



30

*Commonly Asked*  
**QUESTIONS  
ABOUT  
PRAYER**

**EMEKA ANSLEM**

# **30 COMMONLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT PRAYER**

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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.



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# 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 start publishing every challenge that was tackled through creative questions and answers. 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.

In this book, I've carefully selected 20 commonly asked questions relating to prayer and fasting that will aid your spiritual maturity. I have no doubt that you will return with a testimony. Have a good read!

## QUESTION 1

**"Pastor, I dreamt that I was driving a car just after I prayed to God to give me a car, what does that mean?"**

I once answered a question where I had to explain two types of testimony, which are "testimony of the truth of God's word" and "testimony of the acts of God". Meanwhile, the question that was asked is if a person can testify of a car after he has prayed to God to give him a car, and that will the testimony be a sign that the person believes he has received the car?

I did mention that testifying of a car is a testimony of an act of God, but as long as the car hasn't arrived physically, it would be a lie to testify of that act. However, what you can do to show that you believe that God will perform that act is to testify of the truth, which literally means declaring God's word that guarantees the release of the car you prayed for. The more you testify of the truth, the more your chances of receiving the act.

Apostle Paul explained these two type of testimonies in one simple scripture. Acts 14:3, "Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands". Did you see that? They were speaking God's



word boldly, and then signs and wonders were done by their hand.

Now back to today's question, even if you dream of yourself driving a car, you still have to go through the same process of testifying of the truth until what you saw in your dream manifests physically. If there's anything different, it's that the dream would make you more sure that God heard your prayer, which would definitely make your testimony of the truth bold. You can't doubt or speak little of what you saw. If the Apostles were speaking boldly, then it's because they saw something.

However, I mustn't fail to mention why you saw a dream of yourself driving a car just after you prayed. Although it may have been a coincidence, probably because the thought of a car has consumed your mind, but it can also be because you've matured in your prayer life.

During one of the Friday Mystery Classes with Dr Isaiah Wealth, he taught us that prayer is a journey up the mountain that has 4 levels. Let me try to explain them:

#### Level 1: Prayer at the base of the mountain

This is the level of prayer where there is no guarantee of answers. People who you'd find at this level engage prayer as a habit, tradition or religious practice, not necessarily to commune with divinity. They pray, but they still walk in

disbelieve. People who pray at this level will never remember what they prayed, and that's because it was never in their mind to pray.

This category of “praying believers” are highly dependent, they depend on other people's anointing for breakthrough. The bailout for many of them is usually to join a large prayer group or online prayer movements. They depend on a higher anointing to bail them out of trouble, and that's because their prayer level isn't sufficient.

Painfully, a lot of Christians are at this level. They pray, but no change. Frankly speaking, if your prayer life is centered around praying during bed time and praying to God for a good day when you wake up in the morning, then you're most likely at this level of prayer. You don't need prayer to have a good night sleep or to have a good day, you just need revelation. Prayer is for something greater.

## Level 2: Prayer at the level of change

So this is where you pray and see changes or answers to the prayer you made. The people at this level are more deliberate about their prayer life, they don't depend on another person to pray for them or lead them in prayer, they understand prayer and they practice accordingly.

They are independent. If the first thing you think about when you get into trouble is to call your pastor, then you're not at

this level yet. But if you encounter a challenge, and the first thing you do is to pray about it, then you are at this level.

When people at the base of the mountain encounter problems, everybody around them would know, but when people at this level encounter problems, you'd only know when they're sharing the testimony, and that's because they know how to tackle situations in prayer. They are independent. Ofcourse they can have a prayer partner, seek prayer from a higher authority, or even join a prayer group, but the purpose is mostly to boost their own prayer strenght.

To get to this level, you'd have to be more consistent in your prayer life, at least one hour daily.

### Level 3: Prayer at the level of vision

At this level, you'd see visions and have dreams as a result of your prayer. So if you had a dream of a car after praying, chances are that you are at this level.

The benefit of this level is that you'd begin to see things you didn't even know about. Jeremiah 33:3 spoke about this category of people. It says, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not". Just look at that, He'd show you great and mighty things which you didn't know.

I remember during my prayer time yesterday, I was praying about the fellowship back at the office and how that I desired that God would enlarge it. Suddenly, He began to show me possibilities in the spirit which I never imagined. The moment I saw that, my prayer point was enhanced and became more fervent. It made me believe the unthinkable.

Praying at the second level is good, you'd see changes in your life and even experience answers, but praying at the level of vision is far better. Sometimes God even shows you a burden in His heart that He'd like you to pray about.

Again, to ascend to that level, you'd have to spend more time in prayer and be more deliberate about it.

#### Level 4: Prayer at the level of heaven

This is where you'd begin to have encounters with heavenly beings. You'd encounter Jesus, angels, and the spirit of just men made perfect. I've heard preachers say things like, "Apostle Paul appeared to me and told me things". Some even say Jesus appeared to them. While you may want to doubt them, I encourage you not to, they're telling the truth. Remember how Elias appeared to Jesus at the Mount?

I wish I had personal testimonies of this level to share with you, fortunately, I'm not at the level yet. But as the Lord lives, I'd get there by His grace, and it won't be long.

Again, it's consistency and commitment to prayer that will bring you to this level.

Let me conclude with this; there are loads of potentials locked up in the spirit, but it takes effectual fervent prayer to unlock them. Please be more deliberate about your prayer life.

Remain ever blessed!

## QUESTION 2

**"Pastor, while waiting on the Lord to do what He promised me, what else am I supposed to be doing?"**

What else? I'm not sure you understand what it means to wait on the Lord. So, let me take a moment to explain.

We know from scriptures that the end result of anyone who successfully waits on the Lord or trusts in the Lord is renewal of strenght or fulfiment of that which was promised. However, most believers are often confused about what to do between the time when they received the word and the time the word manifests itself.

While some hold on to the first word that was spoken, others just continue living their lives until whenever God's word comes to pass in their life. Painfully, these two category of people hardly receive the manifestation of what was spoken by God. Notice I didn't say they don't receive, but that they hardly receive.

Let me show you a mystery that will change your life forever:

Hebrews 10:

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 35 tells us not to give up on our confidence or faith in God because it will surely be compensated with a reward. This also tells me that the end result of your faith is the manifestation of that which you were having faith for. If it has not manifested, then your faith hasn't worked.

I've heard people say things like, "I was believing God for, but...". The moment there's a "was" and a "but", then you didn't really have faith, faith has no "but" and faith has no "was". Abraham believed God, and it was counted for him as righteousness. Read your Bible, the heroes of faith were mentioned in the Bible only because of what their faith accomplished for them. If your faith has no accomplishment, then it was never faith. The end result of faith has to be the result; if you don't get the result, you didn't have faith.

If you are having faith in God for a car or a house, then the end result of your faith must be the manifestation of either of them. If they don't manifest, then it simply means your faith hasn't worked.

If this is the case, then how long do I need to keep my faith alive before God's promise will manifest? Verse 36 gives the answer. It says, "For you have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise".

This is where many Christians get it wrong. Just because it says you have need of patience doesn't mean you should sit idly until you see the manifestation. If you do that you will see nothing, I guarantee you. It didn't keep us in the dark concerning what to do in our patience or waiting period, it says, "... after you have done the will of God, you might receive the promise".

That's right! That's what to do. Complete the will of God concerning that which you're trusting God for. There's always a will to complete to get what you want from God.

Moses desperately wanted the Israelites out of Egypt, and although God was ready to do what Moses desired, He also had a will. He wanted to prove to Pharaoh that He was God Almighty. That's why everytime Moses went to Pharaoh with the message, we were told that God hardened Pharaoh's heart. And when Moses had completed God's will, God released one last plague upon Pharaoh, and after that Pharaoh let them go. There's always one last will to complete or one last scripture to obey to release the manifestation you seek.

God told Moses to deliver them from Egypt, but in-between that word was several words from God that Moses had to obey.

I know you probably want to get married so badly, but have you considered what God wants to prove with your marital



destiny? Instead of disturbing Him with prayer points, why not sit down with His word and go on a journey of faith with Him? Could it be that God is hardening the heart of your suitors only because you haven't completed His will yet?

Oh, I agree that He promised to set the solitary in families, but what if this is a journey of faith and you'd need to act on more than one scripture to overcome. Imagine how many times Moses had to go back to God each time Pharaoh refused. Many Christians don't go back to their Bible after the first word they receive. They keep declaring that first word unknowing to them that it's not one scripture they need to breakthrough, it's a journey of obedience to scriptures.

When God wants to deliver your family from generational curses, don't expect Him to use one scripture, He'd rather take you on a journey of scriptural obedience where He can prove Himself to the people responsible for that altar and then take the glory.

Remain ever blessed!

### QUESTION 3

**"Pastor, sometimes I enjoy my prayer time, and some other times it's just very difficult connecting and I'd feel like stopping. Why is it like that?"**

Actually, I've also experienced that situation until I learnt that lack of feeling or ease during prayer doesn't mean your prayer didn't ascend to God.

As much as the feeling and ease makes praying enjoyable, our focus while praying shouldn't be to enjoy it, rather it should be the prayer content and the knowledge we have about God's word. So even though you don't feel anything or even though the prayer time wasn't easy, you'd know you've prayed because of the content of your prayer and the knowledge of God's word you applied during the prayer.

Dr Isaiah Wealth taught about two types of prayer that we mostly practice and experience but do not really understand. Let me share them with you:

#### IRREGULAR PRAYER:

Just as the name, this type of prayer isn't regular, it happens spontaneously. Have you ever felt a burden in your heart and suddenly found yourself praying, especially in tongues?

You're not sure what it is but whatever it is put a strong feeling in your heart to pray. And most times, you won't be able to stop that prayer until the feeling or burden fades from your heart.

Some other times you'd just suddenly feel love in your heart for God and before you know it, you'd begin to pray and speak in tongues.

This type of prayer is good, but it's neither scheduled, planned or consistent. You can't build your spiritual life on something that is not planned and consistent. Ofcourse you'd get that temporal feeling within you as you pray, but you'd need more than feelings to grow your spiritual life.

Some of you haven't felt like praying since the last feeling you got 3 months ago. Is that what you plan to build your spiritual life on? Breakthrough happens whenever you engage in spontaneous prayers, but there's more to your life than waiting for that precious moment when a burden will come upon you.

## REGULAR PRAYER

This is the type of prayer that builds our spiritual life. It's a deliberate, consistent and scheduled type of prayer. That prayer you wake up to pray for one hour every night, that's a regular prayer. And that's the type of prayer that will build you up.

Ofcourse you might sometimes feel a burden as you engage in regular prayer, but that's just a spur of the moment, it may not happen again for a long time. And the way you'd know you were praying about a burden is that you'd have no previous knowledge about the situation. And even as you pray, it will be difficult to change the prayer focus to something you intended to pray, until the burden leaves you.

Now that you know the difference between those two, let me show some prayer secrets that can make your regular prayer life enjoyable.

Psalms 100:

1 Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.

2 Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

3 Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

5 For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

The summary of verses 1 to 3 is that your prayer life should be considered a service to God, and if that's the case, you must approach prayer joyfully. Any service that is rendered to God without joy won't produce result. Don't approach your

prayer altar as though God is putting you under pressure, and then you'd just struggle through it for one hour and get back to bed. No, that's not how it's done.

You must prepare yourself to render effective service to God. God is always looking for intercessors, so the moment you subscribe as an intercessor, He begins to pay attention to you. But before He listens to your intercession, He listens to your heart. Every time we pray, we draw God closer to victory against the forces of wickedness in this world. That thought alone should stir joy in your heart as you pray. But the moment you handle prayer as though God is stressing you, then you don't understand what you're doing.

Verse 4 tells us how to secure God's presence, it says with thanksgiving and praise. This part of prayer alone can last for hours. I laugh when people say it's hard to pray for one hour, meanwhile, if they itemize all the things that God has done for them and begin to thank and praise God for those things, they'd surely need more than one hour.

One beautiful thing about thanksgiving is that it engages your mind. You're thinking about the faithfulness of God and thanking Him for it. That act alone can stir up a prayer fire within you. Any thanksgiving that doesn't engage your mind isn't thanksgiving. And if it doesn't get to your mind, it won't get to God. The reason why thanksgiving is required to enter into God's presence is because it would open up your mind

and heart, and once that happens, God can easily pass through.

Please note that this process may not be required when your prayer is spontaneous, because the burden would have opened your heart and God would have come in already. But if the prayer isn't spontaneous, then you have to connect your heart through intense thanksgiving and praise.

While thanksgiving is simply appreciating God for the good things He has done, not necessarily in your life, praise hallows His name for the details and creativity He put into doing those good things. So if God gave you a house, you can thank Him for giving you a house. But when it comes to praising Him for that house, you have to magnify His name for the creativity He put into building every section of that house. And believe me, you can spend hours doing this. Thanksgiving may be a single like, but praise would definitely require more than a thousand lines. Those who know how to thank and praise God well never miss His glory and presence during their regular prayers, He'd surely visit them.

Finally, when you're sure that you've secured His presence, then you can commence praying for whatever you planned to pray about. The main prayer doesn't even have to take long; it's entering the presence that does.

Remain ever blessed!

#### QUESTION 4

**"Pastor, I can't really say I know how to pray. Please can you teach me how to pray?"**

The disciples of Jesus had this problem. In fact, they used a similar line when they approached Jesus to teach them how to pray. Clearly, they must have observed Jesus's prayer life and concluded that there was something missing about their own personal prayer life.

Sometimes they saw him agonizing in prayer with sweat pouring down, and some other time he'd just separate himself from them to pray. Believe me, there's nothing more frustrating than watching someone do something that shatters your ideologies about that thing. To them maybe they spent few minutes reciting a few things and called it prayer, so what Jesus was doing was not anything near what they knew to be prayer. And so they concluded that what they knew couldn't have been called prayer, they had to ask Jesus to teach them how to pray.

And while you'd think that Jesus would give a humorous response - that we can pray anyhow, he actually taught them how to pray. And this tells me that believers can be taught how to pray.

So Jesus began the teaching...

Matthew 6:

9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

For a child who doesn't respect or have any regard for his biological or earthly parents, praying may be a difficult task, because according to Jesus's lesson, prayer is a communication between a heavenly father and his earthly children. Just as you can sit with your earthly father and make requests, you can engage your faith in making requests to your heavenly father. The difference is just the location and visibility. While your earthly father can be met physically, your heavenly father can only be met through faith.

In my previous response, I taught you about regular and spontaneous prayers. A spontaneous prayer usually would not follow a particular order, neither would it follow Jesus's teaching about prayer, and that's because it's often



sponsored by an inner witness, the Spirit of God. A burden just comes upon you and you'd just find yourself praying, no time for protocols at all. Also, if you hit an emergency during the day, all these protocols wouldn't be required, raise a quick prayer of petition and move on. I'm not saying it's a bad practice to follow these protocols no matter the circumstance, but rather spontaneous prayers do not require protocols.

I also mentioned that spontaneous prayers cannot be relied upon to grow your spiritual life, and that's because it's not every time that you'd have an emergency or that the Holy Spirit will put a burden within you. The prayer pattern that will grow your spiritual life must be regular. And so what Jesus is teaching is for those who want to maintain a regular prayer life.

Now that we've cleared that, begin your regular prayer by hallowing the name of your heavenly Father. Which literally means you should shout His various names with joy in your heart. Think of all the names of God you can remember and hallow those names as you commence your prayer.

"My heavenly father, I come to you this morning in the name of Jesus. You are the Ageless God, Reliable God, Jehovah Rohi, Jehovah Shikenu, Alpha Omega, Bishem Adonai, Elshadia, Elohim, The Lion of the tribe of Judah, The Almighty, The Ancient of Days, my Dependable Father, Olowogbogboro (That's right, you can hallow His names in your dialect)"

At this point, even you who is hallowing His name has already caught fire in your heart. Hallowing His name alone can take you over an hour, because His names are innumerable. If you don't know His names, you'd be amazed what a Google search for the names of God will bring.

Hallowing His name also involves thanking Him for what He has done both for you and for the world you live in, and then praising Him for the details He put into doing everything He has done. I talked about this yesterday, I recommend you read it up. Hallowing His name in thanksgiving and praise is the surest way to secure His presence during prayer. That's actually what Psalms 100:4 tells us. "Enter His gates with thanksgiving and into His court with praise. Be thankful unto Him, and bless his name"

Once you're done hallowing His name, the next thing is to pray about His agenda on the earth. For example, God desires that the world will come to repentance, so you can pray about that. Pray about that your colleague or neighbour that is not saved yet. Pray about your uncle or aunty that is involved in malicious activities. Pray about the advancement of His church. Just pray about anything that advances His kingdom.

And then you can pray about your desires for that day. Everything Jesus mentioned from verses 11 to 13 are personal prayer points and there's no particular order, neither

is there a compulsion in praying them. If you feel you don't need forgiveness, then that's not something to pray about. If you feel you don't need daily bread, then it doesn't need to be prayed. Of course, everybody should always pray that God will not lead us into temptation.

My point is, once you're done hallowing His name and praying about His kingdom, you're free to do anything else from that point till you close. You can pray for your spiritual growth, that the fire of the Spirit of God will continue to burn in your heart. You can pray to be used by Him.

Personally, presenting my personal requests don't take time at all except I'm praying for my spiritual life, I spend most of the time hallowing His name and praying about His kingdom. That's how it should be. If we're to go by what Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, we really don't need to pray about our personal needs after we've prayed for the kingdom, because all our personal needs would be added to us as a reward for praying for the Kingdom. Isn't that powerful?

Remain ever blessed!

## QUESTION 5

### **"Pastor, during prayer, at what point do I speak in tongue?"**

So in Luke chapter 11 when Jesus taught the disciples how to pray, He didn't say anything about speaking in tongues. We know that they had not received the Holy Spirit as at that time, but if speaking in tongues needed to have a special section during our regular prayer time, then Jesus would have mentioned it. Let's read from scriptures:

Luke 11:

2 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

3 Give us day by day our daily bread.

4 And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

Just as I mentioned in a previous message, Jesus's lesson on effective regular prayer must begin with hallowing or blessing the name of your heavenly Father. And hallowing His name means to make a joyful shout of His numerous names. And while you do that, accompany it with thanksgiving and praise. According to Psalms 100:4, it is this first level of prayer that grants you access to God's presence.

If you do this well, you'd definitely feel His presence in your heart.

And then the next thing is to focus on His kingdom's manifestation on earth. And the way you do that is to pray that His will be done on earth just as it is in heaven or in the bible. So anything you find in the bible that is yet to be made manifest on the earth, you can pray about it at this point. Once you're done with the kingdom, every other prayer is optional.

The disciples knew all of these, and even after the Holy Ghost came, they still practiced this pattern of prayer. Let me show you a scripture where they practiced this prayer pattern:

Acts 4:

24 And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

25 Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?

26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.

27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together

28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word  
30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.  
31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Just look at that! Did you notice how they followed Jesus's lesson carefully? And it's even amazing how powerfully that prayer pattern worked for them. Notice also that the bible didn't mention anything about praying in tongues as they prayed, they only followed Jesus's pattern of prayer.

The emphasis on praying in tongues began with Apostle Paul. In 1 Corinthians 14:2, he said, "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".

This means that speaking in tongues is an exclusive language or spiritual dialect used by a baptized man to communicate with God. I could pray in English and God will still hear, but if I need to shut the devil and everyone else out, I switch to tongues. This is something we even practice naturally, we generally speak in English, but when we are in a crowd and we want to keep our conversation private, we use our local dialect. Of course, when a conversation

requires that you switch to your dialect, then it means something deep needs to be communicated😊.

If this is correct, then it means you can pray every segment of Jesus's pattern of prayer in tongues. You can hallow God's name in tongues, just as you can pray about His kingdom in tongues. Praying in tongues doesn't need to have a special moment, just as praying in Igbo language doesn't need a special moment. You may decide which language best fits what you want to communicate to God. If you feel like your normal English won't deliver your point well, then switch to the language of tongues while you focus your thoughts on the point.

Now if you ask me which is better, whether to pray in tongues or in your normal language, I'd respond with what Apostle Paul said about praying in tongues in 1 Corinthians 14:18. He said, "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all". This tells me that it's far better to pray in tongues than in a general language. Moreover, we previously read that praying in tongues edifies our spirit.

So, as you pray, learn to switch languages. Pray with tongues, and pray in your understanding.

Remain ever blessed!

#EmekaAnslem

## QUESTION 6

### **"Pastor, while praying, why do I keep getting distracting thoughts? It affects my prayer time a lot"**

I also had this problem until I attended a Friday Mystery Class with Dr Isaiah Wealth. The focus of his teaching was "Overcoming anti-prayer spirits". That's right, spirits or forces that do not want you to maintain a consistent prayer life.

I'd discuss some of these anti-prayer spirits, but let me begin by saying a Christian that doesn't have an active prayer life cannot fulfill purpose. The devil knows this and that's why he'd do all he can to stop you from praying. Prayer sanctifies our spirit man unto God; the more we pray the more sensitive we'd be to spiritual things.

It is true that faith is all you need to have all your needs met, and faith comes by hearing and understanding the word of God. But what many Christians do not know is that understanding is impossible without a sanctified and sensitive spirit-man. Anytime you read your Bible and you don't understand, it simply means your spirit-man isn't charged enough. And the only way to charge your spirit is to connect it to the Spirit of God, and that's what prayer does, it connects you with God.



Unfortunately, Satan doesn't want that connection. Thinking about it now, if Satan doesn't distract you when you read your Bible, it's probably because he knows you don't pray. And he also knows that if you don't pray, whatever you read may not find expression within you. Be careful though, he would also not hinder your prayer life if he knows you don't study the word. The only time you'd notice a heavy attack on either your prayer or word study life is if you practice both.

Having said that, let me unveil a few of those anti-prayer spirits:

## 1. PROCRASTINATION

When it comes to prayer, procrastination isn't a habit, it's a spirit, and you shouldn't be gentle with it. This spirit compels you to shift or snooze your prayer time until it is convenient to pray. The shocking part is, even when you're not doing anything meaningful, this spirit will still have its way. You may be playing games or chatting with friends and still shift your prayer time. The reason why you didn't pray at the stipulated time wasn't serious, yet you didn't pray for that reason. That's a spirit!

The only solution to it is to discipline yourself. Once it's time for your prayer, go and pray. Don't keep your prayer life on hold for mundane things; rather, mundane things should be put on hold for your prayer time.

## 2. DISTRACTION

This one happens alot during prayers, and I doubt if there's any Christian alive that doesn't experience it, even the greatly anointed ones. The aim of this spirit is to remind you of the good things you need to do that you might not necessarily need.

Let's say your prayer time is 3am, you pray till 5am and then set out to work. While praying, the devil may distract you with ideas of microwaving your breakfast before energy is interrupted (This has happened to me many times). Breakfast is a good thing, but think about it, do I really need to take food from home to have breakfast? Aren't there reputable eateries around my office? So that's it, he shows you good things that are not necessarily needed.

The mistake many Christians make at this point is to either shorten their prayer time or keep that thought in their mind until they complete the prayer time. That kind of prayer won't go far.

The only way to overcome distraction in prayer is to focus on connecting with the Spirit of God during prayer instead of the duration you've set. For instance, if you pray for one hour daily and you notice a distraction, take your mind off that time you've set and focus on connecting with God first. Until you connect, don't end the prayer. That way, the distraction will

not have a hold you on. (Read my previous articles to learn how to connect in prayer)

### 3. SITUATIONS

These are things that happen and you have to stop prayer for. They can come in form of urgencies.

The solution to this is planning. Plan your prayer life. Do everything that you know may hinder your prayer time before your prayer time. Many times, the things that affect us are things we had prior knowledge of.

For instance, you knew your husband would have dinner yet you didn't make arrangement for his food. It's finally time to cook and then you realize that you didn't have a required ingredient. Going to the market to purchase that ingredient may eat into the prayer time you've scheduled. If you planned to cook for one hour and pray for the next hour before your husband returned, that may no longer be possible if you have to go to the market first. If you don't want situations to steal your prayer time, plan!

### 4. TIREDNESS

Most people complain that they're usually too tired when it's time to pray. Well, the solution to this is to create a routine for your prayer life. Just as you have a eating or work routine, you should have a prayer routine that nothing should affect.

For instance, you can set a routine that prays every six hours, and once your alarm beeps, leave everything you're doing for the prayer time.

Prayer is not something you do when all your work is done, prayer is something you do before, during and after your work is done. If you wait till all your work is done, you'd be too tired to pray. But if you make prayer part of the work, you won't be too tired to pray.

If you have to pray in the midnight, don't sleep on the bed, use the chair instead. Set your alarm, and once it rings, jump into the shower and take a cold bath. Once done, get to your prayer altar and start praying. It's a routine, and when it comes to routines, we don't have a choice.

## 5. FRUSTRATION

This is when your life expectations are not being met. You probably lost a job, a business, or even a loved one. You were denied Visa, or you just suffered denials in different forms. Nothing affects your prayer life more than frustrations and disappointments.

The solution to this is to be dead to self. Jesus was dead to self, and that's how He was able to overcome. When things happen to bring sorrow to your physical being, remind that situation that a dead person cannot feel sorrow. If it didn't

work, I'd try again later, but it's not big enough to affect my prayer life.

We must all grow to a point where nothing physical influences our spiritual walk with God. I know it's easier said, but that's just the truth.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus name!

## QUESTION 7

### **"Pastor, what do I do when my prayers isn't changing the situations around my life?"**

When your prayers isn't changing your situation, it's either you didn't pray correctly or your corresponding actions after the prayer were from a standpoint of doubt and fear, not faith.

Each time I read 1 Peter 5:8-9, I remember what happened to Job. He suffered affliction, not because he didn't know how to pray, but because his actions didn't have faith in them. Let's see what that scripture says;

1 Peter 5:

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.

9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

Just look at that, Satan was going about looking for who to devour when he found a laxity in Job. He decided to use that against him in court, and since Job didn't appear in court for a hearing, the case was ruled in Satan's favour.

There are two things that happen when a case is presented against you in court, you'd either receive a restraining order until you appear for a hearing, or the case is ruled against you until you can provide evidence that proves otherwise. So the lack of progress in your life might either be because a restraining order has been issued or The Judge has ruled in favour of Satan.

Let me guess, you're about to ask me if that is right? Well, just because a case was manipulated doesn't mean it can't get a ruling. We've seen many manipulated cases gain favour in court, even in this world that we live in. So the wisdom will be to produce your cause intelligently and bring forth your strong reason, just as Isaiah 41:21 says.

Unlike Job who didn't have an advocate who could defend him, we have an eternal Advocate, whom of course is Jesus. And this means we'd always stand a chance of winning both an ongoing case or re-open a case that has been ruled against us.

While His blood qualifies us for mercy, His word becomes an evidence for our freedom. Mercy grants us a second hearing, His word becomes our reason for an acquittal order.

Unfortunately, many believers don't know how to balance prayers and faith based actions. God may decide to hear your case when you pray, but then your Advocate may not

find enough faith in you to defend your case. Let's see how scriptures 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 may have giving a ruling in favour of Satan's accusation, but because of your continuous prayers to Him, He'd grant you mercy. However, when His Son whom is also your Advocate comes, will He find faith in you?

Your faith based prayer must be backed up with faith based actions if you want an acquittal order from the court of heaven. After you've declared God's word concerning why you must prosper, you must also begin to act in faith towards those things you declared. Some people still live and take decisions in fear despite their heavy prayer of faith.

For instance, the bible says, "he that gives to the poor shall not lack", this means that if you want to deal with lack, then you must stop behaving like a poor person, rather, give to the poor. The poor man consumes all he has because he believes he's too poor to give. That's why they never come out of poverty.



Don't go about complaining after you've engaged a prayer of faith, the bible says "rejoice always, again I say rejoice". Don't feel sorrow over a loss, the bible says we shouldn't set our affections on earthly things, rather we should set our affections on things above. If the only thing you have in your house after presenting your financial prosperity case is garri, drink it with joy, not regret.

This was Job's greatest problem. He took decisions and made sacrifices in fear, and the things he feared came upon him. His suffering continued until his action carried faith; we were told that despite his predicament, he still prayed for his friends. That's how he finally won the case, and even enjoyed double restoration.

As long as we live in this world, Satan will remain an accuser of God's people, God will remain the Judge who listens to cases whether from us or Satan, and Jesus will remain our advocate.

If God tells you to build a house and you emit a little trace of fear, Satan can raise a case against you with that little fear, just as he did against Job. He may tell God that you don't believe in His ability to supply the resources that will build the house. And since God is a righteous Judge, He'd grant you an opportunity to prove yourself. And if you don't, you may never build that house. This is actually why we have many abandoned projects around.

Some people are presently suffering problems that are results of a ruling in court. They did something wrong, and instead of pleading the blood of Jesus and walking in the light of His word for their freedom, they decided to ignore it. The truth is, God can also ignore it, but the only danger in ignoring wrongs is if Satan presents that wrong as a case before God.

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## QUESTION 8

**"Pastor, I've been praying against a particular situation, but it's almost as if my prayer isn't reaching God. What do I do?"**

There are quite a number a reasons why you might be experiencing this situation, but let me respond with something peculiar.

You see, Satan does not only fight in warfare, he also fights in courtfare. While he may not necessarily need permission from God to engage in a warfare, he'd need a ruling from the court of heaven to engage in courtfare.

As I remarked in a previous message, if the devil doesn't let you go despite your heavy warfare prayers against a situation, chances are that he has acquired a ruling from court. And at that point, the weapons of your warfare will be ineffective.

The bible explains the jurisdiction of the weapons of our warfare. Let's read from scriptures:

2 Corinthians 10:

4 For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds

5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

So the weapon of our warfare can deal with strongholds, cast down evil imaginations, destroy every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and arrest every thought until they conform. Satan doesn't need a ruling from God to engage these attacks against you, and that's because he didn't impose any of them on you. If you fall for any of these, you'd bare the consequences. If you also know your way out, you can engage the weapons of your warfare to be free from the consequences.

Bottom-line is, Satan cannot touch you or impose anything on you except he has received a ruling or a court order. Since weapons are only used for enforcement, the weapons of your warfare will not work because he has a ruling against you. So no matter how much you bind and cast, it won't work. This was exactly what happened to Job.

What this also means is, if a challenge was caused by falling for Satan's deception, you can be free by engaging warfare prayers. But if it was caused by a ruling that Satan received from court, then you'd have to deal with that matter intelligently.

First you'd have to repent from whatever sin the devil may have used against you in court, then plead the blood of

Jesus to wash you clean. Once that is done, then you need to make a prayer of petition. A prayer of petition is a formal prayer based on God's word that states why you should be free from something or why you should have something.

The difference between a warfare prayer and a courtfare prayer is that a warfare prayer addresses the devil directly, while a courtfare prayer addresses God. So don't go about addressing the devil when you should be talking to God, he won't listen, even if you shout the name of Jesus one million times.

Once your petition is granted, God will withdraw whatever ruling He gave previously and issue a new one. At that point, Satan is expected to withdraw from attacking you. That's why the moment God turned the captivity of Job, his restoration began, we never heard of Satan again around Job.

If Satan can't get you into trouble via deception, he'd take advantage of an unconfessed sin and start a case against you in court. That's why the bible warns that we should be sober and vigilant because our adversary the devil is going about looking for who he may devour. If you sin, ensure you confess it before the Lord and use the blood of Jesus to cleanse yourself, because if you don't, you'd need more than repentance to be free from a judgment, you'd need to make a petition.

The prayer of petition is in two forms; it can either be a supplication for yourself or an intercession for someone else. Either way, as long as the content presents a case to God based on His word, then it's a petition.

As I conclude, remember that God is all-powerful, but all His power is still subject to His word. And His word is not an exclusive reserve for Christians, it's for all who believe. The reason why Satan can use God's word against you is because he believes God's word. If Satan uses God's word against you, crying for mercy won't bail you out, you'd need to a petition.

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## QUESTION 9

**"Pastor, I prayed that rain should not fall during my wedding, yet it rained heavily and a lot of things were affected. Why didn't God answer?"**

A common response or consolation would be "God has a reason" or "God used it for your good". Ofcourse, both answers still works fine, since nobody can question God. However, let's approach the matter with spiritual intelligence.

Did it ever occur to you that while you were praying against the rain because of your wedding, a farmer somewhere was praying for the rain because of his crops? Now think about it, which one will God answer?

Doctors want patients, and as weird as this may sound, they pray for sick people to come to their hospital. On the other hand, people pray against sickness, which means they don't want to spend money on health care. Which one will God answer?

Why does a coffinmaker produce caskets and open his shop everyday? Yet people pray not to die on a daily basis. Why does a lawyer pray for cases yet people pray not to get into troubles that will require a lawyer?

Before you answer any of that, remember that God is no respecter of persons. In other words, there's a dimension of God that doesn't consider feelings or reputations, a dimension where He acts as Judge, a dimension where he who presents a stronger petition wins.

When matters of advantage and disadvantage arises, you need to be aware that you can't command things to your advantage just like that. Although there's a level of yielding to God where this is naturally possible, but most of the time you'd need to petition the court of heaven, which means presenting your case before God and letting Him judge between you and the other believer who wants what you don't want.

There were cases where I literally commanded rain to stop and it stopped immediately, but there are other times when my command felt empty, because the rain became heavier. The rain may have stopped because I was doing a kingdom assignment that carried an anointing that rainfall respected, but as long as I'm not on duty, then I'd have to present a petition to the courts of heaven if I don't want rain to fall. Remember how Elijah commanded rain to cease for 3 years? That's a possibility when you're on a divine assignment. But when you're not on an assignment, you have to pray about it.

The reason why you have to pray or petition God about it is because you were never given natural dominion over rain, or



even the sun. So anything you don't have control over, the wisdom is to petition God for or against them.

I previously told you that a prayer of petition is simply a request made to God on the basis of His word. I also told you that a prayer of petition can come in two forms, supplication or intercession. While supplication is the request you make for yourself based on God's word, intercession is the request you make for others based on God's word.

Isaiah 41:21 says, "Produce your cause, saith the LORD; bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob". What this means is that whoever produces a stronger reason between both believers would win. For instance, if a Christian is careless about his or her health, then the doctor has a good reason to receive answers from God. You may be praying against sickness, but you're violating God's greatest wish, which is for you to be in good health as you prosper. So if God has to answer the doctor's prayer just so the doctor can help you stay healthy, He will do it. On the other hand, if you're not violating God's greatest wish for your health, then it's very unlikely that the doctor will win.

If a Christian drives recklessly, then the coffinmaker may have a deal any moment. My point is, you'd lose your chances of winning if you violate God's laws.

Remember how God sent the prophet to inform Hezekiah of his coming death. As soon as he heard the news, we all

know how he petitioned God and won extra years. God had good reasons why Hezekiah should die, but apparently, Hezekiah had better reasons.

So, the next time you want or don't want something that isn't within your control, present a petition. When God told David that his son would die, David presented a petition. But apparently, God's reason was stronger and David lost the child. Don't just assume that God used it for your good, present a petition and ensure you win.

Bishop Oyedepo's last daughter was sick and had defiled medical treatment. According to him, he searched his Bible and found 5 scriptures he engaged in prayer, and that's how his daughter regained her health. Although this is a case between himself and the devil, but we have to understand that whoever presents a stronger reason wins. Two Christians may appear for a job interview, they may both be intellectually competent, but the one who will get the job is the one who presents a better reason to God.

**GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS...**

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

## QUESTION 10

### **"Pastor, why is it that each time I pray to God, there's always a delay in receiving answers?"**

While there may be innumerable reasons for delay in answered prayers, there are two major reasons you'd mostly find among believers who experience delays like this. Let me share both of them with you:

#### 1. Faith

One of the things I don't forget to tell my students when I teach them the subject of prayer is that they shouldn't bother praying to God if they don't believe He will answer, it's a waste of time.

Proverbs 15:8 and John 14:13 are two scriptures that would always give me goosebumps whenever I approach God in prayer.

Proverbs 15:

8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

John 14:

13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

So first, God is delighted when we approach Him a prayer. Imagine that feeling you get each time your little baby runs to you to carry him or her. Even before the gesture, you've longed to see them do that. I've watched videos of mothers and fathers competing over who their baby would run to, and whoever the baby eventually runs to gets naturally delighted. That experience will be in the parent's memory for a long time. It's always a delightful thing for a child to come to his or her parent, even if they have disagreements.

This is what I carry in my mind whenever I approach God in prayer. He's been longing to meet with me, and so when I eventually come, the experience will be delightful and long-lasting to Him. I may even pray selfish prayers, but He's my Father, He'd probably laugh over it and do something better for me.

The second scripture says he'd do whatsoever I ask the Father in the name of Jesus. And the reason why He'd do it is because the Father is glorified whenever the name of His son is mentioned in prayer. So the prayer may not make a complete sense, but expect to get an answer that makes sense of your prayer, all because you engaged the name of Jesus whom the Father takes glory in. Hallelujah!

Hebrews 11:6 says, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him". This is what I've been explaining from those two scriptures I shared, don't come to Him if you don't believe He'd do something about what you presented to Him in prayer. That's right! God is a rewarder of those that seek Him; which means He may not do exactly what you've asked, but He'd do something about what you've asked.

One of the greatest things you'd learn about faith in prayer is that faith is also required after prayer. Luke 18:7-8 tells us how that God is ready to answer the prayers of those who pray day and night, but the only challenge is if He'd find faith when He comes to answer their prayer. So don't ask God for a house in faith and start engaging in faithless conversations after the prayer. Praying in faith is one thing, acting in faith to receive what you've prayed in faith is another. Christians make this mistake alot. You just finished praying for them, and the next thing that comes out of their mouth is a faithless statement.

Some of the greatest testimonies I've recorded in my work with God's people were birthed my this understanding. I prayed for them and then acted in faith till I saw the manifestation.

## 2. Persistence in prayer

While faith actions after a prayer of faith is important, some faith actions can only be persistent prayer. There are times when you'd need to continue praying a particular prayer until it's done.

Elijah was a man of faith, yet we read how he prayed until the cloud gave rain. When he prayed the first time, he asked his servant to go check if the cloud had changed, and when the servant returned with a negative report, he told him to go seven times.

This is an urgent matter and testing your patience wouldn't be necessary at all. Stay there until the matter is concluded. It was at the seventh time that the rain began to fall.

I've heard testimonies of how someone died and the people around began to pray that the person would come back to life. They prayed for hours, some went over 7 hours in prayer before the person finally jerked back to life.

Remember the story of the widow and the wicked judge. The widow kept disturbing the judge until the judge thought it necessary to avenge her. Some people have said that persistence in prayer is lack of faith, no it's not, it's actually the height of faith.

King David understood this and that's why he stayed in prayer until God's judgment over his son was done. He believed that God would change His verdict. Unfortunately,

God's reason was stronger than his, and that's why he lost the case. This also means that persistent prayer won't work when it's against the will of God.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

## QUESTION 11

### **"Pastor, why does it take time for God to judge wicked people? Some of them even live long on the earth"**

Asides personal ignorance, most of the problems we face in life are caused by our adversary. One of the most disturbing things you'd learn about adversaries is that they are actually legal oppositions. The bible didn't hold back this position in 1 Peter 5:8 when it said "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour".

Notice the words used by the writer; "your adversary the devil", "seeking who to devour". So you don't have to start asking why the devil hates you or why he's against you, you've already been told that he's your legal opponent or rival. If Satan is a legal opponent, then you can't just get rid of him like that, you need to present a petition to God that overrides what Satan used to get a ruling against you in the first place.

I've taught you how Satan fights against a believer. If he's not engaging in warfare, then he's engaging a courtfare. Which means if he's not engaging deception, then he's engaging a ruling from the court of heaven. If he can't play the mind game with you, then he'd find a weakness you have and



make it a case in the court of heaven. If his case is in accordance to the will of God, then he'd receive a ruling in his favour.

Now that we've clarified who your adversary is, it's wrong to think that your uncle in the village or your political leaders are the ones responsible for the setbacks in your life. Although your relative or government may have done all kinds of evil against you, praying for them to die by fire isn't the solution to the problem, they are just unfortunate puppets used by the devil to perform his evil and adversarial duties.

God may be against Satan, but He loves people, and he doesn't want anybody to perish, rather He wants all to come to repentance. And this is why it takes time for an evil man to be judged. Let's read how Ecclesiastes puts it:

Ecclesiastes 8:

11 Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

12 Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:

13 But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God.

This explains why we still have evil people leading us. It also explains why you still see evil people walking around as saints. Judgment against an evil work is not executed speedily. Notice that two categories of evil doers were mentioned; the sinner that does evil and the wicked. The sinner may do evil an hundred times yet his days will still be prolonged, and that's because even though he's a sinner, he still fears God. And as long as he fears God, God still has a chance of reviving his soul. But for the wicked, he'd get instant judgment and his days will not be prolonged, and that's because he doesn't fear God. As long as he doesn't fear God, there's no hope for his revival.

In God's perspective, keeping the wicked alive will cause an unnecessary destruction. But when the sinner does evil, according to those verses, He ensures that it is well with the righteous. This is funny, because it simply tells me that God doesn't rate or consider evil works the way we do. We believe the evil doer should die because it affects us, yet God wants the sinner who does evil to live because He has a chance of saving him, and their evil does not even affect His people. If their evil affects you, it's because you don't know it's not supposed to affect you.

If you want to stop the work of the adversary or the wicked, then you have to present a petition to God through a prayer of intercession or supplication. These prayers must contain details of the multitudes of evil works that has been executed by them and the scriptural judgment accrued to such evil.

Since God may not judge them except there are witnesses, their evil works and the scriptures will stand as a witness against them.

All through scriptures we'd find out that every evil doer has a cup, and once that cup is full, God's judgment is inevitable. In 1 Thessalonians 2:15-16, Apostle Paul spoke about a group of people who received the wrath of God because their cup of sin was full. In Genesis 15:12-16, God told Abraham that his seed would suffer affliction in a strange land for 400 years and afterwards He'd judge that land and cause Abraham's seed to come out with great possessions. There were also evil occupants in the land of Canaan that God needed to vacate, but He couldn't judge them until their iniquity was full. You may read that up in Genesis 15:12-16. When God finally judged them, we saw how beautifully everything played out. Indeed, God makes everything beautiful in His time.

That's why I know that this government cannot be wicked forever, their cup will soon be full. And because believers are interceding and making supplications daily, they can't escape judgment except they repent.

Let's take caution though, just as that scripture says, there's a very strong possibility of tilting your hearts to reciprocating their evil works with evil all in the name of fighting back. The moment you do that, God's judgment will also fall on you when it's time. I've heard Christians say things like, "if they kill Christians, let's kill them too". No, that's lack of

understanding. Our petitions to God are not a waste of time. Though it tarries, wait for it, it will surely come to pass.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

## QUESTION 12

### **"Pastor, is it not a lie to claim that I am strong when I am actually sick?"**

So in a previous message I taught you the meaning of righteousness, how that it is the justification from God that gives man the right to communicate with God, from God and as God, yet receive the necessary compliance and obedience from creation.

As far as The Law was concerned, no one could communicate with God as long as he has sinned or broken any of the laws that God gave. They'd have to go through cleansing to communicate with God. But for we who are righteous in Christ, the presence of sin does not restrict our access to God's presence. While sin kept them away from God, sin cannot keep us away from God. We can approach God and repent right in His presence.

Asides this righteousness that we have in Christ, there's something called the righteousness of faith in Christ. This is the justification that makes our prayers, positive declarations or actions towards God true.

For instance, it should be a lie to say you are strong when you are weak. But in Joel 3:10, the bible says, "... Let the weak say I am strong". In other words, it is permissible for

the one who is weak to say he is strong in Christ, and what he said will be accepted as true.

It is wrong to believe that you can have a biological child at age hundred, but if it's God you believe, then you are right. The righteousness of faith justifies all your transactions of faith. Now you'd understand why the bible says, "the Just shall live by his faith". Faith is legally accepted by God, that's why a weak person can say he is strong and he becomes strong. A poor person can say he is rich and he becomes rich. A lie would not produce the result of your declaration, but faith will. Let me show you a scripture:

Romans 10:

6 But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)

7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

So we see in verse 6 that the righteousness of faith would always speak otherwise. Stop considering the impossibility of Jesus ascending or descending, stop thinking you cannot be healed or have a breakthrough just because you can't see it,

stop thinking you can't receive salvation just because Jesus is now in heaven. Verse 9 tells us how to engage the righteousness of faith, it says if we confess with our mouth the Lord Jesus and believe it in our heart, we shall be saved.

So you'd receive your healing or breakthrough if you declare it with your mouth and believe it in your heart, and that's because you're functioning by the righteousness of faith in Christ. Faith is a righteous system. As far as faith is concerned, everything contrary to what you believe can be a lie. The fact that you have low sperm count can be a lie if you choose to declare what God's word says in faith. This is so powerful, the world's truth can be turned into a lie by scriptural truth, it just depends on where you're operating from.

As I conclude, let me create a balance. You can't claim to have what God's word didn't say you have or inspire you to have. Remember it is called "the righteousness of faith in Christ". Christ is the Word of God, and faith comes by the Word of God. Claiming you have a car in faith when you don't is a lie, but declaring that the Lord shall meet your need for a car is true, because the bible says God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory.

I believe you now know the importance of faith in your communication with God. God doesn't have any problem with you approaching Him in prayer or making positive

declarations, but whatever you ask of Him, you must believe that you've received it, that's the only way you can have it.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!



### QUESTION 13

**"Pastor, I cannot fast for too long, otherwise I'd begin to feel pain in my stomach. What can I do?"**

Think about your question for a moment, is it really true? Is it really the pain that stops you from fasting or the fear of the pain?

I've taught you that a stronghold is a spirit that sponsors an habit or a thought till it becomes a system that runs your life. But to grant clarity to this question, I may need to go deeper into that popular scripture:

2 Corinthians 10:

4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds

5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

So verse 4 unveils an opposing spiritual entity called strong holds. And the exact word used to battle strong holds is to "pull down". In other words, the surest way to battle strong holds is to pull them down. I know I've taught you how to use prayer against strongholds, but furthering my study on this subject, I've realized that praying against a stronghold alone

may only give you temporal relief. Strong holds hardly die but fire. Which means warfare prayers alone may not destroy their hold on you. It may weaken them for a moment, but the struggle will continue.

Verse 5 continues by telling us both what it means to pull down strong holds and what a spirit of stronghold actually does. It says, "casting down imaginations...". Let's consider verse 5 from two other Bible translations:

2 Corinthians 10: (BBE)

5 Putting an end to reasonings, and every high thing which is lifted up against the knowledge of God, and causing every thought to come under the authority of Christ.

2 Corinthians 10: (NIV)

5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

So "imagination" in the King James version means argument or a reasonable idea that sets itself up against the knowledge of God. Think about it, it's reasonable to avoid fasting if it affects your health, but we both know that it's against the knowledge of God. And the more you give in to that reasoning, the stronger that spirit has a hold on you. If you continue like that, it won't be long before you begin to advocate against fasting. You'd find yourself telling people not to fast because it causes sickness.

But that's not true, a stronghold is at work in you. Strongholds are a category of spirits that hold people bound and keep them in perpetual bondage. And one of the ways they execute their assignment is to sponsor reasonable ideas or arguments that keep an individual bound.

Before a man becomes a drunkard, chances are that it began with a spirit of stronghold. That spirit kept telling you to drink to wipe away your sorrows. And truthfully, each time you drank, your sorrows were momentarily wiped away. As long as you find momentary freedom through drinking, that spirit will always give you reasons to go back to it or any other mundane thing that gives temporal ease. If only you know that God can both heal your heart brokenness and also restore all that you may have lost.

Some women have put their hands in evil things just to ensure their husband isn't seeing another woman. They were okay until this spirit began to minister arguments and reasonable ideas into their mind. And because women naturally process thoughts through their emotions, they act on the idea immediately - without filtering it by the word of God. Their husband may not even be cheating, but the marriage is on its way to destruction, only because of a spirit that wasn't discerned. The annoying part is, even if she discovers that the husband isn't cheating, that spirit will keep introducing new ideas. If she had no defense against the first, then more will come.

The only way to battle against strongholds is to cast it down by the word of God. Anything else may just give you temporal ease. So fast and pray, and if you feel pain, don't agree with that thought, fasting is part of God's program for believers. If Apostle Paul fasted often, then you should be able to fast often. If you feel pain while fasting, plead the blood of Jesus and receive your healing, don't make an excuse for it, don't exalt that negative reason.

Remember that the arguments may seem to have facts that support them, but they are not true. Think about what happened to Adam and Eve, Satan brought a reasonable argument before Eve, but holistically, it wasn't true. The bible says our health will spring forth speedily when we fast, how is it possible that it's the same fasting that now affects your health?

When it comes to battling strongholds, it's who has the strongest argument that wins. So, just incase that spirit has taken over certain areas in your life, it's time to fight back with the truth. I'm not saying you won't feel pain, you will, but deal with pain with truth, not with facts or reasoning.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

## QUESTION 14

### **"Pastor, how do I know when the devil is accusing me in court?"**

By now it's clear to everyone that Satan is the accuser of the brethren. Anybody who charges you to court is your accuser, while you who is charged becomes the accused. If an accused does not appear in court to defend the accusations laid against him, a default judgment will be passed.

Revelation 12:10 tells us the level of Satan's commitment to accusing believers. It says, "And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night".

Just look at that, day and night. Which literally means that he accuses us in the morning, afternoon, evening and night. That's a minimum of 4 times everyday. If Satan accuses us that much before the court of heaven, then you can now understand why the scriptures admonishes that men ought always to pray and not to faint. Let's see how scriptures put it:

Luke 18:

1 And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint

2 Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man

3 And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary.

4 And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man

5 Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.

6 And the Lord said, Hear what the unjust judge saith.

7 And shall not God avenge his own elect, which cry day and night unto him, though he bear long with them?

Jesus's parable about the judge couldn't have been a coincidence. He was talking about the need for a consistent and habitual prayer lifestyle and suddenly delved into court matters. And then in verse 7, He relates the experience of that judge to God, and tells us that God will avenge His elects that cry unto Him day and night, even though He waited for them to show up in court when Satan brought the accusation (emphasis mine).

So although He may have passed a default judgment in your absence, and your adversary has been oppressing you because of that judgment, God can still overrule that judgment if you eventually plead your case. That widow was being oppressed by her adversary, the judge would not help

her until he found a reason to - which was her consistency and resilience.

Satan accuses us day and night, God avenges us as we pray day and night. Which means if Satan accuses us 4 times a day, then we shouldn't pray less than 4 times a day. Let David and Job inspire you on how to nullify the accusations brought by your accuser:

Job 31:

35 ("Oh, that I had someone to hear me! I sign now my defense—let the Almighty answer me; let my accuser put his indictment in writing.

Psalms 71:

13 May my accusers perish in shame; may those who want to harm me be covered with scorn and disgrace.

Did you see that? Sign your defense, by the blood of Jesus and the word of the Lord. You can also ask the Lord to punish your accusers just as David did.

Whether you were present during the accusation or not, you can apply all I just shared. However, it's important that you are aware when your case is being discussed in court. Let me show you 4 quick ways the Holy Spirit prompts you to go to court if there's an accusation against you:

- You can hear a word in your spirit

- You can see a word in your spirit or through an open vision
- You can feel a word in your spirit
- You can dream a word. Most times, what you dream is a sentence from a court. This is why you should never play down on your negative dreams. Go to court and appeal lest that dream begins to manifest in your life.

For instance, when I woke up one morning, I heard the name of a disease in my spirit. There was no need to hear the name of a disease when I just woke up. I immediately pleaded the blood of Jesus and declared my rights to health and wholeness. Moments later, I heard the name of another disease. This time, I had to ask the Lord to punish my accuser. I've had peace since that time. You might think it's a coincidence, but I'd rather not take chances.

See what happened to Job. Although he later won the case, but he had to suffer a default judgment for a while. In Zechariah 3:1, Joshua was present in court when Satan stood to resist him. And because Joshua was present to plead his case, God ordered that the filthy garment that was on Joshua be removed. It was immediately after that his word came.

Practice consistent prayers, and consciously destroy accusations that may have been tabled against you by the word of the Lord. It's not religion at all, it's a spiritual system.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!



## QUESTION 15

# **"Pastor, I dreamt that I was wearing a filthy garment. Please how do I remove it?"**

The subject of spiritual garments would require a whole book for you to have a full grasp of it. Personally, I didn't consider the subject necessary until I read about it in Dr Isaiah Wealth's book titled COURTFARE. So, drawing from the inspirations I got from that book, let me share a few things about spiritual garments with you. Ready?

In the realm of the spirit, every individual is identified and related with based on the garment he or she is wearing. Which means you can either suffer limitations or enjoy progress based on the garment you have on you.

If we are to relate this to our physical world, how do you relate with police officers, doctors or lawyers? The moment you see them on their uniform, you'd know exactly how to relate with them. Now, how do you relate with a mad man on the street? By their shaggy looking hair and ragged cloths, you can identify them. And no matter how poorly they are dressed, you can't approach them in pity to give them food or money, you might lose a part of your body in the process. A mad man is different from a beggar.

The scripture is quite clear about the subject of spiritual garments. Quoting scriptures would definitely make this article too long, but if you search for the word "garment" in your Bible application, you'd be amazed by what you'd find. You'd find things like garment of vengeance, garments of salvation, garment of violence, garment of praise, garment of light.

That's right! Praise is more than a song or a dance, it is a garment that one can wear. If you must deal with the spirit of heaviness, then you must put on the garment of praise. Some believers casually request for the garment of praise just when they are about to engage in praise session, if only they know the effect of that garment. If that garment truly comes on you, you'd never be sad or sorrowful in your life, even if you lose a loved one.

Every now and then we hear news of violent terrorist activities in different parts of the country, yet we think a simple threat or appeal would make them change. A garment of violence is upon them, and the only way they can stop is to either change the garment or be judged by God. Better yet, execute the threat to stop them.

When you see people who are bent on avenging a wrong, there's a spiritual garment that is sponsoring that desire. So the spiritual garment you have on determines what you experience in the physical realm. Just as you can have a

garment of depression, you can also have a garment of disfavor; which means nobody is permitted to favour you, no matter what you do.

Speaking of filthy garment, Joshua was clothed with a filthy garment, of which its assignment was to limit Joshua's access to God's voice. Let's read from scriptures:

Zechariah 3:

1 And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.

2 And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?

3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel.

4 And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment.

5 And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD stood by.

6 And the angel of the LORD protested unto Joshua, saying

7 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; If thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by.

So here we see that the only reason why Satan could stand to resist Joshua's access to God was because there was a filthy garment on him. If you look deeper, you'd also realize that the angel didn't just command that the garment be removed, he took a legal approach. Satan had a legal right to resist Joshua, and so the angel had to engage God's word to remove the garment.

As New Testament believers, the only way to change a filthy garment is to receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour. The moment you do that, a garment of righteousness will be put on you, which gives you unhindered access to God and His voice.

However, you must be careful. Just because you've been given a garment of righteousness doesn't mean your garment cannot be spotted, or even worse, changed to an evil garment. When a believer falls into sin, his garment is stained or spotted, and this may give the devil room to accuse him in the courts of heaven - if he doesn't repent. 1 John 1:9 tells us that if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. So God can clean your garment if you confess and repent.

The danger of not repenting from a sin is that Satan will leverage on that stain and cause you to even commit more sin. And I've taught you that the continuous unrepentant

involvement in sin is called iniquity. At this point, your garment would not need cleansing, it will need changing.

This subject is so interesting and there's just so much to write about it. However, I'd have to stop here so it doesn't get too long and boring to read. I also recommend you get that book, it will bless you in no small way.

Finally, whether you want to change a garment or clean your garment, prayer and an accurate application of God's word will do the wonder.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

## QUESTION 16

**"Pastor, we've been receiving prophecies and dreams of death in my family. As I speak, one person has died and one is seriously sick. We're scared, what can we do?"**

Let me guess, you've fasted and prayed against it for several weeks or even months, yet the dreams and prophecies keep coming. The fact that they keep coming despite your fervent prayers has created fear in you, and now you'd do anything for it to stop. Right?

Well, the first thing you must deal with is that fear of death. Even if we eventually destroy the covenant your family may have with death, the fear of death can build a stronghold around your family that will eventually take lives.

As tragic as the spirit of death is, there are people it cannot kill without their consent. If such people die by mistake or evil machinations, they'd wake up again. Apostle Paul got to a point in his life where death became a choice, a profitable one at that. He was so much in control that he decided to live. Specifically, he said "for me to die is gain, and to live is Christ". In other words, death would have been more profitable for him, but he had to live to do the works of Christ.

Haven't you heard several testimonies of people who cheated death or people who raised the dead. Jesus raised

Lazarus who had been dead for 4 days. He Himself died and came back to life after 3 days. And now He's holding the keys of life and death in your favour. If you understand this then you'd know that a death that wasn't commissioned by Jesus can still be reversed.

When Lazarus was sick, Jesus told them that the sickness wasn't unto death. So when they reported his death, it didn't add up. It also didn't matter how many days Lazarus had died, as long as it wasn't commissioned from heaven, he could still be restored, and that's exactly what Jesus did.

Bishop David Oyedepo shared a story of how he preached a message titled "VICTORY OVER DEATH". And right after the message, death came visiting. According to him, he saw himself in a tomb when his active spirit man suddenly asked a question, "what are you doing here?". And his response was, "I don't know too". He came back to life the very moment he gave that response. Humorously, he has often said that if he dies by evil machinations that nobody should pray for him, he'd come back to life.

That's the kind of understanding you must have about the spirit of death. It's not a threat nor is it a final bus stop for us who are in Christ Jesus.

A man was called that his brother had died in school and taken to the mortuary. As at the time the news got to him, he had already been embalmed, and foams were coming out

from his nose. The man travelled all the way to his brother's school, straight to the mortuary, requested that they brought out his already embalmed brother. He spoke some words into the embalmed brother's hears, and the next thing was a heavy sneeze from someone who had been dead for days. Yes, he jerked back to life!

So you see, a death sentence is not the end of life for a believer. You just need to build your faith in this reality till it sinks. A time is coming when prisoners on death row won't die because they encountered Christ in prison. They'd engage all the instruments of instant death against them, but they just won't die. The last resolve would be to revoke the death sentence and issue a life in prison sentence, because they cannot be killed before their time expires on earth. Hallelujah!

The second thing you need to do is to know the rights you have to enjoy life. Despite the threat of death, do you know the scriptural provision for your life and peace? If you know it, do you believe it? If you have the receipt for an item you ordered from a store, would you doubt your ownership of that item? Even if you've not gone to the store to claim the item, you still won't feel afraid of losing it, and that's because it is in the store.

The only challenge is if you've misplaced or traded with your receipt, which is what many believers do when they compromise their faith with alternatives. The moment you



compromise your faith, an evil garment can be put on you, and just anything can happen to you.

So get back to the scriptures and receive every word from God that promises and guarantees life. If you've compromised your faith, then plead the blood of Jesus to cleanse you from that error, then begin to walk in the light of the word.

Looking for pastors to pray or deliver your family is good, but if you don't know these things I've just shared, the fear of death can return even after the deliverance.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

## QUESTION 17

### **"Pastor, how do I approach the courts of heaven to plead my case?"**

By now it should be clear to all of us that the kingdom of heaven has a judicial system. If the bible refers to God as Judge, then He certainly would have a court where he judges matters. There cannot be a judge without a court, neither can there be a court without a judge.

Also, a nation or a kingdom cannot survive without a judicial system. Just as the earth has judicial systems, the heavens also have judicial systems. While earthly judicial systems precides over physical matters, heavenly judicial systems precides over spiritual matters. And as we know, the spirit rules the physical.

If your land and properties are taken from you from an heavenly court, no matter what court you go to on earth, you'd never win the case. But if you are able to approach the court of heaven and plead your case, then your earthly results will change.

I'm sure you know all that already. I just needed to emphasize our need to be able to approach the courts of heaven. Frankly speaking, many people are suffering on earth for reasons that don't make sense. That's because the

reason for their suffering wasn't decided on earth. Satan probably accused them before God in court, and a default judgment was passed, because they didn't appear in court to appeal the case. The reason for Job's suffering didn't make sense to any human being, only spirits knew what actually caused his problem.

So, let me show you 3 ways to approach the court of heaven. I learnt the first two from Dr Isaiah Wealth's book (COURTFARE), while the third was unveiled by the Spirit of God as I meditated on the subject. Ready?

### 1. Praying in Tongues

Praying in tongues is the quickest route to heaven's court. It is a spiritual communication line purposed for a believer and God alone. Let's see how scripture puts it:

1 Corinthians 14:

2 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.

Did you see that? You speak to God directly each time you pray in tongues, not to angels. And the good thing about praying in tongues is that the Holy Spirit also leverages on that spiritual communication to deal with matters you may not even be aware of. Romans chapter 8 unveils this truth:

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.

27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

So as you pray in tongues, the Holy Spirit will search the heart of God for a case you may not even be aware of and help you plead your case according to the will of God. He causes you to pray exactly what is required to resolve your case in court.

However, bearing in mind that you're in court, you may need to continue praying in tongues until you receive an instruction or a word from God. The word you receive now becomes the legal document with which you enforce obedience.

## 2. You can approach the court yourself

In some cases, the Holy Spirit will reveal a case or judgment you need to handle. For instance, if you had a dream about someone taking something of value from you, you may not be able to bind it through a regular prayer, you'd need to go to court.

Here's a simple guide on how to go to court:

Pray and ask the court to convene in the name of Jesus. It can be as simple as, "Father, in the name of Jesus, I step into your presence, let the courts of heaven convene". The minute you say the prayer in faith, the court convenes. I learnt that this is possible because the court operates in eternal or parallel time, which means it can happen as you say it. Get that book if you want to learn this in detail.

The next thing is to ask that every accusation against you be read out. And hey, you may not hear anything, but once you ask that your accusation be read, it is done.

The very next thing is to plead guilty. Do not argue because you cannot win. The devil understands legality, so when he brings up a case against you, he will always have evidence before he does so. Therefore, use your guilty plea as a weapon against the devil.

Once you plead guilty, ask the Father to Judge you. This is necessary because the only time a case ends is when you are judged. However, ask to be judged under the blood of Jesus. He is always in court for you, and the blood is always present. When you are judged under the blood, the judgment goes to Jesus's account. Instead of you receiving the punishment, Jesus receives it. If your sentence was death or sickness, Jesus receives it and you go free.

Once judged, ask for Documents to restrain the devil by faith. Declare in faith that you have received these documents in the name of Jesus. And finally, ask the angels to implement the document by restraining the devil from oppression you. "Father, I release the angels to go now and put a restriction on the devil not to touch me".

The whole process is as simple as I outlined, but you have to do it in faith.

Finally...

### 3. Praise

This is an approach we learnt from King David.

Psalm 100:

4 Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his COURTS with PRAISE...

The beautiful thing about this approach is that you don't necessarily need to plead your case once you enter His court. It becomes like the case of Esther, when Hamann planned to destroy her people. The moment Esther gained entrance into the kings presence, she didn't need to plead her case, the king gave her a open cheque, even to the half of his kingdom. It was at that point that Esther presented her petition.

So yes, you can praise God until something happens, or something changes. We've heard countless testimonies of how people changed tragic situations as they engaged in praise.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

## QUESTION 18

### **"Pastor, what is the difference between praying in tongues and praying in the spirit?"**

So in a previous post I began my teaching by telling you the difference between living in the spirit and being filled with the Spirit. Once you receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour, the Holy Spirit comes inside of you and activates your spirit. This is necessary because God is a Spirit, and those who worship Him can only worship Him in the spirit, not in the body. We glorify God with our body, but worship and connectivity to Him can only be done through our spirit.

One of the mysteries that has confused many believers for so long is the possibility of having a spirit being inside us, yet if you open or dissect our body, you won't find a spirit. Well, this is simply because our spirit can only be located inside the Holy Spirit. In other words, you can't be alive in the spirit without the Holy Spirit. And you can't receive the Holy Spirit except you receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Once you receive Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes into you and activates your spirit.

Once you receive Jesus, you've become a person who lives in the spirit. In other words, you can now communicate with your heavenly Father who is a Spirit.



But being filled with the Spirit or the Holy Spirit is entirely different from the encounter you had with the Holy Spirit at the point of salvation. Being filled with the Spirit in literal terms means to be equipped with the power of God. I believe this is why Jesus told the disciples that they would receive power after the Holy Ghost comes upon them. It was Apostle Paul who began to teach us the different dimensions, workings or gift of the Holy Spirit, of which one of them is the gift of diverse kinds of tongues.

I also mentioned yesterday that one of the signs that show when a person is filled with the Spirit is that he'd speak with tongues. There are 3 instances where this happened in the Bible, and so we can consider it a doctrine or a pattern. It is therefore possible to be living in the spirit but not be filled with the Spirit of God. You live in the spirit because the Holy Spirit activated your spirit at the point of salvation, but you get empowered by God to witness Jesus to the world when you are filled with the Spirit.

Let me also mention at this point that speaking in tongues are in two categories; there is speaking in tongues as a sign of being filled with the Spirit (please refer to yesterday's article), and there is speaking in tongues as a gift of the Holy Spirit. A person who has the gift of diversities of tongues communicates the mind of God in encoded languages that only a person who has the gift of interpretation of tongues can interpret. Remember that it is a gift, which means it was

given for the edification of the body of Christ. So whatever is delivered through tongues would mostly be for instruction or direction. On the other hand, praying in tongues as a result of being filled with the Spirit is a prayer to God assisted by the Holy Spirit. And if it is assisted by the Holy Spirit, then it means you'd only be led to pray the will of God at that time.

What happened on the day of Pentecost was phenomenal, they spoke in tongues after they were filled. Coincidentally, the people around heard what they were saying in their local languages. And all they heard was about the good works of God. Now this doesn't mean that you'd be able to hear me each time I pray in tongues as a result of being filled, it just means that the Holy Spirit does the prayer according to God's will. And God's will at that moment was that the people around would hear of the good works of God. If you'd recall, the tongues that Cornelius and the other disciples that Apostle Paul prayed for were never interpreted. So while one dimension of speaking in tongues will require interpretation to disclose the encoded message of the Spirit to the church or a person, the other dimension is prayer to God according to the will of God. And if the will of God is that you or someone else hears what you're praying, then that's exactly what will happen.

If you understand what I've shared so far, then you'd understand the difference between praying in the spirit and praying with the spirit or in tongues. But let me show you a few scriptures:

### 1 Corinthians 14:15 (NKJV)

What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

This was part of Apostle Paul's discussion on speaking in tongues. He was comparing the act of speaking in an unknown language (unknown to those listening and speaking) and of speaking in a language that the listeners and speaker knew. Apostle Paul used the term to speak or pray in tongues to distinguish it from speaking or praying from the mind or a language you know. Therefore, when a person who is filled with the Spirit begins to speak in tongues, his mind does not know the language or what is being said.

### Ephesians 6:18 (NKJV)

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints?

### Jude 20 (NKJV)

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.

These two scriptures refer to something very different from 1 Corinthians 14:15. Many Bibles use a convention when referring to God. You will notice the capital "G" when the

Bible text is referring to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The same convention is used here with respect to the Holy Spirit or the Spirit. The capital "S" means that it is referring to the Holy Spirit and not the spirit of man.

So while praying with tongues engages the influence or gift of the Holy Spirit to pray, praying in the Spirit relies on the person of the Holy Spirit to have an effective prayer time. Praying in the Spirit means to pray with a dependency on the Holy Spirit to help you with your prayer and be consistent with God's kingdom and principles. It refers to a prayer that is from one's spirit, as opposed to mere words from the mind, and it relies on the Holy Spirit to help you in the prayer.

As I conclude, whether you are praying in tongues or in the Spirit (Holy Spirit), true prayer is one that comes from within one's inner being, which is our spirit. True prayer is more than words put together in the mind and spoken. Although praying in tongues is a special and advantageous case of praying in the Spirit - considering all that has been said, every born again believer should practice praying in the Spirit as Apostle Paul admonishes. You don't need a special influence to pray in the Spirit, you just need salvation.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

## QUESTION 19

**"Pastor, I speak in tongues, but I usually don't feel it like I did the first time I spoke in tongues. What can I do?"**

One of the most beautiful things about praying in tongues is that the Holy Spirit gives the utterance. Which means you can be so synchronized with the Spirit of God that whatever you'd be speaking would be from the Spirit. Even you would be able to tell that it's not a carnal tongue. It's really not possible for the Spirit to give you utterance and not feel the power or connection, the same connection you felt the very first time you spoke in tongues.

I remember the first time I spoke in tongues, it was a Holy Ghost Baptism class. The tongues were sweet, nothing that I've experienced in the ordinary. Even when I wanted to stop, it just kept flowing. I guess I was too filled to stop blasting in tongues. Before we got dismissed from the class, the pastor in charge told us to nurture the tongues with continuous practice, which means we should speak in tongues more often so that the gift won't go away.

That would have been a great advice except that I soon realized that I struggled to get the same feeling I had the first day. Which also means that continuous or much speaking in

tongues didn't really nurture the tongues as they said, it probably idolized the tongues.

Speaking in tongues isn't a carnal language you train your mind to speak, it's a language of the Holy Spirit. Trying to speak in tongues without active fellowship with the things of the Spirit of God may only produce carnal tongues. That's why Apostle Paul thanked his God that he spoke in tongues more than all of them. They all spoke in tongues, but he spoke more, and that's certainly because he had more fellowship time with God.

As I mentioned in my previous teachings, speaking in tongues is one of the first signs that proves that a person is filled with the Holy Spirit. If you check the 3 instances I referred to, which is on the day of Pentecost, Peter's encounter with Cornelius's family, and Paul's meeting with the other disciples of Jesus, you'd discover that they all spoke with tongues after they were filled with The Holy Ghost.

As we all know, that first filling was a gift from God, you didn't really do much to receive it. It's almost like saying I gifted someone a car that came with a filled fuel tank. He'd be able to move around with the car as long as there is still fuel in the car. But the moment the tank is empty, he'd either park the car or refill the tank for continuous use. You'd be surprised to know that there are many Christians who could speak in

tongues at some point in their lives but are currently barren of tongues.

If you understand what I've said so far, then you'd realize that your aim shouldn't be train your tongues or practice speaking in tongues, rather it should be to keep doing the things that would make you filled and refilled with the Spirit. Let me show you a few things you should always do;

## 1. STUDY AND MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD

John 6:63 (NIV)

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you - they are full of the Spirit and life.

Notice the second time spirit was mentioned in that scripture, the "S" was in Capital letter. In other words, there's something about God's word that fills you with the Spirit of God. And like I said, once you're filled with the Spirit, tongues will flow naturally. You'd literally feel the connection.

Each time I receive a revelation from scripture, I usually don't know when I burst into speaking in tongues. It just happens unplanned. Speaking in tongues at the entrance of a revelation couldn't have been a coincidence.

## 2. PRAY

I would have put this first except that some believers have now idolized prayer. Prayer is a spiritual thing, and if it's not done based on what you understand from God's word, it would soon become an idol to you.

Any gift from God that isn't used based on a relationship with God won't stand the test of time. If you neglect the relationship, you can't possess the benefits for long. Man was supposed to live forever, but when he continued to sin, God had to cut down that possibility. Don't expect to continue walking in a grace without an active relationship with the one that engrafted you.

That said, the disciples of Jesus understood their assignment and were carrying it out until they began to experience oppositions - including from priests. They decided to pray about it, and the result was that they were filled with the Holy Ghost. Let's see how scriptures put it:

Acts 4:31

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Praying from a scriptural understanding will always fill you with the Holy Ghost. Most believers pray in the flesh, that's why they don't get filled. Even if what you need is an earthly thing, find the scriptural solution and pray with it. It's only



when you pray according to His will that He hears you. The disciples had the scriptural solution to their earthly problem, and that's what they prayed with. They didn't have to bind and cast the devil, they just prayed with an understanding of the scripture they knew.

### 3. WORSHIP

I'm not explaining this one 😊. Let it be your assignment. Tell me how worship can feel one with the Spirit. Leave your answer in the comment section.

That said, none of these 3 can work independently for too long. They are the 3 major tools required for effective fellowship with God. A continuous mixture of all 3 will continually keep your spirit connected.

Remember, it's not about mastering the tongues, but about mastering fellowship. Fellowship generates the tongues. It's better and more effectual when you follow this pattern.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

## QUESTION 20

**"Pastor, my family has suffered so much oppression and wickedness, and even though I pray night and day about it, nothing seems to be changing. What can I do?"**

There are many reasons why a whole family may be suffering Satan's oppression, but seeing that you've been praying about it without any notable change, then we need to borrow wisdom from scriptures.

In Isaiah 59, the bible unveils a prophetic event that happened with God's people. They clearly had a great life, but it seemed they began to do things that were displeasing to God and God had to give a record of how they transitioned from good to worse. Let's read some of the verses:

Isaiah 59:

1 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear:

2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

3 For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness.

4 None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity.

7 Their feet run to evil, and they make hast to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths.

8 The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.

9 Therefore is judgment far from us, neither doth justice overtake us: we wait for light, but behold obscurity; for brightness, but we walk in darkness.

11 We roar all like bears, and mourn sore like doves: we look for judgment, but there is none; for salvation, but it is far off from us.

12 For our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us: for our transgressions are with us; and as for our iniquities, we know them;

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

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

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

If we observe verse 1 and 2, it is clear that they prayed to God to help them during their hard times, but clearly, God didn't respond. And the reason why God did not respond was stated, "their iniquities seperated them from God, and their sin hid God's face from them".

Think about it, how can you pray to a God that has been seperated from you, or a God who's face is hidden from you? If His face is hidden from you, it means you can't seek His face.

Could this be the case with your family? Could it be that the iniquity or sins of your family has hidden God's face from your family? Could this be why it seems as though God is not answering your prayers?

If yes, then I'd like you to know that God is displeased about the situation. He's displeased because there's no justice, and justice can only be served when you've received judgment from God.

Believe me, oppression will continue as long as there's no judgment from God. Job's oppression continued until God judged the matter. The moment God judged it, Satan took his hands off Job's case. Many families are suffering Satan's oppression because they've not secured God's judgment.

Adam and Eve would have reclaimed their dominion if they asked God to judge their sin. Instead, they hid themselves

from God. The punishment may have been lighter if they had the boldness to approach God. Unfortunately, they lost their dominion to lack of this understanding.

God's judgment may or may not come with punishment, but the good part is, no matter what punishment is issued after judgment, the blood of Jesus has already paid the price for us. Which means we'd literally go free. That's why when you ask God to judge you or your family, you should ask Him to judge you under the blood of Jesus.

Judgment cannot be issued without admittance and repentance from sin. So you can stand as an intercessor on behalf of your family and repent of every sin you can remember in your family or bloodline. Repent from covenants that was made with altars, and anything you can remember. Repent from the lies that were told and the betrayals. Repent from the sins of fornication, the sins of adultery, the sins of stealing, just repent from any sin you know your family may have committed. The fact that Jesus died for our sin doesn't mean there's no need for repentance from sin. His blood created a possibility to be free from the consequences of sin after repentance. The blood of Jesus will never work without genuine repentance.

Once you're done repenting, ask the Lord to judge your family under the blood of Jesus. Remember that God's judgment is the only thing that can stop Satan's oppression. As long as Satan finds a sin that hasn't been judged by God,

he can oppress you and your family with it. The wages of sin will always be death.

Once you've asked God to judge your family, then you can start making declarations of your freedom from the holds of Satan on your family. At this point, you can even engage the angels with boldness to enforce God's judgment. Satan can no longer oppress you as long as you've been judged by God.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

## QUESTION 21

**"Pastor, I'm 30 years old and I still bed wet. I dream of urinating only to wake up wet. I've prayed about it, but it keeps coming back. What do I do?"**

I'm guessing you think you need deliverance, seeing that you now dream of yourself urinating. In such a case, you won't even be able to tell the difference between a dream and reality until you wake up.

Well, going for deliverance is a great idea, but be sure your situation isn't just a health challenge that needs to be intelligently managed. The fact that you've been praying about the situation for years tells me that it may not necessarily be a spiritual issue.

Ofcourse, seeing yourself urinating in the dream is a manipulation designed by a spirit of stronghold so that you won't consider other possible causes. But if you look back, you'd probably realize that it's not because of the dreams that you bed-wet, it just happened naturally. But because you've forced an evil face to the situation, a spirit of stronghold has taken advantage of it.

Alot of people think that bed-wetting is something that only happens to kids, but it's a problem that can hit grown-ups

too. You may feel embarrassed to wake up to wet sheets, but it's not your fault. It could be due to a medical condition, medicine, or a problem with your bladder. And believe me, medical experts have developed ways to fix this.

If your kidney produces more urine than your bladder can handle at night, chances are that you'd wet the bed. The wisdom would therefore be to reduce your water in-take before bedtime and possibly set an alarm to wake up at internals during the night. You just have to create a system that supports your body, while you keep praying to God for total healing.

This isn't really different from allergic reactions. While some people are allergic to food and drink, some are allergic to drugs and even weather condition. As important as fruit is, there are certain fruits that some people are not permitted to eat. The moment they eat it, they'd begin to react till the effect of the fruit fades from their system.

Thankfully, there are now anti-allergy drugs that helps people overcome certain types of allergies. For those that do not have drugs, you just have to engage some preventive measures so you don't get caught up.

It's not every situation that is an attack; and even if it's an attack, it's not every attack that God will remove. He'd give you wisdom to manage the situation until you're spiritually matured enough to overcome the attack.



Some Christians have refused to make progress because of a challenge they have with their health. They've made a prayer project over their health, yet nothing is changing. The wisdom would have been to learn how to manage the health situation as you continue serving your purpose.

We need to stop thinking that just because our health is challenged, we can't do anything. Learn from Apostle Paul, he acknowledged that there was a thorn in his flesh which was a messenger of Satan, and that he prayed to God about it 3 times but God didn't remove it. Instead, God told him that His grace was sufficient for him.

That's right! Despite your health condition, God's grace is sufficient for you to fulfill your purpose. Of course, it would have been lovely if your health was intact, but seeing that it's not, does it mean God cannot use you to do His works? Haven't you heard that all things work together for good to them that love God?

Personally, for many years I was praying about my health. But then I realized at the end of one of those years that I didn't really achieve anything besides worrying and praying for my health. It was at that point that I told God that I was done praying about my health and that I'd continue pursuing my purpose. Surprisingly, as I pursued my purpose, many of those health issues I used to have suddenly disappeared on their own.

As for the stronghold that makes you urinate in your dream, just plead the blood of Jesus and cleanse yourself from every thought or imagination that is against the knowledge of God. Stop calling it a demonic attack, instead, declare the promises of God. Keep doing this as you manage the situation medically. It's only a matter of time before it becomes a testimony.

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## QUESTION 22

**"Pastor, each time I pray to God to show me the wife to marry, I'd always dream of a married woman. What does that mean?"**

According to the Bible, dreams are dark speeches, and before you commit yourself to a dream you had, ensure you interpret it correctly. Dreams are one of the Prophetic languages that the Holy Spirit uses to communicate with us, but if we're unable to interpret the dreams He shows us correctly, we may run into a mess thinking that we're walking in God's leading. For instance, seeing yourself in school doesn't necessarily mean you should go back to school, it could mean that you should subject yourself to studying as though you are under supervision. It could also mean that you were not schooled properly and that you should refer to something you missed out on in school.

When you pray about a life partner and God shows you the picture of a lady or a man, don't just jump into conclusion that he or she is your husband or wife. God probably showed the same lady or man to many others. God shows us pictures for many reasons, but mostly because He wants us to model our choice based on the picture He showed us, not necessarily because He wants us to go for it.

As long as He didn't specifically say the person He showed you is your wife, then consider that person a model in finding a wife. A woman who is joined to a man in marriage has become one flesh with that man, so attempting to marry a married woman simply means you want to marry both she and her husband. God is not a confusionist. He won't let any man put asunder what He has joined together. So just incase you've considered approaching the woman, kill that thought right now!

If God showed you a picture of Bishop David Oyedepo just after you prayed for a mentor, it doesn't mean you should start booking appointments to see him. In fact, you don't even have to see him. His picture was shown you so that you can model your life after him. And you can do that by following him. Listen to his messages, read his books, and learn all you can learn about him.

God showed me that Bishop David Abioye was my pastor in the year 2010, yet I never met him physically until 2021. That's eleven years after. When I met him, it was easy to communicate with him because the grace had already produced results in my life. Imagine if I had to wait till I saw him, it means my life would have began in 2021. What a waste! Unfortunately, that's what many people do. Countless number of people have contacted me to tell me how they saw Apostle Joshua Selman in their dream praying for them, and that I should help them set up the meeting.

That kind of action only proves one thing, they don't understand prophetic languages. What they saw is a prophecy that will eventually come to pass if they begin to follow the grace upon Apostle Joshua Selman. Follow his teachings and instructions, and let it produce results in your life. When it's time to meet him, your results from his teachings you've applied will speak for you. Isn't it in your Bible that a man's gift makes room for him and brings him before great men?

So we need to understand prophetic languages. I've heard experiences of how God showed a guy a lady who eventually got married to another man. This guy waited and kept troubling that lady - even in her married state. Please, was he praying for her husband to die? Since the time of Adam, you'd discover that there are very few people that God picked a wife for. I've come to discover that, as a man, you'd need a deep level of intimacy with God before He can recommend a wife for you. And that's because He knows you'd not push the blame on Him when challenges arise.

When God shows you a model, use that model to find your wife. Never forget that it's "he that finds a wife", not "he that God finds a wife for". God may guide you into choosing a wife that would help you fulfill destiny, but don't always expect Him to do the choosing. Apostle Joshua Selman pointed this to be one of the reasons for late marriage in Christianity. Everybody is looking for God's choice for them; "God show me my wife", "God show me my husband". While

that may be a plausible idea, that's a possibility that only comes through maturity and intimacy with God.

Some people have never heard God speak to them. But when it's time to marry, they'd claim they're waiting for God's direction. That's not good! Some of them even go to their pastors with names and pictures of "prospective" spouses - so that their pastor would pray and choose for them. Like seriously?

As I conclude, God guides us into choosing a spouse that would support and help us fulfill destiny, but we still need maturity to manage the various challenges that may arise in marriage. People who married God's choice for them are not exempted from challenges. God's will or not, marriage would be in dissaray without spiritual maturity. Spiritual maturity is a measure of spiritual intelligence. So learn, learn how to keep a home together, learn how to be a father or a mother, learn how to respond to challenges. Don't just pray to have the kind of peace the Oyedepo's and Adeboye's enjoyed in their marriage, learn the things they did to enjoy peace.

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## QUESTION 23

**"Pastor, my church has started fasting and prayer today, but how do I fast when I go to work every day?"**

Firstly, fasting is work on its own, and mixing it with any other form of work may render it ineffective. Have you ever tried to do two jobs at the same time? Most of the references on fasting we'd find in scriptures are mostly described as a season of separation, especially from anything that distracts.

However, considering the fact that we live in a very busy world - where needs pile up every moment, one may not have the liberty to separate himself from his job, especially if he's under someone else's employment. Don't get me wrong, separate yourself or take a leave if you can, but in cases where you can not, there are quite a number of things you can do to maximize the fasting season.

One of the greatest hindrance to the operation of man's spirit is physical food. The more you feed your flesh, the less operational or the less active your spirit man will be. We're told from scriptures that the Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are the sons of God; in other words, our manifestations as sons of God can only be possible through our spirit. Unfortunately, many Christians haven't felt their

spirit in a long time. And that's because they are more alive in their body than in their spirit.

This is one of the benefits that fasting brings; even if you don't have time to pray or study the word as you fast, your abstinence from food will make your spirit man more alive. Perhaps you may have noticed that anytime you don't attend to hunger, once that hunger phase passes, your spirit man becomes alive. You may find yourself singing worship songs from deep within your heart. Hunger is the border between the physical man and the spirit man. If you can overcome hunger, then your spirit man will come alive in you. Unfortunately, many Christians rush to attend to their hunger the moment the feeling of hunger sets in. I don't blame them though, we all know how difficult it is to cross a border.

We have to be deliberate about developing our Christian life, and we can't develop our Christian life without the operation of our spirit man. Fasting does not start in the morning, it starts after we have overcome hunger. Our spirit man becomes active after we have overcome hunger, and that's when we become more sensitive to receive from God. So if you fast till 12 noon and it happens that the hunger just set in, then you may have to endure till the hunger releases you. It's at that moment that your spirit man becomes active. This is one of the most powerful secrets you'd probably learn about fasting.



Once you've overcome hunger, your body would naturally become light, which literally means that you'd be sustained by your spirit. At that moment, take out time to pray extensively. And if you work in a bank, then use your break time to pray. If you have extra time, study books or the Bible - focusing on areas that addresses the issues you're fasting for. Remember the last article I wrote on fasting, the revelation you get during your study time would make your prayer time more enjoyable.

Generally, for those who work while they engage in a fast, the night time would be a great time to acquire as many revelations that would be needed for your prayer time. I've said this over and over again, don't go into prayers without a scriptural revelation that addresses what you want to pray about. God only does according to His will, not our will.

Except for those who have been practicing, not many people can still study after they've crossed the hunger border, so the advice would be to pray as much as you can at that moment. One of the advantages of praying with an active spirit is that you can tell when your prayer is answered.

Most workers make excuses that their job would easily make them hungry, and that they may not be able to fast. The truth is, hunger has symptoms. When you get hungry, you may begin to feel ache on your head, you may feel tired, you may feel dizzy, and just anything can happen just so you attend to that hunger, but I tell you, if you can endure a little longer,

that hunger will pass and those symptoms will disappear. Hunger comes like a visitor that wants urgent attention, but just like other visitors, it can leave when not attended to.

In all, a congregational season of fasting is an opportunity to enliven your spirit man. Even if all you were able to do is worship God - which is something that comes automatically when your spirit is operational, it would do your Christian life some good.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

## QUESTION 24

### **"Pastor, why is fasting so difficult? Is there a secret to being able to fast?"**

So in a previous post I mentioned that hunger is a visitor, and just like other visitors, it can leave when not attended to. While fasting, hunger would certainly come, but understand that it is a visitor that seeks attention. If you don't pay attention to it, it would leave after a while.

I know I made that sound so easy, because to be candid, not attending to this visitor called hunger is a difficult thing. For some people, you'd not only feel the symptoms in your stomach, you'd also feel it in your head and every other part of your body. However, all those symptoms will disappear if you will endure a little bit longer.

I also mentioned that physical food is an enemy to the manifestation of the spirit of man. The more you feed your stomach, the less sensitive you'd be to spiritual things. Hunger is the border between the physical man and the spirit man, and just as you'd need valid documents to cross a border, you'd need a desperate desire to cross the border of hunger to your spirit man. This is why fasting does not start in the morning, it starts when you cross the border of hunger. If you fast till 12 noon and you've not crossed hunger, then fasting has not started.

The whole idea of fasting is for our spirit man to be more sensitive to the Spirit of God. The bible says the Spirit of God bears witness with our spirit that we are sons of God. Our manifestation as sons of God is dependent on how much we can receive from the Holy Spirit. If your manifestation is small, blame it on your level of sensitivity.

So yes, fasting is difficult, but so also is crossing any border across the world. The next time you feel hunger while fasting, just remember that you're crossing the border, and your endurance is the only legitimate way to cross it.

Once you've crossed, then your spirit man takes charge of your body. One of the signs you'd notice when you cross the border is that you'd begin to worship God from within you. Perhaps you've even experienced this before.

At that point, there's no barrier between you and God. It's amazing how man is humbled when he crosses that hunger border just to seek God. You who use to be proud will suddenly be humble. You who didn't respect anybody will suddenly learn respect. And that's because by deciding to seek God through a fast, you restricted the operations of your flesh. The reason why people can tell a lie to save their neck is because they are in the flesh, the spirit man doesn't consider any consequences before it tells the truth. If you find yourself struggling to forgive someone, it's not because of the gravity of the offense, but because you are too much in

the flesh, a spirit takes no offense for a wrong done against it.

Feelings and emotions are expressions of the soul and body, not the spirit. People who are always in the spirit are hardly emotional about things. That's why when one of the disciples of Jesus told Him that he was going to bury his dead father, His response was, "let the dead bury the dead". That's not a good thing to say to someone who just lost a father. However, we won't blame Him, emotions are not available in the spirit where He operated from.

Living in the flesh kills the operation of the spirit man faster than you can think of. Romans 8:13 says, "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". I told you earlier that most of the actions of our body are feeling or emotion-sponsored, this scripture buttresses the fact that if you control your body from the spirit, you will live. Feelings can lead you into trouble, but your spirit will not.

You don't have to fast everyday for your spirit man to be active, however according to Apostle Paul, you have to fast often. Often can be once, twice or thrice a week. As Christians, we must practice the habit of being in the spirit, and this may not be possible without incorporating fasting into your lifestyle.

As I conclude, remember that fasting is not the food of the spirit man, it's only a strategy that transfers control to your spirit man. However, once your spirit man gains control, if it has no food in it, then you'd be at the mercy of God. The food of the spirit man is the word of God. Matthew 4:4 says, "... Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God".

The word "man" comprises of his spirit-man and the physical man. While the physical man feeds on bread, the spirit man feeds on the Word of God. It's why the bible recommends that we meditate on the Word of God day and night. Just as you eat physical food day and night, you should also eat spiritual food day and night.

So as you fast from food, feed your spirit man with the Word of God. Read books and scriptures that tackles what you're fasting for. Listen to messages and the likes. This is important, so that when your spirit man takes charge, receiving from God would become easy. God's word is the only leverage you have in the realm of the spirit.

Finally, if you're a nursing mother, please do not engage in a fast. Instead, spend quality time praying and fellowshiping with God. If you're under any form of medication or battling with a health challenge, having read all these, I don't have the right to tell you not to fast, it's absolutely up to you to do what your faith permits. I've seen an ulcer patient fast and received her healing, and that's because the spirit man

cannot have ulcer nor be diseased. She crossed that border of pain and discomfort, and her healing was established. So again, I can't tell you not to fast, but do what your faith permits.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!

## QUESTION 25

**"Pastor, every time I ask God for something, He responds with about 50 percent of what I asked for. Is this normal or should I be worried?"**

There are many sides to situations like this, but in all, I've realized that God responds to us based on our maturity or His expectations of us. So just because you asked for a car doesn't mean that God will give you a car. Rather, He'd give you something that matches your maturity level. Let me show you a few scriptures that might help your understanding:

## SCRIPTURE 1:

Ephesians 3:

20 Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us.

Normally, whenever God does something for us, He doesn't leave room for doubt. Which means you shouldn't be able to doubt that He was the one who did it. His response to us would usually be exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think. That's His signature.



The moment you see that what you got was far more than you requested or expected, then it was God who did it. I'm sure you've also had experiences like that, when you received a favour or blessing that was far beyond your imagine. Even you couldn't deny that it could only be God. Some people don't know this scripture, yet they know that when results exceeds what they expected, it can only be God who did it. So yes, that's God's primary signature or stamp for doing something for us.

When you no longer experience that kind of result in your life, then you should know that there's a decline in the power at work in you. That scripture tells us that God is able to exceed what we ask or imagine, not based on the size or magnitude of our thoughts or requests, but according to the power at work in us.

God's word is that power! How much of God's word do you have stored inside your heart? Can the revelation of God's word you have inside you generate enough power to experience an exceeding abundant response for what you've asked God for? God's word is quick and powerful. This tells me that even the delayed answers to prayer some Christians suffer is a result of inadequacy of the word in them, not anything else.

As matured believers, we need to stop comparing ourselves with new believers. At their level, they only need the milk of the word to enjoy the exceeding riches of God. So any little

effort they make to receive God's word would always stir up power within them. That's why you'd notice that it's easier for a new believer to share a testimony than a older believer.

In my opinion, once you've crossed one year, then you're old enough to desire the strong meat of God's word. At that point, don't expect milk to sustain you. It's also at this point that most young believers withdraw from God, because they'd probably think that God has deserted them. But no, it is you who has overgrown milk, God has nothing to do with it.

Bishop Oyedepo has often shared how he was going to pray to God about a matter many years back, but before he went to his prayer room, he prepared himself with relevant scriptures and revelations that guaranteed answers to what he wanted to pray about. He approached his prayer room as soon as he was done preparing, and to his amazement he heard God say, "I've heard you, don't bother praying". At that point, the prayer was probably only a thought, but God is able to do both what we ask or think, according to the power that works in us.

I learnt a very powerful lesson from his experience. I don't have to pray before God responds to my needs, the moment it is in my thoughts and the power of God's word is working in me, I should see results. This is the highest level of faith in God. A level where you don't pray for things, you just think of them and the word in you goes to work to settle it. Any thought that mixes with God's word must be settled.

Now you'd understand Isaiah 65:24. It says, "And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear". So God can answer you while the request is still just a thought. And even while you're still presenting the prayer point, He has heard. Only because there's power working in you. Hallelujah!

## SCRIPTURE 2:

Luke 12:

48b For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

God will only give you more on the condition that you'd give more. Anybody that withholds more than he needs isn't a candidate for increase from God. So even if you ask for more, He'd only give you a portion that is sufficient for you, because He knows you won't give from it.

The rich fool didn't understand this, and that's why he paid with his life. Many people have not left a certain financial threshold because they've never given higher than what that threshold permits. It was Pastor Kingsley Okonkwo that shared a testimony of how he began to receive favours in millions of Naira. He simply agreed with his wife to sow a seed of a million Naira, and from that moment they began to receive payment in millions.

Don't be deceived, whatsoever a man sows is what he'd reap. If you sow little, you'd reap little. So even if you ask God for something big, you'd still get little answer because you sowed little. Your prayer or request is not the seed, what you gave before the request was made is the seed. And it's what you gave that is used to measure what will be released after your request.

Let me conclude with this; many Christians are not maturing, they're only ageing. Just because you're 10 years in the faith doesn't mean you'd be great. It's not age that makes great, it's grace. And it's only spiritual maturity that releases grace upon us.

Remain ever blessed!

## QUESTION 26

### **"Pastor, while fasting, can I take water when I get thirsty?"**

It depends on what you're fasting for. For instance, Matthew 5:6 says, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled". What that means is that your hunger and thirst is not necessarily towards physical food and water, but towards harnessing the full potential of your righteous nature.

That could also mean that even if you are offered physical food and water, there's a ninety percent chance that you will refuse. I remember many years ago when I just started practicing a fasted life, days came when I hated food or anything that gave unnecessary energy to my physical senses. My spiritual senses were much active and I loved it that way. Whenever I saw people who were eating, I'd be so upset with them. I'd say things like, "must you eat everyday? Can't you at least fast for one day?". I understood how Jesus felt when He asked His disciples if they couldn't pray for one hour.

My hunger and thirst had yielded towards prayer and the study of the word. I was always hungry to pray and always thirsty for the revelation of God's word. I just wanted to experience the fullness of my righteousness in Christ.

Just so you understand my experience, let me take a moment to explain what righteousness is. Righteousness isn't just a nature you receive

when you receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour, it is the justification by God that gives you the right to communicate with God, from God and as God, and enjoy obedience and compliance from creation. In other words, you shouldn't expect obedience and compliance from this world except you're operating from God or as God. As far as this world is concerned, by flesh shall no man prevail.

So I didn't want the world to ignore me at all, yet that is a possibility that exists only when I operate from God or as God. Coincidentally, many Christians are struggling in this world only because they don't understand this simple secret.

For the kind of fasting I did, I didn't thirst for water nor get hungry for food, I was hungry and thirsty for power. Hunger didn't drive me to the restaurant, it drove me to my prayer altar.

Consequently, I've engaged in fasting exercises where I had to take water to avoid dehydration. The only reason I can give for that is that the fast wasn't as desperate as the previous times. I just wanted to subject my flesh so that my spirit can be sensitive to God. Just so there's a balance in this message, let's look at instances in scriptures that covers 2 major forms of fasting.

#### SCRIPTURE 1:

Daniel 10:

- 1 In the third year of Cyrus, king of Persia, a secret was unfolded to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, even a hard work: and he had knowledge of it, and the vision was clear to him.
- 2 In those days I, Daniel, gave myself up to grief for three full weeks.

3 I had no pleasing food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, and I put no oil on my body till three full weeks were ended.

So here we see a type of fast where Daniel simply expressed his grievances in prayer. A secret was revealed to him, and because he needed God's intervention, he deprived himself of pleasurable meals and drinks, he also did not use cream on his body, until 21 days ended.

If you'd recall in Daniel chapter 1, he and his 3 Hebrew friends did something similar when they refused to eat the king's rich food. They resorted to taking vegetables and water for 10 days.

In summary, he did eat something and most likely drank water, but not to his satisfaction. What this means is that eating or drinking during a period of fasting isn't for satisfaction, but for strenght to do what's needed. This is especially for Christians who like to combine their breakfast, lunch and dinner to break their fast. You're not supposed to eat for pleasure during a fast, you eat for strenght to continue what you are fasting for.

The scripture didn't also tell us what time of the day Daniel took water or ate the unpleasant food; however, I encourage people to take water if they sense dizzyness. It's most likely caused by dehydration. It also means that your thirst isn't yielded yet. The yielding of the thirst and hunger is an assistance by the Spirit of God, and it doesn't release you until you're done with the fast. So when I say I wasn't thirsty for water, it's a supernatural thing. The level of commitment you give to a fast is what would determine the level of assistance you'd get.

SCRIPTURE 2:

Exodus 34:

28 And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments.

Acts 9:

9 And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

What Moses and Apostle Paul went through is a kind of fast we call DRY FASTING, one which you neither take water nor food for the period of the fast. In Mathew 4:2, Jesus also went through this type of fasting.

This is also assisted by the Spirit of God. If you desire to do a dry fasting, ensure you are led by the Spirit of God to do it. If He leads you, then He's sure to back you up. Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, Moses was in the very presence of God for the 40 days. If it is sponsored by God, then nothing will happen to your body, no matter how many days it takes.

Remain ever blessed, in Jesus precious name!



## QUESTION 27

### **"Pastor, can you explain the meaning of Daniel's fast?"**

It's basically the type of fasting most Christians do today. Yeah, your regular fast where you skip two meals to break by 6:00PM. The only challenge is that most Christians do not understand why Daniel had to eat something during the fast. It's weird to see a believer break his fast with heaps of Eba and all the meat he skipped for breakfast and lunch. Eating that volume of food to break a fast can as well mean restarting the journey the next day.

According to scriptures, Daniel deprived himself of pleasing food, meat and drink for 3 weeks. This tells me that during a fast, if you eat till you are pleased, then you're not actually fasting. During the fast, you can eat and drink in minute volumes only when you need strenght to continue praying or doing what needs to be done. This means that if you still have strenght after 24 hours, you don't have to eat or drink anything. Whoever told us that breaking the fast intermittently must be mistaken a medical fast and a spiritual fast.

That's right! Doctors often advise patients with certain health conditions to skip two meals a day for a period of time. I also learnt that they can even tell you not to take water for about 2 days. Those are purely medical stuffs, not spiritual.

Coincidentally, they also call it fasting. But in a spiritual fast, if you eat one full meal as they propose, you may lose the spiritual connection you fasted all day to establish. I'm sure you may have noticed it; you broke your fast with heavy food last night and suddenly became too weak to fast by the morning.

The spirit-man is the only driver of Daniel's kind of fast. The moment you have plenty food in your stomach, you'd create a breach that would appear like weakness in your body. It's a statement from your spirit that you lost the connection. So during a fast that isn't dry fasting, eat as light as possible so that you don't alter the passion and zeal in your spirit. If you eat light, you'd feel strong when you wake up in the morning. If you eat light, you won't be too weak to pray in the night. Make no mistake, you'd feel weak if you eat heavy.

Let's read Daniel's experience from scripture:

Daniel 10:

1 In the third year of Cyrus, king of Persia, a secret was unfolded to Daniel, whose name was Belteshazzar; and the thing was true, even a hard work: and he had knowledge of it, and the vision was clear to him.

2 In those days I, Daniel, gave myself up to grief for three full weeks.

3 I had no pleasing food, no meat or wine came into my mouth, and I put no oil on my body till three full weeks were ended.

So here we see a type of fast where Daniel simply expressed his grievances in prayer. He was displeased about a situation, just as we normally can be displeased about certain situations around our lives, and because he needed God's intervention, he deprived himself of pleasurable meals and drinks, he also did not use perfume on his body, until 21 days ended. If you'd recall in Daniel chapter 1, he and his 3 Hebrew friends did something similar when they refused to eat the king's rich food. They resorted to taking vegetables and water for 10 days.

The purpose of eating wasn't for pleasure, but for strenght. It's unfortunate that some Christians subconsciously meditate on the kind of food they'd break their fast with later in the evening. That's not fasting. The fasting exercise where you can still think of food isn't fasting.

Something was eating up Daniel, and he needed to pray through until God intervened. But whenever it seemed as though he no longer had strenght, he'd quickly munch a few things and take water, then continue his prayer. That's the very reason why it's called prayer and fasting.

This also suffices for couples who ask if they could still have sex during fasting. Sex is for pleasure, and its primary purpose is to satisfy your flesh. Your focus during fasting is to energize your spirit man to receive the breakthrough you desire. And as we know, the flesh is continually an enemy of

the spirit. If you have a urge to have sex during a fast, it's most likely an attack. So, avoid anything that gives pleasure to your flesh. Moreover, where would you get the strenght to have sex when the little food you ate is just to push through in prayer? I perceive that people who ask this type of question are people who stuck up their stomach with food when they break their fast. A full stomach will definitely invite lust. However, just so the devil doesn't take advantage of your marriage, If a couple have to fast, then let it be an agreement between the husband and wife.

As I conclude, except God is sponsoring you to do a dry fast, like He did for Moses and Jesus after he was baptised, taking a spiritual journey would often require that you strengthen your body. In 1 Kings 19, we read how the angel of God gave Elijah cake and water because the journey was long. Yet, that meal strengthened Elijah for 40 days. Remember what I said earlier, that if you still have strenght after 24 hours, then you don't have to eat nor drink anything. Like Daniel, let your focus be what it eating you up.

Daniel's fast wasn't a "skip two meals fast", it was a fast that only took a meal when he needed strenght. This also means that if he doesn't need strenght after 1 day or 3 days in the fast, he doesn't have any business eating. Breaking in the evening or whatever time you've chosen isn't compulsory. You can as well continue until you need strenght. During one of the 21-day fast that I did long ago, I think I skipped meal

one evening and continued till the next day. I had strenght,  
so there was no need for food.

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## QUESTION 28

**"Pastor, I know I've made many mistakes in my life, but do I have to fast to correct them? Can't I just pray?"**

Oh wow! Didn't you pray before you made those mistakes? I'm guessing you did.

One of the greatest secrets you'd learn about God is that He deals with us from our spirit, not our flesh. It's from the inside-out, not outside-in. And the reason why many Christians continue to make costly mistakes is because their choices are based on a fleshly desire. What they don't know is, the more they make choices in the flesh, the more they silence their spirit man.

Don't get me wrong, there's nothing wrong in having fleshly desires, but we must filter and edit those desires by our spirit. Let's see how scriptures put it:

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.

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.

Did you notice verse 13? It says "if you live after the flesh". The "You" that scripture refers to is the spirit of man - which is the real man. So it tells us that there's a possibility of killing your spirit-man if you make choices after the flesh. This also means that just because a person is physically alive doesn't mean he's really alive in himself. From experience, a demon spirit may have taken over his body. It's why you should be careful who you share your secrets with. A body without a spirit will always be dead. If you see a physical man walking, a spirit must be at work in him, and it's either his spirit or another spirit.

Many people who suffer abuse in marriage most likely made a choice of a life partner in the flesh. As Christians, we're not expected to take destiny decisions in the flesh. Perhaps you saw that the lady was fair to behold and you decided to grab her before she becomes a competition. That's the flesh at work! Many people are suffering in business today because they entered the business in the flesh. Perhaps you were told that the business is lucrative, and without some level of scrutiny you invested your life's savings in it. Now you're in serious debts, and because you silenced your spirit by that decision, it's not looking like you'd come out of that debt.

As a lady, perhaps you became homeless, and then you thought in your head that you didn't have a choice but to move in with a man you're not married to. That's the flesh at work! The flesh likes to be the final authority, and so it gives

you all the possible options even before you think about it. But as Christians, we don't live after the flesh, you should have accessed your spirit to hear what God is saying.

So that's why you should fast, to journey into your spirit so that you can receive spiritual solutions from God through His Spirit. Verse 14 and 16 of that scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are sons of God, and that one of the characteristics of the sons of God is that they are led by the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit will not lead you to cohabit with a man, the Holy Spirit will not lead you into a business that will ruin your life, the Holy Spirit will not lead you into a marriage that will destroy your walk with God.

Believe me, your spiritual antenna will generate low signals without a fasted life, and that's because the more your flesh enjoys pleasures, the more your spiritual antenna loses signal.

One of the scriptures that has continued to scare me is Romans 8:7. It says, "Because the mind of the flesh is an enemy to God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither can it be". So your flesh has its own mind, and that mind is not subject to God's law by default. What a battle! Galatians 5:17 furthers says "For the desire of the flesh is against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, in order to keep you from doing whatever you want". Clearly, this isn't an easy battle? Our



flesh has a mind that is an enemy to both God and His Spirit, yet we're supposed to live by our spirit.

Again, the solution is fasting. Fasting suffers your flesh and puts it under subjection to your spirit - which receives direction from the Spirit of God. Without fasting, your flesh will never subject itself to your spirit. This is already very emotional for me, because I receive countless number of counseling requests daily, and a lack of understanding of this battle is the cause of most of their problems. And it's even more emotional that there are alot of things I'm not permitted to say in a published work like this. Believers need to wake up to this battle!

As I conclude, I once told you that hunger is the border between the flesh and the spirit. If you can successfully endure the pain of hunger, then you'd cross over to your spirit and take dominion over your flesh. Let me also add this, beware of pleasure! Pleasure is an enemy of the spirit of man.

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## QUESTION 29

**"Pastor, I've declared all the scriptures I know concerning my situation, but nothing seems to be changing. What else can I do?"**

There are many possible reasons why your scriptural declarations may not produce results, and I think I've talked about quite a number of them. But for this, let me go a direction I feel the Spirit of God is leading me.

One of the greatest hindrances to faith declarations is non-compliance to context. Although you might believe what you declared, but if you declared it out of context, chances are that you'd not get the expected result.

For instance, Phillipians 4:19 tells us that God shall supply all our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Many Christians believe that scripture is a promise from God, whereas it's a prayer made by Apostle Paul to the Phillipian church because of their sacrifice towards kingdom advancement.

Ofcourse, you can declare that scripture, but don't expect to see results if you're a stingy or greedy person. You may not have sacrificed for the kingdom, especially if you're a new believer, but at least you must have a heart that prioritizes God's kingdom to use that scripture. There are many Christians who would spend money on airtime just to have

frivolous conversations, yet when they get to church on Sunday, they'd tell you that they don't have money for offering. While some religious people will think this is okay, the implication is that they won't be able to access certain scriptural benefits without a heart for the kingdom.

Whenever I teach New Believers about financial prosperity, this is one of the financial principles I never fail to teach them. God is not looking for your money, He's looking for your heart. Even if you don't work, it's not possible that you won't get financial favour all through the week, no matter how little. God will ensure you get something just to test your heart position towards Him. So if you still don't give offering on Sunday, then you have a heart problem. I can tell you this because I practiced it, and it worked.

I remember the year 2016 when I promised God that I was going to make it a practice to double my worship offering every year, I started with N200 that year. I didn't have a job, so the first two hundred Naira I gave on Sunday was the bits I saved from each day during the week. I can't forget that day. The two hundred naira was made up of a hundred naira note, a fifty naira note, two pieces of twenty naira notes, and then a ten naira note. I had the opportunity to use the money to feed during the week, but I understood context. That was all the money I had on me that day, but I worship God with it.

Today, when I declare Phillipians 4:19, it's not from a selfish or greedy heart, but from a heart that is responsible for the

kingdom, a heart that has served and still serving. That scripture will always work for me, and that's because I obey the law of context.

Just like a movie script, placing scriptures in proper context is very important. If the context isn't right, you won't derive the original intent of the author. Remember that the scriptures among other things were written for our examples. Which means if you follow the examples or pattern of a biblical character, you'd get the same result. By relying on isolated verses without giving due consideration to their context, misunderstandings and misinterpretations may result.

Now don't get me wrong, I'm not saying that the Holy Spirit cannot breath on a scripture to mean something else, He does that alot whenever He needs to give you a breakthrough, His ways are past finding out. It's only the Holy Spirit that can give 500 interpretations to one verse of scripture, and they'd all produce result. But even at that, He doesn't violate the law of context. Any interpretation He gives still obeys the law of context.

Let me use one more scriptural example as I conclude:

Isaiah 54:

14 In righteousness shalt thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee.

15 Behold, they shall surely gather together, but not by me: whosoever shall gather together against thee shall fall for thy sake.

17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

Just imagine those beautiful promises. And while you may be tempted to start making powerful declarations, try to understand the context. Some Christians live in guilt, yet they believe that no weapon formed against them shall prosper, ofcourse the weapon will prosper. Some others live in fear and doubt, yet they want to be far from terror and oppression. It doesn't work that way. If you want those benefits, then you have to meet the scriptural demands, which is to wear your garment of righteousness. And I've taught you that righteousness is the justification by God that gives you the right to communicate with God, from God and as God, and enjoying obedience and compliance from creation. So don't expect obedience and compliance from this world except you're operating from God or as God. As far as this world is concerned, by flesh shall no man prevail.

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### QUESTION 30

**"Pastor, I'm a Christian, but why is there so many challenges in my life, and why does it take so long for me to overcome them?"**

I'm not sure what exactly may be causing that situation, but let me share something with you that will change your life for ever.

Matthew 21:

12 And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves.

13 And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.

14 And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them.

So in the scripture above we see Jesus reacting to a shocking situation, He went to the temple only to discover that it had been turned into a market place where all kinds of trades took place. He became enraged and sent everyone who traded in the temple out. While He did that, His very words were, "My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves".

This is already stirring an anointing within my heart. We know from scriptures that we are the temple or house of God, and if we are the house of God, then we should be of prayer. "My house shall be a house of prayer!". Jesus knows that it is impossible to host God without engaging prayer as a lifestyle. Unfortunately, many Christians have turned their lives into a den of thieves, they keep taking in things that steal their prayer time.

Anything you do that affects your prayer life is a thief. And if it's a thief, cast it out of your life. If watching movies affects your prayer life, then it's a thief. Your life should not be a market place, it should be a life of prayer. If eating affects your prayer life, then don't eat till you've prayed. If anger affects your prayer life, then work on your anger. The only thing that qualifies to host Jesus successfully is a consistent prayer life.

Now you'd understand what Jesus meant in Luke 18:1 when He said, "men ought always to pray and not to faint". I looked up the meaning of "faint" in the dictionary and what I found would amaze you:

Lacking strength, weak, spiritless, inclined to lose consciousness, lacking courage or energy, cowardly, dejected, barely perceptible, not bright, or loud, or sharp.

Just look at that! That's exactly what you become when you don't maintain a consistent prayer life. By this alone you

should know why it takes you so long to overcome challenges, you lack the courage to face those challenges, you can barely perceive what the Spirit of God is saying, and that's because you're probably spiritless. Courage isn't something you just declare that you have, it's something you develop on the altar of prayer. That's why it's important that we always pray. The more you pray, the more courageous you become. And the more courageous you become, the more possibilities you'd command.

As soon as Jesus restored the glory of the temple in Matthew 21, we were told in verse 14 that the blind and the lame came into the temple and He healed them. This means that it shouldn't be difficult to overcome challenges as long as your life gives prayer priority. So your worry right now shouldn't be about how the challenges are many, it should be about how to restore your prayer life.

Just incase you've gone far astray and you're wondering how long it will take to get back in your spiritual form if you resume praying, I have good news for you, it doesn't take long. Let me show you a scripture:

John 2:

18 Then answered the Jews and said unto him, What sign shewest thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things?

19 Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.



20 Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?

So they asked Jesus why He sent out the traders from the temple, they really wanted to know what He was trying to prove. And to their amazement, He told them to destroy the temple and He'd rebuild it in 3 days. That's all you need to start off your prayer life again, a 3-day prayer for your personal spiritual revival. Then once you're revived, you can now create a daily routine for your prayers.

Guard your life with prayers, because it is out of it that the issues of life are resolved.

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. I have a special love for people who read books. If you want to change your ill look, then read books. One difference between the poor and the rich is that while the poor complains and blames the economy for his predicaments, the rich hunts for knowledge that will bail him out of his predicament. Life is like a hunting ground, man is the hunter, and knowledge is the prey. A prey is not something you easily catch; and that's why acquiring knowledge is not easy. However, if you want to live, then you must catch knowledge. No matter how dry a forest or bush may seem, a committed hunter will still go home with something. No matter the depth of famine or recession a nation may be going through, knowledge will always make a difference. Knowledge may not immediately resolve the challenge at hand, but it would certainly give you a chance to move ahead. When things get out of hand, knowledge gives you a new hand. Knowledge won't let you go if you would let it show. Challenges may hang around, but only till you show them knowledge.

Knowledge shows; that's why the bible says we should "study to show ourselves approved". If what you know is not showing, then you need to know more.

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](http://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.

