

EMEKÀ ANSLEM



Fifty Questions

I BADLY WANT TO
**ASK A
PASTOR**

50 QUESTIONS I BADLY WANT TO ASK A PASTOR

Copyright © 2022 Emeka Anslem

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording, or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the author, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in critical reviews and certain other non-commercial uses permitted by copyright law. For permission requests, write the author.

anslem.emeka@gmail.com
www.emekaanslem.com.ng
facebook.com/OfficialEmekaAnslem
Phone: +2349024529639
WhatsApp: +2348065582482

ISBN:

Unless otherwise stated, all scriptural reference are from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible. Bold and Italicized scriptures are for emphasis only.



OVER 50 TITLES BY THE AUTHOR

www.emekaanslem.com.ng

OVER 50 TITLES BY THIS AUTHOR

1. Seven Keys to Gain Relevance
2. Becoming Exclusively Productive
3. Fasting to Get Results
4. Find Your Purpose
5. Power to get wealth
6. Reach Your Goals
7. Who God Has Blessed
8. A New Confidence
9. A Value Adding Life
10. Anslem's Faith Book
11. Color in Wilderness
12. Enforcing Results
13. Fierce and free
14. Focus
15. God's Exemption Strategy
16. He blesses our bread and water
17. How to receive your desired miracle
18. Into The Deep
19. It's Harvest Season
20. Knowing God Experientially
21. Lift Up A Standard
22. Love Park
23. Matthew 633
24. Motivating Right Education
25. Now that you have been enthroned
26. Oh! I need a miracle
27. Overcoming Challenges

28. Overcoming Depression
29. Practice Makes Perfect
30. Putting Grace Under Pressure
31. Reborn To Lead
32. I couldn't find a Silver Spoon
33. The Bail Out Plan
34. The force of influence
35. The Great Advantage
36. The Life
37. The Time Is Not Enough
38. The Tithe Is Not Enough
39. Timely Notes - A 30-DAY devotional - Volume 1
40. Timely Notes - A 30-Day Devotional - Volume 2
41. Trade Your Gift – {Co-Authored}
42. Unbroken Prosperity
43. Unscripted
44. Until My Change Comes
45. Where Are the Youths
46. Where there is no vision
47. You've Been Tagged
48. 5 keys that makes the most of any year
49. Greater Works
50. What to do with your pain
51. Creating a struggle-proof lifestyle
52. Academic Drive
53. Away from Pharaoh

All available for download at emekaanslem.com.ng

INTRODUCTION

One of the fears of church members who encounter challenges that they would really like to share with their pastors is that the pastor may eventually use their secrets for a sermon. While this isn't the case with all pastors, many innocent people have become victims of this indiscipline.

As a counselor, especially online, I receive several requests for counseling on a daily basis, and the first thing they'd often say is, "Sir, please do not share this with anybody". Some of them are even more direct, "Sir, please don't use me to preach tomorrow". Honestly, statements like that puts me off and it honestly takes the grace of God to go on with the session.

After several successful counseling sessions, God inspired me to creatively draft every challenge that was tackled through those sessions and make them available for others who may be too shy to talk about their problems. So I begin by writing out the question, and then the answer follows. Till date, over one hundred articles have been written, and there hasn't been a single one that didn't speak directly into the lives of readers.

I honestly didn't plan to put them in a book until the Lord inspired this title in my heart. "50 QUESTIONS I BADLY WANT TO ASK A PASTOR". I felt so much joy when I

received it because I could already tell how blessed people will be to have a copy of this book.

So, your secrets are safe now. And what's more? You now have a book where you'd most likely find answers to your questions.

Have a good read!

QUESTION 1

"Pastor, after becoming born again, what next?"

Oh, that's simple... Get transformed by renewing your mind.

I know you want me to explain more, so let me start with something I learnt from my mentor Apostle Joshua Selman.

He said, "the greatest need of an unsaved man is salvation, the greatest need of a saved man is transformation, the greatest need of a transformed man is empowerment, and the greatest need of an empowered man is character.

A man who is not saved isn't different from a prisoner on death row. He'd eventually be killed, it's only a matter of time. In this life, you can't be neutral, you're either of God or of the devil. And while Jesus gives abundant life, the devil's purpose is to steal, kill and destroy.

"But pastor, I still have my money, my cars, my wife, my children, and my happiness, and I'm not saved, what exactly has the devil stolen from me?"

I'm surprised you didn't know. He stole your relationship with your Maker. And the moment he succeeded in doing that, killing and destroying you becomes easy. Ask Job, if the devil

can't steal your relationship with God, then he can't keep anything else he steals from you. If he steals your house and even your car, they'd both be restored as long as you still have a relationship with your Maker. But if your relationship with your maker is broken, restoration is impossible.

Satan does not mind leaving you with all the money you have and all the beautiful things of life you have, he's after stealing, killing and destroying that relationship you have with your maker. Once that happens, you'd become his property, and he can do as occasion serves him.

Oh sorry, I think I may have deviated from your main question. What was it again?

So once you get born again, Romans 12:2 should become your best scripture. It says, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God".

Yes, it becomes time to deal with your carnal conformities. Don't lie just so you can get favour, the bible says God shall encompass you roundabout with favour. Don't borrow to eat, a borrower is servant to the lender, and you can't serve two masters. It's why it is very difficult for a debtor to serve God with all his heart. Because while you decide to worship your God, the one who you owe might just be by the corner. And you can't tell him not to bother you. You must learn to trust in

scriptures like Phillipians 4:19, "God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus".

Don't cheat just to pass an exam; instead, study to show yourself approved. There's really no carnal conformity that you won't find a scripture that corrects it except you're not a serious Christian. Remember that the scripture is for correction, for reproof, and for doctrine.

I used to involve in pilfering, I'd change receipts to carry higher figures whenever my employer sent me on an errand. I honestly thought it was normal until I understood Proverbs 13:11. "Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase". Whatever amount of profit I made will always finish that week or sometimes that day. But when I understood this scripture, I received grace to stop doing it.

Don't steal, the curse of the Lord is upon the house of a thief. Just because you're now born again doesn't mean that curse can't work on you.

So my point is, start replacing your old ways with scriptural truths. Don't cheat or deprive people of their proper good. They may curse you, and that curse will have effect on you. According to scriptures, the only reason why a curse will not work on you is if you didn't deserve it. But if you did something that provoked it, may God have mercy on you.

Subjecting yourself to scriptural principles is the only way to experience this transformation. Salvation makes you a child of God, transformation makes you a son. Sons are people who receive the word into their heart and live by it. John 1:12 tells us that "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name".

The power to become sons lies within receiving the word. This is the equation for transformation.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 2

"Pastor, I'm confused, I don't know if the vision came from God"

There are 5 types of visions that we need to be aware of as Christians: open visions, inner visions, trances, dreams, and out of body experiences.

I'd explain the five, but first, let me explain what a vision really is.

God speaks to us in many ways, and vision is one of the ways through which He communicates with us. He also speaks to us through a loud voice, an inner witness, through our prophets, through our pastor, and through scriptures.

Visions are supernatural occurrences, orchestrated by God to give us knowledge or wisdom about different situations. They can give us insight into the past, the present and the future.

Now let's talk about the different types of visions:

1. OPEN VISION

An open vision occurs when we receive a vision from God fully conscious, and this vision plays out in front of us like a movie. In this kind of vision, the person is not asleep or unconscious. Yet, the Lord opens his spiritual eyes to see into the realms of the spirit in his full consciousness with all senses active.

Prophet Ezekiel and Daniel had open visions where they saw into the spirit realm.

Ezekiel 1:1 Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.

Daniel 8:2 And I saw in a vision; and it came to pass, when I saw, that I was at Shushan in the palace, which is in the province of Elam; and I saw in a vision, and I was by the river of Ulai.

Sometimes, the person might be transported by the spirit to a place he has never been to, or could not have gone to within that timeframe and then shown the future. Apostle John was caught up in the Spirit on the Lord's Day to see the future of the church, the beauty of Heaven and of the New Jerusalem.

Revelation 4:1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it

were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. 2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

2. INNER VISION

The inner vision occurs when we have a witness in our spirits about a situation. It is like a quick picture or a short video clip that affirms the truth in our hearts.

We might not see an open vision but we can perceive and see in our spirits, that God is leading us to do something or is about to do something in our lives. Sometimes, Apostle Paul was led by the inner witness during his missionary journeys. In his journey to Rome, Paul perceived in his spirit about what would happen in their journey.

Acts 27:10 And said unto them, Sirs, I perceive that this voyage will be with hurt and much damage, not only of the lading and ship, but also of our lives.

He did not have an open vision or dream about what would happen. Rather, he had an inner vision and it happened just as he perceived it.

Acts 27:14 But not long after there arose against it a tempestuous wind, called Euroclydon.

This is the most common way the Lord speaks to us as believers. We might not always see an open vision, but we can see or perceive in our spirits what the Lord is doing, what He wants to do, and what He does not want us to partake of.

3. DREAMS

God also speaks to us through dreams. These are visions that come to us when we sleep, whether in the day or at night. We see an example of this in the book of Daniel.

Daniel 7:1 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters. 2 Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.

In the New Testament, we see another example of this in the Book of Acts, how Apostle Paul received a dream from the Lord that led him to Macedonia.

Acts 16:9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.

4. TRANCES

A trance is a very short dream in which information is revealed to us within seconds or few minutes. The person in a trance falls into a very short sleep and information is transferred to him within that short period. Peter, a disciple of Jesus, received a trance in which a lot was revealed to him and this led to the salvation of Cornelius, the gentile.

Acts 10:10 And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, 11 And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:

The fifth one is OUT OF BODY EXPERIENCE. I'm sure you know what that means already.

I learnt all of these from Dr Isaiah Wealth's book titled "Language of the Prophetic". The book is loaded with spiritual information. It will clear your doubts as to whether God has spoken to you or not. Visit kairosbookshop.org to order a copy.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 3

"Pastor, nobody knows me. It's almost like I'm alone in this world"

Oh, I have a perfect remedy to that, and it's all in a parable that Jesus told in the gospel of Matthew.

Matthew 13:

31 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:

32 Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.

So clearly, according to that scripture, the kingdom of heaven is like a seed, and not just any seed, a mustard seed, a seed that is almost insignificant among seeds. But when it is sown into a person, and it is allowed to grow, it will eventually influence the person's life to a point that he'd become the most sought after, and then he who was alone would suddenly have birds or people lodging or needing his services. Hallelujah!

A simple way to define the kingdom of heaven is a process whereby God extends His dominion in Heaven and begins to govern or act as king or Lord over one's life on Earth. Which means everything you do from the time you receive His Kingdom must be to manifest the fullness of His kingdom.

The more you study and learn His word, the closer He gets to you. The more you pray, the more He comes. The more you fast, the more attentive you become. The more you walk in obedience, the more He unveils His agenda.

This kingdom begins by receiving Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Afterwards, engage in a process of mind renewal by the word of God until it begins to influence your character to look like Him.

The prophets of old didn't have the kingdom, they only had the privilege to host a dimension of God. Yet, their existence was a wonder to behold. Gideon was nothing, but his walk with God made him a force to reckon with. Moses was a runaway, but his walk with God made him a deliverer. Abraham was a weakling, but his walk with God made him the father of many nations.

If these men became so powerful just by hosting a dimension of God, then eyes have not seen what we can do by hosting the very kingdom of heaven here on earth.

I was only 13 years old when I began hawking "Pure Water" across several streets in Lagos, Nigeria. Pure water was the name we called "sachet water" until westerners invaded our space😅. I mean, it was easier to say "buy cold pure water" than "buy cold sachet water". Who the grammar even help? Chances are that your grammar would even stop people from patronizing you.

Some of those times when the weather was too cold to sell sachet water, I'd look for any place where a building construction was going on and offer to labour with them for a wage. I'd wake up the next day with excruciating pain, but hey, I'd just use a pain killer and move on with that pain. My parents were very much alive and thank God they still are, but things were hard. So my little contribution from selling "pure water" went a long way.

Yeah, laugh about it, but that's how humble my beginning was. But see what the kingdom has done. Some people mocked me for deleting all the secular songs on my phone, how I no longer went to street jamz and shunned vain conversations, they wondered how I suddenly carried bible about, how I wear my coat when I go to church, how I share church handbills around like I didn't have a job, how I prayed aloud too. But hey, who's benefitting now? While some of them are not ashamed to admit that God has transformed me, others just follow me secretly😅.

Nobody knew me back then. I typed my name on Google one of those days and it further proved that nobody really knew me. I mean, if Google doesn't know you, who will?😊. But today, people go as far as searching for "Emeka Anslem's Wife" on Google. This God!

Don't let anybody try to deceive you that you're wasting your time praying, studying the word, fasting, winning souls, and living for Jesus. No, you're not wasting your time; you're growing that mustard seed called "The kingdom of heaven" within you. They may not see it now because it's still buried within, but as you continue to water it through various kingdom mysteries, it's only a matter of time before they'd all see that indeed, God rules in the affairs of man.

So don't get tired. Be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding, for as much as you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

I pray that soon, you'd begin to see the full manifestation of the God whom you've permitted to be Lord over your life, in Jesus name!

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 4

"Pastor, why is it that most revelations I get from God's word doesn't really produce results in my life?"

I wish there was a simple answer to this, but here's the thing...

Most revelations we get from God's word, whether through our personal study of scriptures or through listening to a preaching are often an indication of a possibility that has not been fully unveiled.

For instance, if you've been hoping to get a job and suddenly encounter Isaiah 3:10, "Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings", that scripture will introduce joy in your heart and give substance to your hope. But if the situation tarries or if you begin to lose your hope of getting a job after hoping on that scripture for a while, chances are that you didn't build enough faith to support that scripture.

Now let's get scriptural:

Matthew 13:

44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

You see, the kingdom of heaven begins in a man's life when he receives salvation. And as we all know, the first experience of a person who truly receives this free gift of salvation is joy unspeakable. Your spirit-man which was dead became quickened by the Spirit of God the moment you confessed Jesus as Lord; that's what happens at salvation.

But when it comes to growth in the kingdom, that scripture reveals a process that not many Christians have practiced.

First, the man hid himself

Asides the fact that the kingdom of heaven is likened to a treasure hid in a field, the man who found it also hid himself.

Hiding himself was necessary because his joy would have exposed him. The enemy would have detected his new found treasure through his joy and most likely try to invade that space or discourage him. And chances are that they would succeed because he's yet to own what he found.

Every believer should have a season of hiding. At the point of salvation, your faith is still fragile and you can easily derail.

Don't go about seeking the opinion of unsaved friends or colleagues about your new found faith, neither should you hang out with them as you used to, hide yourself!

Why do you think Jesus was driven by the Spirit into the wilderness for 40 days? What was he doing for 18 years that wasn't recorded in the Bible? The parable of the sower has taught us this, way side and stony ground believers don't retain the joy they receive from the word, the moment the enemy discovers that joy, he introduces tribulations and cares of life that makes them go back to their vomit.

But no, not believers who have fully grounded their hearts for God's word to settle. They've sacrificed time in the secret place via studying, meditating, fasting and prayers, and now it's difficult for one opposition to make them turn back.

While it may be difficult to hide yourself in today's busy world, you can guard your heart and mind with diligence. You don't have to engage in worldly debates or respond to things you're not sure of. Wait till you're sure that you've successfully built your Christian life on Christ's solid rock.

Don't drop your note after you just listened to a powerful sermon, no! Sit down, study it again referencing the various scriptures that were used until it has sunk.

Don't go and showcase yourself to the world when the word has not entered you yet. Be like Jacob, the Lord sent his

word into him and that word became the light by which Israel saw.

Revelation is light, but most times the first revelation you get on a subject may not be illuminating enough to shatter the darkness confronting you. Don't use a candle sized revelation to light a dark hall, there's not much you can do with such light. There's revelation that lights a room, there's that which lights a hall, there's that which lights a street, and there's that which can light a nation as Israel. So which one did you get?

Bishop Oyedepo's story would inspire generations to come. He had heard several teachings on health and prosperity, according to him, he had even taught on both of them, but these two were not evident in his life until he went to hide himself in a mountain to discover the secret.

Secondly, the man sold all he had and bought the field

Do you remember that ruler in Luke chapter 18 that came and asked Jesus how he'd inherit eternal life? He had kept the commandments of Moses from his youth and felt like he should be qualified for eternal life. Unfortunately, he wasn't. Let's read Jesus's response:

Luke 18:

22 Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and

distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.

Apostle Selman has often said that the cost price to host all of God is all of you. If you want the kingdom of heaven to fully manifest in your life, then you must be ready to sell all you are to acquire this field.

Now don't get me wrong, I'm not saying you should go sell all your properties. Rather, I'm saying sell an hour or two from your sleep time to fellowship with the Spirit of God through Word study, prayer and fasting. Be committed to God and His kingdom and make it priority for your life.

Anything you can't give to God is an indication of self. And as long as there is self, you can't host all of God. There are times where I've had to pend the tasks on my table just because I've not received inspiration on what to write. Every other thing can wait as long as there's a need to attend to in the kingdom.

Jesus was disappointed in his disciples because they couldn't wait on him for one hour. They all fell into a deep sleep while he was on the mountain communing with God and the prophets of old. They couldn't sell one hour of their sleep to invest in the Word Himself.

That's how many Christians are today. They get home from the day's work and claim they're too tired to study or even

pray. That's not how it should be, if you can't sell one hour from your employer's time, sell one hour from your sleep time. You can even sell your break time.

How long do you plan to live on only what your pastor preaches on Sundays? That kind of menu won't take you very far in life. You have to buy the field for yourself and dig out the treasure. Why do you need a shared treasure when you can dig out your own?

It takes time to know God, and that's why Satan has made it difficult to get money in this world. He knows that if you get money easily, you'd have time to know more of God. So you spend all day looking for money and sleep all night because you're tired from the day's work.

Be smarter, there's riches in Redemption. The only reason why you haven't gotten it is because you've not been illuminated enough with the required revelation. So instead of wasting all your time pursuing after money, sell part of that time in the secret place.

I truly pray that the Lord will deliver as many who needs to be delivered from this, and grant sufficient grace to pursue after true light, in Jesus name!

I hope this has brought deliverance to you.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 5

"Pastor, why does it feel like all my efforts to succeed since the year began has been futile?"

I expect that you'd know the answer to questions like this. But that's okay, let me show you a scripture that will correct that situation forever.

John 3:

19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

So tell me again, how do you plan to succeed in a world where the people love darkness? The prominence of evil has made the good that men do to be almost unnoticeable.

As a Christian, you've vowed not to involve in fraudulent activities, So you went through school, had good grades, hoped to get a job immediately, but it's been 5 years and still no job. Yet everyday you see people of the world climbing up through evil. Doing evil is their advantage in this dark world. What is your system of advantage?

What can you do in addition to submitting your CV that will guarantee that job? What can you add to your business proposal that will attract that deal? If you don't want to sleep with your lecturer just so he can release your results, what can you do?

There's no point worrying over why men are so wicked, you've already been told that the world condemns those who came into this world with light, and that's because they loved darkness more than light.

It's why your head of department won't enlist your name for promotion, your belief keeps interfering with his plans to milk the company. It's why your course mates won't hang around you, they're threatened by your commitment to righteous living.

So the real question isn't why things are not working for you, it's "what is your system of advantage?". What is your guarantee of success in a world that condemns you?

Let me inform you that the day you gave your life to Christ, your normal life ceased, and you now became someone who the world hates by default. And that also means if you want to succeed here, then you can no longer live a normal life. Let's see how the scripture puts it:

John 11:

10 But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him.

Did you see that? Besides the fact that this scripture unveils our system of advantage in this dark world, it didn't hesitate to let us know that if you try to succeed in this dark world with your normal human nature, you will stumble.

So yes, show them some light. Carry a torch around or if you're that empowered, turn on a light generator. Don't submit your CV without accompanying it with a light from scripture. It's that light that your CV would use to travel to the right location. Without assisting it with light, chances are that it would end up in a trash.

Matthew 5:16 puts it this way, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven".

Do you want your good works to be seen? Then accompany them with light. Remember that it is the entrance of the world that gives light to a situation. God sent His word into Jacob, and it lighteth upon Israel. The whole of Israel conformed to Jacob the moment he began to walk in light.

So, turn on your torch before you leave the house this morning. "The lines are falling unto me in pleasant places, I have a goodly heritage. The Lord shall encompass me round about with favour as with a shield. Goodness and mercy shall

follow me. The Lord shall give His angels charge over me, so I don't fall into a trap". Yes, that's how to turn on your light!

Don't be deceived, just because it's day time doesn't mean it's not dark. Don't deliver a job or product to a client without backing it up with the word. If not, the client will focus on everything wrong with the product or job and chances are that you won't get referrals. But no, that won't happen if you backed it up with the word. The word has capacity to add glory and color to anything. So when you add the word to your good works, then expect good feedbacks. Good works alone won't get you good feedbacks, you need the word.

Don't send your child to school without speaking the word over them. In this kingdom, good grades is not a product of good reading alone, you must add the good word of God. Every other kid may get good grades by just reading, but not yours, kingdom kids have battles confronting them, so be smart enough to "Word" them as they go to school. Don't tell me you don't know why your child is failing his exams, this is why!

The doctor's prescription alone won't keep you healthy, you need the word. Otherwise you'd spend all your money treating sicknesses and diseases. Let's be wise!

I hope this has brought enlightenment to you!

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 6

"Pastor, my boss keeps saying I don't behave like a Christian. What do I do?"

Oh... How does he know how Christians behave if he is not a Christian himself?

If there's anything I've come to realize, it's that it is not that hard for the world to judge a Christian. They have this perfect picture of God, and so they believe that every Christian should display God-like characteristics.

And this is true, we were created in the image and likeness of God, so we should be "like" God. Unfortunately, many Christians show the world an image they are already accustomed to. For instance, the corporate system has a provision called IOU or Salary advance, it's something you apply for if you have a need that needs to be met before your salary eventually comes.

That sounds good, right? But as good as it sounds, it's ungodly! It's a way of redirecting your dependence on God to man. So when a person who calls himself a Christian applies for IOU or Salary advance, what message is he passing to the organization? "I don't trust God to supply my needs".

Whenever your colleagues are complaining that the salary is delayed or that the salary is small, do you also join them to complain? If you do, then you clearly are not behaving like a Christian. God is committed to supplying your needs according to His riches, not your riches. So when you have a need, you're not expected to worry about what people owe you, but present that need to God. If God wants to use what they owe you to meet your need, then they won't be owing you, because He would have compelled them to pay you.

I learnt this many years ago when I was working with a pastor. Our salary was delayed for 3 months, and by this time all my colleagues were bitter about it. It was even more difficult for me because I had just joined the company and I've only had a privilege of receiving one salary. So one day I was tempted to join the complain. Instantly, I heard the voice of God saying, "Have I not told you that I will supply all your need? If your salary was your need, wouldn't I have supplied it?". I almost cried that day.

I quickly withdrew and began to encourage my colleagues - saying the same thing God said to me.

Now 1 Corinthians 3:18-19 will make sense to you. Let's read what it says:

1 Corinthians 3:

18 Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

Protesting and complaining would be a wise thing to do in a case of delayed salary, but that's foolishness with God. Why complain when you can access a solution to the problem? I'd even be happy if my salary is delayed, it means God wants to help me to save that money😊.

You see, in this kingdom, you can't be wise in your own self. Your approach towards life has to be from your understanding of God's word.

When your colleague offends you, what do you do? Do you pay back or would you rather show them love? If you claim to be God's, then you should know that your response to offenses should be love.

"But pastor, people will take you for granted if you show them too much love".

Oh really, have you taken God for granted since He has been showering you with love? You may goof here and there, but it doesn't mean you've taken His love for granted. Love never fails!

If they hate you, love them! If they despise you, love them! If they gang up against you, love them! If they report you to your boss, love them! Every other strategy to get back at them might fail you, but love will never fail. Love is the better way to get back at your despisers 😊.

When your boss reproves you, show some remorse and be humble. Don't act like you know it all. And even if you are correct, give him time to see your point, don't force it. Don't be your boss's boss.

Be faithful! The bible says "As cold water is to a farmer during harvest, so is a faithful servant to his master. He refreshes the soul of his master". Faithfulness refreshes the soul of your boss. Don't get to work late repeatedly. Don't continue to stab your responsibilities. This is why they doubt your Christianity.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 7

"Pastor, if I had sex with my wife before we got married, will I have problems in my marriage?"

I've avoided this topic for long, but it seems many couples are living in bondage because of this man-made philosophy.

Let me begin by saying, "every marriage has problems, but the spiritual maturity of the two parties involved will grossly determine how well the marriage will run".

Will you have problems in your marriage? Yes! Will the problems be a result of sleeping with your wife before you got married? This depends on if you don't repent, genuinely. Let's read Revelations 2:20-23:

Revelation 2:

20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

Did you notice verse 21 and 22? God gave her space to repent of her fornication. If she doesn't repent, He will stir up great problems in her life, and these problems can lead to the death and destruction of the things that concerns her, except she repents.

So if you're having problems in your marriage "because you both had sex before marriage", chances are that those problems were caused by your unrepentance. Some couples even pretend like nothing is wrong with what they did and foolishly present other matters to God in prayer. How do you even pray to a God you're not in good terms with? Please stop making the devil take advantage of your foolishness.

Now let me sound a warning to those who were able to hang on till they got married. Thank God for your life, but don't use your success to stigmatize those who couldn't. Pride is worse than any sin I can think of, and that's what you display anytime you talk like that. And this pride can destroy your marriage if you don't caution yourself.

I've heard preachers say all kinds of disheartening things just to steer people away from having sex before marriage. And I can tell that many of those preachings were not inspired by the Lord, they over-exaggerate their communications. This subject should only be communicated in love, not force. The more you preach it wrongly, the more people engage in it. Shouldn't that send a message?

Some preachers don't even believe that anything can be done to remedy that situation. But really, is the blood of Jesus that weak and selective? Or is marriage so strong that the blood of Jesus cannot fix marital issues?

The challenges in your marriage is not because you had sex before marriage. And if you think it is, then repent of your sins.

The reason why you've not been able to get pregnant isn't because you aborted a baby before marriage. And if you think that's the reason, repent!

Haven't you read your Bible? There's no more condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, for the law of the Spirit of life in Christ has made us free from the law of sin and death.

So there's a law of sin and death, which is activated the moment you sin. This law ensures that death begins to work in every department of your life. One sin will introduce death to your job, business, family, relationship, and everything

else until it has destroyed you. Not just sexual sin, any sin at all.

When Jesus carried the sin of the world, death began to work in Him until He actually died and went to Hell. All the work he had done got under attack, his disciples went into hiding.

But not for long, the law of the Spirit of life wouldn't let its property stay in hell or be condemned. It went straight to hell, quickened Jesus to collect the dominion that Satan stole, raised him from the dead, and gave him a glorified body.

Who gave birth to a child is what determines the law that works in that child. When man gives birth to a child, that child is born into sin until the child is matured enough to receive Jesus. Jesus was not born of man, he was born of the Spirit, so he was not born into sin as every other man.

When he carried the sin of the world, the law of sin and death could take him to hell, but it couldn't keep him there. A greater law was working in him.

When you give your life to Christ, something happens to your birth status, you become born of the Spirit. So the law of the spirit of life begins to work in you.

When you sin, the law of sin and death is activated. And when you repent, the law of the Spirit of life gets activated again. I know some people are excited to read this part

because of their sinful ways, hmm, may God have mercy on you.

As I conclude, if you're a victim of what I've shared in this message, just repent. And after you've repented, begin to walk in the light of God's word. Tackle every problem that has challenged you with the word and ensure that there's no guilt in your heart as you do this. You will succeed!

Another warning, this message should not be taken for licentiousness. You might not be lucky enough to even get the chance to repent. And even if you get a chance to repent, how do you repent from the pregnancy or the sexually transmitted disease you may contract in the process? Don't tempt God, neither should you play with the devil in a game he created. Be wise!

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 8

"Pastor, Is God willing to heal me of this sickness?"

This isn't different from what that leper asked Jesus in Mark's gospel. Let's read how Jesus responded:

Mark 1:

40 And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

41 And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.

42 And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed.

So clearly, that leper understood that you can't force God to do anything except He's willing to. Fortunately for him, Jesus was willing to heal him and he did.

I know what you're thinking, you're probably wishing you can have a one-on-one conversation with Jesus just like that one leper did, and then you'd probably bombard him with questions. "Jesus, are you willing to get me out of poverty? Are you willing to give me a job? Are you willing to give me a life partner? Are you willing to give me a house? Are you

willing to give me a child? Are you willing to get me that contract?"

That leper's experience has taught us that the thin line between Jesus and our need is His will. If it's His will, then consider it done. If it's not, then forget about it, or wait till it is. But since Jesus is not here, how do I know what he's willing to do?

1 John 5:14 gives a perfect answer, "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us".

First the writer says we have this confidence, and then he says if we ask anything according to his will - which is His word, he hears us. In other words, you can be sure that God will always respond anytime you present a case to Him according to His word.

Anytime you find a word from scripture that aligns with a need you have, just picture yourself with Jesus like that one leper. For instance, if you're desiring a job, Isaiah 3:10 says, "it shall be well with the righteous, he shall eat from the fruit of his doing". Applying that word to your situation is the same as when Jesus told the leper that he will and he made him clean.

So apply that word in faith and go out in search of a job. If Jesus is willing, then go and take delivery of it.

I've shared my story on how I resigned from where I worked without God's consent. I was worried and scared that God would punish me for such careless attitude. But even in my worry, I had to find out if He was willing to give me another job or if I'd have to suffer. The moment I found in His word that he was willing to bless me, instead of mourning my loss or carelessness, I started working towards getting another job. And because it was his will, it wasn't long before I got one.

Many people are living in shadows only because they don't know God's will concerning their situations. Knowing God's will will help you tackle situations better.

So please, get to the word and study. Find out what God is really saying concerning your situation. When you find it, act in faith concerning what you've found, and it won't be long before you receive your breakthrough.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 9

"Pastor, since God knows everything, does it mean He knows whether I'd go to hell or heaven?"

Most Christians misunderstand this subject of predestination. How would you feel if I told you that no matter what you do, you'd never be rich. And that God has predestined you to be poor till you leave this earth?

Terrified, right? A consolation would often sound like, "You can't question God". "God knows your end from the beginning".

Now here's a shocker! God does not know your end from the beginning, rather, He knows your end by weighing or analyzing the thoughts in your heart.

If you were a selfish and lazy person, according to scriptures, your end is poverty. The bible says "he that withholds more than he needs tends to poverty" and "he becometh poor that dealeth with slack hands". But if you changed your ways today, your end will also change. If you start giving to the poor, giving to the Lord, giving to your parents, you will do well in life.

The end of a sinner is death. "The soul that sinneth shall die". But if that sinner gives his life to Christ and submits to the lordship of Christ, his end would be life and abundance. Now Proverbs 23:7 would make more sense:

Proverbs 23:

7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

So in God's sight, the real determinant of what a man is and will become is what is in his heart, not what he speaks in his mouth. Because many times our words are not in sync with our thoughts. That scripture clearly tells us that though a man may invite you to dine with him, but his heart is planning evil towards you.

This is why the prayer of many Christians don't answer. They pray for a need, yet express doubt in their heart. Haven't you read the scripture? "Whosoever shall say to this mountain be thou removed and be cast into the sea, and shall not doubt in his heart that what he says shall come to pass, he shall have whatsoever he says". So your words must be in sync with your heart.

This is also why many ladies fall into wrong relationships. A man entices you with words and nice gestures, and you fall for him without checking his heart. It's as a man thinks, not as a man speaks. He may speak nicely only because he

wants to lay with you. Don't be deceived! A man's word has no worth except it was spoken from the heart.

Unfortunately, no man can deceive God. A man may be worshipping God in a church service yet be thinking of how he'd steal or commit fornication after the service. That kind of person is destined for doom. But if in that service, he opened his heart to receive the word, then chances are that he'd change his ways and ultimately change his destiny. So predestination is a heart thing.

God weighs our actions, but only values the ones that came from the heart. For instance, if you pay tithe with complain, your tithe will not be accepted. If you refuse to forgive someone, yet you worship God with a loud voice, your worship will not ascend to God. This is why many givers are struggling with their finances. Although they give, but not cheerfully. God loves a cheerful giver!

God created everything and has the power to create anything, but the only thing He did not and will not create is a heart that loves Him genuinely. And that's because He has an agenda that only those who genuinely love Him can handle. 1 Corinthians gives us a tip as to what this agenda looks like. Let's read what it says:

1 Corinthians 2:

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

This amazes me each time I think about it. Our human minds have thought of impossible things, our eyes have seen wonders, our ears have heard mind blowing things, yet what we've thought, seen or heard cannot be compared to what God has prepared for those that love Him.

I can literally feel electric sparks on my hands as I write this. So all the while, it has been a heart thing. God is looking for a perfect heart.

Jeremiah 29:11 says, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end".

Did you noticed the words "to give you an expected end?". Let me ask you, what is the expected end of a thief? What is the expected end of a liar? What is the expected end of a fornicator and an adulterer? What is the expected end of a giver? What is the expected end of a lover of God?

God's thought is to give you an expected end, not a predetermined end.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 10

"Pastor, nobody believes in my business ideas, what do I do?"

That's absolutely normal... Actually, many who have built conglomerates today started with sublime mockery.

One of the things you must come to terms with as you pursue your ideas or vision is that every vision, idea or purpose is for the fall and rising again of many. So while some will be beneficiaries of the vision, those who do not believe will later pay the price for their unbelief. From experience, those who mock you now would eventually become your biggest customers.

But until then, any time you meet people who mock your ideas or visions, do what Jesus did, send them out of your mind and possibly your life. The reason why you have to send them out of your mind is because, oftentimes the only workspace a new idea or vision has is the mind. And if that's the case, you don't want to let doubters and mockers hang around that workspace. Let's see how Jesus did it:

Mark 5:

38 And he cometh to the house of the ruler of the synagogue, and seeth the tumult, and them that wept and wailed greatly.

39 And when he was come in, he saith unto them, Why make ye this ado, and weep? the damsel is not dead, but sleepeth.

40 And they laughed him to scorn. But when he had put them all out, he taketh the father and the mother of the damsel, and them that were with him, and entereth in where the damsel was lying.

41 And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise.

42 And straightway the damsel arose, and walked; for she was of the age of twelve years. And they were astonished with a great astonishment.

Just look at that; he shared his vision with them that Jairus' daughter was sleeping and not dead, but instead of agreeing with him, they laughed him to scorn. That's sublime mockery, mockery of the highest order.

Now notice verse 40, "... But when he had put them all out, he took the mother and father of the damsel and those that were with him into the room where the damsel was laid".

Isn't this scripture contradictory? It says he put them all out, yet it appears to me like it was Jesus that left the very environment where the mockers were. So it wasn't that he sent them out, no! Rather, he ignored them or took them out

of his mind. It was after he had done this that he took those who believed in him into the room where the damsel was laid.

We know the rest of the story, Jesus raised the 12 year old damsel from the dead, or should we say he woke her from her sleep. And the most amazing part was that all the people were overtaken with great astonishment, including those who laughed him to scorn.

I remember when I started writing inspirational messages many years ago, some of my close friends and relatives thought I was just being ambitious. A number of them even blocked me for the "disturbance" I was sending to their phones daily.

Guess what I did? I put them out of my mind and out of my broadcast list. Years later, the same people found me worthy to receive counsel from. It's amazing how the people of this world despise passionate people.

So my dear, don't let anybody's mockery discourage you. Instead, put them out of your mind and continue to passionately pursue that which you believe. As long as you have God's backing, you will succeed.

And as you pursue that idea, don't put your head down because people let you down, neither should you stay back because you experienced a setback. Bishop David Abioye

once said that a setback isn't exactly a bad thing, it's only a step back before a high jump.

I see you experiencing a quantum leap, soon!

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 11

"Pastor, I don't know why I easily get tired. What do you think may be my problem?"

Oh, I think I might have a clue. You probably didn't invest your strenght. Rather, you spent it.

In the words of Pastor David Oyedepo Jnr, "Strenght spent will only satisfy the present. But strenght invested will preserve your future".

That's right, everytime you get tired, it simply means you've exhausted strenght. But have you ever sat to ponder on what you used your strenght for?

I know someone who's always with her phone chatting and engaging in frivolous conversations with friends all day, and before you know it, she's tired. She'd literally tell you that she's tired. And when you ask her why she's tired, her response would often sound like, "Me too I don't even know😊".

That's what happens when you spend your strength on purposeless things. It may give you temporal pleasure, only to realize that valuable time and energy has been wasted.

So let me show you 3 areas where you should invest your strength:

1. Invest your strength in your purpose

Pastor David Oyedepo Jnr shared a story of an elderly man who attended a church service on Sunday and was weeping all through the service. While preaching, the pastor couldn't but notice him in the congregation. Unfortunately, the elderly man left immediately after the service, so the pastor didn't get the chance to talk with him.

This happened the same way for three consecutive Sundays until the pastor became really determined to know why the elderly man was weeping. The pastor ordered the ushers to stop the elderly man from leaving the church auditorium until they meet.

Finally they meet, and to our amazement, the reason why that elderly man wept everytime he entered that church was because God had previously given him the same vision to pastor a church like that. He showed the pastor the drawing God gave to him and even the pastor confirmed that there was nothing in his church that wasn't in that drawing.

The elderly man had wasted his strength on other things and neglected that which would have granted him a fulfilled life.

There's nothing more frustrating than having a vision you no longer have strength to pursue.

Secondly...

2. Invest your strength in God's kingdom

The primary reason why God gives us purpose is so that we can invest it in His kingdom. Unfortunately, many use their God-given purpose to satisfy the world.

It's why many of them struggle to gain relevance in the world. Matthew 6:33 will continually be a jackpot for those who understand. Those who give priority to God's kingdom enjoy addition of all things, and I mean all things. Affluence, influence, wealth, relationships, honour, favour, fame, and the list is endless. Why struggle to get what can easily be added to you?

The good thing about investing into God's kingdom is that you're sure of multiplication of your strength. Where you invest determines where you'd harvest.

Finally number...

3. Invest in your relationship with God

Many believer mistake serving God's kingdom as having a personal relationship with God. Of course, it's not possible to have a personal relationship with God and not serve His purposes, but it's possible to serve His purposes and not have a relationship with Him.

So when you notice that you get tired when you serve His kingdom, chances are that you don't know Him. It was Daniel who said that "they that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits".

Relationship with God is powerful. It will renew your strenght. You'd mount up with wings like an eagle. You'd walk and not faint, you'd run and not be weary. Even athletes get weary when they run.

So dear, invest your strenght wisely. Remember that it can be drained, just as a battery.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 12

"Pastor, I'm confused, and there's no order in my life. What do I do?"

Simple... Lay hold on eternal life.

Many believers have misconstrued eternal life to mean the ability to live forever. But no, that's not it because every human being on earth will live forever, it's just a matter of where you'd go after you leave this earth.

Eternal life was given to us for distinction and to subdue resisting forces against our progress and well-being. Eternal life is the very life that God dominates and live by. It's a life where God's word reigns supreme, and God expects us to dominate and live by that life.

Did you get that? Eternal life is a life where God's word reigns supreme. Remember the episode of creation in Genesis, the first thing we were told was that the earth which God had previously created lacked order and was void. I'm not sure how God created the earth the first time, but He clearly didn't use the Word, because we saw the difference

the moment He began to speak the word to restore order on the earth.

According to 1 Tim 6:12, everytime you act in faith towards God's word, you've applied eternal life to your situation. That scripture says, "fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life...". So you'd be laying hold on eternal life as you fight the good fight of faith.

I once developed a stomach upset just after having lunch. As soon as it started, I assumed it must have been food poisoning. But knowing that I had a life greater than what any poison could destroy, I simply declared God's word in faith. I specifically said, "I'm not sure if the food I ate was infected, but even if it was, the bible says if I eat any deadly thing, it won't hurt me. Therefore stomach, behave!". That was it, the stomach ache stopped instantly never to return. That's how we lay hold on eternal life.

Eternal life is a life of dominion, God may have commanded man to have dominion over the earth, but that would be impossible without laying hold on eternal life, a life where you express your faith in God's word to dominate situations and circumstances.

Eternal life is the cure for fear and confusion. Just when you're not sure of how your next meal would come, lay hold on eternal life. When your rent is due and you don't know how to pay the rent, lay hold on eternal life. When you just

got married and you remember that no woman has ever had a child in your family due to a curse, lay hold on eternal life.

When they tell you that poverty is normal in your family, tell them you have a life that poverty bows to. Jesus became poor so I can pass through His poverty and become rich. Therefore I'd practice all the kingdom financial principles in faith, and nothing will be able to keep me poor.

Now listen, if there's a good fight of faith, there's also a bad fight of faith. If you just sit down there hoping that one-day one-day your situation will change, that's faith, but that's a bad fight of faith. That kind of faith cannot lay hold on eternal life. But if you rise to the occasion in search of the scriptures that addresses the situation and begin to practice the same, then that's a good fight of faith. That kind of fight will lay hold on eternal life.

If your employer is trimming down employees, that's not the time to cry, that's the time to lay hold on eternal life. "A thousand shall fall by my side and ten thousand by my right hand, but none shall come near me".

If bandits are on rampage in your neighborhood, that's not the time to fear, lay hold on eternal life. "No weapon formed against me shall prosper and every tongue that rises against me in judgement shall be condemned", "They shall surely gather, but not by me. Anyone that gathers against me shall fall for my sake".

That's it, that's how to lay hold on eternal life.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 13

"Pastor, no man has proposed to me. Is it because I'm not beautiful?"

That's possible, but let me give you a quick solution to that.

You see, there are mainly two things that attracts a man to a woman. The first is beauty and the second is the glory of God. And from experience, the glory speaks louder than beauty.

The glory of God does not only beautify, it also adds color and radiance to an individual. I love how Revelation 21:11 describes it. It says, "Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal".

Did you see that? A person who carries the glory of God also carries light that is most precious. In other words, you'd command the most attraction when you carry the glory.

2 Corinthians 3:18 says, "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit

of the Lord". The literal meaning of this is that as you commit to studying the word, praying, fellowshiping with the Holy Spirit, and making other spiritual investments, you'd begin to look like God. And trust me, God is a beauty to behold.

God is light, and the more you spend time with Him, the more His light shines on you. Remember what happened to Moses when He spent 40 days on the mount with God, his entire face was transfigured due to the enormity of the light. Trust me, a man would rather go for an illuminated lady than a beautiful lady. What's the use of a beauty that cannot give light?

Sometimes I look at myself and I wonder what happened to me. I had a very terrible look growing up. My head and ears were big and my friends even had a nickname for me which indicated that I had a big head and a big ear.

Recently, someone told me that my head was too small for my body. I laughed really hard because I felt it was mockery. But to my amazement, I went to look at the mirror and realized that those attributes were no longer there.

I've seen ladies that do not possess that physical beauty get married to very handsome men, and vice versa. They possessed something that resonated beyond the natural senses. The glory is powerful!

I know a lady that has been looking for a husband, I diagnosed her and honestly concluded that she'd need the glory of God to attract a honest man. I invited her to fellowship and she's been committed in all our programs since the first day.

Guess what? She has suddenly become very attractive. The guys around won't even let her rest 😊. This may sound funny, but it's true. The glory beautifies!

Beautiful ladies, you need this too. Many beautiful ladies have idolized their beauty and sold their soul to the devil. Don't let your beauty deceive you, neither should you pride over it. If you let your beauty get to your head, it will mislead you into marrying the wrong person. Practice the fruits of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22 tells us that the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.

I particularly like the "temperance" part. Most beautiful ladies have a terrible temper. They talk down on anybody, including their parents. Be careful what you sow because of your beauty. As a matter of thoughts
, you need the glory of God more than anybody else.

Be good and peaceful, don't go about snatching other people's husband because God gave you beauty. Let your beauty propagate the love of God to other people.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 14

“Pastor, what will happen if I pray in tongues for one hour daily?”

Ehmmm... I think I should begin by telling you the benefits of praying in tongues. There are quite a number of great benefits, but I'd just show you a few:

- It builds strong faith in you

Jude 1:20 says, “But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost”.

From experience, I've discovered that speaking in tongues has a way of stirring the word of God in your heart to produce faith. As you pray in tongues meditatively, scriptures would begin to come alive in your heart. There's no better way to meditate than this.

We all know that faith is the medium of exchange for all heavenly things, just as money is the medium of exchange for all earthly things. If that's the case, it means you need to engage the fastest means in growing and strengthening your

faith, and that's praying in the Holy Ghost. The more you can speak in tongues with a sound knowledge of God's word, the stronger your faith gets.

When the disciples got filled with the Spirit and first spoke in tongues, there was an unusual boldness of faith birthed in them. Peter who could not identify with Christ before a little girl could suddenly witness to thousands of people about the same Jesus.

In 1 Cor 14:4, Apostle Paul addresses the subject of spiritual strength when he said, "He that speaks in an unknown tongue edifies himself...". And then in verse 18 he said, "I speak in tongue more than you all...". No wonder he was so sound spiritually.

- Direct Communication with God

According to 1 Cor 14:2, speaking in tongues enables you to have Spirit-to-spirit communication with God. Let's see how the Bible puts it:

"For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men but unto God".

Did you see that? This means that by communicating with God, you'd begin to reflect attributes of His character. His personality and life comes upon you just as Moses experienced when he came down from the mountain after 40

days and 40 nights in God's presence. Exodus 34:35 says, "And the children of Israel saw the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face shone". That's right, God is light, so it was only natural that Moses' face emitted light after spending time with God for that long.

Now you see why some Christians manifest the glory of God easily, they've spent so much time communicating directly with God.

- Praying the Perfect Will of God

One of the things I love about praying in tongues is the possibility of having the Holy Spirit pray for you, something the Bible calls groaning. Let's see how Romans 8:26 puts it:

Romans 8:

26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Groaning is different from praying in tongues. When you pray in tongues, your spirit prays. When you groan, the Holy Spirit does the prayer on your behalf. And one of the characteristics of groaning is that you can't utter whatever the Holy Spirit is praying. You'd mostly be crying or shouting. And of course, you're sure of an answer if the Holy Spirit

prays for you. He prays the will of God for us, and we know that if we ask anything according to God's will, He hears us.

- It helps you solve mysteries in your life

This is one of the greatest benefits of praying in tongues. You unravel mysteries in the spirit and even resolve them before they come.

1 Corinthians 14:2 says, "For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries".

Life is full mysteries. You woke up in the morning to prepare for a job interview that was earlier scheduled only for you to get to the venue and discover that your name was no longer on the list. How do you explain this? Somebody proposed marriage to you and all of a sudden he changes his mind – for no reason, how do you explain this?

John 16:13 tells us that "Howbeit, when he, the Spirit of truth is come, he will guide you into all truth". That's right, the Holy Spirit knows all things and He won't hesitate to guide us into all truth. He knows the solution and the perfect approach you need to take.

Praying in tongues stretches your mind to accommodate what the mind wasn't built to accommodate. I mean, how else can we have the mind of Christ?

Now that you know all these, you should have an idea of what will happen to you if you pray in tongues for one hour daily?

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 15

"Pastor, my daughter wants to marry a gambler, I've told her it won't go well, but she refused. What do I do?"

Well, if she's matured enough to get married, then agreeing with everything her parent says is no longer a possibility. The thing about maturity is that as you grow, you'd begin to create your own mindset towards the things of life.

Unfortunately, not many parents are aware of this. And it's also why many parents are not in good terms with their children. They keep having disagreements until they begin to avoid each other.

You see, when it comes to child raising, parents should ensure that they only play a supervisory role over their children, and not a Supreme role. Your children must be well acquainted of a superior person whom both parents fear and reverence, and in most cases, it has to be God.

This is important because while your children may easily listen and agree with you at a younger age, that would change as they grow.

Now that your daughter wants to get married to a gambler, and she doesn't believe that your opinion is correct, is she aware of an intermediary that can resolve that disagreement? Does she at least believe in your God? Did you raise her to know that there is a God whom you submit to? Did you make her know that she can also trust in that God? Does she believe and practice the word of God?

If she does, then solving this problem becomes easier. Proverbs 13:11 says, "wealth gotten through vanity shall diminish, but he that gathers through diligence shall increase". Gambling is vanity, and he that becomes wealthy through gambling would soon become poor again. If your daughter believes this, then she won't go ahead with that marriage except the intended spouse gets a more dignifying stream of income.

Trust me, shouting and starting a fight with your daughter at this point won't solve the problem, only God's word will. The only challenge will be if you never taught her to believe in God's word.

This is why we have family devotions, so we can let our children know that there's a God up there whom we also look up to, and that they can also approach this God directly. If we do bad, they can report us to this God.

A Christian lady once asked me if she could marry a Muslim. I told her she could, but I also asked her if she was ready to

handle the disagreements that would come. We know from scriptures that two can never work together except they are in agreement. They may agree in every other area, but what about their spiritual life? And in the hierarchy of the triune nature of man, the spirit-man is the highest, then followed by your soul and body.

If they want to live within the confines of their body and soul, that's fine. But they'd live a limited life because the true potential of any life or marriage can only be unlocked by the spirit. And as long as these potentials remain locked, it's only a matter of time before the challenges that will overwhelm them will begin to surface. A body without a spirit is dead!

God's testimony of Abraham in Genesis 18:19 should humble parents. It says, "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him". So God knew that Abraham's children will judge everything around them by the word of the Lord, because Abraham would teach them.

As I conclude, parents, parenting can both be a blessing and a curse. It would be a blessing if you teach your children the way of the Lord, but a curse if you are the final authority over their life. A man is too complicated to be preserved by another man, only God can preserve a man. If your children

must grow to become adults, then please ensure they know God.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 16

"Pastor, I was recently delivered from fornication. I felt better the first day, but suddenly, I saw myself committing fornication again, drinking and even smoking. It's almost like my situation became worse after deliverance".

No, you were not delivered from fornication, the demon of fornication was only casted out. And casting out a demon is just the first phase of a deliverance process. So your situation is expected, 90 percent of people who had partial deliverance sessions also became worse after a while.

Now this isn't because the demon wasn't properly cast out, but because the house where that demon lived within that person still remained. You may have casted out the demon from its house, but you'd need to engage in mind transformation to eject or demolish the house from your heart. Let's see how the scripture puts it:

Matthew 12:

43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none.

44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished.

45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

From verse 43, we'd see that demon spirits can't just enter into anybody, they can only enter a resting place that has been created for them.

Created for them? Yes! The thing about habits is that they can create a portal or a resting place that houses a spirit. And when that spirit comes, it will no longer be an ordinary habit, it will become a stronghold - because it is now being sponsored by a spirit.

If you started fornication as a simple act, you can easily retrace your steps. But if you go back to it and continue, it will become a habit. Just like a act, you can also be free from a habit, except that it will be a little more difficult. But if you don't retrace your steps on time, that habit will create a house for a demon spirit called the spirit of fornication. At this point, even if you vowed that you'd no longer fornicate again, you will. While you're even saying it, you can be on top of a woman. Your words or determination won't matter at this point.

The only thing that can deliver you from the hold of that demon at that point is the name of Jesus. Through the name of Jesus, that demon can be cast out.

Now those 3 verses will make sense to you. The unclean spirit was cast out of that person, not killed (demon spirits can't be killed, at least not at this time). So the spirit went about looking for a place that looked like the house it was casted out from, but since nobody around had fornicated to the point of making it a habit, it couldn't find a place.

Verse 44 and 45 then says something that annoys me daily, "Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first".

How dare that demon call a human being its house? Anyway, I don't want to get angry, let me just skip this part.

So when it returns and finds the place empty, it goes for re-enforcement, carrying with him 7 other deadly demons to come share its apartment with it. And this means that the new state of the man will be worse than the former.

So, since the spirit of fornication was cast out, it re-enforced with the spirit of smoking, drinking, and only God knows what names the other spirits bore. That's why you feel you've become worse after the spirit of fornication was previously cast out.

So the question is, why was the house empty or why was the house still there after deliverance?

When you become born again, the only thing that receives supernatural renewal is your spirit, every other thing remains the same except you commit to deliberate mind renewal. That's why it's possible for a man who gave his life to Christ yesterday to go back to sin today. He hoped that his worldly characters would automatically erase (this happens but in rare cases), but unfortunately, just as those worldly characters were learned, he'd have to unlearn them and learn the kingdom way to do things. If he doesn't do this, he'd go back to the world in no time.

This also applies to demon possessed people. While the first level of deliverance is to cast out the demon, the second level will be to engage them in mind transformation. You have to replace those thoughts that created the habit with kingdom thoughts.

Luke 11:21-22 says, "When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace. But when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils". Although the demon was cast out in the name of Jesus, but you still have to give Jesus a space in your heart by engaging and renewing your mind by His word. So that when

the demon comes back to check, it would see that a stronger man has taken over his house.

Pastors and evangelists, casting out demons from a person is only 10 percent of the deliverance process, mind transformation is 90 percent. So don't bother casting out the demon if you're not ready to help the person through the process of transformation. You might be doing more harm than good.

I was once possessed with a spirit of sickness that tormented me for a whole year. I'd fall sick for at least 5 days in every month. Yet each time I visited the hospital, the doctors would say there was nothing wrong with me. I was one of those people who would lie to their boss that they are sick only because they don't want to go to work. I guess it became a habit that attracted that spirit. The day I eventually casted that spirit out, I began to learn my rights to divine health, and unlearned how to lie with my health condition. As expected, the spirit came back to contend for its house, but unfortunately for it, there was a stronger man there. I simply held on to God's promises concerning my health, and it left never to come back.

As I conclude, beware of demonic habits, you are creating a house for a spirit without knowing.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 17

"Pastor, I'm not sure if I'll ever make it in this life"

Wow! That's a lot. I'm guessing you've had many failed promises from men and the systems of this world.

But don't worry, let me show you a system I've lived with and gives me assurance of success every day.

2 Peter 1:

19 We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:

Did you notice the words "More sure word", "of Prophecy", "You do well", "A light that shines in a dark place?"

So we have a MORE SURE WORD. This should get you excited already. Just when your government is messing up and unfulfilling in their words, you have a more sure word. They might be trimming employees in the company where you work and your colleagues seem to be so sure that you'd also be issued a letter of dismissal, tell them you have a more sure word, that "a thousand shall fall by your side and

ten thousand by your right side, but none shall come near you".

Perhaps they've told you that marriagable men are scarce and that you should do anything your fiancé wants to preserve him, tell them you have a more sure word, the bible says "... None shall lack her mate...". And if they tell you not to implement that business idea because the economy is bad, tell them that whatsoever you do shall prosper. You have a more sure word. Hallelujah!

Don't let their negative words register in your heart; rather, let God's word be the final say over matters that concern your heart.

That scripture also says that God's word is prophetic. Just because you don't look like what it says now doesn't mean it won't happen. Just believe it and act accordingly. Luke 1:45 made this clear when it said, "And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord". This means that as long as you believe it, God will perform it. This also means that if God does not perform it, it means you didn't believe it.

God is not your president that He would lie or disappoint. If He has said it, then be rest assured that He'd do it. Just believe!

The next part says you'd do well if you take heed to God's word. Isn't that beautiful? So if you want to do well, just take heed to God's word.

Finally, you'd emerge as a light that shines in a dark place. You'd shine among your peers, among your colleagues, within your family, within your community, and ultimately within your country. Is that what you want?

QUESTION 18

"Pastor, I've submitted my CV to several companies, but none of them have called for at least an interview"

Oh, you most likely have been submitting your CV in the flesh. Let me show you a scripture that will change that result forever:

Romans 8:

13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

One of the meanings of Mortify is to subdue. So when you engage the Spirit in submitting your CV, it will subdue any form of fleshly desire that may want to come against you getting the interview and possibly the job.

If the HR ignores your mail, that's the flesh at work. If the security man dumps your document in the waste basket without presenting it to the HR, that's flesh at work. If the HR plays favoritism, that's flesh at work. There are many things that comes between your mail and getting the job, and as

long as it's not lack of competence on your part, then flesh must be at work.

"Pastor, I lie alot, and I've started stealing too, how can I stop these deadly habits?"

Oh, I'm glad you know they are deadly habits. At least you've solved 50 percent of the problem.

So let me show you a scripture that will help you solve the remaining 50 percent:

Romans 8:

13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

Did you notice the word "Mortify"? The literal meaning of that is Discipline.

So you see, the only way you can discipline yourself from fleshly works is by the Spirit. The only way you can be free from stealing other people's good is to be contented with what you have per time. Hebrews 13:5 says, "Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee".

I told you how I used to inflate invoices whenever I bought anything for the companies I worked with. I was a Christian, yet I was a cheat 😊. I guess the pressure to live a flamboyant

lifestyle overwhelmed me, and I was willing to do whatever was necessary to get money.

As expected, it began to affect my spiritual life even more, so I had to discipline myself by the Spirit. To discipline yourself by the Spirit simply means to do what God's word says about the works of the flesh you're battling with.

Many of you have read Galatians chapter 5, but you probably haven't taken time to understand what it is really saying. Let's read a few verses from it:

Galatians 5:

19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

So it mentions 17 works of the flesh and 9 fruits of the Spirit. In other words, you can discipline yourself from all works of the flesh within those 9 fruits of the Spirit.

For instance, you can't commit adultery if you love God, neither can you commit fornication, or serve an idol, or practice witchcraft, or have hatred. You can't truly love God and engage in any work of the flesh. This means that the more you grow in your love for God, the less fleshly you'd become.

Peace is the solution for strife. If you get angry easily, then you need to practice temperance. If you find yourself envying other people, then you need to work on your joy. It's only a person who doesn't have joy that envies another person.

I used to lie because I didn't want to face the consequences of telling the truth. But I concluded that even if I get killed for telling the truth, I'd at least be free in my spirit. You put yourself in bondage each time you tell a lie.

The best way to develop these fruits of the Spirit is to study about them. I once read two books on love to deal with bitterness. I used to be angry at what my relatives did to me, but after reading those books, I had a re-orientation. My response to their wicked ways became love. And since I was acting in love, it became impossible for me to be bitter towards them. (The titles of the books I read are: Love, the way to victory by Kenneth Hagin, and Reduce me to love by Gloria Copeland)

If you want to learn how to control your temper, buy books on spiritual temperament. If you want to learn contentment, buy

books on Thanksgiving and gratitude. There's none of those fruits of the Spirit that doesn't have a book already written by someone.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 19

"Pastor, whenever I read the Bible, I don't feel moved, and I don't feel inspired to do what I read. Does it mean I'm not born again?"

No, it doesn't mean you're not born again. Actually, there are many sides to this issue you've just presented. So, let me touch a few:

1. Salvation:

I've taught you before that although the bible may have been translated to English, but God's Word is not English, it's a mystery. And that's why those that were "without" in Matthew chapter 13 didn't understand the parable that Jesus told them.

Those who have received Jesus as Lord and Saviour have access to the understanding and revelation of God's word. This also means that if you're not born yet, reading the bible would just be plain text to you, and that can be frustrating.

2. Faith:

There is a school of thought that says, "You don't have to understand what God's word says, just believe and act accordingly".

While there are cases where that thought can be applied, actions like that are also birthed from an understanding of who God is.

For instance, Abraham didn't need to understand why God wanted him to sacrifice his son Isaac, he just obeyed. He had known God to a point of credibility. He knew that whatever God did would always work together for his good.

Apostle Joshua Selman defined faith as the name given to the action that was birthed from your conviction about God's word. So if you had a financial need and refused to borrow to fix it just because you're convinced that if you must lend to many nations, you must not borrow. That action is called faith! If you're in a life threatening situation and yet won't stop declaring that you won't die but live to declare the goodness of God. That action is called faith. That's why it's easy to identify a person who has faith or who is acting in faith.

A person who still acts on God's word in the face of a challenge isn't faking it, that's truly faith at work. A person who is faking it would most likely resolve to fear in the face of a challenge. He'd seek solutions to the challenge from other places except the word of God.

Faith comes by hearing and understanding the word of God. So it's not just hearing, you must understand the word for that conviction to be established in your heart. And sometimes conviction is only possible when there are proofs or inspired interpretation.

Understanding is powerful, and that's why it's the third point I'd be discussing.

3. Understanding

When it comes to understanding God's word, you need the ministry of teachers to get you started. In this case, your pastor can also act as a teacher, even though not all pastors are gifted teachers.

There are two categories of teachers as recognized in scriptures. The first is the Holy Spirit, and the second are gifted teachers from the 5-fold ministry.

Habakkuk 2:2 further tells us the job of a teacher. It says "And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it".

Yes, that's their job, they make God's word plain so that anyone who reads it can run. This means that God's word, when understood, should make you run. So if your pace is slow after reading the bible, then it means you've not understood what you read.

The word "run" used in that scripture describes the character of faith. That's exactly what a man does when his faith comes alive in the word, he'd run with it.

Teachers make God's word plain upon tables. The "Tables" used in that scripture in a more recent term would mean books or your heart. So the next thing to do after you've read your Bible without understanding it is read books written by critically acclaimed teachers of the gospel or listen to their audio message, or just fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

I've heard many people say they find it difficult to read. But after diagnosing them, I discover that it's not that they find it difficult to read, but that the books they read are still difficult to understand. Books are supposed to make God's word more understandable, not complicated. So I put many of them on spiritual medication to read 50 of my books, and you'd be amazed how many books they read in a short time.

Just as you won't benefit from the teaching ministry of the Holy Spirit without fellowshipping with Him, you won't benefit from teachers without reading their books or listening to their messages.

I appreciate our pastors, many of them are sacrificing a lot to keep the sheep together. But I must say this, the true health of a sheep is measured by their understanding of the word, not just motivational preachings. The true word of God does

not just motivate, it gives an enviable life. So don't just preach, teach! And if you don't know how to teach, there is a gift of the Holy Spirit called "The Word of Wisdom" - which is supernatural understanding of God's word. You can covet that gift as the scripture recommends. Don't lead a congregation that would depend on you for the most minute thing, teach them to know how to do things by themselves.

Members, don't kill your pastor, neither should you turn him to God. It's only God that is all-knowing. Find teachers who your spirit easily connects with and learn from them. Read their books, listen to their messages. That Ethiopian Eunuch would not have been able to understand the scripture if not that God send Philip to go explain to him.

As I conclude, as Christians, it's our responsibility to seek the help of teachers. Isaiah 30:20-21 says, "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. 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". This is why I don't respect Christians who only listen to one preacher.

I have a prophet sent to me by God, I have a pastor, and I have plenty of teachers. When I'm challenged in my journey, one of them must bail me out. It's either what was said by my prophet, or what was imparted by my pastor, or what was

taught by my teachers. Some Christians only have prophets, and I honestly wonder how they'd grow. Please seek teachers!

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 20

"Pastor, I used to enjoy helping the poor, but it's been hard to do that in recent times. What could be wrong?"

Well, that's expected. It's only what the Lord does that lasts forever.

You see, every good desire suffers Satan's attack.¹ Corinthians 16:9 says, "For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries". Satan knows that every positive desire has potential to bring greater glory to God, so he attempts to cut down the desire by attacking it.

This means that, desire alone will never be enough to fulfill your dream. You'd need partnership with something greater, you'd need faith in God.

If you help the poor because you had a desire to help the poor, you'd need partnership with God to continue helping the poor. And the only way to partner with God is to have faith in Him or His word.

If you do anything that God also has interest in, then you can partner with Him in faith for the continuous success of that thing. For instance, God also has interest in helping the poor. Let me show you two scriptures that confirms this:

Proverbs 28:27 He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse".

Proverbs 19:17 He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

So you see, if you give to the poor just to satisfy your personal desires, chances are that you won't be able to overcome lack when it comes. But if you help the poor through faith in this scriptures, then you've entered a partnership with God that guarantees return for every help you render to the poor. With this, you can literally go to God with a query if you ever encounter lack while you help the poor😊. I'm serious! If you played your part, then God should be committed to His part.

I started writing out of a desire to add value to lives. It was smooth when I started, inspirations were flowing daily and endlessly. But as I continued, it became more difficult to gain access to inspiration.

Before now I'd just open my notepad and start writing without premeditation. But today, I'd sometimes need to pray to God

before I can access His mind for the people. If I don't do that, then I certainly would have stopped writing. I knew many writers back in 2014 who have stopped writing today. Many of them were uniquely gifted with the kind of things they wrote. But unfortunately, they didn't enter into partnership with God, so Satan cut short their writing journey. If you know anybody who has stopped doing something that was really good, this is the reason.

Doing it in faith means that you now do it based on your conviction from God's Word or an encounter with God. I won't forget my encounter with God in a hurry. I desperately wanted consistency and potency in my writing, so I went to Him in prayer. All of a sudden I was in a conversation that felt more like a Job interview. While in that conversation, God literally employed me and gave me the role of His "Privileged Writer" 😊. I've been His privileged writer since 2014. I've also encountered several scriptures in the Bible after that.

Beware of increases as you partner with God though. Don't let the liftings you get in the process mislead you into thinking that God wants you to do something different. If He wants you to do something different or something more, He'd tell you.

I lost focus when running my online platform became more demanding. Well, I wouldn't say I lost focus, I probably thought God had promoted me into another level. I wrote less and posted more videos. I won't lie, posting those videos

didn't give me the fulfillment I desired. I knew it was promoting God's Kingdom, but I just wasn't fulfilled. And because it was the kingdom, I didn't bother praying about it. It took a man of God to deliver me from that error. He called me into his office and simply told me that God gave me the pen of a ready writer and that He wanted me to pay more attention to it.

Nobody could have known that, not even my wife. I cried for days and repented before the Lord. How quick was I to forget that I was under an employment? Assumption is truly the fastest way to destruction. Many have lost great movements because they assumed it was God. Don't assume when you can be sure.

So yes, I write 5 days a week, not only because I desire to add value to lives, but because I must do the job I was employed to do. It was Bishop Oyedepo that said, "When your desire becomes a task, you'd pursue it with all your heart". I recently felt very sick, it was so bad that I wasn't expecting to write. If it was just a thing of desire, I probably wouldn't have written. But when I thought about the fact that God was involved, I simply rode on His strength to write.

I read the articles I wrote during that period and I'm still amazed how that the gates of hell cannot prevail over the building of His church. I posted those articles with my pictures as usual, but nobody could tell that something was

wrong😊. Someone even told me that I was looking finer. Like seriously?.

Did God take the sickness away immediately, no! Did I write articles in my sick state? Yes! Did I eventually get healed? Yes! Now you'd understand what the Bible meant when it said Jesus endured the cross and despised the shame because of the joy that was set before Him. Imagine if Jesus had paused just to heal from the pain😊.

It takes faith to continue anything you start with a desire; it truly takes faith.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 21

"Pastor, I'm a man of God, I pray for people and God answers. But why is it that when I pray for myself, God does not answer?"

That's not correct sir, it's not that God does not answer, but that you accessed revelation that shot your door of answered prayers in that area.

The thing about revelation is that it demands actions of faith. And except the revelation only requires prayer, you're not expected to continue praying after you've received revelation. What you must now do is to display your faith in what was revealed.

Every revelation you receive concerning God's word reveals an ability that can be engaged by you. Consequentially, every revealed ability suffers contention. Let's see how scripture puts it:

1 Corinthians 10:

13 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.

That scripture establishes that there's no challenge you'd encounter that is not common to man, you've probably prayed for people to be delivered from the kind of challenges you're also praying about for yourself. So what you're going through is common. But the next sentence unveils someone that should scare you, "... God is faithful, He will not allow you to be tempted above what you have received ability for".

This simply means that God will not permit a contention that you've not been equipped for. So if a contention is present in any area of your life, it simply means that you've received an ability through revelation that can give you victory over that contention. And it is only your application of that ability that can deliver you.

This happened to us as children. Our parents would only defend us if older people beat us to a fight. But the moment your age mate defeats you, you'd surely get a spanking from your parents. You'd hear things like, "You mean you can't face your age mate? You're such a disappointment". No parent goes to fight your age mate for you 😊.

Imagine that Moses continued to pray to God to deliver the people of Israel even after God had mandated him to go and free them. His desire had always been to see Israel set free and he most likely would have prayed about it. But the

moment God revealed His word, praying to free them ceased, only actions of faith was now required. Hebrews chapter 10 explains this experience better. Let's read a few verses:

Hebrews 10:

32 But call to remembrance the former days, in which, after ye were illuminated, ye endured a great fight of afflictions.

33 Partly, whilst ye were made a gazingstock both by reproaches and afflictions; and partly, whilst ye became companions of them that were so used.

35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

So verse 32 tells us the consequences of receiving illumination to God's word, "You'd have to endure a great fight of affliction". And as this happens - pending the time you finally receive the breakthrough, you'd become a gazingstock - which relatively means laughing stock. This is no wonder your whole congregation or neighbors has turned you into a laughing stock. You pray for others to get well yet you can't heal yourself. You command the barren to bear children, yet you've not had a child of your own. Frankly speaking, that's a thing of mockery.

But verses 35 and 36 unveils what must be done to end that mockery. It says, "Don't lose your confidence in God,

because it will be rewarded. However, be patient, endure the affliction until you complete the will of God that addresses that situation (emphasize mine)".

Let me say this at this point, if you don't want battles, run away from revelation. Through revelation, you've probably matured into a realm where you take possession of things by the word of God; but the challenge with this level is that you'd have to find a word that releases every single blessing you need. This is why a genuine man of God doesn't really have personal prayer points, He lives by faith in the word. While others are praying about a situation, he just settles with the word in his heart. And your one hour prayer will do the same thing that a simple revelation in his heart will do.

I've heard Bishop David Oyedepo say several times that he doesn't have prayer points. I totally understand what he means now. Having lived in this realm for a while now, I truly don't have a personal prayer point.

When Bishop Oyedepo's last daughter was struck with a terminal disease, medical practitioners had lost hope on her. People had certainly prayed for her to be healed. But her health kept deteriorating until Bishop Oyedepo searched for 5 scriptures that healed her.

Finally, this isn't peculiar to men of God alone, it applies to anyone who have accessed light about a matter. Once light comes, your prayer point ceases, only obedience of faith is

remaining. Be like Moses, keep going back to God to receive a word that will attack the situation. There's always one last word to apply that will release your breakthrough. "After you have done the will of God, you shall receive the promise".

This is already too long, so I'd recommend you read my e-book titled "Until My Change Comes". It's available for free download on my website. It would grant you a better understanding of this subject.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 22

"Pastor, I feel like God is angry with me"

Wow! I'm sorry about how you feel, but feelings are not proofs of truth. So let's discern your feeling so you can live right. Ready?

A lot of scriptures confirms 4 basic characteristics that you'd always find in God. I'd reference some of them, but let me begin with Psalms:

Psalms 103:

8 The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy.

- God is merciful
- God is gracious
- God is slow to anger
- God is plenteous in mercy

So the first thing you must settle in your mind about God is that He is merciful.

Unlike what many people think, mercy isn't automated forgiveness or aversion from a deserved rebuke. I looked up

the meaning of mercy in the dictionary and what I found made it all so beautiful.

MERCY: A tendency toward forgiveness, pity, or compassion.

That's right, it's an opportunity or a likelihood to receive forgiveness from a person or being you offended. So chances are that the rebuke or punishment will still come if you don't seek forgiveness and repentance.

In addition to being merciful, He's plenteous in mercy, which is why His mercies are new every morning. So just incase you goofed yesterday and ran short of His mercy, the fact that you woke up this morning has qualified you for another round of His mercy.

This is why a person who committed a grievous sin yesterday may become a strong man of God today. Every new day before God is an opportunity to repent.

This was why Jonah was angry with God. Even though God had determined to destroy Nineveh, he knew that God's mercy could save them if they repented. Let's see how scriptures put it:

Jonah 4:

1 But it displeased Jonah exceedingly, and he was very angry.

2 And he prayed unto the LORD, and said, I pray thee, O LORD, was not this my saying, when I was yet in my country? Therefore I fled before unto Tarshish: for I knew that thou art a gracious God, and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness, and repentest thee of the evil.

Just look at that. Anybody would be angry. Why would you send me to declare their doom if you were eventually going to have mercy on them? To think that Jonah didn't want to go because of this possibility.

God is also gracious, which literally means He's compassionate. As a matter of scripture, His compassion does not fail. You can literally count on His compassion. The only scenario that has been used to measure God's compassion is a nursing mother. Yet, the bible tells us that God's compassion towards us is greater than what a mother feels for her sucking child.

Finally, God is slow to anger. Like, really slow to anger. Was it not while we were yet sinners that He sent Jesus to die for us? You can't possibly be angry and still sacrifice your son. Instead of anger, He further proved His love.

So yes, stop feeling that God is angry with you. Rather, feel the love He has for you. Let God's word to Jeremiah strengthen you, "... I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee".

The next time you try to consider what God is thinking about you, let these four characteristics play a leading role: He's merciful, He's gracious, He's slow to anger, He's plenteous in mercy.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 23

"Pastor, I follow all the kingdom principles for financial prosperity, yet nothing is working in my life"

There are many possible reasons for this, but perhaps we can talk about the most important one.

Meanwhile, let me begin by saying that one of the greatest desires of a pastor is to see his congregation prosper in all things. The way a parent feels towards their child is the same way a true pastor feels towards his flock. I lead a fellowship, and I wonder why many of them are not experiencing the blessings of the things I teach them. If what I preach works for me who preached it, why isn't it working for them?

I remember a few years ago when God visited the fellowship with a prophetic word for financial breakthrough. He particularly said that many of us would emerge millionaires that year. To my amazement, I was the only one that emerged a millionaire that year. I was happy because the Prophetic word came to pass - which also gave them a leverage to trust God the more, but I wasn't happy that I was the only one that benefitted from that prophecy.

While some of them are getting better, most of them are literally struggling to make ends meet. So God began to reveal the root cause of their problems. Let me show you the first scripture He gave to me:

Matthew 6:

22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light.

23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!

24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

That's it! Their eyes were not focused on God, they served God and mammon at the same time. Some of them were involved in gambling, something we call "Baba Ijebu" in Nigeria. While I witnessed some with my eyes, some others came to me as a report.

Gambling is a game of luck and anytime you gamble, you're making a statement that God is unable to supply all your need, and that you simply ran to Satan to assist Him. As long as you practice this, no matter how much tithe and offering you give, you'd still struggle with life. A double-minded person is unstable in all his ways.

The same mind you used to predict the score of a football match can be used to develop a business idea. Why would you choose to live by chance when you can live by faith? Why would you struggle to get lucky when you can access favour from God.

If your eyes is focused on God, your whole body will be full of light. Your whole body here doesn't necessarily mean your physical body, it means everything about you. Your career, job, business, family, and everything else. So stop wondering why there is darkness and so much disfavour in your life, your eyes are not focused on God! If you close your eyes, there's only darkness left. You can't turn your eyes away from God The Light and not expect darkness.

Focus is powerful! Anything you focus on will expand. Small things naturally grow big with focus. It's not money that you need to grow a small business, it's focus. Mathematics may be difficult, but focus will make it easy. If you want to see changes in your marriage, then build your focus around it. Focus has power to transform anything and nothing can resist its transformative effect. Just any man can be transformed, if you focus on his transformation.

Now you'd understand 2 Corinthians 3:18, "But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord". Yes, as long as you don't turn your eyes away from the Lord, you'd end up being like Him.

I wish I had a better way to communicate this, but please, stop wasting your time and resources on things that guarantee no future. The more you do them, the more you frustrate your investments in the kingdom. Again, a double-minded person can never experience stability, in all his ways.

Let Proverbs 4:20-22 strengthen you. "My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh". Yes, don't let your eyes depart from God's word, because it has life packaged within it for you.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 24

"Pastor, why is it that God does not give me the things I want?"

That's the problem right there, your want! You haven't realized that the way God planned our lives, we're not supposed to want. Let me show you two scriptures:

Psalm 34:

10 The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.

Psalm 23:

1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

That's right, you're not supposed to be in want of any good thing. Psalm 84:11 says, "For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly".

So when you see want in your life, it simply means you're leading yourself or that you didn't seek the face of God. It's only when the Lord is your Shepherd that you shall not want.

Bishop Oyedepo has often told the story of how he started a branch of the ministry in a particular country he really liked. And after some years, he noticed that the branch was

struggling to get the same results other branches in other countries were getting, and that's when He decided to seek the face of the Lord. To his amazement, God told him that He never gave the permission to open that branch and that the Bishop only tried to satisfy his wants.

The thing about satisfying your wants in the energy of your flesh is that you'd never get truly satisfied. I've come to realize that no man really knows what he wants until he finally sees what he thought he wanted. Ask those who desperately wanted to get married how they feel now that they are married, only very few of them will tell you that they are truly happy.

A man who has no shoes wants a shoe until he finally gets a shoe and realizes that he'd also want a car. The prodigal son wanted his inheritance, only to realize that the inheritance didn't satisfy his want. Thank God he realized it early and went back to his father.

That's what many of us need to do, get back to your heavenly Father! Because frankly, many Christians have drifted and backslidded all in the name of satisfying their want. Their wants have driven them away from God, and they're probably not even aware.

Think about it, when was the last time you went to church? Or listened to a sermon? Or read a book on spiritual growth?

When was the last time you attended fellowship? When was the last time you worshipped God in your corner?

Let me guess, you can't remember. Ofcourse, that's what begins to happen to those who suddenly want things. This was the same reason why the people of Israel suffered for a long time. Let's see how scriptures put it:

2 Chronicles 15:

3 Now for a long season Israel hath been without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law.

4 But when they in their trouble did turn unto the LORD God of Israel, and sought him, he was found of them.

19 And there was no more war unto the five and thirtieth year of the reign of Asa.

Just look at that; for a long time their relationship with God was not true. They had discarded their teachers and violated the laws of God. They wanted their own things, and the more they wanted, the more they suffered. According to verse 4, it was in their trouble that they turned unto their God.

I perceive that the trouble that many of you are going through is traceable to what you've given priority over God. Anything you want before your God is an idle. And the sorrow of those who hasten after other gods shall greatly multiply. Some of you have wanted a child so desperately, and in your pursuit for a solution, you've entered covenants with the devil.

In the kingdom, we don't want after things; we seek God, and all the things we should have wanted gets added to us. That's what Matthew 6:33 recommends. It's easier to pursue your wants through seeking God than through self. The danger of doing certain things yourself is that it may lead to destruction. "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end is destruction".

So get back to God. Seek His face, lean not on your own understanding. And even if you want something, let it be what He wants. Anything you want that is not in correlation with what God wants is a red flag, flee!

Let me pray for those whose wants may have caused them to enter covenants with demons. I invoke the precious blood of Jesus over your life, and I command that every of such covenants be broken now! It will no longer have a hold on you! In the name of Jesus!

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 25

"Pastor, my family members don't believe in my dreams and visions. What do I do?"

It's true that charity begins at home, but when it comes to pursuing your dream, home may not be that charitable.

Statistics have shown that the last category of people that would often believe in your dreams and vision are your family and community people. And this would only happen when you've succeeded. If you have a community that supports you at the first instance, it's either they are truly born again or they've heard about your testimonies. Many times your enemies will believe in your vision even before your immediate family does.

Jesus's experience in his own country still baffles me. They saw him display unusual wisdom and miracles, yet they got offended only because he's a carpenter's son. Let's read how the scriptures put it:

Matthew 13:

54 And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were

astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?

55 Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas?

56 And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this man all these things?

57 And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.

58 And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

Have you ever been told not to pursue a dream because of your limitations? Let me guess, it was someone close to you that told you 😊. Just look at that, Jesus performed believable miracles and spoke in a manner that touched their hearts, yet they chose not to believe - because he was the carpenter's son. At least, that was the excuse they gave first.

When Jesus returned to Jerusalem, the reception was ceremonious. At this point, they had heard of his exploits and also needed a Saviour like him in the city. Let's read how the scripture puts it:

Matthew 21:

8 And a very great multitude spread their garments in the way; others cut down branches from the trees, and strawed them in the way.

9 And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest.

10 And when he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this?

11 And the multitude said, This is Jesus the prophet of Nazareth of Galilee.

At this point he was no longer addressed as the carpenter's son, he was now the son of David. They didn't even agree that he came through Mary's womb, rather he came in the name of the Lord. It's amazing how your results can change people's mind towards you. Honestly, stop trying to convince people to believe in your dreams, just have results, they'd have no choice but to believe.

I watch comedy skits online and I really get a good laugh when I do. But I had this friend that does comedy too - who although has great contents, but the fact that I've known him for long just betrayed that possibility of me being one of his committed followers. So each time I stumbled on his skits, the fact that I knew he was acting it just pisses me off instead of exciting me. Before you judge me, I'm sure he felt the same about my writing. But things have changed now, our track records in our various fields now compels us to pay attention to our contents.

That's just how life is, those who are close to you may not always like your ideas until they see you manifesting the

result. Remember how Joseph was hated by his own brothers because of his dreams. Through the hatred, they sold him into slavery and lied to their father that a beast had eaten him up. It was that bad. But see what Joseph turned out to become, the second in command of a whole nation. And of course, his dream came to pass. His brothers bowed before him just as he saw in his dream.

Many of you are witnesses of the amazing things that God engraces me to write daily, but what if I told you that not one of my relatives read these things for many years? Some of them only began to connect last year or two. But today, they wished they had connected much earlier. One of them once said that she'd go and read all the books I read, and that if God could prosper me through those books, then God would prosper her too. Just look at that!

Let me conclude with this; in the pursuit of your dream, you only have faith in God to start with, then a few confidants - which are very unlikely to be your relatives. But don't ever give up on your dreams because your relatives did not support you. Most times, relatives are only required at the end, when you have results. So get results, dry the tears of disbelief and betrayal from your family or even friends. Was it not the priests who should protect the kingdom that proposed that Jesus be crucified? Joseph was sold into slavery by his own blood brothers. But all of those things worked together for their good. You will succeed!

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 26**"Pastor, how powerful is the word of God?"**

That's easy. I'd share 4 scriptures with you. I know you're probably familiar with the first 3, but the fourth one will make you speak in tongues. Ready?

FIRST SCRIPTURE:

Hebrews 4:

12 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 discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

This means that God's word can be used as a weapon both in a physical and spiritual battle. I'm sure if this scripture was written in this time and age, a gun or an explosive would have replaced that sword. We've heard testimonies of people who were literally shot at, but the bullet couldn't penetrate. A certain man was kidnapped and was to be used for rituals. They had beheaded so many before him, but when they got to him, the dagger couldn't penetrate. Yes, God's word is that powerful, it's sharper than any dagger.

A certain man sent me a testimony how that he woke up one morning and had concluded that he was going to commit suicide, but somehow he stumbled on the article I wrote that morning and suddenly found a reason to live again. Yes, God's word is that powerful, it can discern the intents of the heart.

For ladies who want a confirmation from God before they accept the proposal of their man, if you've studied God's word enough, then you should have found scriptures that discerns the thoughts and intent of your man's heart. Pastor Mildred Okonkwo left the man she was dating and confirmed who her husband really is just by reading the bible. Yes, God's word is that powerful!

A certain man's house was invaded by armed robbers, and while they were searching the house, a message by Bishop Oyedepo was playing on the man's home stereo system. Suddenly, the leader of the robbers asked the man the name of the person who was preaching and requested for the tape. He then ordered his boys to stop the operation. A few days later, the leader went back to the man's house to request for more of Bishop Oyedepo's messages. Yes, God's word is that powerful, it can pierce through the darkest soul and spirit.

Bishop Oyedepo's daughter was sick and all medical attempt to treat her had failed. Suddenly, he searched for 5 scriptures which he applied to the situation, and his daughter began to

respond to treatment. Yes, God's word is that powerful, it can fix bones, joints and marrow.

SECOND SCRIPTURE:

John 1:

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 The same was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

So here we see that the word of God is as powerful as God Himself. "The Word was God". Think about it, can you separate your word from yourself? If I'm to personalize verse 1, it will read, "In the beginning was Anslem's word, and Anslem's word was with Anslem, and Anslem's word was Anslem". My word can't possibly be against me, it has to be with me all the way through. Many people are in prison today because of something they innocently said.

Unlike we humans who use natural resources to create things, God's natural resource for creating everything is His word. The moment He spoke the word, things were created. And anything that was created which the word didn't create could be uncreated or recreated by the word. Yes, God's word is that powerful.

THIRD SCRIPTURE:

Hebrews 1:

3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

This isn't so different from the previous scripture, except that this scripture emphasizes the fact that God controls all things by the word of His power. He has many powers, but He has chosen to restrict the control of all things by His word.

I'm not sure you got that. If you have the word, then you have control over all things. Think about it, if all things were made by the word, then it's only normal for all things to be controlled by the word.

What this means is, if you don't like the way things are around your life, you can change them by the word. Yes, God's word is that powerful.

NOW, THE FINAL SCRIPTURE:

Revelation 19:

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

So I found 3 powerful attributes about the word from this scripture:

- The word of God is soaked or clothed with the blood of Jesus
- Angels follow the Word of God anywhere it goes
- It can release the wrath of the Almighty God

This means that each time I declare the word of God in faith, I've invoked 3 other things. The blood, the angels, and the wrath. Wow! Wow! Wow! Now I feel like speaking in tongues.

So I can speak the word in faith over any situation and go an sleep. Honestly, if you've been praying about a challenge and it still hasn't been solved, please go for the word. Yes, God's word is that powerful!

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 27

"Pastor, how do I make it in this life?"

Simple... Follow Jesus! That's actually God's recommendation for anybody who wants to make it in this world. Let's see how scriptures put it.

Matthew 4:

19 And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

You're probably about to say that this scripture was talking about Peter and evangelizing men into God's kingdom. That's correct, but that's not all. Let's consider the other side of it.

Peter was a fisherman who at that moment struggled to catch fish. As a matter of scriptures, he had tried all night but couldn't catch any. After his encounter with Jesus which led to an unprecedented influx of fishes, he was awed and ready to compensate Jesus for such favour. Jesus' response couldn't have been a coincidence, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men". In other words, he was still going to be a fisher, but this time, he'd be fishing men. That's a promotion.

Just like Peter, you may be a professional in your various fields of endeavor, yet be struggling to succeed.

Just because you're a professional stylist doesn't mean you have to own a shop where you make cloths, you could be the official stylist of the president. Many of us assume what to do with our skill, and that's why we keep toiling in what we do. Just because you're a fisher doesn't mean you have to go to the river to catch fishes, like Peter, your fishing skills could as well be used to fish men into the kingdom.

Just because you're a farmer doesn't mean you have to operate a farmland, your farming experience could be used to nurture and develop men to become better versions of themselves.

Today all kinds of unprofitable songs are being released, and that's obviously because everyone who has a good voice thinks a good voice is for singing. Just because you have a good voice doesn't mean you have to sing, God may have given you that voice for something more unique.

There was no way Peter would have prospered with fishing. Every other fisherman may have prospered through fishing, but Peter's destiny wasn't to fish aquatic organisms, but to fish men.

Don't get me wrong. If you're a Painter, you can start your painting business in a shop, but understand that God has a

perfect place where your skills would be useful to Him, a place beyond contention. So while you're working from your shop, keep following and serving Jesus with all you are, and like Peter, He'd give you your perfect place. Always be willing to give Jesus your boat, that's the only way he can perfect your position.

Now Proverbs 4:18 will make sense to you. It says, "But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day". There is a perfect place for every believer, but it would take serving the Lord with your skill to get there.

So it's okay to record songs with your good voice, but ensure you don't lean on your own understanding. Many people have wasted their resources on releasing a musical album when they actually have no business with music. Many great talents were short-lived because of a wrong approach.

As an inspirational writer, one of the things that was common when I started writing was that writers concealed their ideas or knowledge in a book so that only those who bought the books would gain access to it. They desperately wanted to be an author. As expected, I tried it, but I noticed that many things became a struggle for me, including getting inspiration. People have asked me why all my ebooks are free, well, this is the reason. Not all of us are called to sell books. A close friend once told me not to post all my inspirational articles online, that I'd lose market value if I

eventually published a book. Thank God I didn't listen, because it would have wrecked my destiny.

My life is an example of what serving the Lord with your skill can make out of a person. Without striving for it, I've authored over 50 ebooks, and God did it in such a way that you'd definitely find a book that addresses any challenge of life within those books. Many of those who strived to be authors when I started writing haven't published their 5th book, yet someone who was just serving the Lord has released over 50. Isn't serving God a good thing?

Let me conclude with this; there's too much competition in this world, that's why God has a reserved place for those who love you, a place beyond contention and any competition. Just prove your love for Him, and He'd make you!

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 28

"Pastor, I feel like I'm wasting time, how do I know exactly what God wants me to do?"

Simple... Become more aware of who you are in Christ. The journey of discovery of purpose begins with identity.

I remember my experience during a Bible school back in 2015, my only prayer point was that God would reveal His plan for my life. And after two weeks long prayer coupled with fasting, the only thing God told me was Jude 1:20. Yes, Jude 1:20!

It says, "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost". In literal terms, I should keep building my faith in God through studying and fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

Apostle Paul says the same thing in Acts 20:32. It says, "And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified". This means that there's something about God's word and fellowship with the Spirit that builds up the Saint. And once you are built, you'd be given an inheritance among other saints who have

been sanctified. The word "sanctified" here simply means seperated for a purpose. So that's right, once you are built up, you'd be given a purpose.

The moment God told me that, I began to study. I read the Bible, I read books by my mentors, listened to tapes, and prayed like never before. As I did, I became more aware of who I am in Christ, and once this awareness had been registered in my heart, it wasn't long before He gave me a purpose to run with.

As Bishop David Abioye recently said, God is looking for who to use, but He's very unlikely to use anybody who is not built. So stop praying to be used by God; rather, develop yourself into someone that God can use.

Read the stories of all those great men that God used, both in scriptures and our own time. David was a man after God's heart. Apostle Paul was committed to religion and was willing to persecute anyone that violates the law. This was what Jesus saw in him that made Him call him. Daniel knew who he was, so he would not defile himself with the king's food. Joseph knew his God to a point that it would be a shame for him to lay with Potiphar's wife. Moses was living as a prince, yet he knew there was more to his life and took the risk of defending the people of Israel.

Even without reading the bible, I'm sure you can tell how the story of these people ended, and that's because God used

them mightily. But before they were used, they proved to be useful to God.

If you claim you want to serve me, then you must be ready to know me and know the things that pleases me. Because it's impossible to serve me faithfully without pleasing me. This is where many believers miss it, they don't know God, yet they want to be used by God. It's only those that do know their God that shall be strong and do exploits.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 29

"Pastor, I can't feel the Holy Spirit inside me like I used to. What do I do?"

Simple... I'd show you two quick things to do.

1. Be more consistent in praying in the spirit, especially praying in tongues.

I know that many people have tried to talk down on this truth, but just because you were once filled with the Holy Ghost doesn't mean you'd always be filled.

The disciples of Jesus were full of power when they first received the Holy Ghost in Acts chapter 2, but when they were threatened in Chapter 4, we were told that they were all filled with the Holy Ghost after they gathered together to pray. And with that, they continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

Obviously, their previous filling couldn't deal with the threat, and that's most likely because as you go about your daily activity, like talking, eating, working, your level of being filled reduces because these activities make you more aware of the flesh than of the spirit.

There are two ways to pray in the spirit; you're either praying based on scriptures or praying in tongues. Both praying practices will get you filled. That's why it's highly recommended that believers pray in tongues more often.

Many believers don't know how to pray based on scriptures; they pray emotionally instead of praying scripturally, and that kind of prayer won't get them filled. If you read the prayer the apostles made in Acts Chapter 4, you'd see that it was based on scriptural understanding, and not just emotions. That's why they were filled again.

I don't think there's ever been a time when I prayed a scripture that I didn't feel the anointing. That's because the word itself is spirit. On the other hand, praying in tongues is how we communicate or fellowship with the Holy Spirit. So the more you communicate with Him in tongues, the more He fills you.

2. Maintain an atmosphere of worship

Apostle Paul made this clear when he said:

Ephesians 5:

18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.

19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.

I tried to look up the meaning of those words in the dictionary:

Hymns: a religious song or poem of praise to God or a god.

Psalms: a sacred song or hymn, in particular any of those contained in the biblical Book of Psalms and used in Christian and Jewish worship.

Spiritual songs: songs which are spontaneous and are inspired by the Holy Spirit Himself. I've recorded many spiritual songs that were directly inspired by the Holy Spirit. I'm sure you've had such encounters too. He introduces the song in your heart, and the more you sing it, the more filled you become.

Singing and making melody in your heart: this can be done in environments where you can't worship allowed. For instance, a bus, your office or any corporate environment where it might be an abuse to worship allowed.

If you practice these two tips consistently, there's no way you won't be always filled with the Spirit.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 30

"Pastor, what's the benefit of speaking in tongues?"

So in a previous response I mentioned that speaking in tongues consistently is one of the ways to be filled and refilled with the Spirit. But to answer this question, I'd focus on a benefit that is not often taught.

Jude 1:

20 But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.

Although "Building up yourselves in your most holy faith" and "Praying in the Holy Ghost" are supposed to be two different admonitions, but the Apostle being an experienced person in faith development, knew that it would be difficult to build your faith without praying in the Holy Ghost.

There's only one authorized medium by which faith develops, and that is through the revelation of God's word. Romans 10:17 says, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God". The emphasis on "hearing" tells me that the writer meant to say that faith comes when a person hears the word of God in a meditative state. And meditation simply means traveling into the mind of the Spirit of God to know the

actual interpretation and application of the scripture you read. Which means that getting revelation is impossible without the Holy Spirit.

There's no better way to commune or fellowship with the Holy Spirit without praying in His language. He is a Spirit, don't always expect to get through to Him with English language - especially when your English is not backed up with revelation from scriptures.

Praying in the language of the Holy Ghost simply initiates fellowship with Him. And the longer you pray, the more time of fellowship you have with Him. And the more time of fellowship you have with Him, the greater your access to the deep things of God.

Apostle Paul made this clearer in 1 Corinthians 2:

1 Corinthians 2:

9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

So here we see very deep insight about man's access to spiritual information:

- It's not available on earth; no man has seen, heard or perceived it.

- God has revealed them by His Spirit. Only His Spirit can search out all the deep things of God.

- No man can reveal the things that God has reserved for you except the Spirit of God. So waiting for a prophet or your pastor to give you the full detail of your life is a waste of time. You have to fellowship with the Searcher to search it out yourself. And this is why many Christians are limited in life. You'd remain a limited edition of yourself until you begin to fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

- God gave us His Spirit so we can know the things that are freely given to us. Which means there's no way you can know the things that are freely given to you without fellowship with the Holy Spirit.

Apostle Paul emphasizes on the fact that speaking in tongues should be for personal building in 1 Corinthians 14. He even went as far as admonition believers not to speak in

tongues when communicating to a congregation except there is an interpreter. Let's read how he put it:

1 Corinthians 14:

18 I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:

27 If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.

28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

Wow! No wonder he was able to write those revelations in the New Testament, he spoke in tongues more than the others. Speaking in tongues is primarily for fellowship between the believer and The Holy Spirit, and the purpose of that fellowship is to build the believer up.

Sometimes when I begin to speak in tongues, it's almost like God opens an album and begins to show me things. It starts very blurry, but gets clearer as I press in prayer. Some other times He just drops a revelation as I pray. And it's not just me, there are many others out there who can testify to this experience. Honestly, we travel deep into God as we pray in tongues with understanding. And the more we travel, the stronger we become.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 31

"Pastor, I want to travel abroad in search of greener pastures"

If that's the reason why you want to travel, then don't. Green pastures is not country dependent, it's God dependent.

Psalm 23:1-3 says, "The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures...". If you can't access green pastures here, chances are that you'd struggle to survive when you get there.

It's okay if you want to travel to further your education, or do other important things. It's okay if you want to travel for holidays, but it's a terrible idea to travel to find green pastures. Green pastures is not found, it's created.

Read your Bible, the condition of any economy never restricted the progress of God's people. We were told that Isaac sowed during famine, and he harvested an hundredfold. He initially wanted to leave the country where the famine was, but God warned him not to. Believe me, if Isaac had left the country, he would have suffered a great loss, and his story would probably end there. I love how the NLT describes Isaac's experience, "Genesis 26:12 - When Isaac planted his crops that year, he harvested a hundred times more grain than he planted, for the LORD blessed

him". Did you see that? He harvested a hundred times more grain than he planted, all in a land where there was dryness.

Who told you that just because we have terrible leaders you can't prosper in Nigeria? God's prosperity plan for the saints is not government dependent; because no matter how hard the government makes the economy, God can still prepare a table before you in the worst economy. Yes, God can make you lie down in green pastures, good governance or not.

It's time to trust God and work with Him. God didn't make a mistake by putting you in your country. They sold Joseph into slavery, and even though he was expected to live his entire life as a slave, God created a green pasture for him. Daniel and his people were held in captivity, yet, God created a green pasture for him.

So it's not about the land, neither is it about the condition, it's about your relationship with God. Those who do know their God shall be strong and do exploits.

It's true that every man has a land where God has destined his prosperity. But all through scriptures, we'd find out that everyone who relocated only did based on God's direction. Which means if God is not leading you to leave, stay where you are.

Many who have gone like that are often left with no choice but to engage in hard labour to succeed. If they engaged that

level of hard labour in the country they left, I'm convinced that they'd do even better. Why would anybody leave their job as an accountant just to become a toilet cleaner? What's the use of a comfortable life that takes away your dignity?

Someone recently told me that the government has closed every door of opportunity in this country. My response was, "They can only close the ones they can see; I don't depend on what is seen to survive, I depend on what is unseen". We don't walk by sight, we walk by faith.

Personally, I've never had a desire to leave my country, even though my country is in a ramshackled state. Someone recently offered me an all expense paid trip to Texas, and when I noticed that his body language was looking like he's doing me a huge favour, I canceled the trip.

God didn't make a mistake when He put me in Nigeria. I know a woman who sent all her children abroad. They are all married with children now. One day while I was having a conversation with the woman, she told me that she wished that her children are here in Nigeria, and that it's not like they have anything worthwhile abroad. And then she said, "They won't come because of the economy of Nigeria". I felt bad when I heard that; I sat there wondering, "Do people still have faith in God?".

One of the strategies that God uses to lift His people is that He'd create a problem in the society that only His children

can solve. And I perceive that just as God troubled the king with a dream that lifted Joseph and Daniel, God is about to create a scenario that will finally bring believers to the light. But please, let the Lord be your shepherd. Don't move when God hasn't told you to move.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 32**"Pastor, tell me two most important things I must do to succeed in this life"**

Oh... That's simple!

1. Face your past without fear or regrets
2. Handle your present with courage and confidence

If there is anything that limits a believer more in this life, it's the fear of their past experiences. Sometimes what they fear didn't even happen to them directly, their fear is only because they witnessed it. Some people are sick today because they witnessed close relatives get sick. Some are poor only because their parents didn't win the war against poverty.

Today, I introduce you to a new law, and I'd call it Anslem's law of unlimited progression. This law states that, "Progress cannot be hindered as long as you face your past without fear or regrets, and you handle your present with courage and confidence".

Just because something bad happened to you in the past doesn't give it permission to hinder your progress. There is no man or woman on earth who doesn't have a flawed past experience. Even our president who had terrible track

records was still elected as president. The world only cares about your past as long as you care about it. Your past will only trend until you summon courage to change the narrative. If you doubt me, offend someone today and make sure he's very upset. Then tomorrow, visit the person with a gift that cannot be refused.

Let me tell you what will happen; the person would even apologize to you for even getting offended at you 😊. And even if the person tries to show off, that gesture would soften his or her heart, and it's only a matter of time before he or she forgives you.

There's really no day that we don't hear one scandal or the other about celebrities, but we keep forgetting these scandals because these people understand this law. They keep getting results to cover their tracks.

Sorry, this was supposed to be a Bible study, I just realized I haven't given any Bible reference. So let's get scriptural now 😊.

Most of the scriptures I'd be referencing are self-explanatory, so I'd just paste them here and only explain those that require explanation.

Revelation 21:

4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying,

neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

To wipe away means to make something disappear as though it was never there. That's what God said He will do; He will wipe away all tears from your eyes, but the condition is that you have to let the former things pass away. Just because somebody died doesn't mean you have to. Just because someone lived in sorrow doesn't mean you will. Just because others lived in pain doesn't mean you'd also experience pain. Don't predetermine God's judgement by your past experiences, but by His word.

Isaiah 43:18 says this better, "Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old". Yes, if they'd make you fearful and full of regrets, then don't remember them, neither should you consider them. Everytime something comes to pass, a new thing is initiated. That's what Isaiah 42:9 tells us. "Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them". So instead of brooding on what has happened, forge ahead to uncovering the new thing that God has created.

Moses was cast away in Egypt, he knew that his appearance in Egypt would be his death. Yet, he didn't allow the past to determine the outcome of what God was about to do. Despite the death warrant in Egypt, he was confident and courageous enough to insist that Pharaoh should let the

children of Israel go. Many people have not travelled to their village since the death of a loved one. Where is your confidence in God? Why would you let fear rob you of your heritage?

It's okay to be in distress over a situation, but don't let it lead to fear or regret. Rather, encourage yourself in the Lord. This was exactly what David did. Let's read from scriptures:

1 Samuel 30:

6 And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

7 And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David.

8 And David inquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.

We all know that story. Bandits came to the camp to rob David's people of their belongings, and they blamed David for not appointing guards over their properties. It was so serious that they wanted to stone him. He was their leader, he could have easily withdrawn from leadership because of his mistake. But no, not David, he encouraged himself in the Lord. We know the rest of the story.

Time will fail me to talk of Joshua, who was courageous enough to disarm kings. Daniel, who summoned courage to pass the night with hungry lions. Shedrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, who were not afraid of the fiery furnace. Joseph, who didn't let the betrayal of his family derail his dreams to be a ruler. Hosea, who remarried his harlot wife. Gideon, who was the least of the least. Jabez, who's name meant sorrow. Abraham, who had nothing to write home about at age 70. Our Saviour Jesus, who was born in a manger 😊😊.

I guarantee you, if you abide by this law, your prosperity in life will know no end.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 33

"Pastor, what's the one thing I can do to have good reports in every area of my life"

Oh, every Christian is actually expected to know the answer to that. But sure, I'd tell you.

Romans 8:

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

So clearly, this principle was something they all knew, that's why the Apostle said "for we know". But it's okay if you didn't know this, that's about to change.

For a very long time Believers have misquoted this scripture to mean that all things work together for good for all Christians. And each time something bad happened to them, they still quote it religiously. They keep expecting everything to turnaround for their good at the end, yet their situation continues to escalate. If all things are working together for your good, it means even when bad things happen, you'd still find something that favours you in it. So when a situation is

completely in your disfavour, that scripture didn't work in your life.

Anytime you quote a scripture out of context, you'd become the subject. So where you should get a performance of the word, you'd experience ridicule, because you never really applied the word in the first place.

So that scripture clearly tells us that there is a category of people that all things work together for their good, it's not for all Christians, but for those that love God and serve His purposes.

So the real question is, "Do you love God?". Because frankly, many Christians don't love God; they love the idea that God loves them unconditionally, but just because your parents love you unconditionally doesn't mean they'd let you run their company without proving your commitment to them and to their business.

That's what love is, commitment to another person and his or her interests. If you have two children among whom the youngest shows interest and commitment to your business, who would you hand over the business to? I'm sure you won't hand over the business to the eldest for love sake, rather, you'd hand it over to the one who has been committed to it. So it's not just the love of God towards you that guarantees that all things will work together for your good, it's your love towards Him.

For instance, if you love God, you will take care of His kingdom on the earth. Imagine if you were in Peter's shoes when Jesus asked him if he loved Him 3 consecutive times, I'm sure you'd probably answer like Peter did. Certainly, it was easy to love The Miracle Worker, the man who gave you a net breaking testimony. But unfortunately, Jesus was more concerned about his commitment to Him than anything else. So He says, "Feed my sheep".

So yes, do you love God? If yes, do you serve His purposes? Are you committed to God's heart cry? The same thing Jesus told Peter to do is still the crux of His purposes on earth today, feed His sheep!

God does not want anyone to perish, but that all should come to repentance. But if you don't commit yourself to His purpose, chances are that those around you will not taste repentance. I've discovered that it's not hard for God to promote anyone who understands this purpose. If you've succeeded in reaching out to everyone in that your small office, God won't hesitate to take you to a bigger organization where you can reach out to more people. God is more interested in reaching out to souls than giving you a job. And if there are souls that needs to be reached in a blue chip company, He'd give you a job there without any human connection. So instead of selfishly praying to God to change your job, start praying to God to save the souls in your

current job, and then take a step further to reach out to them with the good news.

My experience has thought me that you don't even need a change of job, even if your monthly salary is a hundred dollars, God will make all things work together for your good - even with your small salary. Which one do you prefer, a huge salary or a life where everything is working for your good?

Everybody calls me pastor in my office, I'm not even sure they know my real name. And that's because I put God's purpose first in the organization. Surprisingly, my boss also calls me a pastor. And believe me, this has ended struggles in my life. I almost resigned some times back because I believed I could stand on my own, but the moment I understood this principle, I changed my mind. I'm not in a hurry to leave the place, once God is satisfied with what's going on there, then He'd decide what to do next. Life can be so good with this kind of mindset, a mindset where God's purposes reigns supreme in your life.

Let me conclude with this; God's unconditional love towards us is only available when He acts as a father. But the truth is, there's a limit to what God can do for you as a Father, He'd need to switch to His other offices which would often require your commitment to benefit from them. Isaiah 33:22 tells us clearly, "For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver, the LORD is our king; he will save us". None of these offices favours an uncommitted "child of God", none!

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 34

"Pastor, my parents always try to discourage me from sacrificing time and energy in pursuing my dreams. They think I'm stressing myself too much. What do I do?"

Well, that's expected. But here's something you should know; when pursuing purpose, you might need to be less emotional about matters that are raised by close relatives, especially your parents, and that's because they can talk you out of fulfilling your purpose.

Pursuing your dreams would sometimes require a high level of investment of time and energy. It can take sleep away from your eyes, you may lose your breathe a few times, you may get confused over decisions you thought was right. And while a neutral person would encourage you to keep pushing, rarely would you find a close relative give such a counsel, except a very spiritual one.

They may tell you to slow down when what you really need to hear is try harder. They may tell you to give up when the right thing should be to keep pushing. They may even volunteer to pay your bills when the right thing to do is to decline on any

form of favour towards you just so you don't get too comfortable.

Jesus understood this principle from age 12. He didn't bother telling his parents that he'd stay back in Jerusalem to do the work of God. If he had told them, a vital detail about His childhood ministry would have been lost. It's amazing how some parents have derailed their children's destiny in the name of love and affection. They love their children too much that they can't stand them suffering. If only they knew that suffering is part of what makes a glorious destiny.

Jesus didn't consider Mary and Joseph's feeling when he gave His life. Imagine if he had sought their opinion. The angel that informed Mary about the birth of Jesus didn't say a thing about His death. So Mary had a right to be emotional about Jesus's sacrifice. She knew he was destined to be a Saviour, she proved this in the wedding at Cana, but what she probably didn't know was that becoming the Saviour of the world would require that you sacrifice your life. If she had known, she would have attempted to discourage him.

If Abraham had told Sarah that God asked him to sacrifice Isaac, it's either Sarah poisons Abraham that night or she flees with Isaac to another land. Come to think of it, Sarah previously had a record of unbelieve. A person who doubted that she would give birth at age 90 isn't someone you tell that the same child that she birthed at age 90 is required by God for a sacrifice.

Joseph's parents tried to discourage him. The hatred his brothers had towards him was enough to sabotage his purpose. Matters even became worse when he shared his dream with them. The bible says they hated him the more because of his dream. When he shared the dream with his parents, their response will amaze you. Let's read from scriptures:

Genesis 37:

10 And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?

Just look at that. That should have been a moment of encouragement and support, but instead, it was a moment of rebuke. Although we were told in the next chapter that his father began to observe Joseph concerning the vision. Genesis 37:11 "And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying". This was supposed to be the first response of the father. He should have given it a thought before releasing his counsel. But no, when it comes to close relatives, emotions speak faster than thoughts.

Having said that, except your parents or relatives are very spiritual, please keep the stressful details about your purpose and dreams away from them. You can tell them the sweet

part, just so they have no cause to worry. Because the moment you give them a reason to worry, they might bombard you with cares heavy enough to sabotage your dreams.

The good path is, God has a way of making your relatives a beneficiary of whatever good your purpose produces. Many of us don't even know that Mary was one of the first set of people that received the Holy Ghost. Acts 1:17 tells us that Mary was also there in the upper room with other brethren praying. Joseph's parents and brothers enjoyed special treatment in Egypt during the famine. And that enjoyment continued for the children of Israel until a Pharaoh that didn't know Joseph arose.

As I conclude, oftentimes your parents or relatives may not see what you're seeing, that's why you must be careful not to let their emotional concerns get to your heart. Feelings are not proofs of truth. Just because they feel bad for you doesn't mean their feeling is right. If you fulfill that dream, your family shall reap the harvest also. So, focus on the dream.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 35

"Pastor, I've been very sick, and I've done everything I know, but I'm still getting weaker by the day. What else can I do?"

Sorry about your health, but I'm sure there are loads of other things you've not done. Let me share one of them with you:

Psalm 84:

7 They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God.

I know you've probably met with your pastor to pray for you. You most likely would have declared countless healing scriptures in faith. I also have no doubt that you've subjected yourself to medication. But have you prayed?

And I don't mean praying about your health, but praying the scriptures into your body - which literally means the reconstruction of your health by the word in prayer. Prayer is a medium of fellowship between God and man, and each time you appear before God in prayer, our anchor scripture tells us that you advance in strenght.

Let's do a quick practical:

"I am fearfully and wonderfully made. My health is perfectly sound through my faith in the name of Jesus. By the stripes of Jesus, I have been healed. My mind cannot be tormented by sickness or diseases, I have the mind of Christ. Jesus took my infirmities and diseases and nailed them to the cross. I shall not die but live to declare the goodness of God. I arise and shine for my light has come. My God will never leave me nor forsake me, He will be with me, He is my Helper. My God is a shield for me, my glory and the lifter of my head. A thousand shall fall by my side and ten thousand by my right, but none shall come near me. Though I live in this world, but I am not of this world. I shall be above only, and not beneath. I'm seated far above principalities and powers, above any sickness or disease. The lines are falling unto me in pleasant places, I have a goodly heritage. The Lord will keep me, He will water me every moment, and lest any sickness or disease tries to hurt me, He will keep me day and night. I will not fear or be discouraged. This shall turn to me for a testimony!".

How did that feel? Strengthening, right? Yeah, keep doing that night and day. Add as many more scriptures as it applies to you, spend as much time praying as the Spirit enables you. The more time you spend in prayer, the more strengthened you become. It's only a matter of time before your healing is perfected.

Remember that God's word is both spirit and life. As you continue to receive it into your life, it would alter anything that doesn't reflect it within you. If you can take medication for 10 days unbroken, then you should be able to practice this for 10 days unbroken. I'm certain that even before the 10th day, you would have received your testimony.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 36

"Pastor, it's a normal thing to inflate receipt when you buy something for a company you work for, everybody is doing it and nothing has happened to them."

Hmm... The flood that destroyed the earth in Noah's time began with a normal rain, and then to a 7 days' rain, and then to many more days.

The thing that destroy most men starts like a normal thing. A normal headache, a normal financial challenge, a normal argument with your spouse. The bible didn't fail to tell us that "there is a way that seems right unto a man, but the end is destruction". Which means it would seem right or normal until you hit the self-destruct button.

Just because the world calls it a normal thing doesn't mean you should follow them. The scripture should remain your standard; if it's not right in scriptures then it can't be normal in the world. Anything that is normal in the world that isn't right in scriptures is antichrist.

Some worldly people have even found a way to support their carnal ideas with scriptures. One actor recently married a second wife and claimed that it wasn't a sin to have more than one wife. He further proved this by referencing

Abraham, Solomon, David and the likes. They know the truth, but they would rather go the mile to cover their shame. Marrying more than one wife may not be a sin, but it's clearly not God's standard for marriage. Genesis 2:24 tells us that a man must leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife, not wives. It didn't even end there, it continues by saying both of them will become one flesh.

So if the man that has been joined to a woman marries another woman, he only married with half of himself, and that's why there's always trouble in a polygamous home. How can a man who hasn't lived his best with his full mind do any better with half of his mind? Each wife would have access to only half of his mind, half of his heart, half of his brain, and ultimately half of his life, because he's not expected to live to a good old age after that. A double-minded person is unstable in all his ways.

It is true that women are weaker vessels, but just because they are weaker doesn't mean a man is strong enough to marry two of them. No man can handle two women at the same time. The bible specifically used the word "weaker" to show that the man is also weak, it's just that the woman is weaker. It's like saying both of you need help, it's just that the woman would need more attention. A sensible man should know that such scriptures indicate great responsibility to the woman, not a show of strength for his manhood.

Even Islam that permits marrying two wives added a clause, "You must treat both wives with equality". And we both know that equal treatment isn't possible with your own children, let alone, wives. Most of them who practice this chose to ignore the clause, and that's why they never really know peace.

Noah's experience has taught us that shelter and safety are two different things. Even with the warning, some people still thought it was a normal rain, they went back to their houses for shelter instead of running to the ark for safety. They were confident in their shelter, Noah and those who believed ran into safety.

I know it's oftentimes more comfortable to do the normal thing compared to doing what the truth says, but always be willing to leave your comfort zone if you must be victorious in this world. Always choose to glorify the name of the Lord in your actions; His name is a strong tower, that's where we run for safety.

Wealth gotten through vanity shall diminish, and that includes the wealth you gather by cheating your employer. Just because they didn't tell you the sudden expenses that continues to arise in their life doesn't mean nothing is happening to them. If nothing is happening to them, then God's word would be a lie. If you cheat your company by inflating receipts, you won't use the money to do anything worthwhile. Even if you build a house with the gains, the

house will be cursed because the curse of the Lord is in the house of a thief.

Let's live for the truth. It's the surest way to succeed in this end time.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 37

"Pastor, my marriage is not working. I and my husband have not done anything meaningful since we married"

Well, you're probably expecting me to say that a uncle in your village is responsible for this, but no, the only thing responsible for this kind of situation is lack of agreement.

Haven't you read the scriptures? "Can two work together except they agree? Just because you were joined in marriage doesn't mean you agree in everything. The little argument about faith, the little dispute about how your husband doesnt seem to care about the needy, the non-challance by which you treat visitors that come to your home - which your husband has complained severally about, the little malice and unforgiveness after an argument.

One of the things you do during courtship is to create a system by which you'd run your marriage. And the reason why a system is important is because two people from two different lives are going to live together, and there's a hundred percent chance that they'd have disagreements. That's why you have to create systems, even to the point of

handling infidelity in marriage. That's right, you need to agree on how to handle infidelity in marriage.

Love isn't just about that emotion you feel from your stomach, it's also about sacrifice and commitment to one another, but how can you be committed to one another if there is no agreement between both of you? One of the greatest shocks of couples who go into marriage based on their emotions is that they soon realize that there's a lot in marriage that could sabotage that emotion in the first year of marriage. Many people are divorced today only because they don't feel anything again□.

The experience at the Tower of Babel has a lot to teach us. Let's read from scriptures:

Genesis 11:

1 And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.

2 And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there.

3 And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar.

4 And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.

5 And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded.

6 And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.

7 Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech.

8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city.

So from verses 1 to 4, they were all saying the same thing because they had an agreement. This reminds me of what happened during creation, everything God said, God saw. While God was yet thinking, the Holy Spirit would have moved, and the moment God speaks The Word, the Holy Spirit will create it. That's agreement in action, no argument, everybody understood the need to do what was being done and were actively engaging.

If you've ever managed a project, then you must have experienced the difficulty in managing people. Some of them will arrive late on site, and just because they arrived late doesn't guarantee that they'd humble themselves all through that day. You'd still need to shout or plead with them to do what has primarily been assigned to them. That's disagreement in action, the laborer may not always share the vision of the supervisor, and the supervisor may not always

share the vision of the builder. Some builders don't even share the vision of the property owner.

Show me a prosperous family, and I'd show you a family that are in agreement in all things. From verses 6 to 8, when God had seen what they've built, He confirmed that nothing could be withheld from them as long as they were in agreement. Nothing would have stopped them from seeing heaven as long as they were in agreement to do so. And all God had to do to remedy that situation was to give them different languages.

Does this mean that God doesn't want us to see the kingdom of heaven? No, the kingdom of heaven is the exclusive reserve of the redeemed. That's the limitation that anyone who isn't born again would continue to suffer. Those guys didn't reverence God.

Now Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 will make more sense to you. Two are better than one as long as they walk in agreement, they'd do a lot of great things together. But the only challenge is that they can be broken, just like they were broken at the Tower of Babel. They always have to deal with rising and falling again. But a threefold cord cannot be easily broken.

Marriage was designed to be held by a threefold cord. Man, woman, and God. Even if you're in agreement with your spouse, your marriage will still be limited without God in the equation. If the people that were trying to build the Tower of

Babel were in agreement with God, perhaps the story would be different today. Come to think of it, man initially lived with God in the garden of Eden, so I don't think God would have restrained them from building that Tower.

As I conclude, agreement between you and your spouse would help you achieve alot in life. Then when you add God to the equation, you'd enjoy limitless possibilities.

If you understand this, then the unnecessary arguments in your home would go on a long vacation. In all situations, find a place to agree so you can move on. If you argue and avoid each other for one month, that's one month of creative time wasted. You may feel bad when certain things happen, that's okay, feel bad for an hour or two, or even through the night, but wake up in the morning and agree on something. Don't prolong or escalate situations like someone who's marriage has no direction. If you're looking for a treasure, you won't discontinue the search just because your husband didn't assist you in washing the dishes, would you? Actually, that's what many people do.

Let's walk in agreement. A Christian marriage was designed to showcase the creative ability of God.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 38

"Pastor, I know I'm born again, but I doubt if God will ever deliver me from the recent trouble I got myself into. What do I do?"

You see, God loves people that has your kind of heart, a heart that still considers God despite the prevailing presence of sin. The fact that you still hope for God's intervention despite your fall is the very reason why God will deliver you.

Some people may not like what I'm about to share with you, but as long as it would bring deliverance to someone, then let God's will be done.

I've discovered that when it comes to God's elect, He doesn't really judge us based on our sins, He judges us based on our motives. It was Prophet Samuel that identified God as a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. Which means He puts your sins on a scale and checks the intent or content. Just like you can have a big object that has little or no weight, you can sin before God and He still doesn't consider it consequential.

For instance, lying is a sin. But we saw Abraham lie about Sarah being his sister when they got to Egypt. Although their

genealogy proves that Sarah is really Abraham's sister, but she ceased from being his sister the moment he took her as a wife. So he lied! Let's see how the scriptures put it:

Genesis 12:

11 And it came to pass, when he was come near to enter into Egypt, that he said unto Sarai his wife, Behold now, I know that thou art a fair woman to look upon:

12 Therefore it shall come to pass, when the Egyptians shall see thee, that they shall say, This is his wife: and they will kill me, but they will save thee alive.

13 Say, I pray thee, thou art my sister: that it may be well with me for thy sake; and my soul shall live because of thee.

14 And it came to pass, that, when Abram was come into Egypt, the Egyptians beheld the woman that she was very fair.

15 The princes also of Pharaoh saw her, and commended her before Pharaoh: and the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house.

16 And he entreated Abram well for her sake: and he had sheep, and oxen, and he asses, and menservants, and maidservants, and she asses, and camels.

17 And the LORD plagued Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai Abram's wife.

There are quite a number of reasons why Abraham lied, but the most obvious of all is that he had not really known God that much, he just began his journey with God. If he had known that God could defend him, he wouldn't have lied.

Second was the reason he gave Sarah, he didn't want her to become a widow at that early stage of their union.

For me, if I were in God's position, I'd probably be upset that Abraham didn't trust me enough to protect his union with Sarah, but on a second thought, I'd understand because me and Abraham just started a relationship. He hasn't really known me. And that means the first reason made the second reason weightless.

People have said that Abraham sinned and God still defended him, but what they didn't know was how God handled the issue of Abraham's sin.

David's experience with God will help you understand this subject better. As at the time he slept with Uriah's wife and got her pregnant, he already knew the ways of God. So there was no excuse for him. He even went further to marry her after killing Uriah. As we all know, his actions didn't go unpunished.

This automatically clears the air about small sin and big sin, there's no such thing as that. There's only motives and intents.

The wages of sin is death, but if you're still alive, then you have an opportunity to repent. But as we'd observe from David's experience, just because you repented and received forgiveness doesn't mean you'd go unpunished for what you

did. God made the woman lose the pregnancy, and even though David fasted for days about saving the child, losing the child was his punishment.

Forgiveness may cancel eternal damnation, but not necessarily the punishment for sin on earth. But if you're truly repentant, you'd scale through the punishment as David did, and your relationship with God will continue.

Let me conclude in Bishop Oyedepo's word; there's no sin that God cannot forgive, but there's no sin that God will forgive without repentance.

I hope this message is balanced enough to know that this isn't a means to support the popular grace message or to promote licentiousness, but to unveil how God handles the issue of sin.

Stay away from sin at all cost, especially if you've tasted the goodness of God. Sin corrupts every thing good in your life.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 39

"Pastor, I got a lady pregnant and now her parent says I must marry her. I don't love her, so what do I do?"

Wow! That's a sad news, but perhaps this would give you a soft landing.

First, you probably already know that God isn't happy about the situation, but He'd like you to take responsibility and not just push it away.

I've taught you about the parable of the sower and the enemy that sowed tares while men slept. You slept when you let down your Christian principles by sleeping with a lady you're not married to, and that sleepy state gave the devil an opportunity to sow pregnancy.

When the servants asked the master if they should uproot the tares, he told them to allow the tares and the wheat grow together until the time of harvest when he'd instruct his angels to separate the wheat from the tares. Let's see how the scripture puts it:

Matthew 13:

29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

So you see, you can't force your separation from that situation, because forcing it can further escalate it. So the wisdom is to grow with it until Jesus does the separation. Yes, the separation can only be divine.

Secondly, if there's anything I've learnt about developing attraction for a woman, it's that you can suddenly fall in love with a lady you hated if three things change; her outward appearance, her character, and her mindset. The good thing is, these 3 areas can be developed over a period of time.

So now you don't love the current version of her, but do you think you'd be able to love her in her transformed state? If yes, then invest in her transformation. Every woman is beautiful, it's just a matter of investing in transformation.

Most men are attracted to what they see and not necessarily what's within. And that's why many of them begin to maltreat their wife after childbirth. The body that attracted them is no longer there and they probably can't stand living with a woman who has lost shape.

Thirdly, attempting to marry someone else would put a stigma on both of you. You'd always be the man who has a child with another woman who you were never married to, and she'd always be the woman who had a child out of wedlock. Such stigmas are not good for raising children.

For the man, it would be easy to get married, even though the idea that you already had a child may pose a threat to the marriage. For the woman, we all know that women with such stigmas rarely find a husband, except those who lied about it.

After all that's been said, you'd discover that you can't base your decision on your emotions alone, but on willingness to take responsibility.

Come to think of it, the fact that she's pregnant means that she's fruitful and you're going to be a father. What's the probability that the woman you plan to marry can give you a child? I don't mean to judge, but we've seen several cases like that.

As I conclude, please note that I'm not compelling you in any way to marry her because she's pregnant for you. Rather, I'm saying you should weigh your options by what I've shared and choose that which has a better future. Yes, a better future!

If you do marry her, ensure you don't treat her badly. Because if you do, you'd always have to struggle with life.

Love her and treat her right. Remember that although this may not be how God planned it, but He'd support you if you take responsibility for your actions. His support would only come when you walk in love. No love, no support!

Please don't let the devil paint any picture of condemnation in your head. God loves you unconditionally, so you don't have to live a frustrated life just because of this. Your life can still be beautiful; you can still fulfill purpose. Just try to keep your head straight and focused on God. Both of you should discuss your future and prayerfully pursue it. I look forward to hearing your testimony!

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 40

“Pastor, I’m a committed giver, but I can’t really say I get blessings from God. Could there be a problem?”

Discontentment! That’s usually the problem. A lot of Christians are great givers, but they are also great beggars. They make another man responsible for their giving. They’d stylishly ask you to aid them because they just paid someone’s school fees, or that they just gave their last cash to the poor.

Don’t get me wrong, it’s not a bad thing to ask for financial assistance because you ran out of funds due to your generosity; no, it’s not a bad thing. But the only challenge is, you’d be rewarding yourself by doing that instead of allowing God to reward you.

Any giving you do that is accompanied by discontentment does not attract rewards from God.

Let me show you a few scriptures:

1 Timothy 6:

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

I think this one is lucid enough. While it's a godly thing to give, there'd be no gain if you don't practice contentment.

Hebrews 13:

5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

"I would have been able to afford lunch if not that I just gave out my last cash" 🤔. I'm sure you've heard people talk in that manner. The motive is usually to attract sympathy or favour from the person they are having the conversation with. That's covetousness, or discontentment.

After you've given, you have to be contented with whatever you have left, even if it's garri you can afford to drink. If you don't have transport fare after you've aided someone, you still have your legs, be prepared to trek back home. I know it sounds mean, but that's the only way to activate God's supply.

The concluding part of that scripture says, "... for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee". That's right, if you maintain contentment despite your generosity, God will prove Himself in your life. He will never leave you, nor forsake you. Just while you were thinking you'd trek home, he'd suddenly grant you access to favour.

I remember my experience a few years ago when I increased my Sunday worship offering to 200 Naira. At that time, that was big money for me. I actually had to save the money in bits all through that week just so it would be complete. Coincidentally, the only money I had that Sunday was the offering. I had a free ride to church, presented my offering during the service and didn't care how I was going to travel back to Lagos from Canaanland. Just immediately after the service I gave that offering, someone approached me and gave me 2000 Naira just like that. I doubt if I'd ever forget that experience.

After Abraham rescued Lot and the king of Sodom, we were told that the king went to compensate Abraham for his kindness, and while you'd think that Abraham would easily accept it, his response to the king still amazes me till today. Let's read the conversation from scriptures:

Genesis 14:

22 And Abram said to the king of Sodom, I have lift up mine hand unto the LORD, the most high God, the possessor of heaven and earth.

23 That I will not take from a thread even to a shoelatchet, and that I will not take any thing that is thine, lest thou shouldest say, I have made Abram rich.

24 Save only that which the young men have eaten, and the portion of the men which went with me, Aner, Eshcol, and Mamre; let them take their portion.

Just look at that. Personally, I don't like to attach the name of any man to the glory of God. I once told God that I didn't want any help from man that will take the glory from Him. Abraham didn't collect rewards from man because he didn't want any man to share the glory that belongs to God. He was confident that God would reward His generosity. This takes me to the last scripture:

Proverbs 19:

17 He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Abraham's experience taught me that the poor doesn't necessarily mean someone that doesn't have money, it can also mean someone who's incapable of affording my service. They may have money, but they may not be able to pay what God will pay. So I'd rather choose to have pity on them than having being paid by them.

The moment I understood this principle of contentment, I stylishly stayed away from everyone who aided me when I had financial needs. I can tell you this because I was once a victim. Of course I still had financial needs after I stayed away, but I was contented with what I had. There were days when my jollof rice was a mixture of indomie seasoning and rice. That's right, no tomatoes, no onions, no pepper, no protein, nothing else. I had options, but I chose to practice contentment. And believe me, that jollof rice was sweet 🍌.

In the words of Bishop David Oyedepo, can you make one eye look up and the other look down? I guess that's impossible. So anytime you're looking up to man for help, never claim you're looking up to God, "For they looked unto Him and were enlightened and their faces were not ashamed".

One of the things that God does to prosper givers is that He blesses the works of their hand. So the next time you give, instead of looking for who to help you in return, go and submit a proposal, or search your mind for an idea that God will inspire.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 41

"Pastor, my business struggled to make sales last week. What do I do differently this week?"

This reminds me of Peter's experience with Jesus. Let's read from scriptures:

Luke 5:

1 And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret

2 And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets.

3 And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.

5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.

6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

There are two action points that are worthy of note from this experience. First, Peter let his business instrument to be

used to advance the kingdom. Secondly, he acted on Jesus's command to let down his nets for a draught despite the fact that they had tried all night.

Many people have dwelt on the second action point without ever considering the first, and that's why it has never really worked for them.

What portion of your business serves the purpose of God in this end time? If you're a fisherman like Peter, can Jesus use your boat early in the morning to preach to people? Unfortunately, many christians are not even aware that Jesus wants to feature in our businesses too. As much as He wants to save the souls in your family and your streets, He also wants to save the ones that are connected to your business.

Think about it, multitudes surrounded the water only because Jesus was there, and they remained there for as long as He ministered to them.

When Jesus finished preaching, those who gathered would definitely want to patronize the man who's both Jesus stood on to preach. If I were a lawyer, and you see me with Jesus, won't you patronize me? That was exactly what was about to happen to Peter. But unfortunately, he didn't have fish.

But since he was now in partnership with Jesus, the law of fishing was defiled and a great multitude of fishes was caught. Now there'd be more than enough fish to buy. Most

preachers who preached about this experience rarely mention the fact that Peter's fishing company made a lot of money after that encounter, they only mention the fact that Peter followed Jesus.

Do you want the laws of times and season to be defiled in your business this week? Then serve God with your business like Peter did. I understand that some businesses only make good sales in a particular season, just like fishermen could only catch fish in the cool of the day, but we've seen that Jesus can break that protocol on your behalf.

A woman shared her testimony on how she opened a beauty shop inside a hidden compound. In that shop, she had times scheduled when she and her colleagues would pray for unsaved souls, and this happened about 3 times daily. Of course neighbors wondered if it was still a beauty shop or a church fellowship. If I remember correctly, she'd lock the shop and go out for evangelism alongside her colleagues, and they'd bring back the souls they won to their shop for fellowship.

That sounds extreme, right? Yes, but God was also extreme in blessing her. In a matter of months, she had an international recognition for her beauty products, and now had branches everywhere. This happened in months, not years.

Today, there are many ways we can promote the gospel. If your business structure or type won't permit that level of physical engagement, you can use money to support the advancement of the kingdom.

As I conclude, it's okay to declare the scriptures over your business, I recommend it. But ensure you also advance the kingdom. And I don't mean that your declarations of faith won't work without advancing the kingdom, no! But I've discovered that your declarations of faith are stronger when you take responsibility for the kingdom. And the more convicting your declarations is, the greater the manifestation.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 42

"Pastor, my job isn't paying very much, how do I pay my rent next year?"

Why do you think your rent has to come from your job? That kind of thinking may be good, but not necessarily God's way of meeting our needs. This was the same way Sarah thought that surprised the angel. Let's read from scriptures:

Genesis 18:

9 And they said unto him, Where is Sarah thy wife? And he said, Behold, in the tent.

10 And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard it in the tent door, which was behind him.

11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old and well stricken in age; and it ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.

12 Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, After I am waxed old shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?

13 And the LORD said unto Abraham, Wherefore did Sarah laugh, saying, Shall I of a surety bear a child, which am old?

14 Is any thing too hard for the LORD? At the time appointed I will return unto thee, according to the time of life, and Sarah shall have a son.

As much as God wants us to work, He doesn't want us to depend on our salary. He wants us to work so that He can have something to bless. The bible says, "He shall bless the works of our hand". And we all know that it's the blessing of the Lord that makes rich and doesn't add sorrow to it.

There was a time when people used to be excited when pay day is near, and that's because whatever they received as salary was useful in the economy. But today, people are depressed even when they receive their salary alert. The thought that what they earn doesn't hold value in this current economy makes their situation hopeless. Many of them spend their salary in one day. Just imagine spending in one day what you worked one month to get. That's not fair, and that's certainly not God's plan.

God has seen all of these, and that's why He recommended work as a medium to receive His blessing, and not necessarily to receive salary. It's the blessings of the Lord that will make you rich and add no sorrow to it.

When God began to train me on this principle, he sent me to work with companies where I didn't earn a pay for 3 months. And when they eventually pay, you'd be paid for one month and wait for a long time to receive the next salary. So the salaries we received was usually that of months before. At some point, we lost count. My boss offended me one day and I resigned without informing God. I sat at home for about

3 months before God finally started moving concerning giving me another job. To my amazement, he sent me to a church and told me to work as a volunteer staff. At least the first place was a standard company where I was put on salary, except that the pay wasn't regular. But the second place was well spelt out by God, no assumptions. It's now I understand what God did, He was training me to depend on His blessings and not my salary.

It was after about 4 months as a volunteer staff in the church that God gave me a real job. Apparently, I didn't complete my training in the previous place, so God had to find a way for me to complete it. Many people would call it suffering, but I knew it was training because I didn't only leverage on what the scripture says, I also heard from God.

Few years in the job, I told God that I didn't want to use my salary again and that I'd put some people on a payroll with my salary. So as soon as my salary comes, I'd send to those people.

So while others are waiting for pay day, I'm prospering by the blessing. My colleagues have wondered what I'm doing, some of them even think that the company must be paying me really good.

Believers should operate in the realm that Phillipians 4:19 prescribes, a realm where God supplies all our needs according to His riches, and not our salary. When it's time to

pay rent, the Lord shall supply a business deal with a profit that will pay your rent without stress. And that's the same way He'd supply it when you want to buy a house, or a car, until you're established. I believe in saving money, but most of the amazing things I've done wasn't from my savings. When it was time to do them, the Lord supplied what was needed.

Now I'm not in any way encouraging indiscipline or living a flamboyant life with your salary. As much as you can, be frugal in your spending and make it a practice to save something from your salary monthly. But restricting your financial plans to your salary alone may frustrate you, you need the riches that God's blessing provides.

I've discovered that your salary is an opportunity to own your own stream of income. But what you do with your salary would go a long way in determining the manifestation of that. Don't just use your salary for personal upkeep, invest it in things that attract blessings. Pay your tithe, give to the poor, support kingdom projects, give to your parents, give to your colleagues, give to elders, just do things that attract blessings. Remember that it's the blessing that makes rich, not the salary.

When you do those things, it won't be long before God establishes a stream of income for you. The amazing thing is, you may not even need to leave your salary job.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 43

"Pastor, God is leading me to start a business that has little or no market value, what if I lose my investment? Moreover, I have a better business idea"

Did you say God is leading you? If yes, then your worry shouldn't be about the safety of your investment, but about what God wants to accomplish in that business through you.

Many of you have read Psalms 23, but I'm not sure you really understood the implication. Let's quickly analyze it.

If the Lord is the one leading you, the following characteristics should be found around you:

- You shall not be in want.
- He'd make you lie down in green pastures, no matter how infertile the land is.
- He'd lead you beside quiet waters, not stormy waters. So expect storms to be calm once you arrive
- He'd restore your soul.
- He'd lead you in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Which means He will not lead you into situations where His name will not be glorified at the end.
- Although you walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you will not have any cause to fear. Everybody who

did that business may not have succeeded, but you will fear no evil, because the difference between you and them is that God is with you. When you need courage to push, His word will comfort you.

- God is not going to prepare a table before you among your friends, but in the presence of your enemies. Which means you'd still be fat and flourishing despite the presence of enemies. He'd anoint your head with oil to the overflow, and that means the power of the Holy Spirit will not only enable you to work, it will also defend you from attacks.

- For sure, goodness and mercy shall follow you all the days of your life.

Bottomline is, if God isn't afraid of your fear, then you're good to go. We were told that Moses ran for his life when he killed an Egyptian army. And even when God mandated him to go to Egypt to free the same people he killed someone for, his initial response was born out of fear. But when God assured him of His presence, he moved.

Don't make the mistake of Lot by making excuses for why you can't follow God's direction. The direction you eventually choose for yourself might destroy you. Let's read a little about what happened to Lot:

Genesis 19:

15 And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters,

which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.

16 And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.

17 And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.

18 And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my Lord:

19 Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die:

20 Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.

21 And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken.

22 Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

Just imagine that, the angel instructed him to escape to a mountain, but because of fear, he suggested to stay in a small city which was also supposed to be destroyed alongside Sodom and Gomorrah. The angels agreed out of

sympathy, but that singular suggestion cost Lot his wife. Later on we heard that evil befell that small city and God drove Lot out of the city for Abraham's sake. Eventually, Lot went to the same mountain the angels initially directed him to go. But delayed obedience is still disobedience. Then we heard that his two daughters slept with him and had children for their father. Such a waste of life and purpose. He should have learnt about the benefit of following divine direction from Abraham.

If God needed your opinion about the business you should do or the place you should go, He would have discussed it with you just as He discussed Sodom and Gomorrah's destruction with Abraham. But don't ever mistake an instruction for a discussion. When God instructs, you move!

Also, don't try to start a discussion with God when He has already instructed you on what to do. If He tells you to go to Nineveh to declare judgment, don't go to Tarshish because you feel you know God. If He tells you to start a shoe polishing business, don't start a shoe making business. Those are two different things. Shoe making may be more dignifying, but shoe polishing is where He wants to showcase His glory from. Abi, which one do you want, dignity or the glory?

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 44

"Pastor, my uncle works in a big company, but he has refused to help me get a job. What do I do?"

No! It's not that he refused to help you, but that you're looking up to the wrong person for help. Let me show you 3 scriptures that will help your understanding:

FIRST SCRIPTURE:

Psalms 146:

3 Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help.

Many Christians have adopted the saying that, "God cannot come down to help man. He will use another man to help man". Even if I choose to agree with that fallacy, it's not our duty to tell God which man he should use.

Another translation of that scripture says, "Don't put your trust in strong men, nor on the son of another man, they really cannot help you". If you understand this scripture, then you won't be bothered about why your uncle hasn't helped you. He may even be occupying a big position in that big

company, but the help of the righteous is not in the hands of any man.

That may work in the world, a uncle can easily help his brother. But in the kingdom, your help comes from God, and that's because God doesn't like to share His glory with any man, not even your uncle.

Now you'd understand why that your friend abroad hasn't sent you an invitation, or why they haven't recommended you for any job.

Drop the entitlement mentality and learn from Mordecai. He was entitled to a reward from the king but he never presented the matter to the king. Instead, he waited on the Lord for his breakthrough.

If there's anything I've discovered about God, it's that if He knows that your trust in Him is absolute, He'd show up and ensure that you don't see shame. There are loads of bible stories that proves this.

SECOND SCRIPTURE:

Jeremiah 17:

5 Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.

Just look at that! This is deliverance for someone already. You have connections with great people all over the world, yet your life is a mess. You've put your trust in them so much that your heart has departed from the Lord. That's why nothing is working for you.

When I lost my job in 2016, I had people I could call to assist me with a job. But no, I stayed with God instead. Although it took 7 months of waiting, but it was worth it. When I finally got a job, it was an uncle that recommended me. To my amazement, I never told him I lost my job, neither did I tell him that I was looking for one.

If you want to be a Christian, then be a Christian. A Christian is not permitted to put his trust in man, it attracts curses.

THIRD SCRIPTURE:

Isaiah 31:

1 Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD!

This is for those who desire to travel abroad because living is more comfortable there. Here the word of the Lord, the only reason why things are hard where you are is because you've not looked unto God, neither have you sought after Him. And

don't tell me you've been praying, you might be praying and yet not reach God.

Let Jeremiah 29:13-14 encourage you; "And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart. And I will be found of you, saith the LORD: and I will turn away your captivity, and I will gather you from all the nations, and from all the places whither I have driven you, saith the LORD; and I will bring you again into the place whence I caused you to be carried away captive".

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 45

"Pastor, I've been praying to God to visit and remember me for years now, but it seems like God has forgotten me"

Hold that thought right there! I'm pretty sure that God visited you and it's certainly impossible for Him to forget you. However, if He hasn't done anything for you, it's probably because your faith wasn't connected to anything He was supposed to do when He visits.

Some Christians are very religious when they pray. You'd hear things like, "Father, visit me in my finances", "Oh Lord, visit me in my health", "Jesus, remember me today". And I can't but wonder what Jesus is supposed to do when He eventually visits their finances.

Some people believe that the presence of God automatically resolves challenges. As much as I'd love that to be true, God never acts without the faith of man. One would think that those soldiers would automatically rise at the valley of dry bones, but no, Prophet Ezekiel still had to declare the word of God to the bones. Blind Barthemaus was face to face with Jesus, yet he didn't receive healing until he said exactly what he wanted Jesus to do for him. When those two blind men

met with Jesus to heal them, the only question He asked them was if they believed He could heal them.

Read your Bible, all those who benefitted from God's visitation did so on the basis of their faith in Him. They held on to a word that was spoken to them by God. So each time they prayed to God to visit them, it was usually because of a promise God made to them.

For instance;

Genesis 21:

1 And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken.

2 For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.

Did you see that? God visited Sarah and did as He said. So my question is, what promise of scripture are you banking on for the visitation you're praying for. Because truly, your tireless prayers may move God to visit you, but if He can't find a word you're holding on to, He won't perform. Let's see how Luke 18:7-8 put it:

Luke 18:

7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

8 I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?

Did you see that? God is ready to avenge or visit you, but will He find faith when He comes?

We see a very weird possibility in scriptures, that although it's impossible for God to forget you as His creature, He knows the plan that He has towards you, and it's a plan to give you a good future. But Isaiah 43:26 says, "Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified".

Have you ever given someone an information and told the person to remind you at a particular time just so you'd remember to do it at that time? That's what that scripture means, God is ready to bless you, but you might have to remind Him when you think it's time for the blessing to arrive. But you can only remind Him of what He has said.

God remembered Hannah the moment His prophet spoke.

1 Samuel 1:

11 And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the

LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

17 Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him.

19 And they rose up in the morning early, and worshipped before the LORD, and returned, and came to their house to Ramah: and Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the LORD remembered her.

The people of Isreal suffered an extra 30 years in Egypt because they were thinking that God will suddenly act after 400 years. But the moment they began to remind God in tireless prayers, God remembered and visited them.

As I conclude, don't be a religious Christian. Add precision to your dealings with God. When you pray, pray according to His will, He will hear you. If you want God to visit your business for instance, then be constructive in your request.

"Father, I bring to your remembrance what you said in Psalm 1:3, that I shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth fruit in seasons; my leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever I do shall prosper. Visit me today by your word, in the name of Jesus".

That's how it is done. Simple, but powerful. Your testimony will be like that of Samuel in 1 Samuel 3:21, "And the LORD appeared again in Shiloh: for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel in Shiloh by the word of the LORD".

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 46

"Pastor, why is it so hard for me to apply the scriptures to my life? I quote it, but it doesn't really work for me"

One of the greatest secrets you'd come to discover about the bible is that it grants you an experiential knowledge of God and also prepares you for your own experience. Let's see how Romans 15 puts it:

Romans 15:

4 For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.

Did you see that? What is written in scriptures isn't just for quoting or declaration, it's primarily for learning. And according to that scripture, learning is only possible through patience and comfort of scriptures - which literally means meditation. You meditate on a scripture till you have hope. It is that hope that naturally gives birth to your declaration.

Many Christians religiously quote and declare what they've not taken time to understand through meditation. Just because you declared Phillipians 4:19 doesn't mean your financial needs will be settled. Do you understand the scenario that introduced that scripture? That scripture was a

prayer by Apostle Paul to those Phillipians because they sacrificed their resources for the gospel. The annoying thing is that even stingy Christians too quote that scripture. How will it work abeg?

Scriptures should prepare you for your own experience. If the Phillipians could experience a supernatural supply of all their needs through giving towards the advancement of the kingdom, then via your meditation, you should discover that giving to advance the kingdom would bring you into the same order of blessing. So rather than just quoting or declaring it, commit yourself to doing what the Phillipians did, then your declaration will carry weight. Don't quote or declare their reward if you've not endured their suffering, it won't work!

There are loads of examples we can learn from. For instance, Abimelek took Abraham's wife and God appeared to Abimelek in a dream with a command to return Abraham's wife. Through meditation, you'd discover that no one should be able to take possession of what belongs to you as long as you're walking in divine plan. No one should be able to cheat you. You can't be defrauded by a business partner. God can appear to them in the dream and command them to return your good even before they touch it.

Christians have experienced all kinds of losses, and I wonder if they didn't know that such possibilities exist in the kingdom. You mean you didn't know that God could have appeared in the dream of those who attempted to dupe you?

I once prayed for a friend who was supposed to appear in court. A day after I prayed for him, God appeared in the dream of the person that filed the law suit and warned him to withdraw the case. That's right! I was able to pray that prayer because I've seen it happen in scriptures. I didn't just read the story, I received the experience to create my own.

Laban was so mean to Jacob that he changed his wage 10 times. But everytime he changed his wage, God caused the cattle to give birth to the wage that Laban chose for Jacob. Let me share the scripture here for better understanding.

Genesis 31:

7 And your father hath deceived me, and changed my wages ten times; but God suffered him not to hurt me.

8 If he said thus, The speckled shall be thy wages; then all the cattle bare speckled: and if he said thus, The ringstraked shall be thy hire; then bare all the cattle ringstraked.

9 Thus God hath taken away the cattle of your father, and given them to me.

Just look at that. Verse 8 happened ten times. There are many Christians whose bosses suddenly developed hatred for them. They keep plotting against them just to bring them down. If God could grant Jacob favour, then He can do the same for you. The government may implement policies to affect your business, but that policy can work in your favour

instead. And even if they changed it ten times, it will still work in your favour.

Today we see how the government creates policies against the church. Yet we were told that it was Joseph that both interpreted the king's dream and saved the world from hunger. Can't God give a terrible dream to our president and leaders that only the church can interpret? This tells me that the church does not need election to lead the country, we just need to walk in power. We can send troublesome dreams to our leaders until they send for us to help them out.

They may think they have a matching power against our God, but didn't Moses' rod swallow the rods of the magicians?

I don't believe I can be involved in an accident or involved in an armed robbery attack without God revealing it to me. Didn't God appear to Joseph in a dream to take baby Jesus out of town until Herod was dead? I don't believe I can take a wrong step, didn't God warn Isaac not to go down to Egypt because of the famine?

I know what my Christian experience should be like because I've seen how God deals with His people from scriptures. So don't just read to quote it, read to experience your own. And you can't experience your own without meditation.

Every story in scripture is relative to our current existence. God is the same yesterday, today and forever. If He acted like that before, He'd act the same way again.

When I quote a scripture, I don't quote it religiously at all, but from a standpoint of understanding. Many people quote what they don't understand. That's why it doesn't work.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 47

"Pastor, in simple terms, tell me who the Holy Spirit is"

Well, the subject of the Holy Spirit isn't simple at all. But after much meditation, I've been able to define His purpose on earth in one simple sentence:

"The Holy Spirit is a person that comes into you to enable you do things that only Jesus could do".

The closest scripture to this definition is in John chapter 14.

John 14:

12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

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

I'm guessing that was self-explanatory. However, one question we mustn't fail to answer is, "What could Jesus do?".

Jesus was at the wedding in Cana and was told that wine had finished. Without a single prayer point, He asked the wedding officials to fill the available pots with water, and as

soon as they were done, he commanded them to serve the water to the guests. To their amazement, the water had turned to wine.

So the next time you appear at a wedding and they tell you that drink has finished? Do the works that Jesus did! I know it sounds impossible, but that's what the scripture says. "The works that He did, you shall do also, and even greater works".

You're in a family of ten children and you guys are about to have dinner, but all that is left is a little portion of garri that won't even feed one person, remember that Jesus fed over five thousand people with 5 loaves of bread and 2 fishes. So, do the work that Jesus did!

Christianity is not a religion at all, but it's unfortunate that we've reduced it to that. The gospel that we preach shouldn't be to entice or console people, its original purpose is to demonstrate the power of the Spirit.

Somebody's brother died in school and was taken to the school's mortuary. He only got to know few days after. The fact that he had been embalmed already should discourage the guy. But no, this guy was full of the Spirit. He commanded them not to bury his brother until he reaches that school. He travelled all the way to the school and then to the mortuary. Lo and behold, without any prayer point, he spoke just two words into the ears of the already embalmed

brother, and he came back to life. A mini crusade happened in that mortuary that day, because those who were around had to receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

I'm guessing you're screaming "hallelujah" right now. That's fine, but hey, wasn't that exactly what Jesus did in Lazarus's tomb? Lazarus had died and was already stinking, but Jesus brought him back to life.

A Christian brother witnessed a car accident that scattered the head of the victim. And while panic arose, he heard the Holy Spirit telling him to raise the person who was not only dead, but his skulls were literally dropping. He obeyed, packed the victim's head together and prayed. To the amazement of the witnesses, the dead came back to life. Another crusade happened there that day.

Acts 1:8 will now make sense to you. It says, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth". That's right! You'd be able to stand as a witness to the Lordship of Jesus once you receive the Holy Ghost. Although you may not have been there when He was crucified, but receiving the Holy Spirit will make you a witness. And if anybody tries to doubt you, do the works that Jesus did. Heal the sick, raise the dead, deliver the captive. Nobody doubts what they can see.

Your family members may have doubted your new faith till now, but things are meant to change after you receive the Holy Spirit. The presence of the Holy Spirit inside you should stir up a revival in your house. Everything about you should be reflecting possibilities that were only available with Jesus.

Peter who could not witness Jesus before a little girl suddenly became someone who could now talk to over three thousand people about the same Jesus. At some point they even flogged him and warned him not to speak in the name of Jesus, but he continued. I'm honestly feeling fire in my heart right now! Chai! This Holy Ghost!

You're probably about to ask me how to do all these works that Jesus did. That's simple, the Holy Spirit comes with many gifts, among which is the gift of working of miracles. Besides the gift of working of miracles, there's the gift of healing, the word of knowledge, the gift of wisdom, the gift of tongues and others. And as the bible admonishes, we're entitled to all of them, you just need to engage the gift that is relevant to you per time.

I know you wanted a simple answer, but the subject of the Holy Spirit is not simple at all, it's power. If you don't feel power after hearing about Him, then it's not Him you heard about.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 48

"Pastor, I mistakenly sold my birthright. What do I do to recover it?"

Simple, do what Esau did.

Our perception of Esau over the years hasn't really been helpful to the body of Christ. There's really no difference between what Esau did and what many Christians do daily. Each time a Christian committed fornication, he sold his birthright. That's right, that lie you told just to cover your shame was an unconscious trade of your birthright. You cheated someone just yesterday because of your greed, and while you're thinking that you now have all the gain to yourself, you lost your birthright.

Salvation gives us a new birth experience with a new right, but each time we sin, we unknowingly sell our birthright. Like Jacob, Satan wants to have a right to what should be your right, and just as Esau traded his birthright with pottage, Christians trade their birthright daily by the pleasures of sin. The last time I checked, the wages of sin has not changed, it's still death.

Esau clearly didn't understand the consequences of his action until it dawned on him in Genesis 27:36. That scripture says, "And he said, Is not he rightly named Jacob? for he hath supplanted me these two times: he took away my birthright; and, behold, now he hath taken away my blessing...". Many Christians are like that, nobody saw them when they sinned, but everybody will see how Satan robbed them of their blessing.

But don't be scared, I'm about to show you a mystery that will help you recover your Christian dignity.

Genesis 27:

38 And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? bless me, even me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept.

39 And Isaac his father answered and said unto him, Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above

40 And by thy sword shalt thou live, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have the dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck.

So Esau's case wasn't as hopeless as some of us thought. He still had an opportunity to break the yoke and regain dominion over his brother. But that would not happen except he lived by his sword.

That's right, live by your sword! Ephesians 6:17 confirms that the Word of God is the sword of the Spirit. The earth will still drop fatness for you, the heaven will still release dew upon you, but how much of that you get would be determined by how much you're able to engage the word of God in your life.

Just in case you're wondering how effective this sword/word is, Hebrews 4:12 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".

So go ahead, live by the word, and that begins by genuine repentance. Then you can begin to reclaim the promises of God into your life. It won't be long before you gain dominion again.

If Esau could regain his dominion, then you can. Let's read that interesting episode from scriptures:

Genesis 33:

3 And he passed over before them, and bowed himself to the ground seven times, until he came near to his brother.

4 And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept. 8 And he said, What meanest thou by all this drove which I met? And he said, These are to find grace in the sight of my lord.

9 And Esau said, I have enough, my brother; keep that thou hast unto thyself.

10 And Jacob said, Nay, I pray thee, if now I have found grace in thy sight, then receive my present at my hand: for therefore I have seen thy face, as though I had seen the face of God, and thou wast pleased with me.

11 Take, I pray thee, my blessing that is brought to thee; because God hath dealt graciously with me, and because I have enough. And he urged him, and he took it.

Just look at that! Jacob didn't only bow to Esau seven times, he also called him his lord. If that's not dominion regained, then what is it?

So my dear, I know things may look pretty messed up for you right now. Your family and friends may have rejected you because of what you did. Your boss may have trimmed your pay because you goofed. And you've probably been mourning about this all year. Reading this now may even make you cry. But that's okay, arise and fight with your sword! They may have relegated you, but God did not. He still loves you and has created a system for you to regain your position.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 49

"Pastor, my husband pretended to be a good man just for me to marry him. But since we married, he's been a completely different person. What do I do?"

That's a lot to take in, but hey, pretense has a limit, you must have noticed something odd before you tied the knot with him. Now you came to a pastor for help, but did you seek a pastor's counsel before you married him? Many young ladies jump into marriage emotionally, and that's why changes in marriage seem sudden and surprising to them.

Courtship was designed for determining compatibility. But the greatest mistake couples have made is that they think that courtship is between 2 people, which means the man and the woman. But no, courtship is like a court session, it's between more than 2 people; the judge, the counselor, the jury, the witnesses, the public and press.

While God stands as Judge to give the final verdict, the counselors would be your pastor or marriage counselor, they'd ask critical questions that your emotions won't allow you to ask your intended spouse. The jury can be friends and relatives, people who would give a non-biased judgment about the relationship. The witnesses do not necessarily have to be human beings; they can as well be your

conscience. Many people throw away their conscience when it comes to getting married. It only returns after the wedding.

With this, I can categorically say that you didn't really court with your spouse. He bought you flowers and gave you really nice treats, and the next thing was the wedding. And that's why you think he pretended to be nice.

Anyway, now that you've married him, no man wants to marry a woman just to maltreat her, although his programming or ideology about life may seem like he's maltreating the wife.

For instance, if you married a womanizer, chances are that he'd only begin to maltreat you if you get in his way. As long as you don't try to stop him, you both won't have problems. He's a womanizer, he's been doing that before he married you, trying to lecture him now may land a punch on your face. It's like telling a pilot to change his profession😊, only God can do that. I once saw a clip where a wife put a pack of condom in her husband's suit case. (Do you get it? If you don't get it, forget about it😊).

If you married a drug addict, someone who loves drinking and smoking, you'd only become his object if you ever speak ill of him. I can't guarantee you that a man like that will change, but I know that God changes people. So until that change comes, you might have to stay out of his way if you

don't want him to get physical with you, that's if this isn't already happening.

Avoid discussions that infuriates him, including discussions that involves money. Get a job or start a business, do all you can to take care of your children (most men only begin to show their true color after they have a child with the woman). Support your husband, despite his flaws, always speak positively towards and about him. Remember that although he may have the worst character, God is still thinking on how to bless him. Pray for him continually.

I know a woman who raised 3 of her children to University level. Her husband was a deacon in church but became a heitist few years after marriage. Since that year, he refused to take care of the home front. She literally takes care of everything, including feeding. Of course she and her husband argue here and there, but there's never been a record of domestic violence. She still respects him; despite all she does for the home. The last time I checked, he still hasn't changed, even though he had to attend church for his daughter's wedding.

Am I in anyway supporting the man, no! Rather, I'm trying to save you from emotional torture. If you don't want to divorce him, then you have to adopt this.

My prayer is that as many women who are currently going through this kind of situation, may God grant you strenght and favour to overcome, in the name of Jesus!

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

QUESTION 50

“Pastor, I have a lot of bills to settle, so I can’t pay my tithe this month”

You see that inconvenience you feel right now, it’s the only opportunity you have to prove your loyalty and faithfulness to God’s commandments. For instance, it’s easy to give to the poor or pay tithe when you have excess, but hard to do when there isn’t enough. Most times, service to God requires sacrifice, not convenience. If it was done at your convenience, then watch it, because it may not be considered service to God.

As much as people have argued about tithing, it’s still one the surest ways by which God proves the financial commitment of believers towards His kingdom. God will only give you as much as He knows you can commit to His kingdom.

I was just telling a friend yesterday that God doesn’t want us to remain stewards within the 4 walls of the church alone, no! He expects us to mature, and that means taking what we learn in church to occupy a space of influence in the world. But how can He give us a space in the world, when we’re

struggling with committing with little commandments here and there. If you can't give a tenth of your income to your church, how would you react when He tells you to lend to nations?

As a pastor, my job is to train you to be committed and consistent in spiritual exercises. God on the other hand, deploys those who have mastered their exercises. For instance, the more you tithe, the more God entrusts bigger funds to you. He'd keep doing that because He has approved you through practice. A person who is consistent with paying his one dollar tithe will naturally enjoy financial progression. And if you've been consistent in your tithing for a long time and nothing has changed, then chat me up after reading this, you need urgent counsel.

God may not need the money, but the money will be useful in His church. And He'd continue to partner with anyone who would faithfully bring the tenth to the church.

Paul's epistle to Timothy didn't hide the fact that it can get really hard to maintain spiritual discipline, but he also left a note that should keep us encouraged. Let's read what it says;

2 Timothy 2:

3 Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

4 No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

That's right! I know it's sometimes really hard to give, hard to pray, hard to fast, hard to forgive, hard to love, but you've got to endure that hardness to be a good soldier of Christ. You really cannot be planning to go to war and still entangle yourself with the things of this world. Your financial freedom is a spiritual war, and you have to give more priority to spiritual laws than any physical need.

So yes, pay your tithe before you pay your rent. Pay your tithe before you buy your food. Pay your tithe before you pay your children's school fees. You must think I'm very mean right now, but I'd rather be mean if it's the only way to see you advance with God financially. Moreover, those things have a way of entangling a believer from responding to spiritual principles. And no man wars and still entangles himself with the affairs of life.

Let me give you a secret. When it comes to your finances, don't ever make plans on the hundred percent. Rather, make plans on the ninety. Settle it in your mind that it's ninety percent that you receive and the tenth belongs to God. You might find it easier to pay tithe that way. Many people struggle with it because they've budgeted their needs on the hundred percent.

Personally, my tithe is beyond 10 percent, so I don't like to do any expenses until I've paid my tithe. Which also means I don't know what is actually mine until I've removed the tithe. And before you try to preach to me, this is the practice that transformed my life.

Finally, there are two major things God checks when we tithe. The first is reverence, while the second is consistency. You reverence Him when you consider Him first for every profit you make. If you consider buying a car before paying the tithe, that's not reverence. In fact, if you eventually pay the tithe, you may not get the reward for it, because you didn't consider Him first. Tithe is the first tenth, not any tenth.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

FINAL WORD

I'm glad you took time to read this book and I really hope it brought enlightenment to you. There are loads of other questions I have answered through the help of the Spirit of God, putting them in a single book might make it too voluminous. So I've decided to make volumes of this very title, which means you should expect **volume two** any moment.

Thank you again for reading. God bless you. I love you, and I look forward to receiving your testimonies!



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Emeka Anslem is a critically acclaimed inspirational writer, Founder of In-spirited Writers Training School, and President of The Solutionists. His strong social media presence has served as a medium that satisfies the spiritual hunger of many Christians and brought even many more to Christ. He 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 God's grace, he has committed his life to that assignment, and he's always willing to add value to lives.

Through his passion for his assignment, he's been privileged to author over 50 e-books which are mostly downloadable for free at the E-BOOKS section of his website (www.emekaanslem.com.ng). His rare teaching gift has attracted several public speaking engagements in seminars, conferences and the likes. Considering his track record in writing, God inspired him to convene a yearly writers conference, which has been a medium of transformation for many writers.

He also runs a business where he operates as a content developer. He has written for great men within and outside his country of residence, and the testimonies have been phenomenal.

Emeka Anslem is accessible. So do not hesitate to contact him through any of his social media platforms.

