

WHEN THE ENEMY COMES..

LIFT UP A STAN DARD

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JUST BEFORE WE BEGIN...

Never mind, let's begin!

THERE'S A THIN LINE BETWEEN STARTING AND...

FINISHING STRONG

It takes the anointing of the Holy Spirit to start and finish strong. Without the anointing, what you started strong may suddenly gather storms. Storms will eventually pour down rain, and continuous rain will definitely cause a flood. And trust me, without the anointing, you can't do anything against a flood.

In Isaiah 59:13-21, the bible explains a scenario of great difficulty for God's people. Evil completely took over the land. Let's read what it says:

Isaiah 59:

13. In transgressing and lying against the LORD, and departing away from our God, speaking oppression and revolt, conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood.

14. And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter.

15. Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the LORD saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgment.

16. And he saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore his arm brought salvation unto him; and his righteousness, it sustained him.

17. For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke.

18. According to their deeds, accordingly he will repay, fury to his adversaries, recompence to his enemies; to the islands he will repay recompence.

19. So shall they fear the name of the LORD from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him.

20. And the Redeemer shall come to Zion, and unto them that turn from transgression in Jacob, saith the LORD.

21. As for me, this is my covenant with them, saith the LORD; My spirit that is upon thee, and my words which I have put in thy mouth, shall not depart out of thy mouth, nor out of the mouth of thy seed, nor out of the mouth of thy seed's seed, saith the LORD, from henceforth and for ever.

Honestly, painting a picture of those verses in my mind makes me want to cry. Verse 15 particularly says that ***"truth failed, and people***

who refused to do evil became a prey". In other words, they either did evil or be persecuted.

What would you do when bills are piling up, family members are sickly with no medical aid, no food to eat, no job to execute, and there is no hope of getting God's divine intervention? It was a flood of problems for God's people. Their problems were literally killing them. Meanwhile, they began their journey with God.

From verse 16 to 21, God saw all of those challenges and concluded that the reason why evil was so much was because there was no intercessor; someone who would stand in the gap or make a covenant between man and God. Then He sent Jesus to be our mediator. Jesus in turn sent us His Spirit, so

that we won't have to be disconnected from God like they did in the old covenant.

Verse 19 gave us an assurance; it says **"... When the enemy shall come like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord (in you) will lift up a standard against him"**. In the old covenant, they couldn't do anything against a flood of problems; but in the new testament, we can use the anointing of the Holy Spirit to lift up a standard against the flood of problems that comes our way. Verse 21 particularly describes the covenant that God made with His people; it says **"His Spirit must remain in His people, and His word must remain in their mouth"**.

That's the new covenant; if you don't want the challenges of this world to consume you, then you must consciously work with the Holy Spirit. Let me put it this way; if you want God

to intervene on your earthly matters, then His Spirit has to be in you.

MY APOLOGIES, I WAS SUPPOSED TO START FROM THE BEGINNING...

After God created the earth, He created man and gave him dominion over it. God did not give the earth's dominion to spirits, He gave it to man. And that also means that whatever is not born of man has no legal right to dominate the earth.

Even God couldn't violate this lease when Satan illegally operated on the earth. He probably wanted to destroy Satan immediately with His power, but He couldn't because He didn't have the right to do so. He had to make covenants with faithful men before He could use His powers on earth. A covenant is an agreement between two

people; in this case, God and man. God tells man what to do in order for Him to intervene in our matters. Anytime man plays his part, God also plays His part.

Don't get me wrong; God is omnipotent and unlimited in power, but He has limited Himself by His word. He gave man dominion over the earth, and that means even He would need man's permission to exercise authority on the earth. Satan didn't take permission, he's an intruder, and that's why God began to look for faithful men who He could establish a covenant with in order to stop Satan and his evil works.

Covenants between God and man have always existed. We may not have noticed it, but what kept Adam and God together was a

covenant. And this covenant is clearly stated in Genesis Chapter 2. Let's read it:

Genesis 2:

15. And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

16. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

17. But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Did you see that? God gave His blessing to man, and told him that if he doesn't want to be disconnected from the blessing, then he must be obedient to the instruction. But Adam disobeyed, and he lost everything, including the garden. This process continued like that; and that's why Isaiah 59:16 says

"there was no man". God saw all the difficulties that His people were going through, but He couldn't do anything about their sufferings because there was no man to establish a covenant with. Anytime man violated the covenant, God's power on the earth becomes limited.

Abraham, Noah, Moses, and many others also had covenants with God. Remember how Moses received the ten commandments for the children of Israel? The whole essence of those commandments was to keep God on their side.

WAR AGAINST WICKEDNESS...

Before Jesus came, the fight had been against the flesh. All the prophets that were sent fought against flesh. Moses fought against

Pharaoh, Joshua fought against Jericho and many other cities.

But when Jesus came, He made us understand that the fight is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, and against spiritual wickedness in high places. And that's why all those great men and prophets couldn't finish the war. His disciples almost made the same mistake, but Jesus cautioned them. That's why we began to see scriptures like ***"If your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty give him a drink", "if someone slaps you on the right cheek, turn your other cheek to him as well", "if someone takes your coat, don't stop him from taking your shirt"***. Only Jesus could finish the war against wickedness. He particularly said in John 19:30 that ***"It is finished"***.

At the root of wickedness was Satan. Man had dominion over the earth, but he didn't

have power to cast out devils. And since he couldn't cast out the root of wickedness, he simply fought against the surface. But that kind of fight never ends. In fact, in Ps 56:1, King David described it as a daily fight. That's why people who think their neighbour is their problem will always see their neighbour as their problem.

At age 30, Jesus received the power of the Holy Spirit after baptism. Afterwards, we saw Him torment demons, healed all kinds of sicknesses and diseases. He was the first man who had power to cast out demons from the affairs of men. And these were things man could not do. Man had dominion, but he didn't have power to cast out demons. It's like telling a police officer that he has authority to stop a vehicle on the road. But in reality, he doesn't have the power to actually stop a vehicle. That also means that if he refuses to

leave the road when a vehicle is approaching, he would be hit by the vehicle. He has the authority, but he doesn't have the power. On the other hand, Satan doesn't have the authority, but he had the power.

But all power has been given to Believers now, including the power to cast out demons. We have the legal right and spiritual power to cast out demons, and that's because the devil is an illegal occupant here. In Mark 16:17, Jesus particularly said ***"these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name, they shall cast out devils..."***.

BUT THEY ALSO NEEDED TO BE BAPTIZED...

Jesus' time on the earth was up after His resurrection. He could no longer cast out demons and heal sicknesses or cure diseases like He did. His body had been glorified to a

heavenly body; He no longer had that earthly body that could do all those miracles. Before that time, His disciples could use His name to cast out demons, because He was around to comfort them. But when He was ascending to heaven, He told them to stay in the upper room until they received the power of the Holy Ghost.

Why did He ask them to go to the upper room to wait for spiritual empowerment? Since they already had His name, they could have easily continued to cast out demons, right? No! They couldn't do that anymore, as long as He was no longer on the earth. When He was on earth, He could defend His name. Any demon that refused to be subjected to His name would have to face Jesus directly. Remember how a woman reported a case to Jesus which his disciples could not fix? The lunatic child that resisted the disciples

couldn't resist Jesus when He appeared. Jesus was here, so He could defend His name. But He knew things would be different when He leaves them; and that even if they have to continue using His name, they'd need another person who will defend His name here on earth. And that's where the ministry of the Holy Spirit was introduced. Let's read the introduction:

John 14:

16. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever

17. Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

18. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

Did you notice verse 18? The reason why He is sending His Spirit is because He wants to make sure we're comfortable when He goes to The Father. The Holy Spirit became the spiritual representative of the physical Jesus to man. He could do everything Jesus did on earth and even more. Let's see how John 16 put it:

John 16:

12. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

13. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

14. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

Notice verses 13 and 14, the Holy Spirit will simply receive from Jesus and show what is received to us. He doesn't have a personal ministry; His ministry is to glorify Jesus in the lives of God's people. He makes Jesus “work” in our lives. That also means that through the Holy Spirit, Jesus is still defending Believers. Isn't that a joyful thing?

WHAT MORE?

Once you have the Holy Spirit in you, then you have a license to cast out demons and do exploits in life. Remember that this is the current covenant that God has with man, according to Isaiah 59:21.

After the disciples of Jesus received the Holy Spirit, they began to witness Jesus to the

people with boldness. Peter especially, someone who could not identify with Jesus, suddenly got 3000 people saved in one day. I don't blame Peter; his miracle working master had been captured. Remember how he cut the ear of one of the guards that came to capture Jesus? He had confidence in the miracle working Jesus, not the captured one. He could fight back oppositions because Jesus was with them; but when Jesus was captured, he lost confidence. And that's why he couldn't identify with Jesus when He was captured. He lost the comfort that he felt around Jesus. It's totally not his fault.

But that's why the Holy Spirit is within us now, to comfort us on every side. So that we won't have to deny Jesus like Peter did the first time. After they received the Holy Ghost, series of trials came against them to stop

witnessing Jesus, but instead, they intensified their witnessing. They were unstoppable!

They couldn't stop them when Jesus was with them, and they couldn't stop them when the Holy Spirit was in them. The similarity between those two points in time is the presence of Jesus.

That's why the bible calls us overcomers. That's why we are more than conquerors. When God is with us, who can be against us?

No matter what you may be going through, you'd surely breakthrough. The Holy Spirit in you would always lift up a standard against your oppositions, if you let Him.

BUT HOW DO I GET THE HOLY SPIRIT TO WORK FOR ME?

Through prayers, and demonstrating your faith in God's Word. If you ever feel like the Holy Spirit is not lifting up a standard against your oppositions, then it's probably because your anointing is low, and you're not able to communicate properly to the Holy Spirit through your spirit. When your anointing is low, it means you've not been praying, and most especially, you've not been studying God's word. Remember that the Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus, and Jesus is the word of God. So if there is no word in you, there'd be nothing to glorify. Or simply put, there'd be no standard to lift against the opposition.

In case you've never received the Holy Spirit, it's not something you'd need a special

ceremony for. In John 14:26, Jesus said the Holy Spirit is the Comforter whom the Father will send “in His name”. In other words, all you have to do is ask God to baptize you with the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus, and that's it! However, if you're set, I can guide you.

Lift your right hand towards heaven and declare these words boldly;

“Heavenly Father, my heart is set for the manifestation of your Holy Spirit. Therefore, I ask that you baptize me today with the Holy Spirit, in the name of Jesus!”

Congratulations!

NOW THAT YOU'VE RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT...

Start speaking!

God's word is not just for our hearts, but also for our mouth. Jesus is the word of God; but He didn't perform any miracle until He spoke.

Even though He was the word of God, He still had to speak to the fig tree, He still had to speak to blind Barthemaus, He still had to speak to the woman with the issue of blood, He still had to speak to the ten lepers, He still had to speak to the centurion's servant, He still had to speak to Lazarus that was dead for days, He still had to speak to feed five thousand people. He came as "the speaking-word" of God, not the silent word.

Even when they came to capture Him, what He said made his captors tremble. Catching Him was impossible as long as He was still speaking. Scripture even tells us that He was tormented only because He stopped speaking. And the reason why He stopped speaking was so that His mission on earth would be fulfilled.

The life of Jesus is enough proof that if we won't stop speaking the word, then the devil will have no place in our lives. The value of the word is seen when it is spoken.

Speaking in faith is often the first step to engaging the Holy Spirit and actualizing any miracle. In the beginning, God spoke and the Spirit of God moved to perform what God said. Also, I believe that spoken words have a

force that mobilizes people to where their breakthrough will happen. The woman with the issue of blood spoke in her heart; and suddenly, she did what she spoke. Even though there were obstacles on her path, she still managed to touch the hem of Jesus' garment. Jesus spoke concerning the Centurion's servant, and before the messengers could return to the centurion to deliver the message, his servant had already responded to the spoken word.

If you want to see a blessing tomorrow, then speak to it today. Jesus spoke to the fig tree one day, and by the next day, what Jesus spoke had come to pass. Spoken words may not pay your bills, but they would move you to do things that will help you pay your bills. When challenges are becoming too tough, start speaking. As a matter of scriptures, spoken words are like hammer, and they're

able to break any tough challenge. Things around you may be bad, but say how you'd like to see those things. When you're faced with a challenge, don't wait till you know what to do; rather, speak to the situation by telling it what to do. If you speak well at the start, then you're likely not going to have a scratch.

WE EXERCISE AUTHORITY WHEN WE SPEAK...

That Centurion in Luke chapter 7 clearly understood authority. He had soldiers and slaves under him; people who would do everything to ensure that his commands are immediately and neatly executed. He also had superiors; people whom he must submit to at all cost. Now this Centurion had a sick servant whom he loved - and would do anything to keep him alive.

Thank God he knew about Jesus, because he sent some of his servants to look for Him. When Jesus was approaching the Centurion's chamber, some high ranked soldiers ran to Him with a message from the Centurion. The centurion literally told Jesus that He didn't need to come all the way to his chamber to heal his sick servant, all he wanted from Him was to speak the word of healing, and the militia of the kingdom of God would go and execute the command. He even said that the reason why He sent his servants to meet him was because he wasn't worthy enough to stand before a man like Jesus, just like many of his soldiers couldn't stand before him. Isn't this a perfect picture of a believer's authority?

The authority of a believer is tied to his mouth. Anytime we speak in relation to God's word, the angels pick what we've said, so that

God can fix what we've said. No wonder the bible says God has given us a mouth that no enemy can resist nor gainsay. ***"Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks"***; if you think your spoken words are not producing enough, then fill your heart with the ever productive word of God.

A certain woman had an accident that landed her in a very narrow drainage. The motorbike that conveyed her was resting on her, while the vehicle that hit them was resting on the motorbike. Yes, everybody thought she had died, because there was no way anyone would survive that kind of accident. But here was the woman, she could not feel any other part of her body except her mouth. She kept on saying ***"I shall not die but live to declare the goodness of God"***. And mysteriously, when they lifted the car and the motorbike, they found

her alive and well, there was not even a scratch on her body.

I woke up to pray one morning and suddenly developed a stomach ache that made it very uncomfortable for me to pray. But I heard the Spirit of the Lord say "I have given you a mouth that none of your adversaries shall be able to resist nor gainsay". I spoke to the situation, and that was it.

That woman should have died; but obviously, God has made our mouth more powerful than any situation or circumstance. Do not stay quiet when you really should be speaking. Everything may be down, the economy may be tough, the roads may be rough, house rent and school bills may be due, but God is still waiting for you to speak.

LET ME CONCLUDE WITH THIS...

Faith is a speaking force. When Jesus spoke, demons were tormented and oppressed; but when He stopped speaking, they tormented Him till He was crucified. If you believe the word you've received, then speak it. It's okay to be peaceful about what you believe, but do not stay quiet about it. May God give us understanding!

I'm really glad you read this book. And I pray that the revelation you've caught from it will speak in your life greatly, in the name of Jesus!

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

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EMEKA ANSLEM



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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