, God takes responsibility for our needs, and that is why we cheaply enjoy answers to prayer. But as sons, especially those who have been in the faith for years, we take Kingdom responsibilities. We create time to pray for the advancement of His kingdom, we go out to reach out to unsaved souls, we give to the poor, we just engage in God's will and Kingdom, because that is where our assurance comes from. Matt 6:33 says *"if we seek first His kingdom, all these things shall be added to us"*. That is not what a father will choose to say to his baby, rather, that is what he would say to his grown up

sons. To a baby, he would rather say "*ask, and it shall be given unto you*". So the day you stop receiving as you have asked, then you should know that you have matured from being a child to being a son.

Jesus was born as a child, but was given as a son. At age 13, He was already engaging in Kingdom assignments. Imagine a little boy of that age becoming so engrossed with Kingdom works that he did not go back home with his parents, and stayed back in Jerusalem for 3 days - without parental guidance. And when his parents finally came back for him, He told them that they should not have looked for Him, because He expected them to know that He would be doing God's business.

Many believers are living over-pampered lives, they probably have free access to

everything they need. But as Jesus said in Matt 9:15 that *"Can the children of the bride chamber mourn, as long as the bridegroom is with them? But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken from them, and then shall they fast"*. Jesus knew at age 13 that He needed to handle certain Kingdom responsibilities. If you are already more than age 13, then you need to take God's Kingdom as a priority, whether you were born with a silver spoon or not.

A man who receives the free gift of salvation at age 30 is already overdue for Kingdom responsibility. He may enjoy cheap access to blessings for a few months, or maybe a few years, but if he does not take up a kingdom assignment, he would soon tell you that he prefers his worldly life than his Christian life. Sometimes back, during a two-day public holiday, I went out for evangelism. On the first day, I met a Christian who after

preaching to him told me that he was tired of praying because God has not been answering. The same thing happened the second day, I met another Christian who told me that God is partial, and that He no longer answers prayers. He also said he was tired of praying, and that what was the use of praying if there was no assurance of answers?

The truth is; responsibility is our assurance to answered prayer. The bible says *"and this is the confidence we have in Him, that whatsoever we ask Him, He is able to do it"*. Responsibility is that confidence. The confidence of children is "trust", while the confidence of sons is "responsibility". God tests our confidence in Him by our responsibility to Him. That is why you cannot tell me you have confidence in God without having Kingdom responsibility. A confidence in God that is not rooted in responsibility for God will fail.

I had to tell those Christians the truth; that the time of "Lord, give me" has passed, we have entered the time of "Lord, use me". This is why churches whose pastors are not teaching Kingdom responsibility will not last long in the coming times. It was easy for me to invite them to my church, and that also means the church they formally attended had lost a member each.

Let me also mention, that the time of "go and fast and pray, God will show you the cause of your problem" has passed. What you need to do now is to "serve God, and He will bless your bread and your water, and He will take sickness away from your midst". I have often mentioned that the reason why many people are so close to challenges is because they are too far from God. James 4:8 says "draw near unto God, and He will draw near unto you", and you cannot be near God and still be near

challenges. Have you not heard, that if God be for you, nobody can be against you?

Those who serve God are always in His presence. Mark 16:20 tells us that as *"the disciples went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord was working with them, and confirming the word with signs following"*. God was practically following them. Zeph 3:17 further tells us that *"the Lord in the midst of us is mighty, and He will save..."*. That also means that the reason why God is with us is so that He can save us. But then, responsibility for His kingdom is what commits Him to be responsible for us. You cannot be too sure of your safety except you are so sure of your service to God. Service creates a sense of safety.



# THE THIRD WAVE!

## ***#Obedience***

Obedience is better and easier than any heavy sacrifice of prayer and fasting. Naaman did not need to pray nor fast, all he did was to obey the prophet by dipping himself in the Jordan seven times. Many believers are fasting about things that only require their obedience. No matter how much you fast and pray, you will not draw God's attention until you obey His instructions. Obedience is the beginning of answers to prayer.

Obedience will take over the resources of our lands. Isaiah 1:19 says *"if you will be willing*

*and obedient, you will eat the good of the land*". So do not tell me that there are no job opportunities, do not tell me that there are no business opportunities, do not tell me that there are no academic or marital opportunities, because when your obedience to God is in place, you will naturally partake of all these things. Prayer used to be the master key to everything we need, but revelation has changed the lock; obedience is the new key.

Bishop David Oyedepo has often said "Obedience may be costly, but the end result is priceless". Prayer without obedience is straying without knowing. You may think God is attending to your desires but instead, you're wallowing deep into the devil's trick. As long as you are not doing God's will then you are submitting to the devil's deceit. You cannot partly obey God, if your obedience is incomplete then you are still disobedient.

Obedience is doing all that is commanded to get all that is required. Many people ask questions like "but I have done all, how come I have not received my desire?". Well, the fact of the matter is; if you have truly done all then you would have gotten all your desires. God desires you to be blessed more than you desire to be. The bible tells us that "God wishes above all things that we prosper". Which also means that our blessing is a priority before God.

# THE FOURTH WAVE!

## ***#SoulWinning***

Soul winning is not just about physically going out to preach repentance to unbelievers, it is more about using our various gifts to draw multitudes to God.

As a writer, countless number of people have attended services in my church, just because they read the articles I wrote about those services. I even asked one of them that attended, so that I would be sure, and he said "It was me, through my write-up". I never spoke to him physically, I did not even think about him when I was writing those

invitations, but the gift spoke to him. I also have a friend who told me that he started attending church services the day he read one of my write-ups, and according to him, his life has been completely transformed. This is a person I have never spoken to or even seen, we only communicate online.

I'm not saying you should not go out to preach, but that the glory of God is in the multitudes of people that comes to Him. And the best way to draw multitudes in this present time is through the manifestation of our gifts. That is probably why the bible tells us that *"the earnest expectation of the world is waiting for the manifestations of the sons of God"*. Obviously, the world will not be waiting for us if it is not expecting a different approach to the things they do already. I have heard testimonies of people who through their gift of healing attracted multitudes to Christ. They healed a sick person in the

presence of people, and when the people witnessed what had happened, they surrendered their lives to Christ.

People have said "But my God-given abilities cannot be used to win souls", that is not true. Every gift or ability has potentials to win souls and glorify God. The bible says *"the fruit of the righteous is like a tree of life, and he that win souls is wise"*. So it is not that your gift or ability cannot win souls, you only lack the wisdom to make it do so. I have often told young talents that if God is the One that gave them their gifts, then they should also make enquiries from Him on how to use them. The problem with many people is that they think they can do just anything with what they have.

The gift of God makes you shine, but soul winning turns you into a star. The bible says

"they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, but they that turn many into righteousness as stars forever". In other words, righteous-living without soul winning will only make you an average believer. And that is probably why many believers have nothing to show for their faith.

## **MUCH IS ALSO EXPECTED!**

God is not happy with a believer that does not bare fruits. In John 15:1-2, after Jesus noted that He is the Vine and we are the branches, He further stated that God takes away any branch in Him that has no fruit. The vine of a tree is what determines the production of the branches. If the vine has no nutrient, then you can't expect fruits from the branches. If God takes away a branch, then it's obviously because He expects the branch

to have fruits – since the Vine always has nutrients.

Believers also carry the nature of a tree. Ps 1:3 tells us that *“we shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water”*. That also means that it should never come to a time when a believer will not have fruit, whether in season or out of season.

There is a common scriptural saying that *“by their fruit you shall know them”*. And Matt 7:19 makes it clear that any tree that doesn't bring forth good fruit shall be cast into the fire. This is why I believe that many Christians won't make Heaven; not because they sinned, but because they didn't bring forth good fruits.

A tree that has good fruits will naturally attract people to it. Also, a Christian that



bears good fruits will draw multitudes, especially lost souls to himself. The reason why God is prospering the works of your hand is so that you can win the souls that patronize you to Him. Prov 11:30 explains that *“the fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, he that win souls is wise”*. That could also mean that “the kind of result that a righteous man gets naturally compels people to come to him, but if he is wise, he’d win them over to God”.

To whom much is given, much is also expected. If God increases my capacity to bare fruits, my audience will definitely increase. And if my audience increases, then more souls have to be reconnected to God. I believe that the reason why many Christians have not grown beyond where they are is because they don’t meet God’s expectation with what they have.

## BY ALL MEANS

Soul winning is all about saving the lost souls, and how you go about it doesn't really matter. Paul speaking in 1 Cor 9:22-23 says *"to the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you"*.

That means, if he could become a Carpenter just to save people that usually made chairs and other furniture, then he would have done it. He learnt how to be weak, he learnt how to be strong, he learnt how to be rich, and probably how to be poor, he learnt trades and many skills, he learnt anything that would help him to reach more people.

If Paul understood this principle, then it means every skill or trade has potentials to win souls. I once told a brother who sold automobile spare parts to buy a stereo player, and play Christian songs and messages anytime he opened his office. That's how it should be; the bible says we have been bought with a price, and we are expected to glorify God in our body. If your life, job or business is not evidently glorifying God, then how will you win souls? My colleagues in the office know that I am a Christian, not because I pasted it on my forehead, but because they see me outside the office - distributing tracts and fliers, and also speaking to people about Jesus.

If you have to tell people that you are a Christian, then you have a problem. True Christianity cannot be hidden; people have even gone from asking if I'm a Christian to if

I'm a pastor. Maybe, I'm probably too "Christian-ed" to not be a pastor.

So don't tell me that your company is not a religious company, don't tell me your shop is owned by an unbeliever, devise a means that will work, because you must "by all means" save some. Most of the people around my home and office don't have access to my write-ups, and that is why I go to them physically. If my write-ups cannot reach them, then I will use my mouth, because I must "by all means" save some.

## **SERVING GOD PAYS**

Our national economy may be failing, but the economy of the kingdom of God cannot be affected. The bible particularly says that the kingdom of God cannot be moved.

Be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the works of the Lord, for as much as you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain. Nobody truly works for God and returns with nothing to show. Exodus 23:25 tells us that if we *"serve the Lord, He shall bless our bread and water, and He will take sickness away from our midst"*.

Organizations may guarantee you healthcare, but it is only our service to God that guarantees divine health. Organizations may put food on your table, but it is only our service to God that guarantees blessing on the food. Many believers earn fat salaries, but because they don't engage in kingdom service, their fat salaries only bring fat problems. Great income without kingdom focus will attract locusts, and locusts won't hesitate to eat.

But do not worry; in case you are already suffering the torments of locusts, the bible tells us that God is able to restore to you the years that the locusts have eaten up, all you need to do is serve the interests of God's kingdom. I heard a testimony of a brother who lost everything he had and was operating at "Ground-Zero" level. He heard about kingdom service and plugged into it. He prayed earnestly for the salvation of souls and even went out to minister to them physically. Then God showed up and changed his story. He was even restored in multiple folds.

Among other things, serving God guarantees blessings, divine health and healing, longevity, protection, and fruitfulness. Those benefits are clearly noted in Exodus 23:24-25. Come to think of it; your organization may put you under a life assurance, but they

cannot prolong your life. They may give you access to riches, but they cannot bless you, they may provide medical insurance, but they cannot give health and healing. Organizations will prescribe a solution to health challenges, but only service to God guarantees healing. Do not be deceived by "my company has a good health insurance", the only group of people that enjoy true health insurance are those who keep company with God in His works. Arming yourself with all the security officials in the world is not a guarantee for your safety; the world may give you security, but they cannot guarantee your safety. How much are we even able to accomplish with our monthly income? It's all pointing to the fact that our various organizations may pay us salaries, but they cannot give us fruitfulness. It is service to God that adds fruitfulness to our lives, and causes our incomes, no matter how little, to be useful.

I must not forget to mention that there are several other ways to serve God, such as church service groups or units. In the church where I worship, we have different service groups, which includes Ushering, Choir, Sanctuary Keeping, Hospitality, Crowd Control, Security, Traffic Control, and more. However, soul winning and seeking the advancement of God's kingdom are goldmines, and they cannot be compared to any other form of service to God. The harvest is plenty, and God is constantly looking for soul winners to hit the harvest field.

Let me conclude with this; serve God with joyfulness and gladness of heart. In Deut 28:47-48 the bible says "the LORD blessed you in every way, but you would not serve him with glad and joyful hearts. So then, you will serve the enemies that the LORD is going to send against you. You will be hungry, thirsty, and naked, in need of everything. The



LORD will oppress you harshly until you are destroyed".

That will not be your portion! But when you start seeing unusual hunger, thirst, and shame, then you should check if the joy of service is still working in you. It is better not to serve God at all than to serve Him without gladness of heart. It is better to live as an average believer than suffer the wrath of God. However, don't forget, that serving God truly pays.

God bless you, I love you, and don't forget to send me your testimony!

# into the **DEEP**

Deep calleth unto deep at the noise  
of thy waterspouts: all thy waves  
and thy billows are gone over me.

Ps 42:7

