

EMEKA ANSLEM



# OVERCOMING CHALLENGES

KEYS TO LIVING THE OVERCOMERS' LIFE

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## **JUST BEFORE WE BEGIN...**

Sometimes, the challenges that keep staring at us in the eye are those ones that won't go until we pass through them. And most times, these challenges carry our desired breakthroughs behind them. The bible tells us that a great and effectual door is opened unto us, but there are many adversaries. That simply means, if we must go through the door then we must pass through the adversaries. Imagine how Jesus felt when the cross won't stop staring at Him. At a point He even prayed to God that "if it were God's will, let the cup pass over Him".

As believers, challenges are meant to pass over us, but the challenge that Jesus was faced with had to be passed through. If a challenge has refused to pass over you, then

it probably means you have to pass through it. However, no challenge is strong enough to determine the end of your journey on the earth. Jesus died on the cross, but His journey on the earth did not come to an end. As a matter of scriptures, He resurrected after three days. If the challenge you are going through won't require that you die for the sins of the world, then you would come out of it alive and well.

If a particular challenge keeps recurring, then the devil is hiding something valuable from you. You just need to stand up and face it! This book will unveil a key that the devil has not been able to do anything about; and I believe that it will be a medium of great blessings to you, in Jesus name! Have a good read!

LET ME ASK YOU A QUESTION...

# WHO TOLD YOU THAT YOU HAVE A CHALLENGE?

Anytime you say "I have a challenge", God says "who told you that you have a challenge?". That's exactly how He reacted to Adam's observation. In Genesis 3, after Adam ate the forbidden fruit, he started seeing that he was naked. When he noticed that God was approaching the garden, he went and hid himself. God had to ask him why he was hiding himself, and he didn't hesitate to say it was because he was naked. I perceive that God was surprised to hear that, because He asked him, "Who told you that you are naked?".

Come to think of it; Adam had always been naked, but his nakedness never limited or affected the potency of God's word. Some ladies have erroneously thought that once they cross forty years in age their chances of getting married will be little. Who told them? Some people have resolved to do hard labour because they've been told that they can't get a good paying job due to their age or due to the state of the economy; really, who told them?

I remember how I resigned from the company I worked with in October 2015. It was right in the heat of the economic recession. Trust people's sympathetic remarks; "You should have managed the job till you get another one; you know it's quite hard to get a job these days". Some of them even bridged communication with me because they thought I'd become a burden to them. They

asked questions like, "How will you be feeding now?", "Will you just be staying at home?". They all believed that my case was a hopeless one. And the most painful part was the fact that they were all Christians. If there's anything I've consciously practiced in my Christian walk, it's to help people see a positive side in negative challenges, especially the ones that emanated from their mistakes. The bible says we should owe no man anything except love; and one of the ways to show love to people is to speak good of them, even in hard times. The Contemporary English Version of the Bible translated 1 Cor 13:7 as, "Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful, and trusting". I particularly like the International Standard Version; it says, "She bears up under everything; believes the best in all; there is no limit to her hope, and never will she fall". This is clear that people who claim to have the God kind of love must be "always supportive"



and "believe the best in everyone and in all situations".

Lamentation 3:37 tells us that, "Who is he that says a thing and it comes to pass when the lord has not declared it?". If it's not God who declared what you heard about your challenge, then there is hope, especially when God speaks of a solution in His word. Adam was naked, but things were still working for him. Things only stopped working when he began to think that his nakedness was an issue. Just imagine, someone who renamed animals and took care of the Garden of Eden in his nakedness became someone who was too ashamed to walk in nakedness, all because he was told that he was naked. The bible says "a double minded person is unstable in all his ways"; and that further explains why he lost his access to the garden.

Check your life and observe the things you've been struggling to do; many of them will be things that people have told you negative things about. The truth is, the current state of things does not limit the potency and fulfilment of God's word. And if that's the case, God's word can still deliver your job to you despite the economic situation. He can still give you the breakthrough you desire. You just need to stop hearing what they've said, and start hearing what God said. We must not be conformed to the norms in this world; challenges are free to arise, but God's word will still prevail. If it's not God that told you what you've heard, then relax, because you can still breakthrough.

It's a pity that many people may never start a business, because they've been told how

difficult it is to manage a business. There are students who don't like a course, not because the lecturer is not communicating the lessons well, but because those students have been told that the course is difficult and that nobody succeeds in it. Who told you? I remember a time when I disliked a particular person, only because someone else told me that the person was inconsiderate. I related with the person with that perspective for a long time, until I began to see things differently. What I was told about that person was absolutely incorrect. I believe this is why 1 Thess 5:21 admonishes us to prove all things and hold fast to that which is good. The truth is, you can't do what is good until you've successfully proved what you heard. Your first point of action should always be to prove; but unfortunately, many people start reacting immediately. I used to have a friend who got angry with me at the slightest thing. She

reads meaning to everything, including when I don't receive her calls. Once she gets offended, she'd react until I finally get the chance to explain what happened. I had to advise her never to get angry at people until she has heard from them. Honestly, we don't have a right to get angry at people until we've heard their side of the story. Because you may discover that they are completely innocent. Consequently, you don't have a right to worry over what the devil or anyone tells you until you've heard God's side of the story. If you want to know how well a man will do in life, ask him who speaks to him. Any man who tells you more of "somebody said" than "God said" has a long way to go.

## **GET BACK TO THE WORD!**

When it comes to overcoming challenges, no other means can be as quick as the word of

God. Doctors may tell you that it would take time for your health to respond to treatment, lawyers may tell you that the case will need more time to be resolved, your boss may have extended the set-time for your promotion, your in-laws may have selfishly extended the time for your wedding, do not worry, God's word is quick and powerful, and it is able to make anything happen when you want it to happen.

We need to stop allowing nature to cheat us. If God had conformed to nature, the moon and the sun would not have been in existence today. The earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the waters. That would have remained the story if God did not engage the word. And God said "let there be light", and light came instantly. Nature would always have good reasons why you can't get your desires on time, but you

also have "God reasons" why you must get your desires without delay. It will be ignorance to settle for good reasons when the "God reason" is better.

When nature gives you a recommendation, show them the commendation that you already received from the word.

## **BUILD TO LAST...**

Don't trust anything or any relationship that is not built on the word of God. It's not about the solid structure, but about the foundation where the solid structure is standing. In Matt 7:24, the bible says, "Everyone who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock". What you build is less important compared to what you build on. What you've built may appear fine, but the strength of a

structure is not in its beauty, but in its foundation. A fine building will eventually collapse if the foundation is not firm. Our jobs, careers, marriages, businesses, and health can only stand firm when they are built on God's word.

In John Chapter 1, the bible tells us that all things were made by the word, and without it was nothing made that was made. In other words, just as nothing else can give birth to another life except the womb of a woman, nothing else can make anything really stand without the word of God. What you've built may last for long, but if it has no root in God's word, then it will occasionally experience instability. Without the word, a little mistake can cause an irreversible effect; but with the word, love will cover mistakes and ensure progress.

God's word has no substitute; you're either doing less without it, or doing better with it. No force can ever do better than God's word.

### **PREDICT AND WIN...**

The word of God can be used to predict your victory over life's circumstances. The bible says, "Heaven and earth may pass away, but God's word will not pass away". In other words, the whole of heaven and earth may rise against you, but if God's word says contrary, then your victory is sure. It doesn't matter the caliber of people that may be attacking you; if God's word speaks of their defeat, then you can emerge victorious. Victory is not determined by what the world says, but by what the word says.



The word of God is reliable, faithful and dependable. It's able to deliver what it promises. The bible specifically says, "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart". Did you see that? It's not only able to fix physical ailments like medicine, it can also fix the soul and spirit; that's something that no medicine can do! This is a clear indication that nothing in this world can be more potent than the word of God.

God's word is a very present help in times of need; before you look for who to run to, run to the present word first. If God's word doesn't mention a solution to your case, then no matter who you look for, they won't help you.

## IS GOD SILENT?

Your fear is a sign that you've not learnt something. You will never be truly free from fear until knowledge bails you out. Ignorance prolongs pain; it makes your pain and torment continue. The woman with the issue of blood suffered torment until she learnt that she could be healed by touching the hem of Jesus' garment. She probably prayed and fasted many times, but her healing wasn't established until she applied knowledge.

If you keep praying over challenges that only require application of knowledge, then you may never come out of those challenges. Moses must have prayed and even fasted concerning the freedom of the people of Israel, but until he turned to the burning bush to receive knowledge, he had no clue on how

to free them. Your freedom is near; you just need to turn to knowledge. If God has not done what you've been asking Him to do, then you should consider asking Him to enlighten you on what you must do. And if He doesn't answer, read about people who have overcome what you're going through and do what they did. Sometimes, when God is silent, it's probably because He has already answered what you're asking through the testimony of someone else.

Whenever prayer does not give you a complete solution, it's a sign that you need knowledge. Prayer may initiate the process, but it's knowledge that will sustain and finish it.

## ANCIENT WORD...

In the beginning, when your present challenges were not there, when schools and law courts were not there, when marriages and jobs didn't exist, when there was absolutely nothing in existence, The Word was there. John chapter 1 particularly tells us that, "In the beginning was the word... ". This simply means that anything that came into existence after the word is subject the word. The bible further explains that "all things were made by the word, and nothing could be made or unmade without it".

God unmade darkness and made light with the word. And He was able to do that because the word existed before darkness came into existence. If God could unmake darkness by the word, then you can unmake any challenge around your life by the word. No wonder the

bible describes the word as "A very present help in times of need". The word was present even before the challenge came; and that means the word has a solution to it. Isaiah 34:16 paints a clear picture when it said, "Seek ye out of the book of the LORD, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and His Spirit it hath gathered them". In other words, before the challenge surfaced, the Spirit of God had already gathered information about it and saved it inside the word; so that when the challenge finally comes, all you have to do is search the word for the solution.

If you can still find a word that addresses your challenge, then your victory is sure.

## **FIGHT WITH THE WORD, NOT AGAINST IT...**

God's word was supposed to profit Jonah, but his lack of understanding attracted challenges to him. Faith is the only way to prove that you understand the word of God. Jonah was supposed to go to Nineveh, but he decided to go to Tarshish because he lacked understanding of what God said. He tried to judge God's word based on his personal feelings and opinion about the people in Nineveh. And for that one reason, a word that was supposed to make him a dignified prophet landed him in the belly of a fish.

Many believers are like Jonah; they suffer certain challenges only because they lack understanding of God's word. They have the word in them, but their wrong application of it is what is causing them troubles. If God says you should forgive your brother who hurt

you, then forgive him, your feelings notwithstanding. You can't be a part believer; you can't believe part of the word of God and neglect the parts that affects your feelings. If you can't go to Nineveh, then instead of going to Tarshish, don't leave your house at all. It's better to believe none than to believe part; because while one part may be stable in your heart, the other part will fight you till it gains stability. And trust me, you can't fight against the word.

The bible says God's word cannot return to him void; it must perform that which is spoken. If that's the case, why won't you just submit to what it says, instead of fighting it?

## **IT SHOWS IN YOUR CHARACTER...**

Satan is not afraid of the word; he is only afraid of your understanding of the word.

Faith is the only way to prove that you understand the word of God. Faith is a Christian character that reflects only when you understand God's Word. What do you do when you don't have money? The bible says "thou shall lend to many nations, and thou shall not borrow". Would you prefer to borrow to prepare a nice dinner, or would you just drink water and go to bed? The truth is, a person who doesn't know how to breakthrough lack without borrowing may never know how to break into realms of lending to nations. If you don't understand this, you'd still borrow, even though the bible speaks against it.

Sometimes, God's word may sound really harsh, but that's the only way we can be recreated or transformed to enjoy the fullness of its benefits. We may not know what God is doing with us, just as a baby



chicken doesn't know what its mother did until it hatches and comes out of its shell. Chickens lay eggs, but eggs are never children until they hatch. Man may produce another man, but being a man won't make you a son of God, it is understanding God's word that will. That's why the bible says, "as many that received Him, to them He gave power to become sons of God". To receive the word means to understand the word. People who will change the world are sons of God, not just men that are born. What's the use of an egg that has no probability of hatching?

Faith is one of the characteristics of a believer; it shows in your character. But our character only changes based on our understanding. When the people saw the character of the early disciples of Jesus, they sensed that they had been with Jesus. Their character wasn't the same as the people they

used to know; something had changed, all because they acted based on an understanding they got from Jesus. If God's word does not show in your character, then you don't have faith. People should understand the Bible through the character we display on a daily basis.

What do you do when you suddenly find yourself in a challenge? The bible describes the word of God as a very present help in times of need. In the face of a challenge, if you call your uncle first before you consult the word, then you lack a good Christian character; you don't have faith. The bible has already said God's word is there to help you even at the instance of the challenge; so why would you consider calling an uncle first - who may not be available, when the word is available? Even if you really have to call an uncle, hear from the present word first. That's

how to show that you understand or have faith in the word. A display of faith will never harm you; rather, it disarms the enemy. That also means you can trust faith; or simply put, have faith in faith.

## **DIFFERENT FOLDS...**

We'd see from scriptures that God's word delivers in thirtyfold, sixtyfold, and hundredfold. In other words, it's able to deliver part and all of your need. For instance; Phil 4:19 says that "God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory through Christ Jesus"; if you believe that scripture to meet a need, and all you could get was half of what was needed, then you've not gotten a hundredfold of what that scripture says. It didn't say "God shall supply half of your needs"; rather, it says "God shall supply all your needs". So if you get anything less than

all, then that scripture has not fully delivered in your life.

However, the problem is not with the scripture, neither is it with God; the problem is with your understanding. Many believers are too quick to assume God's will when their needs are not met as expected, even when God's will is clearly stated in scriptures. If God says "all", then He means "all". I remember how I believed God to make N20000 on a certain day, but contrary to what I expected, the first money I received on that day was N5000. However, because I understood God's word for me, I didn't break my expectation. Miraculously, I made N20000 before that day ended. When it comes to having faith in God's word, what you receive first is often a test to see if you still need the rest.

God doesn't give half things. The bible says "in his presence, there is fullness...". So when what you get is not as expected, continue in faith till you get the rest.

### **REVELATION, RIGHT WORDS, SENT WORDS...**

God's word does not delay, it works instantly. Hebrews 4:12 tells us that "the word of God is quick and powerful...". However, the reason why God's word does not work "quickly" for many Believers is mostly because they don't know how to apply the word.

Revelation of God's word may cause you to wonder, but it is the right word that turns you into a wonder. Many believers are busy wondering about the amazing power of God, while many others are experiencing and

manifesting that power. 1 Cor 2:4 makes it clear that "the gospel that we preach is not meant to entice people, but to demonstrate the power of the Holy Spirit". If you can't see the demonstration of God's word in your life, then you've not applied it the right way.

Revelation that is not a right word or sent word will only motivate you. People with challenges have stopped looking for words that motivate, they're looking for words that transform. An encounter with right words and sent words would definitely transform any Believer.

## **REVELATION...**

Revelation is knowing the truth of scriptures; and it is the truth you know that makes you free. The difference between distinct believers is the level of revelation they

operate with. Don't be deceived by the saying that "God will show mercy upon who He will show mercy", revelation will attract God's mercy at any time. Even if God does not want to bless you, your access to revelation will change His mind. That's probably why the bible says "destroy him not, for there is a blessing in him". When true revelation is in you destruction can't come to you.

Revelation from God's word means having a divine understanding of the scriptures. It means seeing the word how God sees it. But seeing the scriptures how God sees it is not a guarantee that you will be delivered from your challenges. People get revelations every day; from preachings, from books, and even from the Holy Spirit, but not all revelations are fit enough to fix the challenges we go through.

Don't get me wrong, right words and sent words are also revelations, because they are revealed by God; but it is not all revelations that are right words or sent words. And what we really need to resolve the challenges we encounter is not just revelation, but right words or sent words. Many people have gotten plenty of revelations on why they should get married, but why are they still single? Many students have not gained admission into the University, not because they don't have revelations from scriptures that promises academic success, but because they don't have the right word. Many unemployed graduates have declared all the scriptures they know about getting a miracle job, but why are they still jobless?



## **RIGHT WORDS...**

Even though God's word may be true, not all true words from scriptures are right for all situations.

Many years back I developed a mysterious migraine that lasted for many days. I attacked the migraine with all the scriptures I knew, but it seemed like the more I declared those scriptures, the more intense the migraine became. I woke up on the fourth day and picked my Bible, with the understanding that "there must be a way out". Meanwhile, I had tried to use medication, but it didn't work. I began to study, and it wasn't long before I found John 8:32 "and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free". I then said to myself "but I know the truth, that by the stripes on Jesus I have been healed".

After that discovery, I screamed "migraine, go now!"; and it disappeared instantly.

Right words must be found. Prov 24:14 says "so shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto your soul: when you have found it, then there shall be a reward, and your expectation shall not be cut off". If your expectations are still cutting off, then it means you've not found the right word. You may have found the true words, but you need the right word to activate the true words. The reason why that migraine lasted for days is because I was dwelling on the true words I knew, instead of searching for the right word that will activate the true words. If you've been believing God for a miracle marriage, job, career breakthrough, academic breakthrough, health restoration, or anything at all, and you've not seen the manifestation, then it means you've not found the right word yet. You can't find

the right word and not experience the manifestation of your desire. It said "when you have found it, there shall be a reward, and your expectation shall not be cut off". In other words, the proof for finding is the reward, and the reward is usually your expectation. So don't tell me that God has not answered your prayers, have you found the right word?

## **SENT WORDS...**

While a right word must be found, a sent word is usually sent to an individual by God Himself. Ps 107:20 says "God sent His word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destruction". Ps 105:19 explains to us that until the time that Joseph's word came, the word of the Lord tried him. So while we may go after right words, we have to believe God for a sent word.

It was a sent word that Jacob received that influenced the whole of Israel. Isaiah 9:8 says "The Lord sent a word into Jacob, and it lighted upon Israel". There is a difference between what is read, what is heard, and what is sent.

From experience, God sends a word to His people to deliver them or help them overcome what is coming. It was a sent word that Jesus gave to Peter in Luke 22:31-33 when He said "behold, Satan has asked permission to tempt you all, but I have prayed for you that your faith will not fail you".

Believe me, if Job had access to a sent word from God, maybe he would not have suffered the afflictions he suffered. People who enjoy sent words are people who are always in the

spirit; it was Apostle John who said "I was in the spirit on the Lord's day when I heard". Job was serving God, but he was not in the spirit. He lived in fear all the days of his; the bible particularly says that "the things which he feared came upon him". You can't be living in fear and still be in the spirit; the presence of fear declares the absence of your spirit. 2 Tim 1:7 tells us that "God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind". If God has not given you the spirit of fear, then the presence of fear in you indicates the operation of a wrong spirit.

One evening, I had a very unpleasant argument with the family I lived with in Lagos, Nigeria. I consciously took a walk outside the house so I could ease off the pain I was feeling. Then I asked God "now that I am weeping over this matter, what are You going to do about it?". Surprisingly, I heard His

voice saying "My son, don't worry, the suffering of this present time is nothing compared to the glory I'd reveal to you in return". It was a year after that I found those exact words in Roman's 8:18. And truly, today, I can't compare the sufferings of that time to the glory that God has revealed and still revealing to me.

Sent words can come from any dimension. It could be a simple word, or a word from scriptures. By "simple" I mean God can speak through anybody or anything. Sent words can come as instructions, directions or prophecies. The word that Jacob received was a prophecy, He said "your name shall no longer be Jacob, but Israel; for you have striven with God and with men and have prevailed". The word that was sent to Jehosaphat was instructional, He said "You shall not need to fight in this battle: set

yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you.... Fear not nor be dismayed; tomorrow, go out against them, for the Lord will be with you".

Sent words can come at any time, but you can only receive them only when you are in the spirit, in the presence of God. Bishop David Oyedepo has often shared a story of how he received a sent word in a toilet "The harvest of Africa is now overripe, rush in, and preserve the harvest". The word that is shaken the world today was received in a toilet. You may be in the prison, but if you're in the spirit, then you're qualified to receive a sent word from God. Sent words should be prayed for from time to time, whether in a church service or on the road, traveling. A sister shared a testimony of how God gave her a word before a particular affliction came to her. The affliction lasted for weeks, but the

word she received was what helped her through.

We can't afford to live outside the spirit, the devil is not friendly. The reason why his attacks tarry long on many believers is usually because those believers were not sensitive to the sent word that must have come for them. Bishop David Oyedepo has often told this story of how he instructed two of his pastors not to travel on a particular day, because he received a signal from the spirit that the journey will be for their hurt. But those pastors were obstinate, they traveled. But before they could go 20 kilometers, they had a ghastly accident that took their lives. If they were also in the spirit like the bishop, perhaps they would have heard for themselves.



## **LET ME CONCLUDE WITH THIS...**

After all that the Spirit of God has unveiled in this book, it is clear that overcoming challenges is easy if we would take responsibility and position for a word that will change the situation of things. If our president will sit down with the bible for 3 days, there is no way he won't find the right word that will settle the challenges of our economy. And this is why a president that is not a student of the Bible can't lead a nation successfully. Even Moses that had God on his side still had issues leading the people of Israel, now imagine a leader that doesn't know God at all.

However, as believers, the government is not the reason for our weaknesses or challenges. Just like Isaac, we need to sow appropriate

word-seeds into this land, and things will begin to change. This is why the bible says "the earnest expectation of the world is waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God". The world does not have access to the revelation of the word, Jesus particular said "The word is a mystery to them". But for we that are in the kingdom, we have access to these mysteries, and that's why they are waiting for us to manifest them.

The time has come for a believer to take up national challenges. Dig into our academic system, our agricultural system, our economy at large, and look for certain scriptures that will settle them. The truth is; having a Christian leader is not the solution to our national challenges, it is having a Christian leader who will trade kingdom secrets to fix these challenges.

Thank you for reading. I believe you've been blessed already. I pray that within the next 7 days, God will daze you with laughter, and your testimony will be visible for all to see, in the name of Jesus! Congratulations!

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- HOW TO RECEIVE YOUR DESIRED  
MIRACLE
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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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