

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-E8

Like stars, shine through the dark night sky

## Promotion? or Demotion?

### 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.

In the last edition, we looked at those who refused the offer of demotion packaged as promotion out of the present troubles of life. Now, let us see those who could not resist and also look at what it takes to make the right choice.

### Promotion or Demotion (2)?

But not many were able to resist the thrill of the satisfaction of the moment for the real satisfaction of the future:

1. **Gehazi:** Gehazi whose name means “valley of sight” was clearly missing a thing or two in the insight department. When Naaman, the Assyrian General, was cured of his leprosy by Prophet Elisha, he Naaman presented gifts to the prophet, but Prophet Elisha objected and would not receive them (2 Kings 5:15-16). Gehazi, who was Elisha's Assistant would have none of this so he ran after Naaman and received from him six thousand pieces of silver and two changes of clothing (2 Kings 5:22-23). However, this was a costly trade off of the prospects of the future for the satisfaction of the moment. Hear what Prophet Elisha said to him; “... Is this the time to receive money and clothing, olive groves and vineyards, sheep

and cattle, and male and female servants? Because you have done this, you and your descendants will suffer from Naaman's leprosy forever.' When Gehazi left the room, he was covered with leprosy; his skin was white as snow” (2 Kings 5:26b-27). Gehazi would have probably walked in Elisha's shoes to do greater works, alas, he was never heard of again!

2. **Judas Iscariot:** Here was a young man being mentored by the Lord Jesus Christ himself. For three and a half years, Judas sat under Jesus Christ, listening and learning. But along the way, the devil entered him (Luke 22:3, John 13:27) and gave him a suggestion on how to make a quick buck using Jesus. Though not recorded in Scripture, I suspect the conversation went something like this; *Judas, that money you lost when Mary broke that costly bottle of nard to anoint Jesus instead of selling it to give you the money to keep, I can make it up to you. Just betray Jesus and you'll become 30 pieces of silver rich.* Rather than focus on the matters of the Kingdom that carried the prospects of eternal reward, his attention was drawn and became fixated on monetary gains in the now! What was the result? As it is with every “promotion” from the devil, this was a demotion and



the result was swift and immediate; Judas lost the money he was pursuing, he lost his life, and lost a place in the scheme of things in the Kingdom work as someone was nominated to take his place “So now we must choose a replacement for Judas from among the men who were with us the entire time we were traveling with the Lord Jesus. Show us which of these men you have chosen Then they cast lots, and Matthias was selected to become an apostle with the other eleven” (Acts of the Apostles 1:21-26 NLT).

We can also see others who failed through the lives of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:5, 20-24), Esau (Genesis 25:27-34, 27:31-40), Absalom (2 Samuel 15:1-6, 10-12; 18:6-15), Adonijah (1 Kings 1:5-10; 2:19-25), Amnon (2 Samuel 13:1-15; 26-29), etc.

Day after day, we are faced with the option to accept the devil's proposal that seems like a promotion today or reject it and strive to receive the actual promotion from God in the right way and the appropriate time.

Making the right decision and choice between one of these two requires first knowing the mind of God; this we do by (first) accepting His Lordship over our lives, then seeking His voice by immersing ourselves in His Word, and speaking to Him in prayer, asking for His direction, with the willingness to listen and obey.

Do you want to follow the path that will lead to making the right decision today? It begins by a genuine repentance from our life of sin as we say this prayer from a sincere heart:

*“Lord Jesus, I am a sinner, I believe that you are the Son of God and that you died to redeem me. I accept you into my life today as my Lord and Saviour. Forgive my sins, write my name in the Book of Life and give me the strength to stay above sin. Thank you for forgiving and accepting me, amen”*

God help us to always make the right choice.

### **Question & Answer:**

**Q** How can one know that which is a demotion disguised as promotion?

**A** As a rule of thumb, if it is a promotion from God, it will not only solve the issues in the now, but it will:

- (1) Honour God now and in the future,
- (2) Promote God's Kingdom and His agenda,
- (3) Support God's purposes and plans in one's life, environment, and the cosmos,
- (4) Keep ones spirit and conscience at peace

As stated in the conclusion above, having a personal knowledge of God better places us to know the direction He'll have us take at every juncture (Isaiah 30:21)