

Before you read this, I would like you to take a minute to pray this prayer;  
“God, open my eyes to see how this writing applies to me today”.

# Star Light

SL/2023-E10 Like stars, shine through the dark night sky

## DISCLAIMER:

Some stories (if any) used in **Star Light** write ups are a creation of the imagination of the writer. Any resemblance to persons, living or dead, events, or locale are purely coincidental.

## *We have heard, but have we seen?*

*but now I have seen you with my own eyes*” (Job 42:5 NLT). Why is this so important?

**A** TIME CAME IN ISRAEL, A TIME the Bible records in a bold headline in the **New Living Translation** of the Holy Bible as “**Israel Disobeys the LORD**”. The account of how it happened is recorded thus; “*After that generation died, another generation grew up who did not acknowledge the LORD or remember the mighty things he had done for Israel*” (Judges 2:10 NLT). But which generation whose death is referenced here? Let us take a few steps back to verse seven; “*And the Israelites served the LORD throughout the lifetime of Joshua and the leaders who outlived him – **those who had seen all the great things that the LORD had done for Israel***” (emphasis mine). When this generation that saw the great works of the LORD died, a generation arose that did not see those works the LORD did, but only heard about them, as a result, they quickly forgot what they had heard and eventually forgot the God who did them! Tragic, isn't it?

The Psalmist in his contemplations wrote; “*We have heard what God has done, and now we have seen it ...*” (Psalm 48:8a GNB). Job in his conversation with God said; “*I had only heard about you before,*

In a study reported by **The Atlantic**, it was shown that between hearing and seeing, hearing ranked lower than seeing in receiving and retaining information. We easily forget what we hear, but we retain for a longer time what we see; no wonder kids find it easy to retain rhymes that display the lyrics as they sing along; it is the reason copying notes ensure a higher chance of retaining the information learnt than just listening to the teacher. Interestingly, in the study it was shown that handling was the best way to acquire and retain information; now it makes sense why Apostle James would write; “*But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves*” (James 1:22 NLT), and Apostle John would write “*We proclaim to you what we ourselves have **actually seen and heard** so that you may have fellowship with us ...*” (1John 1:3 NLT). The implication of this is that the generation that saw the miraculous deliverances along the way to the land of promise could not forget God, little wonder the people were dedicated to His worship all through their lifetime. But when this generation of the “seers” died and that generation of the hearers arose, they

easily forgot what they heard about God, and they forgot God leading to a time of gradual but unmistakable moral and spiritual decline. It was a time the Bible, repeatedly, describes as *"In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes"* (Judges 17:6, 18:1, 19:1, 21:25). Does this not describe the state of the church and of our dear nation, Nigeria, and all other nations of the world today? It does, from where I stand.

What then is the way out? From the discussion so far, it is obvious we must return to the point where we aren't content just hearing about God, but like Job, seek to see the Lord and His works. Do we wonder why the Apostles turned their world upside down (Acts 17:6)? John said that what we preach to you, we heard it and we saw it. Why were the prophets of old willing to go through perils, risking their lives day after day to bring God's message to the people? Each and every one of them had an encounter with God, an encounter that left lasting impressions; an encounter that made God so real there was no room for vacillation in their convictions:

Isaiah saw God and discussed with Him (Isaiah 6:1)

Ezekiel saw God and had many messages from Him (Ezekiel 1:1, 8:1-4)

Jeremiah encountered and discussed with God (Jeremiah 1:4-12, etc)

Moses saw God and discussed with him face to face (Numbers 12:8)

Paul met with the Lord and saw Him (Acts 9:3-9)

The Apostles walked with the Lord seen him and hearing him. It is for this that when told by the Council not to preach in Jesus' name, Peter and John responded; *"For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard"* (Acts 4:20 NKJV).

Let us end this as we pray the prayer of Habakkuk:

*"God, I've heard what our ancestors say about you, and I'm stopped in my tracks, down on my knees. Do among us what you did among them. Work among us as you worked among them. And as you bring judgment, as you surely must, remember mercy"* (Habakkuk 3:2 MSG).

Like Moses, we must daily cry, *"Please, show me Your glory!"* (Exodus 33:18 AMP). I don't know about you, but this is my heart cry!

### Comment from last edition; Demotion or Promotion?

Areas in contemporary society where we accept demotion packaged as promotion:

1. Giving up chastity to get a husband or wife
2. Visiting chambers of Satan to get children
3. Yahoo-Yahoo, stealing, contract padding/inflation etc to make wealth
4. Obtaining power from the prince of darkness to do ministry
5. Following evil and doing evil for career promotion
6. Staying in an assembly that provides no nutrition for spiritual growth because of position

*Thank you for  
your feedback*