

**KOLAWOLE OYEYEMI**

FOREWORD BY DR. MYLES MUNROE



# **WEALTH WITHOUT THEFT**

You Can Be Rich Without Stealing

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Wealth Without Theft...You can be Rich without Stealing  
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## **Dedication**

This book is dedicated to all men and women in pursuit of kingdom truth who are willing to give and be given for it.

## Acknowledgements

My absolute and unqualified gratitude goes to God for His uncommon inspiration and access that I enjoy. Thank you Lord.

I am grateful to my wife and children for allowing me to juggle time meant for them to do my writings. Thank you so much. I appreciate you for your sacrifice to enable me fulfilvision.

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Finally, my gratitude goes to the entire leadership team and congregation of the Chapel of Uncommon Grace who serve as my practice field for the awesome revelations God blesses me with. May we remain a source of pride to the Father. Thank you all.

Kolawole Oyeyemi

## Foreword

This erudite, eloquent, and immensely thought-provoking work gets to the heart of the deepest passions and aspirations of the human heart, to be financially free and secure. No poor man wants to be poor. The plight of years of colonial oppression in developing countries has left in its wake, billions of souls pursuing the natural human desire to climb out of the hole of financial despair and experience the joy of a secure life.

Without the opportunities and leadership management skills perfected by those of the industrial states of the world, many of these emerging nations are left at a disadvantage. The result is usually a culture of “survival of the fit” at any cost and all cost. This social and economic philosophy always ends in the cultivation of corruption. Corruption could be defined as the violation of the moral and ethical laws to achieve a goal. In many nations, this has become a reality and must be addressed if the emerging third world is to raise itself from the shadows of historical poverty by not imposing its own system of oppression through the spirit of corruption.

This book by Kolawole Oyeyemi is indispensable reading for anyone who wants to break free from this destructive web of self-imposed oppression and live life above the norm. This is a profound authoritative work which spans the wisdom of the ages and yet breaks new ground in its approach on the subject of ethical and moral conscience on business and life, and will possibly become a classic in this and the next generation.

This exceptional work by Kolawole Oyeyemi is one of the most profound, practical, principle-centered approaches to this subject of Financial Morality and ethics in business I have read in a long time. The author’s approach to this timely issue brings a fresh breath of air that captivates the heart, engages the mind and inspires the spirit of the reader.

Kolawole Oyeyemi’s ability to leap over complicated the oretical, theological and metaphysical jargon, and reduce complex theories to simple practical principles that the least among us can understand is amazing.

This work will challenge the intellectual, while embracing the laymen as it dismantles the mysterious of the soul search of mankind and delivers the profound in simplicity. This should become required reading for all business leaders and employees alike.



Kolawole Oyeyemi's approach awakens in the reader the untapped inhibitors that retard our personal development in the area of financial mastery and success in our pursuit of financial and economic security, and his antidotes empower us to rise above these self-defeating, self-limiting factors of "short-cuts" to a life of exploits in moral, ethical and decency in all of life, as we chart our financial destiny.

The author also integrates into each chapter the time-tested precepts giving each principle a practical application to life making the entire process people-friendly.

Every sentence of this book is pregnant with wisdom and I enjoyed the mind-expanding experience of this exciting book. I admonish you to plunge into this ocean of knowledge and watch your life change for the better.

**Dr. Myles Munroe**

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Chairman

International Third World Leaders Association

Nassau Bahamas

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## Introduction

The issue of wealth and the Christian faith is one that has over the years attracted heated debates from within and without the Church. Different perspectives have evolved over the ages with attendant vocabularies. Once upon a time, an extremely poor person used to be likened to a church rat. The expression was; 'as poor as a church rat'. This meant that the Church/believers were so poor that they barely managed to survive and so could not have anything left over for the rat in the Church to feed upon.

Teachings at this period were on righteousness, holiness, integrity, sanctification and austere living. These were great, but not balanced. It was difficult around this time to imagine a wealthy, but righteous individual. In some parts of Africa, this doctrine actually evolved a proverb of its own that the foundation of great wealth is dirty. The poorer a man was therefore, the closer to God he was believed to be. What an error and a tragedy!

It made the faith unattractive to the rich because they were scared of losing their wealth. It closed the door of salvation against the wealthy and left it open only for the poor. It was so bad that fellow believers would brand you as carnal if they saw you enjoy certain basic comforts that were above average. Today, in the 21st century, there are still ardent believers in this doctrine.

Then came the prosperity message. The Church woke up to the reality of the fact that the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof. The Church realised that poverty does not glorify God and that it can actually be counterproductive to God's agenda. Teachings on prosperity flourished and charlatans invaded the arena with half-truths and outright lies. The maxims: 'if it is good, it is God' and 'My God is not a poor God' became popular, and criminals in cassock capitalised on this paradigm to infest the body with strange doctrines on wealth. Integrity and right living no longer occupied pride of place in Sermons and the teachings. Getting rich at all cost and not at God's cost became the order of the day.

**The Church woke up to the reality of the fact that the earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof.**

This evolution has today produced three classes of believers: those who still hold on to the old pristine ways of austere

living as a proof of righteousness and see wealth as ungodly; those who are on the opposite extreme and would do anything for money; and finally those who believe that you can be righteous and yet be wealthy. I belong in the school that believe that righteousness exalts a nation. I am an unrepentant believer in the truth that being right with God actually guarantees you His wealth the way nobody else and nothing else can.

Therefore, this book is not some quick fix principles on how to get wealth. NO! Rather, it is an exposition of the biblical validation of an eternal truth that righteousness exalts a nation and that serving God in truth does not impoverish. It makes rich and adds no sorrow.

I define wealth here from a financial perspective as the foundation of material possessions. A man is not described as wealthy just because he is over supplied. If you can meet your needs conveniently and live a good life where you don't beg or borrow to live and you still have something to spare to touch a life, you are considered wealthy. You can transcend this and live in the realm of 'more than enough'. God has a provision for this level of wealth too. Abraham had it. Isaac had it. Jacob did and so did David. You too can.

Knowledge about the Word of God in the area of wealth, divine revelations on how to access it and finally full obedience; not partial obedience to the conditions for kingdom wealth are the mandates to accessing wealth God's way. It is possible to be right with God and still be wealthy. How far you are willing to go with God in obedience will determine how well He is able to trust you with kingdom wealth.

The Bible says if we are willing and obedient, we shall eat the good of the land. I believe this with my whole heart. I have proved it these twenty-one years since I came to know the Lord and it has worked so far. I intend to keep proving it all my life.

My prayer is that as you go through these pages prayerfully, may you contact revelation that will trigger complete obedience to the dictates of the Bible in the area of kingdom wealth. May you transit from head faith to a productive heart seated faith backed with commensurate action. It is possible to walk with God in integrity of heart and still be very wealthy. May the eyes of your understanding be enlightened. Shalom



**Kolawole Oyeyemi**

# Chapter One

## **MENTAL ASSENT VERSUS HEART SEATED FAITH**

Faith is of the heart, and not of the head. The domain of faith is not the mental or intellectual realm, but the heart or spirit realm. The intellectual realm is the realm of logic.

Faith is illogical! Calling those things that be not as though they were is madness to the logical mind. Extreme intelligence or exceptional brilliance has a tendency to be arrogant and intolerant of perceived lesser mortals who cannot reason logically like them. Empirical data, process analysis and systematic thinking hallmark intellectual minds. That is why intellectuals struggle in the school of faith. Also the same reason Professors, Doctors of letters, Scientists and the like remain in bondage; victims of their head knowledge, because they lack the capacity and innocence required to receive the WORD that can liberate them.

Many of these folks are too intelligent for God's intervention in their lives. Many have troubled homes, wayward children, troubled careers, messed-up finances and loads of personal challenges, but still disdain the authority of the WORD. Many have died prematurely from issues that could have been dealt with by the WORD, because they were too smart to receive the WORD of faith! Many ridicule the message of salvation because it does not fit into their analytical frame work of possibilities. It is simply illogical! It does not make sense. These guys are too smart to be saved. Like Nicodemus before his conversion, they ask; 'how can these things be?'

### **John 3:1-9**

***'There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the***

*flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?’*

Nicodemus, a Jewish intellectual and a Pharisee was concerned about the illogicality of the salvation experience, hence his questions. These intellectuals like him are so process orientated that they are very concerned about the ‘HOW’. For them, if the ‘HOW’ is not logical, then the ‘WHAT’ is impossible!

There is a tendency to believe that these folks are the way they are because they are not believers. This position will be incorrect. The sad reality is that we have imported this intellectualism into the faith.

The Church today is filled with thousands of excited Spiritual Junkies. Like drug addicts craving for fixes, Church Services have become arenas where we come to get a fix. We get so high on the content of the Services, but become empty, drained and helpless once the euphoria wears off, as we step back into the realities of the outside world. There is so much happening on the outside of the believer and so little happening on the inside!

**"We get so high on the content of the Services, but become empty, drained and helpless once the euphoria wears off..."**

Many of us have carried the critical intellectual mindset of the world into the faith space and its just not working. We mentally assent to the validity of scriptures, but spiritually challenge the veracity of the same. We quote scriptures. We confess Bible passages. We even teach Bible classes, but are far from the reality of what we profess and what we have memorised. Our faith is of the head and not of the heart! We have regressed into the world where we are focused on the ‘How’ of God’s WORD than on the ‘What’. We have chosen to help God’s perceived ineptitude with our human expertise. We have been busy with our limited brain trying to help God bring to manifestation what only HE can. That is why there is so much frustration in the body; and the proofs do not abound. That is why the signs are scarce, and we look for spiritual supplements outside of Christ. The devil has perfected his deception strategy in the lives of believers that today we agree mentally and intellectually with the WORD of God, but actively disagree with the practice of what we claim to have believed or agreed with.

This challenge manifests itself both in the areas of responsibilities in the faith as

well as in the areas of benefits of the faith. We quote scriptures about giving but struggle to part with our means in worship. Husbands quote scriptures about providing for the home, yet live practically irresponsible lives. Wives quote scriptures on obedience and reverence, but find it hard to submit to husbands with equal or slightly lower social status. We are quick to say we were healed by His stripes, yet we often willingly surrender ourselves as specimen in the hand of Medical Doctors. We declare that He was made poor that we through His poverty might be made rich, but still carry poverty mentalities. Our head knowledge fuels mental assent instead of a heart-seated spiritual agreement with the WORD of God. And wait for this! We are all guilty one way or the other! Different people, regardless of status or positions at different times are grappling with one dimension of faith or the other. That is why close affinity with the WORD is the saving grace of the believer.

**"We have regressed into the world where we are focused on the 'How' of God's WORD than on the 'What'."**

Jesus understood this perfectly well; and so He said to 'believers'; not unbelievers, that continuity in the WORD will make us disciples indeed; then and only then shall we know the truth that sets free. His statement was never meant for unbelievers, but for those who believed in Him. The Church today is filled with believers. Jesus would rather they were filled with Disciples!

### **John 8:31-32**

*'Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free'*

Many of us came into a living faith, but stopped growing after our confession of the Lordship of Jesus over our lives, hence, we have become question marks. Salvation is an ongoing process. If you don't feed your faith, you'll feed your doubt! Nature abhors a vacuum. The WORD of God is the food of faith. The word of men is the diet for doubts. When we are within the Church and hear the WORD of faith, we are charged up, but as soon as we hear the contrary words of men, our intellectual minds are stimulated and we begin to doubt, calculate and attempt to help God to sort the 'How' of the WORD of faith that we heard. And since no man can reason out the 'How' of God's ways, we conclude and confess impossibilities, and life indeed becomes impossible. Talk of self-fulfilling prophecy!

**"If you don't feed your faith, you'll feed your doubt! Nature abhors a**

### **vacuum.."**

As mentioned earlier, this challenge permeates every dimension of our existence as believers. Our health, marriage, finance, family life, career, parenting, relationships etc., are all impacted. This book will focus on one dimension that is fundamental and pivotal to a successful life and an enriching Christian adventure; the place of the WORD in the financial and material well being of the believer.

## Chapter Two

### THE WORD AND WEALTH

Proverbs 14:34

*‘Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people’*

Mathew 6:24-33

*‘No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you’*

Many of us in the body of Christ know these scriptures by heart and can recite it with glee. If however the scriptures have entered into our heart, the rot and the rat race that characterise the Church today will be non-existent. We mentally assent to the fact that righteousness exalts a nation but sin is a reproach. Yet, we do not sincerely believe and live by it. The reality of our existence shows that the twenty-first century Church of Jesus has come to accept that Righteousness or Right standing with God in life can hardly make the believer rich if ever. The Church seems to have accepted the demonic belief that ‘Dirt is the ONLY way to Wealth’ If you are not dirty, you cannot be wealthy!

**"The Church seems to have accepted the demonic belief that 'Dirt is the ONLY way to Wealth' If you are not dirty, you cannot be wealthy!"**

From the pulpit to the pew, the same ethos seems to run through. You can preach righteousness in the Church, but the market place is a different kind of place. The message of righteousness is only for the holy confines of the Church and not the wild street of the market place. A lot of believers live dual lives; the pious one for Sundays, and the vicious, money mongering, demonic one for Mondays to Saturdays. We go to make money at all cost during the week and come to Church on Sunday to legitimise our stolen wealth via donations, tithes and offerings! We come to get Pastors' blessings on the ill-gotten wealth and not God's blessings. He never blesses iniquity! The conscience of the Church has been so seared that we have become insensitive to God's will about dirty wealth. Today, we have:

- \*Pastors who steal with impunity
- \*Church Secretaries who demand bribes by force
- \*Deacons and Deaconesses whose reputations on money matters suck
- \*Brothers and sisters in the Church who are fetish and can kill for the sake of money
- \*Scripture 'QUOTERS' who destroy people's reputations for the sake of money!

All these happen because we have lost faith in the reality of Scripture that righteousness exalts. We have come to accept that it is impossible to be wealthy without some diabolical interventions. We believe the Bible is the WORD of God. We believe the WORDS are the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. We believe that heaven and earth may pass away but not His WORD. We believe that He is too faithful to fail. However, all these beliefs reside in our mental realm for quotes and a demonstration of our capacity to memorise Scriptures. When it comes to the practical side of things, we make conscious exceptions. Our faith has not moved from our head into our heart. That is why we reason that the WORD does not have enough capacity to cater for our needs. We need to help the WORD! Our attempts at helping the WORD are the reasons why we are losing our world!

**"The conscience of the Church has been so seared that we have become insensitive to God's will about dirty wealth."**

**1Timothy 6:9-11**

***'But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For***

***the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness'***

The Church of Jesus is filled with they that will be rich at all cost, even though the bible says we should "Flee all these things and follow after Righteousness, Godliness, faith, love, patience and meekness".

#### **Mathew 6:24**

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

These are words from the mouth of the Master! Nothing can be truer than the truth from the mouth of the TRUTH! The Church of today is however filled with supermen and super-women who are challenging the TRUTH by attempting to do the impossible-serve God and mammon! If Jesus said it is impossible and we are trying to make it possible, it means we know more than Him; we see more than Him, and we can do more than Him! That makes us super beings! That makes us super idiots! What God says is impossible stays IMPOSSIBLE! When we think we can serve God and mammon, we are liars! We are indeed devotees of the devil dancing around the Church!

#### **Mathew 6:33**

***'But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you'***

#### **The Covenant Dimension:**

God is a covenant keeping God. He is too faithful to fail. Even when we are faithless, the Bible says He abideth faithful. He cannot deny Himself! A covenant is stronger than a promise. When it is struck with God, it is a contract that has God's integrity backing it. It is not alterable. Once you fulfil your side of the deal, God is committed to fulfilling His. The bible says we should seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all the things we are looking for shall be added. Therefore, God is under obligation to play His part if I play mine!

**"A covenant is stronger than a promise. When it is struck with God, it is a contract that has God's integrity backing it."**

I cannot be in right standing with God and be poor! That makes God a liar! I



cannot be a true God seeker and a true righteousness seeker and be in lack! It means the Bible is a book of lies! It means God is not real because the bible says God and His Word are one. If then His Word is not real, it means He is not real! But I know He is real! I have proved Him and found Him so! He has been real in my family. He has been real in my career. He has been real in my ministry. He has been real in my finances. He has been real in my health. The Bible is true! God is not a liar! I can be in right standing with God and still be rich. Righteousness is not equated with poverty! ***Right standing with God is not a sign-on to a wretched life!***

I can be rich without stealing! I shall be rich without stealing! ***Dirt is not the only way to wealth!*** I don't have to play dirty to be wealthy!

## **Chapter Three**

### **GOD'S VIEWS ON PROSPERITY**

Nobody is a higher authority over a product than the manufacturer. The operational manual for the believer's life is resident with the righteous God who made us righteous in the first place. Hence, clarity on the various dimensions of our existence as the 'righteousness of God in Christ' needs to be sought from Him who wrote our manual for living. We need to understand God's views about the prosperity of His children for proper guidance so we can live a prosperous and fulfilling life that will still glorify His name.

God is highly unequivocal about His view on the prosperity of His children. The following Scriptures capture His views and my interpretation of the same:

## **Our Prosperity Delights Him**

**Psalm 35:27**

***‘Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favor my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant’.***

God delights in, and is excited at the prosperity of His saints. The Bible says He takes pleasure in our prosperity. This means God is happy when I am wealthy. It also means He is unhappy when I am poor; I would have denied Him joy. Hence, if He makes it impossible for me to be righteous and wealthy, or He permits circumstances and situations to impoverish me, He would have contradicted Himself and denied Himself pleasure.

The Almighty God cannot be confused! He cannot contradict Himself. He loves to see His children prosper.

## **Propagating the Gospel requires Funding**

**Zechariah 1:17**

*Cry yet, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad; and the LORD shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem.*

I am persuaded that beyond prosperity just giving us the ability to meet our basic selfish needs, the Almighty God had a reason for delighting in the prosperity of His saints. There was and there still is a higher purpose. One major higher purpose is the propagation of the gospel.

Every believer has heaven's mandate to propagate the gospel. Jesus will not return until the gospel has been preached to the uttermost end of the earth. This can never be done by the Church, if we are ragged, beggarly and wretched. Spreading the gospel requires finance. Open-air crusades require enormous resources to put together. The logistics of door-to-door evangelism is expensive to manage. The me-dia, both traditional and digital, is also a veritable platform to reach billions of souls worldwide, but that too requires significant funding.

The devil knows the power of the media today and has consistently used it to condition the minds and the hearts of men to seek him and his pleasures. The television channels, the radio channels and the internet are filled with content that promote the cause of the anti-Christ and other faiths and belief systems that are contrary to the Christian faith, and our children are avid consumers. Little wonder then that it is increasingly difficult to reach our teens and young adults. They are being raised by contents from the television and the internet. The reality of hell is being downplayed. It is being portrayed as something like an amusement park for kids. Homosexuality is being communicated as normal. The use of hard drugs, guns and sexual immorality are being effectively communicated as normal social behaviours. The church needs the fund to build a counter culture to the one being built via the media onslaught of the devil. This can only be done when the saints are wealthy.

Therefore, whether it is for evangelism or to build the body and rescue our youths from the clutch of the devil, we need good funding to advance the kingdom. God wants His cities or kingdom to be spread abroad on the wings of the prosperity of His saints. He wants you to prosper!

## **Prosperity Gives the Believer a Voice**

**Ecclesiastes 7:12**

***For wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence: but the excellency of knowledge is that wisdom giveth life to them that have it.***

Money is a defence. Prosperity gives you a voice. In a world designed to silence and eat up the poor, prosperity gives you a voice. Age and tribe pale into insignificance in our world denominated by the reigning currency. In circumstances where judgement gets bought and sold, and in situations where might is right, a poor man has no voice, and a poor faith has no future. You need a voice to preach the WORD. The prosperity of the saints is critical if we must give the faith a voice. Poverty cannot help the saint on this assignment.

**"Age and tribe pale into insignificance in our world denominated by the reigning currency."**

My summation here is that Poverty does not glorify God; it is not a sign of righteousness. God is glorified when His purpose for humanity is fulfilled. The prosperity of the saints is a major pillar to fulfilling this purpose. If God cannot contradict Himself, He cannot be against my prosperity. Rather, He delights in it. If He delights in it, then He is obligated to create the environment to make it possible for His saints to get wealth without compromising their worship of Him. He wants us to be rich without stealing!

## Chapter Four

### BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES

#### **In the Beginning**

Having established that it is God's desire that His saints prosper, let us explore how this was integral to God's plans from creation. The prosperity agenda is not accidental. It was all part of the plan from creation. Let us look at the book of the beginnings.

#### **Genesis 1:26-30**

*And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

*And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth. And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for meat: and it was so.*

It is very clear from this Scripture concerning man, that the vision was only established after the provision had been made. The order was not the vision before the provision, otherwise the vision would have been derailed. Man was subsequently given the mandate to have dominion over the provision: *the earth, the fish of the sea, the fowl of the air, every living thing that moveth upon the earth, every herb bearing seed which is upon the face of all the earth, every tree in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed, every beast of the earth, every fowl of the air, every thing that creepeth upon the earth wherein there is life and every green herb.* Wow! This man is blessed!

The origin of this man is the origin of wealth. You cannot have dominion over

such a huge provision and yet be poor. You cannot subdue the earth described here and yet be poor. You cannot possess everything that God gave you at creation and yet be poor! Poverty couldn't have been part of God's agenda for His saints. Our origin at creation and before the fall of man does not support such falsehood.

## **After The Flood**

The fall of man brought the poverty curse and the loss of the dominion mandate. From that point on, man was condemned to a life of toiling for limited returns. Poverty and a struggling existence became his reality. This went on till the flood. After the flood, God sought Himself a man in Abraham to return man back to his original state before the fall and struck a covenant with him. With that covenant came the restoration of the dominion mandate and the prosperity of the saints. Alleluia!

Abraham became wealthy the moment he stepped out in obedience. Isaac sowed in a barren land and reaped a hundred fold and waxed great until he became very great to the envy and concern of the Philistines. Jacob prospered as Israel after his encounter and wrestle with God. The nation of Israel is a living proof that this covenant is still working even in the twenty-first century. God gave Abraham the covenant power to get wealth and it passed on from generation to generation. Moses admonished the Jews in Deuteronomy to be mindful of the source of and the reason for their prosperity lest they lose focus.

### **Deuteronomy 8:18**

***But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he swear unto thy fathers, as it is this day***

This power is still alive and available to the believer today! The covenant is still working today for those who choose to believe. God is not a waster or a purposeless God; if He gave the power, He had a purpose in mind. It is neither ornamental nor decorative in nature. Its purpose is to fulfil God's desire. That purpose has not changed. It is eternal.

The covenant also transcends us! It is not about us, but about

Abraham and our connection with him by faith. It is a restoration covenant. It is about the kingdom of God, its citizens and its future. God is too faithful to renege on these promises! He does not have the capacity to break His own covenant! Moreover, the future of humanity, His beloved creation is dependent

on this covenant.

## **In Christ**

We have looked at the biblical foundation to the prosperity of the saints from two perspectives: in the beginning before the flood and after the flood. Let us consider this same issue from the New Testament perspective after Christ. The Bible says in the mouth of two or three witnesses, a matter is established. Is it really possible to be righteous and wealthy? Is there a scriptural provision for wealth without theft? Can we be rich without stealing or getting involved in some dirty or diabolical things?

### **2Corinthians 8:9**

***For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.***

This is exciting, because it means if Jesus Christ became poor so I can be made rich, then my financial and material wellbeing must be important to Him; hence, it will amount to wastage, ingratitude and lack of appreciation if I choose not to be rich. This is because the price for my riches has already been paid and cannot be taken back. It will also be foolishness if I choose to doubt the truth about the prosperity of the saints, because this is the third witness to the truth about God's provision and desire for me to be righteous and wealthy.



## Chapter Five

### THE NATURE OF THE COVENANT

Prosperity is a covenant. A covenant is a contract between two parties with obligations on either side that must be fulfilled. A covenant needs to be worked at for it to work. Covenants also have grades with the attendant graduated benefits. The higher the covenant level, the greater the demand, and the greater the benefits.

#### **Genesis 12:1-3**

*Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed*

This Scripture clearly showed the terms of the deal with Abram. There had to be a 'Getting thee out' first before there can be a 'Making of thee'. If Abram hadn't departed as the scripture said, God would have been constrained from executing His own side of the deal. He would not have been able to make Abram a great nation. He would not have been able to bless him and curse them that curse him. For the covenant to work, you must be willing to work! Abram worked and the covenant worked.

#### **Genesis 13:1-2**

*And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south. And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold*

### **The Higher Level**

In **Genesis 22:1-18**, God tested Abraham and took him to a higher level of covenant relationship. Abraham passed the test of the sacrifice of Isaac and God swore to bless his exceptional act of obedience. In **Genesis 12**, God spoke to Abraham and cut a covenant with him. The demand was for him to leave the known for the unknown; the familiar for the unfamiliar, at the Word of the Master.

In **Genesis 22**, God swore an oath to him. This time the demand was different and more challenging. He was to give his one and only son as a sacrifice .

The process for this was not made any easy. The issue was not to be discussed with anybody. It was between him and God. His wife who had waited all her life for the child was not to be told. He was to travel on a three days journey. This meant he had enough time to doubt and change his mind. He had the time to think of the challenge of the right answer to give Sarah if he returned without the boy. He had time enough to think of the ridicule of men on his apparent foolishness of driving Hagar and Ishmael away for Sarah and Isaac, only to lose Isaac soon after. He had enough time to think of a million and one reasons to disobey God and refuse to sacrifice Isaac. To worsen it, he had a child who asked him a most difficult question of his life at that moment.

**"Anyone who wants to walk in a higher dimension of prosperity must be ready to transcend the ordinary and mundane level of obedience."**

Abraham passed this test and got promoted to a higher realm of covenant! God swore to him. Anyone who wants to walk in a higher dimension of prosperity must be ready to transcend the ordinary and mundane level of obedience. A high dimension of prosperity demands a high dimension of obedience to the covenant. God swore to Abraham. He can swear to you too, but it would cost you something! The higher the covenant level, the greater the demand.

## Chapter Six

### THE DEVIL'S THEORY & CONDITIONING

*- 'You can't be right and yet be rich' -*

That the devil is a con and a trickster is no longer news. That has been and still remains his ministry. He started it in the garden before you and I were born, and has perfected his skills over the ages. It is such a tragedy that the Church of Jesus has not ceased to be deceived by his antics despite the warnings from the Master. When we refuse to give full attention to the WORD, we end up paying very costly prices in the world. It is so painful to hear Christians quote and live by the devil's twisted and distorted scripture that *'Money is the root of all evil'*.

This twisted scripture has become many believers' philosophy for living with the attendant consequences that they have become spiritual misfits. Some have come to accept that it is sinful and utterly evil to be rich and that while we are here on earth, we should live austere and beggarly lives. Such lives validate our Christian integrity, according to them. Such lives show unequivocally that we are righteous, pure and holy; heaven bound. What a lie from the devil! These believers have become conditioned to suspect any wealthy Christian and doubt the authenticity and credibility of the sources of their wealth, even when they are pure and genuine. They carry a poverty mentality and talk ill of anyone whose lifestyle does not agree with theirs as people who have erred from the faith.

A worse dimension of this is that some of these believers stop aspiring and live very laid-back lives because they are afraid of getting contaminated by the world. They are so heaven conscious that they live very uninspiring lives here and leave the field of commercial endeavour and socio-political leadership and control to unbelievers. This group carry an escapist mentality: Heaven is our home, we are just passing through. Hence, wealth and the comfort of riches is a sign of carnality and evil. We are to flee from every appearance of evil and wealth is one of such!!!

**"This twisted scripture has become many believers' philosophy for living with the attendant consequences that they have become spiritual misfits"**

I do not challenge the truth that we should be heaven minded in all our thoughts and deeds, but I am persuaded that God also wants us to be relevant while we are

still here on earth. We cannot be relevant if we are poor and beggarly.

In **Ecclesiastes 9:16**, the Preacher said:

***Then said I; Wisdom is better than strength; nevertheless, the poor man's wisdom is despised and his words are not heard'.***

Our influence is not designed to be resident within the four walls of the Church alone. We are designed to use our access to divine wisdom and revelation to influence the economy. We are expected to influence the political environment; the government; the public and private sectors; the educational system, technology and the use it is put to, and every facet of life. We are not meant to be passengers in this life bus paid for by our Father. We are expected to be in the driver's seat! We are expected to have a voice!

I am also persuaded that God wants us to live a good life. In **Isaiah 1:19**, He said,

***'If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land'.***

In fact, this means that eating the good of the land is predicated on obedience to His laws. It means when I am right with Him, I qualify to be made rich by Him. My understanding of this is that He wants us to live in good homes; drive the good cars; put on the good clothes; eat the good meals *etc.* Alleluia! This is the truth. Nothing can be truer than the truth and the truth cannot contradict Himself! You need money to buy the good! If 'money is the root of all evil', He would not have told us "we will eat the good". It is a twisted scripture from hell!

**"We are not meant to be passengers in this life bus paid for by our Father."**

The earth and its fullness is our God's. He will not deny His children and reserve the fullness for the children of His enemy. I am so deeply persuaded from this understanding that God is very pleased with my prosperity as long as it is gotten on His terms and not on my terms.

Having established the error in this twisted scripture, let us examine what the Word did say about money.

**Ecclesiastes 7:12a,**

***'For wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence'***

While this Scripture talked further about the excellency of wisdom as a life giver, there is no denying the fact that the position of money as a defence is well recognised by Scripture. Denying this is challenging the veracity of the Word of God.

**Ecclesiastes 10:19** says, ***‘a feast is made for laughter and wine maketh merry; but money answereth all things’.***

Some wise scholars may challenge the writer of Ecclesiastes on the capacity of money to answer all things. They may be right. What is however critical to note is that it is difficult to divorce money from a good life.

Now, let us come to **1Timothy 6:10-11**; the famously most misquoted Scripture:

***‘For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness’.***

This is the heart of the devil’s lie. He expertly blinded the Church and humanity to the first part of the Scripture. He nicely took away ‘the love of’. Money is not the root of all evil. It is the love of money! There is a difference between the two. When you love a thing or a person, you are consumed and ravished by that person or thing. You can go to any length, even to the ridiculous sometimes to satisfy your passion or your desires for your love. This is where the danger is. When you passionately love money and you can do anything to get it, you are a disaster looking for where to happen. That is why men bribe, steal, defraud, kill, destroy and engage in all sorts of diabolical stuff to get money! That is what God is against. That is what Scripture does not support. That is what believers should not get involved in.

## Chapter Seven

### MANPOWER SUCCESS VERSUS WORD-POWER SUCCESS

The distinction between the love of money as the root of evil and money as a key to living a good life will lead me into a brief mention of a concept I had discussed in one of my earlier books; *The Winning mentality*. This is the concept of two types of success depending on two types of powers; manpower and God-power. For the sake of clarity, I have equated manpower success to world success and Word-power success as good or divine success. This concept is anchored on **Joshua 1:8** which distinguished between success and good success.

\*World success is dependent on Ambition; Divine success is dependent on a God given vision. Ambition is dependent on man's ability that sometimes looks for God's validation; a God given vision is dependent on God's ability looking for man's availability. Ambition often seeks to win at All cost; a God given Vision seeks to win at God's cost

\*World success is measured by worldly standards; Divine success is measured by divine standards

\*World success is subject to world vagaries; Divine success capitalizes on world vagaries for divine distinction- **Genenesis 26:1-3; 12-14**

\*World success is the blessing of the world that often adds sorrows; Divine success is the blessing of God that makes rich but adds no sorrow- **Proverbs 10:22**

Life will always present you with these options; the power of choice rests with you! Your life tomorrow will be the consequence of your choice today. The truth is that you can be rich without stealing! Dirt is not the only way to wealth! Poverty does not glorify God either!

**"Dirt is not the only way to wealth! Poverty does not glorify God either!"**

## **Eternal Proofs**

Lets examine some people who walked in integrity of heart with God and were wealthy as proofs that you can be right and yet be rich:

**Abram:**

**Genesis 13:1-2**

*And Abram went up out of Egypt, he, and his wife, and all that he had, and Lot with him, into the south. And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.*

Abram was reputed to have walked in integrity of heart. Even though he was Lot's benefactor, when there arose frictions between the herdsmen of Abram and Lot, he asked Lot to choose a location first. He was the senior of the two. He was the one who took Lot along. He was the one who cared for him and so by natural laws, he should have chosen first, but he did not. Even after helping the king of Sodom to defeat the five nations that fought against him and rescuing Lot, he refused the gift offer by the king of Sodom, because he did not want it said that the king of Sodom made him rich. He was a man of integrity who knew the ability of his God to make him rich on a righteous path.

**Job:**

**Job 1:1-3**

*There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil. And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters. His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.*

Job was a man accredited and validated by God. In fact, he was so righteous to the point that God boasted about him to the devil. Despite his forthrightness, he still became the greatest man in the entire east. We will come back to Job later. What is important to note for now is that you can be right and yet be rich. Job was right with God and yet became the wealthiest and the greatest man in the east. You also can be rich without stealing. It is possible!

**Jesus:**

**Mathew 27:35**

*And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among*

***them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots***

Jesus Christ is called the Righteous One. There is therefore no iniquity in Him. If He was so wealthy that He could answer every financial need of the ministry and yet live well, it means it is possible to be right and yet be rich. He is the perfect example. His garment was so good that even the soldiers knew it was better if it was not torn as it would have amounted to wastage. Rather, they cast lots for it so that somebody could own it and use it. Again, nothing can be truer than the truth as seen in the life of the Truth. It is possible to be righteous and yet be wealthy. There is a dimension of wealth that is divine. There is a kind of riches that heaven endorses and promotes. That is what the believer should seek for. That is the will of the father for His children.



## Chapter Eight

### **KINGDOM WEALTH:** **HOW DO YOU GET IT?**

**Deuteronomy 8:18**

***But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he swear unto thy fathers, as it is this day***

Kingdom wealth does not answer to our theology, no matter how profound. It does not answer to our professorial degrees in divinity. There are many devout Professors who are professing poverty in various Seminaries and Bible Colleges. No amount of knowledge in the various Bible versions from Hebrew to Greek, Latin to the Aramaic languages can answer the kingdom wealth question. It simply does not answer to theology.

The Church today is filled with powerful prayer warriors who daily bombard heaven with petitions. Some are so given to prayers that they can pray for hours on end. Many of these power prayers yield tremendous results on the earth when prayed according to the Will of the Father. Kingdom wealth does not however answer to prayers. There are many prayer warriors who are living in abject poverty today. Unfortunately, such folks give God and the faith a bad name, and make it look as if God does not answer prayers.

Brethren, the good news is that God is still actively in the business of answering prayers. One person's failure to get answers does not challenge the veracity of that truth. If it is not working, it cannot be God's fault. Let us check ourselves and stop giving the faith a bad name.

I know these assertions may not go down very well with a lot of Christians and possibly you the reader. I am not through yet. I only hope you will be patient enough to follow this revelation so you can contact the transformational power behind it. I know the Bible promotes fasting. Jesus Himself said certain problems cannot be solved except by prayer and fasting. I am not about to contradict the Master. Far be it from me! Kingdom wealth does not answer to fasting; no matter the format; dry or white; regardless of the duration; long or short. Some people have fasted to their death praying for wealth. They only cheated themselves out of life and denied humanity the benefit of the value they

could have added. Such wastage!

**"Kingdom wealth does not answer to fasting; no matter the format; dry or white; regardless of the duration; long or short."**

The body of Christ is also filled with prophecy seekers. We are always seeking to know what God is saying per time. Today, we have migrant believers who move from Church to Church and from ministry to ministry sometimes even on the same worship day seeking for prophecies. Each time great men of God in these ministries declare prophetic utterances in the areas of wealth, these seekers get deeply emotional and claim such prophecies with varying facial and body contortions in visible demonstrations of faith. However, many of these believers have been making these claims for ages without visible changes in their lives. This is not because the great men of God spoke lies. It is simply because kingdom wealth does not just answer to prophecies.

I am a firm believer in the ministry of the Holy Spirit and its manifestation in the use of the anointing oil. You may drown in a drum of oil or soak yourself through to dripping and still die in poverty. You can drink it, cook with it, bathe with it or sleep daily in it and still be poor. This is not because the ministry is ineffective. It is because one truth cannot invalidate another. They can only enhance one another. You may get your own anointing oil straight from Jerusalem or have it specially manufactured for you; it does not change the truth. Kingdom wealth does not answer to the anointing oil.

**"This is not because the great men of God spoke lies. It is simply because kingdom wealth does not just answer to prophecies."**

At this point, I am going to really challenge your theology with the next assertion. I am a crazy giver and investor in the kingdom and the lives of people. I believe the Scriptures that speak about seedtime and harvest. I live by them. I am a living proof that they work, but hear this; kingdom wealth does not answer automatically to giving! Yes it doesn't! There are many people who have become frustrated givers in Church. Many are bitter and angry with God because they believe He defrauded them! Many are taking it out on their Pastors who they believe conned them into parting with their monies.

A few years ago, a gentleman sought my audience after a meeting. He had just been fired from his employment and was very angry with God. He told me he had been going around asking Pastors why God opened His eyes and allowed him to be fired. According to him, he was faithful in his tithes and offerings and was a diligent Church worker. He told me of how he was the breadwinner in his

family, and how being off work was affecting him and his immediate family. He was a truly angry man who wanted God to explain to him how He could have looked on while he got fired. His case is just one of several hundreds and thousands.

**"some of us in the body of Ministers also worsen the issue by not teaching the full dimensions of kingdom wealth."**

Sometimes, some of us in the body of Ministers also worsen the issue by not teaching the full dimensions of kingdom wealth. If we put the focus on giving alone without the full understanding of the covenant, we may end up with very disgruntled, angry and frustrated members who would then become cheap preys in the hand of the devil and his warped theology of 'Dirt is the only way to wealth'.

## **The Power Answer**

If theology, prayers, fasting, prophecies, the anointing oil and giving do not all automatically answer the kingdom wealth question, what then does kingdom wealth answer to? The answer is in **Deuteronomy 8:18**

***‘But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he swear unto thy fathers, as it is this day’***

**Kingdom Wealth or Prosperity answers to POWER!** Notice that the Bible did not say God gives the prayer. He did not give prophecies. He did not give fasting injunctions and definitely did not give the ministry of the anointing oil or recommend a school of theology as the key to accessing kingdom wealth. He gave POWER!

The Bible says God is the one that gives the power to get wealth. He is the power source. This means without the power God gives, there can be no kingdom wealth! Abram got the power. Isaac got the power. Israel got the power. Job got the power. Jesus had the power. You need the power too. You can't get the wealth if you don't have the power!

**"You can't get the wealth if you don't have the power!"**

The power is the blessing lost in the Garden of Eden when man fell and lost the dominion mandate. The restoration came in Abraham when God pronounced the blessing on him. It became a permanent covenant when God swore on him in **Genesis 22**. If Abraham needed the power to prosper, and Isaac and Israel needed it to live prosperous, yet Godly lives, you and I cannot do without the power.

It is God's prerogative to give the power, but it is man's responsibility to exercise the power. God gave the power in Abraham. We got connected when we came into Christ. The real challenge is in our exercise of the power. If you don't exercise the power, you are worse than the man who does not have the power because you are a waster. A sad reality is that there are lots of wasters in the body of Christ today.

**"It is God's prerogative to give the power, but it is man's responsibility to exercise the power."**

## **The 4 Power Dimensions:**

There are four dimensions to this power. All the dimensions cumulate to deliver

a victorious and prosperous life of holy living that excites our Maker. These dimensions are:

- The power of divine ideas
- The power of divine Favour
- The power of Giving
- The power of the Tongue

We will explore the biblical depth and revelational insights in each of these power dimensions to see the gems loaded therein for our glory. My belief is that your understanding of the reality of kingdom wealth and our right to it would have been enhanced by the time we are through with this exploration.

## Chapter Nine

### THE POWER OF DIVINE IDEAS

#### Job 1:1-3

*There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil. And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters. His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east.*

This awesome scripture paints the picture of an exceptional individual. The Bible described him as perfect and upright; one that feared God and eschewed evil. Further down in the Scripture, God was so excited with him that He boasted about him to the devil. One would have expected somebody with such sterling qualities to be poorer than the proverbial church rat. He could not have been that righteous and be wealthy. That type of equation doesn't sound correct from the current world and Church mentality.

However, it is exciting to note that the Bible recorded that he was a very wealthy man. His substance was seven thousand sheep; three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen; five hundred she asses and a very great household. He was so great that he became the greatest man in the whole of the east. If we acknowledge that the east had always been known as a wealthy region even in Bible times, we would understand that to be the greatest man in the whole of the east was a major feat. That it was done by a man of integrity and in right standing with God makes it even more excitingly, a major feat. Such feats and phenomenal successes are only associated with ruthless inhuman business practices, by men who denominate life only in currency terms.

Therefore, Job from this Scripture is a classic example of the reality of kingdom wealth. He epitomised the reality of the Scripture that righteousness exalts a nation. He gave life to the truth that you can be rich without stealing. If Job could do it, we can do it too, but we need to know the 'how'. A wise man once said, *'The secrets of men are in their stories'*. Let us examine Job's story.

## **Job's Secret**

### **Job 29: 1-4**

***Moreover Job continued his parable, and said, Oh that I were as in months past, as in the days when God preserved me; When his candle shined upon my head, and when by his light I walked through darkness; As I was in the days of my youth, when the secret of God was upon my tabernacle;***

Brethren, Job's secret was access to God's secrets for divine ideas! Job had access to the mind of God. He was connected to the supernatural for unique money making ideas. God's candle shined upon his head. In today's metaphors, a lit bulb is a symbol of bright new ideas or innovation. Job had the shining light of God's candle in bible times. He was a solution carrier. He was an answer to many people's questions and a solution to many people's problems. He naturally attracted wealth. Job walked through darkness by God's light. He was not confused when others were. He had direction where others suffered in confusion. He was a man of insight. The whole world is lost and is looking for answers. Any man who can proffer credible solutions will be sought after if he has a voice. Job was such a man. The nobles sought for him. The aged waited on his words. The youths sought counsel and direction from him. He was in charge because he operated divine wisdom that opened him up to divine ideas that men could not resist. The secret of God was truly upon his tabernacle.

Let me share some testimonies with you on this so you understand that this power is real and available even today. Early in 1996, God began to show me pictures that indicated I would soon have something to do with a multi national company. At this time, I was working with a medium sized advertising agency. My plans had nothing to do with working with such a company. All I wanted to do was learn all I could so I could run my own practice.

These visions went on for a while until one Sunday morning in Church. I ran into an old school mate who was then working in the multinational company. We chatted and parted, but as soon as he left, the Holy Spirit reminded me that the multinational company where he worked was going to be my next place to work. I replied the Holy Spirit in exasperation; 'what would I go there to do?' He answered me clearly and audibly with the title of the job. I actually laughed just like Sarah and said under my breath; 'How can such a company not have somebody in that role?' The Holy Spirit kept quiet.

The following Monday morning, I was in the company Accountant's office when the Holy Spirit came again and told me to ask the company Accountant about the multinational company He had been talking to me about. At this point, I was a

bit worked up about the continued insistence by the Holy Spirit. Instead of asking the man about the company, I asked him whom he knew in the company. He replied by asking me if I wanted to apply for the job. I asked which job and his answer shocked me. It was exactly the position the Holy Spirit had told me the previous Sunday morning. He then told me the job was advertised the previous Friday and actually pulled out the newspaper it was advertised in. Though I hadn't seen it, it was obvious to me that God had made up His mind before He started showing me the vision. This was an awesome insight granted me by heaven into God's agenda. It was a miracle for me. The spectacular was however, yet to happen.

I finally applied, and according to the information I later learnt, five hundred of us applied for this position. In the advertising agency I was working for then, four of us applied for the job. I was the youngest and the least experienced of the four. Thirty-nine others and I were invited for the interview. A panel of five Senior Managers from the company interviewed us. When it was my turn, I fielded questions from the panel members and all went well until one of them asked me a strategy question that had to do with one of the company's flagship brands and the challenges it was going through. I was asked to proffer a strategic solution. This company is a multi brand company and I had never studied or taken time to investigate this particular brand to understand its strategic challenge and what could be done to fix it. I simply had no clue. 'This was it', I thought to myself. It looked as if I had hit a brick wall.

However, something happened. I saw myself open my mouth and I began to speak. I spoke for a while and stopped. The panel members looked at one another in an uncanny way and I said to myself, 'Boy, you've sure blown it'. A few more questions were thrown at me and I gave the best answer I could and the interview ended. As I made to leave the panel, a member stopped me and told me something that could only have been possible via an uncommon access to divine ideas. He reminded me of the difficult question they had asked me and told me the answer I gave them. I actually gained a full understanding of what I said for the first time when he was replaying it to me. Then he said to me, 'we need to let you know that the strategic answer you gave is what we are currently about to implement, so in case you probably end up not working with us, you will not think we stole your ideas'. Wow! I couldn't believe it. The answer didn't come from me! It came from God. I just opened my mouth and spoke! The ideas were God's. The answers were not mine! It was wisdom from on high. It was the product of a connection with the supernatural. What an awesome God! He made me a star over something I had no clue about. Alleluia!



These serial miracles continued beyond this particular interview and I eventually got the job. I had the foundational knowledge of the profession, but the wisdom to deal with the question came from heaven. It was the manifestation of the power of divine ideas. That power is still available today. I experience it daily! You can too.

**Ideas rule the world and men without ideas are condemned to pay a premium for their ignorance.**

Every product, service, institution or corporation that exist today started as an idea. Organisations spend fortunes to generate new ideas for growth. Innovation is today both a discipline and a multi-million dollar industry. Automobiles started as an idea. Personal computer was first an idea. Large corporations like Microsoft, Google, HP and brands like Coca-Cola, Pepsi, BMW, Apple, etc., all started as ideas. Now they command billions of dollars and employ several thousands of people. The founders and shareholders of these organisations today are very wealthy people. Their wealth started with an idea. Ideas rule the world. An ideas account is better than a bank account!

**"An ideas account is better than a bank account!"**

## **The Believer's Edge; Some Spiritual Logic**

Every redeemed child of God is supernaturally resourceful by design because we have the mind of Christ. Let us explore how we came about this from Scripture.

### **Genesis 1:1-3**

***In the beginning, God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form; and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, let there be light, and there was light.***

This Scripture and the entire creation story show that the heaven and the earth and all that is therein, including man, is God's IDEA. Humanity and our entire pet ideas emanated from this singular idea crafted in eternity.

### **Genesis 1:26-27**

***And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.***

This is exciting! Every other thing created until man, was without a reference or

semblance to any pre-existing object. The Goat, the Fish, the Tortoise, the Whale, and every other animal have no reference or similitude of God. However, when it came to the creation of man, God, the originator of the IDEA, made you and I in His own image and after His likeness, so we look like Him. This means we have what He has. We can think like Him; talk like Him; act like Him; live like Him and create like Him, because we have the same creative abilities like Him. He is our Father. He made us like Himself. Any child that bears no semblance with the parent is considered a bastard and an embarrassment to the family in many cultures. God expects us to be like Him if we are not to be an embarrassment to Him. We are supernaturally resourceful and designed to produce robust creative ideas the world will pay

**"We do not have a mind like Christ's, NO! We have the mind of Christ"**

Wisdom speaking in **Prov 8:12** says,

***I dwell with prudence and find out knowledge of witty inventions.***

Wisdom is saying here that innovation; breakthrough creativity and transformational ideas are first nature to Him. Who is this personality called Wisdom? The Bible answers this question in **1 Corinthians 1:24** when it said,

***"Christ is the wisdom and the power of God".***

Now, we know that Jesus categorically stated that He is one with the Father in **John 10:30**. This means they are one and the same. If they are, it means the mind of Christ is not like the mind of God, but it is indeed one and the same mind! The mind of Christ is the mind of God.

Brethren, here is the greatest revelation to the believer, **1 Corinthians 2:16** says to us that at redemption, ***'we have the mind of Christ!'*** Please pay attention to the expression. We do not have a mind like Christ's, NO! We have the mind of Christ; the same mind He has; the same mind God has! We have the mind of God! Alleluia!

No wonder He called us gods. If you are a redeemed child of God, it means you have the most amazing mind supernaturally designed to do exploits. It means you are better positioned for unique ideas than the unbelieving world! You are better qualified for great ideas than the lost world! That is why the whole creation is groaning and waiting for your manifestation! You are a solution to somebody's problems. You are an answer to a generation's questions. The people of the world are waiting with their monies to pay for the treasures heaven stored up in you. You have access to the power of ideas to get wealth! You don't have to steal to be rich. You don't have to kill to be wealthy. Dirt is not the only way

to wealth. You can be rich without stealing.

### **You Have the Mind of God; so what?**

Now that you know you have the mind of Christ and the mind of God inside you, what do you do with that mind? The truth about what we have can become so intoxicating to the point of delirium. We need to turn this intoxication into productive ventures capable of making the difference we are designed for.

In **Genesis 1:1-3** that we had read earlier, after God made the heaven and the earth as an idea from His mind, the Bible says the earth was without form-shapeless, void-empty, and darkness was on the face of the deep, which means it was devoid of light. This was not a very attractive and exciting earth. God had to do something; so His Spirit moved upon the waters. The process of the movement was the process of brooding, just as a mother hen broods upon her eggs. She feeds the eggs the required heat to make them bring forth. God spoke forth the light only after the brooding or the feeding. The mind of Christ in you is productive, but it requires raw materials to produce. The first thing you need to do with the mind of God on the inside of you is to FEED IT with the right stuff. An empty mind will produce a destiny that is shapeless, dark and devoid of good. That is definitely not God's will.

**"An empty mind will produce a destiny that is shapeless, dark and devoid of good. That is definitely not God's will."**

### **The Garbage In; Garbage Out Rule**

You can feed your mind with either the right stuff or the wrong stuff. Whatever it produces is a function of what it was fed with. Feed your mind with things that edify. When you feed your mind with junk, it will only produce junk for you. Pornography, lewd lyrics, evil communication, hanging around wrong conversations, wrong associations, hanging around wrong locations, watching wrong programs, etc., all generate stimuli that your mind feeds upon. If you want it to produce good for you, feed it with good. Give it GOOD raw materials! Feed it with the Word of God! Don't stay on the Word of God alone. Also feed it with knowledge in your field of endeavour. Feed it with updated information in your chosen profession. When you now ask the Holy Spirit to brood upon it, He has something to work with. It will not be empty; it will not be formless; it will not be dark.

**"Feed it with the Word of God! Don't stay on the Word of God alone. Also feed it with knowledge in your field of endeavour."**

There are lots of believers who are very knowledgeable about Scripture and the things of God, but who are below average in their chosen field and they wonder why they are not doing exploits. The two must go hand in hand! You must be a spiritual dynamite and a professional giant! That is the only way Scripture can be fulfilled.

**Isaiah 2:3** says:

***And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.***

Prophet Isaiah prophesied that the law will go forth out of Zion and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem in the end times. Prophet Micha, in **Micha 4:2** echoed the same truth. What an awesome piece of news for the end time Church! This means both spiritual and secular authority will come forth from the Church in the end times. We are the believers of the end times. We are privileged to be the ones in whose days these prophecies will come to pass. We cannot afford to disappoint heaven. We need to stand in the place of destiny.

**Proverbs 4:23**

***Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.***

Some versions of the Bible used the more graphical expression; 'GUARD' in place of 'KEEP' to convey the importance of a protective mentality towards the mind. Diligence means thoroughness, assiduousness, meticulousness and industry. All these adjectives mean that you take very conscious decisions to protect your heart from violation and corruption, because your life depends on it. Your mind is like a sponge. It soaks in every liquid around it. The more it takes in, the more it looks like the colour of the substance it takes in. When you squeeze it, it gives out the content it soaked in. The colour changes, depending on the colour of the substance it takes in, and even despite series of washing, it may never regain its original colour.

The second responsibility you have to the mind of God on the inside of you is to GUARD IT! It is a fertile ground for ideas to grow; be it positive or negative. Be jealous about your mind! Protect it from being corrupted! It makes the difference between failure and success in life. Don't be apologetic over your protectionist attitude to your mind! The issues of your life depend on it.

**"Don't be apologetic over your protectionist attitude to your mind! The issues of your life depend on it."**

I once lived in an area where my house was directly opposite a complex where a Disk Jockey had his business. He had very big speakers that were directed towards my windows and he played loud music every day except Sundays. The bulk of the music he played was not edifying, but he had patrons around who enjoyed them. Despite the fact that I didn't like them and didn't enjoy them, I was stuck with hearing it month in month out. The law was not strict enough to prevent him from being a nuisance to the environment.

However, his kind of music began to sink into my subconscious, and before I knew what was happening, I knew practically all the lyrics of the various artistes by heart. To worsen it, I found myself humming some of the tunes at some unguarded moments. It was scary! My mind had soaked it in over the months! I needed nobody to tell me my time was up in that environment. I had to leave. It was my only way to safeguard my mind and that of my young family members.

**Genesis 11:1-9 (KJV)**

***And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel; because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the Lord scatter them abroad upon the face of all the earth.***

This is the story of the power of the mind as exemplified in the attempted construction of the tower of Babel. Before they could have reasoned to build a tower that will reach unto heaven, they would have ENGAGED their minds. They had first built a city and must have been playing around with some tower constructions of about 5, 10, 20 or maybe even 50 stories. They however decided to STRETCH the power of their minds with the ambitious project of a tower that will reach unto heaven. It looked impossible, but God knew that it was possible

because they had set their minds to it-He said: *‘and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do’*. Brethren, these were unregenerated minds. They did not have the mind of Christ, but you do! If they could attempt this, you can attempt anything!

In **Ephesians 3:20**, the Bible says God is able to do exceeding, abundantly above all you can ever ask for or think or even imagine and remember; you have the mind of Christ! This means you are UNSTOPPABLE! You can dream anything! You can do anything! You can be anything! The only thing that can limit you is your thinking! So engage and stretch your mind! My late father used to say to me when I was younger; **‘Low aim is a crime’**. I believe his words. It is a crime against your destiny. It is a crime against humanity because you deny men the value of what you carry. It is also an embarrassment on your Maker who made you exactly like Himself when you underperform your ability. Think BIG! Dream BIG! You have a BIG mind from the BIG God! There is still one skyscraper waiting to be built by you. There is a brand new car waiting to be designed by you. The most innovative bridge is waiting to be built by you. The world’s next great novel is waiting to be written by you. The most advanced aircraft is waiting to be designed by you. You’ve got what it takes to make it happen. You have the mind of Christ-Feed it! Guard it jealously! Engage it and Stretch it! The world is waiting to pay for your value.

**"Think BIG! Dream BIG! You have a BIG mind from the BIG God!"**

# Chapter Ten

## **THE POWER OF DIVINE FAVOUR**

**Romans 9:11-14**

*(For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.*

Favour is a life-translating, destiny transforming force. It is a sweat terminator. It is a stress destroyer. It is a life transformer. In the kingdom, there is a place for hard work. Nevertheless, there is also a place for faith-walk. The tragedy is that we pay more attention to hard work than we do to faith walk. This is because we can see the immediacy of the result of hard work while the results of faith-walk require a gestation period, and is seldom visible immediately.

That is why many of us work 18 hours a day out of the 24 we have been given. That is why many of us keep as many as three jobs together, thinking we can make it by the multitude of hours put into labour. That is why many Christian homes are being run by unsaved nannies because the husband and his wife must work 24/7/365 and we wonder where our children learn the vices they know from. The unsaved nanny is their coach, heroine, teacher and mentor. Many of us are non-resident parents and have become strangers to our children because of the pursuit of economic liberation and financial wellbeing. That is why juvenile delinquency amongst children from Christian homes is on an all time increase. That is why children get into drugs and other despicable vices from as early as age 10.

**"The tragedy is that we pay more attention to hard work than we do to faith walk."**

Schools have become foster homes to our children because we must work hard to make a living. Hardworking mummies drop off six months old babies with nannies from 6:15am. Busy executive fathers manage to see their children briefly on Sunday afternoons. They have no connection whatsoever with these children be it spiritually, physically or emotionally. We compensate with summer

holidays, and expensive gifts. We live in an era of surrogate parenthood! The TV, the Internet, peers and nannies set the agenda for our children's lives, while we are busy funding their destruction with our big fat pay earned at the expense of quality family time.

Husbands and wives are growing apart because each is closer to their colleagues at work than they are to one another. Each spends more time at work than they do with one another or the family. Each knows more about their colleagues at work than they know about one another or their children. That is why many Christian homes are falling apart and we seem to be losing the battle to keep our marriages together. That is why Godly homes for balanced Christian upbringing are fast becoming a rarity. It's been all about the money! What a tragedy!

Now, we have been doing this for so long and yet we still struggle to make ends meet. We still borrow money even from unbelievers. We still struggle with the Prosperity question. Something must be fundamentally wrong. A piece of the puzzle must be missing. There sure must be a better way!!!

### **Romans 9:11**

***(For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth***

There is a purpose of God according to election that has no respect for works-it is called FAVOUR! This purpose has no respect for your degrees; your pedigree; your status; your connection; your age; your hard work or any other natural quality. This purpose specialises in disqualifying human disqualifications by qualifying those that men have disqualified and disqualifying those that men have qualified. Divine favour terminates human labour. It replaces sweat with sweet. It trades pain for fame. It exchanges disgrace for GRACE. respect for works-it is Access to Divine Favour Divine Favour is God's prerogative –His Purpose according to election-He elects you for it! **Romans 9:15-16** validates this. For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

**"There is a purpose of God according to election that has no respect for works-it is called FAVOUR!"**

The great news is that every born again child of God is a candidate for divine favour by design. There is a dimension of divine favour that is beyond the normal. It has the capacity to distinguish you from your peers. It carries an



anointing that makes you shine amongst your mates. It has the ability to make you the reference point for glory and excellence. Joseph had such favour. David did too.

While it is true that favour is God's prerogative, you can however entreat His special kind of Favour! You can plug yourself irretrievably into God's divine favour by your attitude towards the things of God. Lets take a journey through the biblical truth behind this assertion.

### **Psalm 102:13-14**

***Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favour her, yea, the set time, is come. For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favor the dust thereof***

Remember, that the Scripture we read in Romans 9 talked about God having mercy on whom He chooses to have mercy and compassion on whom He also wishes. Here, this Scripture says God shall arise to have mercy on a category of people, because they deserve to be favoured at this specific time. The Scripture provided the condition for this definite blessing. Candidates for this dimension of favour must take pleasure in the stones of Zion and favour her dust. This means, what concerns God and His house is important to you. It means you take special delight in pursuing things that pleases the Lord and advances the kingdom.

**"If you play games with God, you leave yourself open for the devil to play games with your life!"**

When you are genuinely concerned about the things of God, you sign yourself into His Favour. Your favour towards His kingdom triggers His Favour to give you your kingdom. Genuineness, sincerity is critical here. You can't fool God! If you play games with God, you leave yourself open for the devil to play games with your life!

## **The David Example**

### **1 Chronicles 29:2-5**

***Now I have prepared with all my might for the house of my God the gold for things to be made of gold, and the silver for things of silver, and the brass for things of brass, the iron for things of iron, and wood for things of wood; onyx stones, and stones to be set, glistering stones, and of divers colors, and all***

***manner of precious stones, and marble stones in abundance. Moreover, because I have set my affection to the house of my God, I have of mine own proper good, of gold and silver, which I have given to the house of my God, over and above all that I have prepared for the holy house. Even three thousand talents of gold, of the gold of Ophir, and seven thousand talents of refined silver, to overlay the walls of the houses withal: The gold for things of gold, and the silver for things of silver, and for all manner of work to be made by the hands of artificers. And who then is willing to consecrate his service this day unto the LORD?***

This Scripture is very instructive and opens a window into one of the reasons why David enjoyed so much grace while he was alive, and why the eternal covenant he got is still speaking today thousands of years afterwards. Imagine what David prepared in readiness for the construction of the house of the Lord even when he knew he was not going to be the builder! His statement said he did all he did because; ***‘I have set my affection to the house of my God’***.

Some people may say David gave of the state treasure. Nevertheless, a closer look at the Scripture shows that he said he also gave of his own proper good. This is saying he gave from his personal treasures besides the state treasury. Brethren, this attitude by David did not start here. It started before he became a king and a wealthy man. A life of commitment to God and His kingdom does not start only when you are wealthy and comfortable. For David, it must have started from childhood as a shepherd boy. God saw and had always seen David's genuine love for Him, hence, he was preserved from the jaws of the bear and the lion; chosen above his brothers; selected to play for the king, even though he wasn't a popular musician; preserved from the hands of Saul despite his army of vagabonds; forgiven even though his crime was worse than Saul's; and given an eternal glory of being the father of our Lord and Saviour.

When God qualifies you for His favour, the world cannot disqualify you. Divine favour will give you blessings bigger than your size. Divine favour will promote you even when the world attempts to demote you. Divine favour will preserve you even when the world is out to destroy you. Divine favour will make you wealthy beyond your merit! The key is in your willingness to entreat His favour. Are you ready for this? Would you place priority on the things of God? Will His house matter to you? The choice is right in your hands! David was wealthy without stealing. Divine favour was his secret. You can be wealthy without theft! You can be rich without stealing! The power of divine favour will distinguish you. Divine favour will always make the difference!

# Chapter Eleven

## THE POWER OF GIVING

**Gen 8:18-22; Eccle 3:1-2; Jn 12:23-24; MK 10:28-30; Jn 10:17-18**

### **Genesis 8:18-22**

*And Noah went forth, and his sons, and his wife, and his sons' wives with him: Every beast, every creeping thing, and every fowl, and whatsoever creepeth upon the earth, after their kinds, went forth out of the ark. And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar. And the LORD smelled a sweet savor; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done. While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.*

Noah did something in Genesis that changed the course of human history and laid precedence for believers. Noah took a step that changed the course of human history permanently and created a formula for victory for the believer. Noah moved the heart of God to the point where God promulgated a law that is still alive and speaking today. Noah gave a heart-moving sacrifice that God could not ignore and it forced Him to promulgate a law; the law of seedtime and harvest. The preacher in Ecclesiastes below further interpreted this law when he included a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted in his explanation on the seasonality of life.

### **Ecclesiastes 3:1-2**

*To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted*

Jesus gave the New Testament interpretation and validation to this law when He said in the book of John:

### **John 12:23-24**

*And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall*

***into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.***

Apart from several teachings on this law, Jesus further reiterated the law when He told Peter that there is a hundred fold return for anything that may have been given for His sake and the sake of the kingdom.

#### **Mark 10:28-30**

***Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.***

This law gave force and meaning to one of the prosperity powers; the power of giving by indicating the attendant power to receive. Jesus said in **John 10:17-18**:

***Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.***

Here, the Master clearly communicates the power to give; lay down and the power to receive; take it up again. You cannot activate the power to receive until you have first activated the power to give. There must first be a 'laying down' before there is a 'taking up again'. Prayers cannot change this principle! Fasting cannot alter this eternal law. Claiming prophetic utterances cannot make any element of the Word of God contradict another. It is absolutely impossible! The law of seedtime and harvest is eternal. If you have not learnt and embraced a life of giving, then you may forever be a stranger to a life of abundance.

**"If you have not learnt and embraced a life of giving, then you may forever be a stranger to a life of abundance."**

### **The Challenge with Giving**

Giving is one of the most misunderstood pillars of the Christian faith. It is also one of the most abused in the kingdom. The confusion and misuse of the concept has turned one of the most potent weapons in the Christian faith into a subject of strife, blackmail, reproach, defiance and rebellion. The devil knows the importance and the relevance of giving to the Christian's physical, financial and

material well-being, and so effectively orchestrated confusions and misrepresentations about GIVING. The power of giving, like the other powers, is given by God. God is not planning to give the power; He has already given the power. Every man born of God has the power on the inside of him. It is, however, the responsibility of man to exercise the power. Unfortunately, due to the demand associated with the exercise of this power, man would rather negotiate and bargain the exercise of the power. This negotiation has been counter-productive to the lives of many believers with the attendant result in a lot of strugglers in the Church.

To point men in the right direction and rescue destinies from the strangle hold of poverty, we will deal with the power of GIVING by trying to provide answers to the following questions on the subject:

- \*What is GIVING?
- \*Why should you give? – Purpose and Benefits of giving
- \*What are the types of giving?
- \*What is an acceptable offering and an unacceptable offering?
- \*Who should you give to?
- \*When should you give?
- \*How should you give?

## **What is GIVING?**

### **Genesis 8:22**

***While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.***

This principle indicates CHANGE and EXCHANGE. It symbolises the temporary permanence of the earth and the permanent impermanence of life. It also symbolises PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

Therefore, giving is an Exchange between two or more parties that creates Change. It is a Transaction that triggers Action. This means there is no permanence! The more the exchange, the greater the change! When the exchange stops, the change stops. When the transaction stops, the action is stayed. As long as you desire the Change, you must keep making the Exchange! So long as you want the action, you must keep the Transaction going!

This transaction could be strictly between men in the natural. In the kingdom, it could be between man and God, and even when it is between two men in the kingdom, there is always a third party: God. That is why God is not just interested in your financial integrity in dealings with Him and His kingdom, He

is also interested in your sense of responsibility and accountability in dealings with your fellow man in the kingdom or generally in life.

**LK 6:38**

***Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.***

The expression 'Give and it shall be given unto you' represents Exchange or Transaction. 'Good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, shall men give into your bosom' means Change.

Two things to note:

\*It's with the same measure you give that you get given back to, but it is qualified as Good Measure, Pressed Down, Shaken Together and Running Over. That definitely was not what you gave! It's the same measure, but not the same quantity. You never get back exactly what you give. It comes back multiplied.

\*In the kingdom, you can give to a man or to God - Singular; but you receive from men - Plural. The Scripture said 'shall men give into your bosom'. You never get back exactly the same size you give. It multiplies back to you.

Some years back when I was still young in the faith, I had an accommodation that was becoming a bit too small for me and so I needed a bigger apartment. This same accommodation was quite far from my office. The change of accommodation was, therefore, to address size and distance. About this time, I received my annual housing allowance, which was meant to be used towards getting the new accommodation. However, there was a kingdom need and I was led to sow half of the sum towards the kingdom purpose. Subsequently, I couldn't look for any accommodation closer to my office because I now had an even smaller sum that could only get a place further away from the office, but I couldn't be bothered, and actually started looking for an accommodation further away.

An elderly friend got to know about my search for an accommodation during a casual discussion and insisted on paying for a bigger place for me at a location just about 10 minutes from my office and at a cost four times the amount I had invested in the kingdom. I used to spend an average of two hours to commute to work in the former location, but after the intervention, it took me only 10 minutes. I did not ask for it. I did not beg for it. The measure with which I gave was definitely not the same measure with which I was paid back. It was good, pressed down, shaken together and running over. You never get back exactly

what you give!

## **Why Should You Give?**

What are the Purposes and the Benefits of giving in the kingdom? Please note that the purpose is quite distinct from the benefits even though they often get confused with one another. Let's start with the Purposes.

### **Purposes of Giving:**

**\*Worship:** It's a sign of Acknowledgement and Surrender. It's a way for man to honour God and acknowledge Him as the fountain and the source of life and all that we have or may ever have. We are created originally for worship. In the encounter with the woman by the well of Samaria in **John 4**, Jesus told the woman that God is seeking for worshippers in spirit and in truth. Giving of our means is just one of the ways of fulfilling worship; our reason for being. The book of Proverbs commands us thus:

#### **Proverbs 3:9-10**

***Honor the LORD with thy substance, and with the first-fruits of all thine increase: so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.***

There was a similarity between Noah's offering and Abel's offering. Both provoked divine reactions that ended in pronouncements by God. Noah provoked a law, Abel provoked acceptance. What is common to both is that they honoured God. The problem with Cain's offering was that it did not honour God!

#### **Genesis 4:3-7**

***And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted?***

A careful study of this Scripture shows that Cain was the first person to bring an offering to God; but being the first was not enough. His offering was not acceptable because it was not honourable. It violated the first reason for giving, which is worship. This means not all offerings are acceptable by God's standards. There are honourable offerings and dishonourable offerings. There are acceptable offerings and despicable offerings. Stealing money and attempting to

legitimise the criminality via fat offerings in Church is despicable and unacceptable. God cannot and does not have respect for such offerings. It is an abomination before Him. Your Pastor may promote you for it, but heaven will never approve of you. You may indeed invite a curse upon yourself. We will treat this in greater detail later. One key thing to note is that the respect God had for Abel's offering was a function of how honourable the offering was, not the size. It was given in worship and heaven accepted it.

**"Stealing money and attempting to legitimise the criminality via fat offerings in Church is despicable and unacceptable."**

**\*Love Expression or Proof of Love:** If we must be like our Father who gave up His one and only begotten Son to redeem the world back unto Himself, because of His unqualified love for us, we cannot claim to love Him if we find it difficult or practically impossible to give. The Giving grace is divine. Abraham's offer of Isaac was a proof of his unalloyed love and loyalty to God. Kingdom citizens must exude this grace as a validation of our authenticity and credibility as bona fide citizens and sons of Abraham.

**John 3:16** says

***'For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten son; that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life'.***

God gave up His one and only to a sinful wretched world as a demonstration of His love for the world filled with His enemies so He could reconcile us back unto Himself.

Even after the Father had given the Son, the Son still had a choice. No man had the capacity or the power to take His life. At the garden of Gethsemane, we find a most profound discourse between Jesus Christ and His Father in **Mathew 26:39**

***'And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will; but as thou wilt'.***

He said here clearly that He was going ahead to the cross by choice and submission to the Father's will. It was love that drove Him to the cross. It was love that made Him endure the beating. It was love that energised Him to wear the crown of thorns. It was love that made Him give His life at Calvary. It was not the ability of the Pharisees. It was not the excellent schemes of the Scribes or the machinations of the Sadducees. It was a choice by the Master driven by love. He gave His life because He loved me and had compassion on me.



***You cannot claim to love if you can't give to and for your love.*** Giving is a proof of love whether in the natural or in the spiritual. A husband demonstrates his love for his wife via giving. Wives show their husband true love by how much they are willing to give and be given for their love. A major proof of our love for God and His son Jesus is Giving. When we don't do it, we make our love suspect.

**\*Provision in God's house for God's servants and for God's work:**

**Malachi 3:10**

***Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.***

**Zechariah 1:17**

***Cry yet, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad; and the LORD shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem.***

**1Tim 5:17-18**

***Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labor in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The laborer is worthy of his reward.***

Meat in God's house refers to provision. This is for a two-pronged assignment; to spread the gospel and to take care of the man or woman of God. Provision, especially Finance is critical to the spread of the gospel. The gospel may not be very attractive in the mouth of a hungry, deprived and denied Pastor! That is why many ministers have surrendered to the god of the belly via commercial messages or by a total sell out to the devil. There are demonic beliefs that a Minister of God must live a poor life! Some people call it an austere life. Whatever expression is used for it, I am not a believer in this gospel from hell and I cannot find a reference for it in the Bible.

The Pastor is human. He has needs like every man. He likes the good things of life like every human. He wants his children to live well and attend good schools. He wants them to love the Lord and see the gospel as worth living and dying for. He wants his wife to respect him and the assignment on his life. He wants her to give him absolute support on the assignment so he can fulfil his mandate. He cannot achieve this if his children are withdrawn from private

schools and sent off to public schools due to finances, just because he heeded the call to serve in ministry. His assignment will be impaired if he has to grapple with house rent issues by going from house to house seeking for donation from Church members. Feeding his family should not be an issue. Clothing them decently should not be a continual concern. Heeding the call into ministry should not be equated with heeding a call into poverty! It could be counter productive because such ministers can become cheap preys in the hand of the devil as he hands them invitations to a better life on the platform of a compromised message.

This is by no means an attempt at excusing extravagant lifestyles by Pastors and wanton display of wealth by Ministers of the Gospel. Moderation is the key word here. All things are lawful, but not all things are expedient. We must be careful not to push the frontiers of the comfort question to the point of absurdity. It calls for continual focus on keeping the body under. We must not allow a competitive spirit to enter into us as Ministers if we are in full time ministry! We must not compare ourselves with our colleagues in the secular environment who may have a bit more comfort than we do, especially in the early days of ministry. Remember, their comfort and perks of office have a lifespan. If you focus on your assignment and your own heaven opens after your gestation years, your own comfort then is more permanent as long as you are on course with God and in relevance with humanity.

The second assignment here is the use of wealth for the spread of the gospel. You may have the right message, but lack the finances to get a platform to spread the message. It is as good as if you never had a message. There are many great teachers who are lost in the bush! There are fantastic prophets who are unknown and unsung. There are hundreds of focused and honest preachers who are a million times more powerful than a lot of televangelists today, but who do not have a platform. The true gospel needs the TV, the Radio, the print media, the Billboard, the Internet, *etc.* The devil is using these channels to spread his evil messages and indoctrinate our children. We need a counter culture to the world culture, but it can only happen when there is provision in the house of God and the provision comes when believers give.

### **\*Obedience**

**Leviticus 27:30, 32, 34**

***And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's: it is holy unto the LORD.... 32 And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.... 34 These are the commandments, which***

*the LORD commanded Moses for the children of Israel in Mount Sinai*

**Malachi 3:8-9**

*Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.*

**Malachi 3:10**

*Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house*

The English language has a clear difference between what a command is and what a piece of advice or a declarative statement is. As seen in the Leviticus Scripture, giving is a commandment given by God through Moses. It was not an advice. It left no room for negotiation or confusion. The instruction was clear. Disobedience to this commandment has consequences as seen in Malachi. God called culprits robbers and laid a curse on them. This is heavy and nothing to be trivialised even in the New Testament Church.

The expression: Bring ye in **Malachi 3:10** is neither an advice nor a suggestion. It is a commandment! Disobedience comes with consequences. I am yet to see who can bless him whom God has cursed! Giving is not optional!

### **\*Divine Intervention**

You can provoke divine intervention in any area of your life via GIVING. This includes, but goes beyond financial blessing into material, matrimonial, emotional, psychological, mental, spiritual, physiological, career, and any kind of blessing you so desire. You can sow your way out of poverty. You can give your way out of any kind of bondage. You can sacrifice your way out of any kind of spiritual, material, mental, financial and matrimonial stagnations. You can attract heaven's intervention by a choice to live a life of sacrifice.

**2Kings 3:24-27**

*And when they came to the camp of Israel, the Israelites rose up and smote the Moabites, so that they fled before them: but they went forward smiting the Moabites, even in their country. And they beat down the cities, and on every good piece of land cast every man his stone, and filled it; and they stopped all the wells of water, and felled all the good trees: only in Kirharaseth left they the stones thereof; howbeit the slingers went about it, and smote it. And when the king of Moab saw that the battle was too sore for him, he took with him seven hundred men that drew swords, to break through even unto the king of Edom: but they could not. Then he took his eldest son that should have*

***reigned in his stead, and offered him for a burnt offering upon the wall. And there was great indignation against Israel: and they departed from him, and returned to their own land.***

Here is the picture of a desperate heathen king who needed an urgent intervention. He did the unthinkable! He sacrificed his eldest son who should have reigned after him when the battle was hot and he needed help. Immediately this was done, the battle turned. The sacrifice was too great to be ignored! There was an intervention. That is why till date, human sacrifice is still the highest height of occult practice. The devil knows the power of such desperate sacrifices. How much more impactful however, is the sacrifice of a king anointed by God HIMSELF?

**"You can give your way into divine intervention when pressed sore by the battle of life."**

Hannah in **1Samuel 1-2** had been to Shiloh severally. She got an intervention when she sacrificed her unborn child. She told God she would give Him back the child if God would give her a son. The devil could not resist that. Barrenness could not handle it. Heaven intervened. She got Samuel. You can give your way into divine intervention when pressed sore by the battle of life. If a heathen could do it and get an answer, you have a better deal as a child of God and a New Testament saint!

## **The Benefits of Giving**

Having looked at the five-dimensional purposes for giving, let us progress to understanding the benefits of giving as we travel through these Scriptures.

**\*Harvest**

**Luke 6:38**

***Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.***

**Malachi 3:10**

***Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.***

**Proverbs 3:9-10**

***Honor the LORD with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine***

*increase: so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine*

**Mark 10:28-30**

*Then Peter began to say unto him, Lo, we have left all, and have followed thee. And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.*

**Psalms 126:6**

*He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him*

**Luke 5:1-7**

*And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret, And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.*

I have combined all these Scriptures together from the old to the New Testament to prove that the first benefit of Giving is HARVEST! The Bible says out of the mouth of two or three witnesses, a matter is established. These Scriptures are more than three! You will notice that immediately following a commandment or a statement on giving, there is a corresponding statement on receiving or harvest. You will also notice that the harvest was consistently much more than whatever was given or sown originally. For every Giving, it shall be Given! For every measure given, there is in return, good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over. God is neither a thief nor a cheat. You cannot trade with God and be a loser! An exchange with God will make you a changed man!

The law of seedtime and harvest still subsists till today. You never get back exactly what you sow; it comes back multiplied. The minimum fold return is a hundred fold; Peter's fold was in excess of a hundred. You can never outdo God in giving!

### **\*Divine Insurance**

Harvest as a benefit to Giving is great! There is however a deeper and more profound benefit. It is **Divine Insurance**. I need to walk you through insurance practice for a very good understanding of this benefit. Insurance companies insure organisations and individuals against loss of specific assets or even life. A value is agreed as the sum the asset or person is insured for. For this agreement to work, there are obligations on either side. The insured must pay monthly or annual premium that is calculated based on the insured sum. For the faithful adherence to this payment schedule by the insured, the insurance company undertakes to pay the insured a set amount of money after certain charges to cover any reported loss after proper verification. If the insured suffers any loss at a time when there was a default in his premium payment, he is not entitled to any payment from the insurance company. Faithful and consistent payment of premium is therefore critical to guaranteed payment by the insurance company in the event of a loss.

However, faithful payment of premium does not always guarantee that the insurance company would be able to pay the total sum required in the event of a loss if the claim is very huge. This is the reason why there are Re-insurance companies. These are the companies that act as sureties for the Insurance companies such that if the Insurance Company is unable to bear the financial burden of a valid and credible claim settlement, the Re-insurance company comes to its aid.

Another point to note is that insurance policies are taken on different assets or persons. Premiums are paid for each respective policy. Also, claims can only be made on the specific policy for which premium has been paid consistently. There are no bonus covers!

Alleluia! Divine insurance is anchored on the same principle of asset protection, but fundamentally different from earthly insurance. It is more focused on loss prevention than loss recovery! The insurance is also backed up by heaven and so cannot fail. God is the surety. The most exciting dimension of divine insurance is that there is bonus cover. One policy can provide covers beyond one asset! Praise God! A single policy can cover your health-divine healing and or divine health; your finances; your life –protection from premature death and from the

hand of your enemies; your home; your marriage; your children; your business; your job; your career; your education; your mental capacity *etc.*

Let us look at the following Scriptures to validate these claims.

**Exodus 23:25-30**

*And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee. There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil. I will send my fear before thee, and will destroy all the people to whom thou shalt come, and I will make all thine enemies turn their backs unto thee. And I will send hornets before thee, which shall drive out the Hivite, the Canaanite, and the Hittite, from before thee. I will not drive them out from before thee in one year; lest the land become desolate, and the beast of the field multiply against thee. By little and little I will drive them out from before thee, until thou be increased, and inherit the land*

**Malachi 3:10-11**

*Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.*

**Mathew 8:14-15**

*And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever. And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them.*

As mentioned earlier, Giving is commanded as part of kingdom service. The Scripture in Exodus says serving the Lord our God would deliver a blessing on our bread and butter. It did not stop there. There was bonus cover! Healing came with it. Longevity came with it. Fruitfulness came with it. Victory over our enemies is also included in the package! Alleluia! In Malachi, after the blessings consequent upon giving, God promised to rebuke the devourer as a bonus! After Peter got two boatloads of fish for offering his unproductive boat as a tool of evangelism, he got a bonus of the healing of his mother in-law! Giving is like premium payment. It has a direct benefit of harvest, but it also insures other areas of the life of the giver. Divine insurance is real. Bonus cover is true! When you give the right seed for the right reasons, you are not only entitled to an

abundant harvest, you also qualify yourself for divine insurance that ensures that the harvest is not tampered with by the devourer. There is no insurance cover that is better or stronger than heaven's insurance. Insurance companies in the natural have been known to fail and default in paying claims. Insurance firms in the natural have been known to go bankrupt before but not the insurance of heaven. ***When heaven insures you, you are assured!***

**"Giving is like premium payment. It has a direct benefit of havest, but it also insures other areas of the life of the giver."**

## **Types of Giving**

There are different types of Giving found in the Bible. This is not an exhaustive discourse on the types, but I intend to discuss a few that I consider critical for our good. Top on my list will be Tithe.

### **\*Tithe**

I want to take time by the help of the Holy Spirit to examine Tithe as a type of Giving that has been most maligned and abused. There has been so much written and said for and against this biblical injunction. There are claims that it is an Old Testament injunction that is no longer valid and relevant to the New Testament Church. There are also counter claims that it is an eternal injunction that has no respect for the date of the testaments. Let us prayerfully examine the myth and the reality of Tithe. I will crave your indulgence to travel through some lengthy Scriptures with me.

### **The origin: Gen 14:17-20**

***And the king of Sodom went out to meet him after his return from the slaughter of Chedorlaomer, and of the kings that were with him, at the valley of Shaveh, which is the king's dale. And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.***

This is the first account of the giving of tithe in the encounter between Melchizedek and Abram. We need to note certain points. Abram fought the battle and won the war; not Melchizedek. Melchizedek was a priest and a king. He was not reported to have any other feasible means of income, but he brought forth bread and wine unto Abram. Where could he have gotten it and what could have been the source of the continual supply? He blessed Abram and he in turn paid tithes of all the spoils of war he got. Why would Abram have done that? All



these hold fundamental lessons for us in our quest to understand the tithe issue. I am persuaded that Abram's action was in direct obedience to an ordinance by God and an example to us who are his seed. I am also persuaded that the personality of Melchizedek as a priest of the most high is not accidental. It is a pointer to where and who tithes should be paid to. Payment of the tithes of all by Abram is also a pointer that there are no exemptions. Every income needs to be tithed.

**"Payment of the tithes of all by Abram is also a pointer that there are no exemptions. Every income needs to be tithed."**

The next issue to deal with is to answer the question on who utilises the tithe or is entitled to eat the tithe. There are various perspectives on this.

#### **The First Perspective-It belongs to God-Leviticus 27:30-32**

***And all the tithe of the land, whether of the seed of the land, or of the fruit of the tree, is the LORD's: it is holy unto the LORD. And if a man will at all redeem ought of his tithes, he shall add thereto the fifth part thereof. And concerning the tithe of the herd, or of the flock, even of whatsoever passeth under the rod, the tenth shall be holy unto the LORD.***

This Scripture could not have been clearer. What the Bible is saying here is that the tithe belongs to God. There is no confusion whatsoever about this. Little wonder that defaulters are equated to robbers down in Malachi. When you take what does not belong to you, you are considered a thief. When you take it by force, you are a robber. God refers to tithe defaulters as robbers. That is a strong adjective and should give Bible believing children of God some concern! Now, God is not a man and even though He is the owner of the tithe, He will not come down and physically eat the tithe. That is where His priests come into the picture. **Numbers 18:22-32**, provides an understanding of what this tithe that belongs to God is to be used for and how it should be deployed.

***Neither must the children of Israel henceforth come nigh the tabernacle of the congregation, lest they bear sin, and die. But the Levites shall do the service of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they shall bear their iniquity: it shall be a statute for ever throughout your generations, that among the children of Israel they have no inheritance. But the tithes of the children of Israel, which they offer as an heave offering unto the LORD, I have given to the Levites to inherit: therefore I have said unto them, Among the children of Israel they shall have no inheritance. And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Thus speak unto the Levites, and say unto them, When ye take of the children of***

***Israel the tithes which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an heave offering of it for the LORD, even a tenth part of the tithe. And this your heave offering shall be reckoned unto you, as though it were the corn of the threshing floor, and as the fullness of the winepress. Thus ye also shall offer an heave offering unto the LORD of all your tithes, which ye receive of the children of Israel; and ye shall give thereof the LORD's heave offering to Aaron the priest. Out of all your gifts ye shall offer every heave offering of the LORD, of all the best thereof, even the hallowed part thereof out of it. Therefore thou shalt say unto them, When ye have heaved the best thereof from it, then it shall be counted unto the Levites as the increase of the threshing floor, and as the increase of the winepress. And ye shall eat it in every place, ye and your households: for it is your reward for your service in the tabernacle of the congregation. And ye shall bear no sin by reason of it, when ye have heaved from it the best of it: neither shall ye pollute the holy things of the children of Israel, lest ye die.***

God categorically refused the Levites an inheritance amongst the Israelites. The tithe that the whole nation brings is their inheritance. It is where they are supposed to feed. It is meant to provide for them. It is meant to sustain them. They are not permitted to do any kind of work outside of the work of ministry in the temple to God for the people. They had no right to any farmland. God was their portion. The tithe was their inheritance. The nation was obligated by God to offer the tithes to the Levites.

This is one of the key stumbling blocks to tithe payment in the New Testament Church. The concept of ownership of tithe in these days when they run into millions of dollars in some Churches is difficult for a lot of people to accept. That makes the Pastor richer than the Church! That explains why there is so much affluence and wanton display of wealth amongst Pastors some surmise. While this could be a source of concern, it does not however deny the truth of the gospel as to the ownership and the consumption of the tithe. God owns it. The Levites or Pastors, in the language of the 21st century, consume it.

What is critical to note is that the authority for consumption is not a licence for mismanagement. There is accountability in the kingdom. The tithe is meant to provide for the Pastor's needs, facilitate the pursuit of kingdom goals, especially the spread of the gospel, and meet the needs of the members of the Church who are indigent. This means a Pastor must be salaried. There must be a specific amount that is set as the remuneration of the Pastor. It must not and cannot be a case where hands are dipped into the purse for any and every need of the Pastor.

That is an abuse.

### **Pastors Must Pay Tithe too**

A thorough understanding of the Scripture also shows that God expects Levites to also tithe. **Verse 26 and 27** of the Scripture says:

*Thus speak unto the Levites, and say unto them, When ye take of the children of Israel the tithes which I have given you from them for your inheritance, then ye shall offer up an heave offering of it for the LORD, even a tenth part of the tithe. And this your heave offering shall be reckoned unto you, as though it were the corn of the threshing floor, and as the fullness of the winepress.*

God is very succinct here that the heave offering by the Levites shall be reckoned as their own tithe and it must be a tenth of the tithe they receive from the people. Pastors must pay tithe from the tithe they receive too. There are many Pastors who are under a curse because they preach and teach about tithes, but do not pay the same themselves. It is unfortunate. Such a Pastor cannot prosper and ministry will soon become a frustration for them.

### **The Second perspective – Feasting on the Tenth Portions**

This perspective differs from the first in that it directs the consumption of tithes to a different category of people and for slightly different purposes. Let us look at **Deuteronomy 14: 22-29**.

*Thou shalt truly tithe all the increase of thy seed, that the field bringeth forth year by year. And thou shalt eat before the LORD thy God, in the place which he shall choose to place his name there, the tithe of thy corn, of thy wine, and of thine oil, and the firstlings of thy herds and of thy flocks; that thou mayest learn to fear the LORD thy God always. And if the way be too long for thee, so that thou art not able to carry it; or if the place be too far from thee, which the LORD thy God shall choose to set his name there, when the LORD thy God hath blessed thee: Then shalt thou turn it into money, and bind up the money in thine hand, and shalt go unto the place which the LORD thy God shall choose: And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, for oxen, or for sheep, or for wine, or for strong drink, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth: and thou shalt eat there before the LORD thy God, and thou shalt rejoice, thou, and thine household, And the Levite that is within thy gates; thou shalt not forsake him; for he hath no part nor inheritance with thee. At the end of three years thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine increase the same year, and shalt lay it up within thy gates: And the Levite,*

***(because he hath no part nor inheritance with thee,) and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the LORD thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest.***

This Scripture talks about feasting on the tithes according to one's heart desires. It dwells on satiating self-desires and is less categorical about the tithe belonging to God and consumption rights being vested in the Levites. Some people have also camped here and used this Scripture to avoid accountability. They see the issue of tithe as a matter of choice and its usage their prerogative. This is not absolutely correct. This Scripture also points direction at the good tithes should be put; care for the Levites, the stranger, the fatherless and the widows. If we take this element and compare it with the use of the tithe to advance the kingdom that we surmised earlier, we find there exists some similarities and that there is no absolute dissonance when it comes to the care and kingdom expansion dimension of tithe usage.

### **The Old Testament repercussions for defaulters**

Scriptures cannot contradict one another. God is not the author of confusion. The two Scriptures studied on tithe both agree with what Abram did in tithing. The first was categorical about it being paid to the Levites and supported Abram's payment to Melchizedek. Both are also supportive of the care and provision dimension to which tithes should be put in addition to providing sustenance for Levites. The last word on tithes in the Old Testament points out the danger of defaulters. It clearly removes any doubt about whether we should pay tithe. It also clarified why we should pay tithes, who we should pay to, the use to which it should be put and the benefits accruable to those who observe the ordinance. The grave consequences of defaulting are also succinctly highlighted so the child of God can be advised. What is instructive here is that this Scripture came well after the earlier two, and therefore carry a greater currency. It can be seen as God's final words on tithe in the Old Testament.

Let us study **Malachi 3:5-12**.

***And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts. For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I***

*will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, wherein shall we return?*

*Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.*

*Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts. And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.*

Brethren, God equates cheating, unkindness and lack of generosity with sorcery. This is deep and scary. The world is quick to condemn witchcraft and sorcery, but from this scripture, we may well have millions of Churches and congregations populated to overflowing with witches and wizards. Then He went on to accuse the nation of robbing Him in tithes and offerings. This validates the Leviticus Scripture on tithe as it locates the ownership of the tithe in God. You can only be accused of robbery by an accuser when you have stolen by force from that accuser. If God is the accuser, then it's got to be true! His declaration of a curse on defaulters is very instructive of how important the issue of tithe is to Him.

What came after these is a commandment by God to men to bring all the tithes and the offerings into His house for a purpose; that there may be meat in His house. Meat in God's house is provision in God's house. Not for God as a person, but for the man of God in the house; the maintenance of the house of God itself; the expansion of the house of God or kingdom of God, and the care for the needy, like widows, the poor, the homeless, the orphans, the fatherless, *etc.* The multiplied harvest consequence of tithing was enumerated; the divine insurance dimension of the benefits of tithes and offerings were spelt out in the rebuke of the devourer; and the blessing of being a delightsome land explained. God's last word on tithe in the Old Testament is unequivocal. Tithe is not optional. It is compulsory. Obedience attracts His blessings and defence. Disobedience attracts the curse of God. The curse of God cannot be waived by the blessings of men. No man can bless him whom God has cursed.

## **The New Testament and Tithe**

A lot of believers believe that the issue of tithe ended with the law and the prophets, and is not expected to be mandatory to the New Testament believer. Some even quote verses of Scripture to validate their position on the illegality of tithing in the New Testament. We will examine this position in the light of Scripture and by the leading of the Holy Spirit. The first thing to note is that in the Old Testament, Tithes were directly related to agricultural produce, animal husbandry and spoils of war. These do not necessarily apply now. We therefore cannot tithe the way the Israelites tithed, but we can learn some lessons therefrom on the purposes, the benefits, the blessings, the ownership issue, and the consumption instruction. Some of these instructions include; provision for the Levites, Care for the needy and the oppressed, Expansion of the kingdom, Spread of the gospel, First fruits -High priority for kingdom things and the truth that God blesses GIVING and insures the giver.

### **Mathew 23:23**

***Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.***

There is no RULE on Tithe in the New Testament! There is, however, an expectation! The Jews still gave it. Contrary to the claims by many, Jesus Christ DID NOT condemn tithing as seen in the Scripture above! What He did was to rebuke the Pharisees for their hypocrisy and the wrongness of their priority; not their giving! He did not condemn tithing, as some men will make you believe. He did not declare it an Old Testament doctrine. He did not outlaw it! He said they ought to have done it, but they are not to leave the other matters of the law, judgement, mercy and faith. What Jesus Christ was saying here is that you cannot bribe God with your tithe if you are not living right. If you have no faith, you are just religious and the letter killeth. If you are a lawless, unfair, fraudulent, unmerciful, mean and wicked person, and you give tithe religiously, you are not acceptable by heaven's standards. That's why Christ called the Scribes and the Pharisees hypocrites. He did not condemn tithing. He said it ought to be done! His concern was the omission of the other important elements of our faith walk.

### **A Higher Life is Expected of Believers!**

I am persuaded that the New Testament believer is called to a higher dimension of living. An understanding of the revelation behind Giving will help the believer transcend the elementary level of tithing. When you come to the full

knowledge of the divine insurance provision in giving apart from the direct harvest consequence, you will need very little encouragement to embrace the giving life. A tenth of your income will become too little for you to consider as an offering to God. Nothing will be too big to give to your maker.

**"I have given to the point of being ridiculed by men, but God has also blessed me to the point where I have become an attraction to men."**

I went beyond the tenth portion of my income many years ago, well before I became a Pastor and I have no regret whatsoever for it. If anything, I have continually remained a marvel by virtue of the blessings of God in my life and the divine insurance my family and I enjoy in God. I am a crazy giver! I am moved by a genuine love for God, His kingdom and humanity. I look for opportunities to sow into the kingdom and into lives, and I plug myself in. I have given to the point of being ridiculed by men, but God has also blessed me to the point where I have become an attraction to men.

At the early stage of my working life, I had two prized possessions; my 18 inch TV, which I bought on loan and a Video player. I was quite popular amongst my friends because I was one of the first to own them. My house was literally a cinema and was usually filled on weekends with friends who come to watch movies. After my conversion experience, I became hungry for the depth of God and plugged myself into an opportunity to advance the kingdom when I saw the need. My local Church was growing and there was a need for TV monitors at the overflow. I packed my prized TV off as a seed. It attracted so much attention both amongst friends and family members. I was seen as a fanatic. My father was summoned to Lagos; Nigeria's commercial capital where I lived and threatened to renounce me as his son if I did not renounce my newfound faith and the madness that had gotten into me. My friends left me, but God picked me up because I didn't do it to impress anyone. It was a deal between God and I. Between that time and now, I have given various sums of money, cars, parcels of land, etc., as led by God or as moved by needs either in the kingdom or in the lives of men. Brethren, since then, my story has been from glory to glory. Today, I enjoy an unusual access to the mind of God and blessings that many people just dream about. I am very well provided for. I walk in continual victory. I attract favours from strange quarters. I operate under an uncommon grace for ease. I have never had a better previous year. Every year is a fundamental increase on the previous. Things work together for my good. Alleluia! I have proved it brethren. It works. Don't get your mind bogged down by wrong doctrines that cannot be validated by Scripture. Get on the right track with the Word and watch

your life literally transform. That is my testimony! It can be yours too.

**"Don't get your mind bogged down by wrong doctrines that cannot be validated by Scripture."**

**Luke 6:38**

***Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again***

**2 Corinthians 9:6-7 (NIV)**

***Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.***

These Scriptures have held true both in my secular life as well as in ministry. God is not a man that He should lie. The Bible says clearly that God is not mocked. Whatsoever a man sows, that shall he reap. My family does not suffer lack. Our ministry is not needy. We are rather privileged by God to meet the needs of ministries that are sometimes even bigger than us. Just as I pay tithes and offering as an individual and a family, so do we also pay tithe and offering as a Church. I have adopted children whose upkeep my family is responsible for. We pay school fees of indigent students based on the grace made available to us. We are committed as a family and as a Church to always seek for ways to put a smile on someone's face and joy in someone's heart. If you want to walk in a dimension of good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over blessing, then plug in to a giving life founded on genuine love for God, His kingdom and humanity.

**2 Cor 9:6-7**

***But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.***

As I close on this subject of tithe, my submission is that you see the 10% as the basic minimum. Use it as a guide to help you grow in the giving grace. Once you grow and mature, fly beyond it. There's so much of heaven's treasure waiting beyond the 10%. Reach for it.



## **SACRIFICE**

This is the second type of Giving I will deal with it in the book. Let us examine the meaning of sacrifice from the point of view of Jesus Christ; the ultimate sacrifice Himself from His observation of a giving scenario.

### **Luke 21:1-4**

*And he looked up, and saw the rich men casting their gifts into the treasury. And he saw also a certain poor widow casting in thither two mites. And he said, Of a truth I say unto you, that this poor widow hath cast in more than they all: For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury hath cast in all the living that she had.*

What the Master is saying here is that the poor widow gave a sacrificial offering, which ranked higher in order above all the other offerings. The poor widow gave all her living. That is what sacrifice means. It means giving your all. That was what Abram gave when he gave Isaac. God waited until he had sent Ishmael away so there was no fall back option. That was what God gave when He gave His one and only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for the remission of our sins.

Note that Jesus Christ did not condemn the rich men; rather, His focus was on the Sacrificial Giving as being something deep from the heart and more valuable before God! Sacrifice is a higher level of giving that few people get into. If you are bold enough to get inside, you are made for life! Sacrifice is giving out of season! It will get you God's attention. Sacrifice will irrevocably commit God to your cause and make God swear on your life! Let us look at Abraham and the sacrifice of Isaac.

### **Genesis 22:9-18**

*And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen. And the angel of the*

**LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.**

At the beginning of this Scripture, the Bible says that God actually did tempt Abraham. He wanted to know how far Abraham would go with Him. He asked for Isaac as a sacrifice on a mountain He would show him after a three days journey; enough time for Abraham to change his mind, doubt God and seek for an alternative to obedience. Abraham, however, obeyed and made an attempt to do the unthinkable: kill Isaac. He did not think of a replacement now that Ishamael was gone. He did not consider what response he would give to Sarah if he returned without the boy. He did not consider the implication of his action on his reputation. His focus was on obedience. His consuming passion was to please God. His action provoked heaven. God swore on him.

In **Genesis 12**, God spoke a promise onto his life after he obeyed the commandment to leave Ur of the Chaldees. He got an eternal covenant of blessing when he obeyed the call of sacrifice. God swore an oath to bless him. God can swear an oath to bless you too. Would you heed the call of sacrifice?

#### **\*Hannah's sacrifice of Samuel**

**1Samuel 1:10-17**

***And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore. And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head. And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the LORD, that Eli marked her mouth. Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken. And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee. And Hannah answered and said, No, my Lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD. Count not thine handmaid for a daughter of Belial: for out of the abundance of my complaint and grief have I spoken hitherto. Then Eli answered and said, Go in peace: and the God of Israel grant***

***thee thy petition that thou hast asked of him.***

Here is a woman who had stayed without a child for years and had been the subject of ridicule by her rival and possibly her community. She had always been a regular annually at Shiloh. She had always given offerings on each visit as is expected of the Jews. She, however, gave a different kind of offering on this occasion. She covenanted her unborn child as a gift unto God. She did not ask for children. She asked for a son and covenanted him back to God as a gift. She covenanted all she would have had by the time the boy would have been born. She gave her all and her heaven turned. The curse of barrenness was broken. She got Samuel. When all else fails, a heart-seated sacrifice will bring you out! The same power in sacrificial offering is seen in the story of the widow of Zarephat's story in **1Kings 17:10-16**. She gave of her last to the prophet and got a turnaround and preservation in famine. God cannot ignore a sacrifice from a genuine and humble heart. It always works.

**"When all else fails, a heart-seated sacrifice will bring you out!"**

## **ACCEPTABLE AND UNACCEPTABLE OFFERING**

I had mentioned earlier on in this book that not all offerings are acceptable. There are honourable offerings and there are despicable ones. God will never accept any dishonourable offering no matter the size. Let us look at the story of Cain and Abel's offerings again.

### **Genesis 4:3-7**

***And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted?***

Note here that Cain was the first to offer before Abel, yet Cain's offering was rejected, while Abel's was accepted. The question is why? God will not do anything without a reason. Lets look at the next Scripture for some insight.

## **2 Corinthians 8:1 -12**

***Moreover, brethren, we do you to wit of the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia; How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance***

*of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.*

*For to their power, I bear record, yea, and beyond their power they were willing of themselves; Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God. Insomuch that we desired Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also finish in you the same grace also. Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that ye abound in this grace also. I speak not by commandment, but by occasion of the forwardness of others, and to prove the sincerity of your love. For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. And herein I give my advice: for this is expedient for you, who have begun before, not only to do, but also to be forward a year ago. Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance also out of that which ye have. For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not.*

Note the following from this scripture; Paul talked about Giving of self first before your means. This speaks to the heart condition of the giver. It places a greater emphasis on the giver than the gift regardless of nature and size. The next thing we note here is that Paul preached that the grace of giving be combined with faith, utterance, knowledge, diligence and love. This means the giving grace must not be in isolation of the other demands of the faith. This is also a reminder of the rebuke Jesus gave the Scribes and the Pharisees in **Mathew 23:23**. Paul preached in this Scripture that giving is a proof of the sincerity of love and that there must first be a willing heart before there can be an acceptance. A willing heart does not give grudgingly or of necessity. God is actually in love with a cheerful giver!

### **2Corinthians 9:6-7**

*But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*

This Scripture clearly shows that there is a purpose dimension to Giving. God is not moved by the size of your offering as much as He is moved by your motive, your purpose and the condition of your heart! The size or the type of your

offering may move your Pastor to the point of acknowledging you publicly and rewarding you with titles, but heaven is moved by your intention and the state of your heart. This is one of the key reasons why certain kinds of giving are despicable and unacceptable to God. The tragedy is that if God does not accept it, it cannot be rewarded. If it is not rewarded, you will soon be frustrated. The injunction is to render your heart first. I am persuaded that Cain's challenge was that his heart was not right with God, hence the rejection of his offerings.

**"The tragedy is that if God does not accept it, it cannot be rewarded. If it is not rewarded, you will soon be frustrated."**

There are many Cains in the Church today who are increasingly frustrated like the Biblical Cain. They give as an obligation. Some even arrogate powers to themselves because of the size of their offerings in the Church. Some so called givers hold some Pastors to ransom because they know the impact of their offering to the bottom line of the Church. Some others even give as if they are doing God a favour. What a tragedy! That kind of giving is not acceptable unto the Lord. It cannot be rewarded. It will only end in frustration. If it is not from a willing heart; if it is not from a cheerful heart; if it is given out of compulsion; if they have to cajole and harass you to give; if they have to plead and beg you to give; it is not acceptable unto God! If it is not acceptable, it is not 'rewardable'. Just as Cain got bitter and ended up a murderer, many so-called givers are bitter and angry with God, Pastors and the Church. Sin and destruction is just by the door of these people. God is in love with a cheerful giver. When God is in love with you, He opens His treasures to you.

Another dimension of unacceptable offering is found in **Leviticus 22:21-22**. And whosoever offereth a sacrifice of peace offerings unto the Lord to accomplish his vow, or a freewill offering in beeves or sheep, it shall be perfect to be accepted; there shall be no blemish therein. Blind, or broken, or maimed, or having a wen, or scurvy, or scabbed, ye shall not offer these unto the Lord, nor make an offering by fire of them upon the altar unto the Lord.

**Malachi 1:8** echoes the same thing.

***And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil? offer it now unto thy governor; will he be pleased with thee, or accept thy person? saith the Lord of hosts'***

These two Scriptures describe offerings that are grudgingly given. The quality and the quantity are way below the status of the giver. Some people are so stingy that when they feel compelled to give, it is as if they are bleeding their lives out.

Every other discussion about the kingdom is okay with them as long as you do not include giving. During offering time, they scrounge through their pockets to look for the smallest denomination and then squeeze it together so nobody sees the amount. Such people dip their hands deep into the offering bucket so nobody sees what gets dropped. What a pity! Who is fooling who? The Bible says the less is blessed of the greater. You are too small for God to need your help! You are the one who needs His help. Your entire income till you die and your bank account home and abroad is too little to finance God's kingdom expansion agenda. You need to be humble enough to count yourself privileged to be a co-labourer in His vineyard.

**"You need to be humble enough to count yourself privileged to be a co-labourer in His vineyard"**

### **WHO TO GIVE TO**

This section deals with the recipient, the person, group of persons or organisation mandated to utilise the offerings given. We dealt a little bit with this under Tithe. The first recipient of the offering is God and His work.

#### **Malachi 3:10**

***Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.***

#### **Zechariah 1:17**

***Cry yet, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; My cities through prosperity shall yet be spread abroad; and the LORD shall yet comfort Zion, and shall yet choose Jerusalem.***

You need to make diligent search for the things of God that you can plug your life into. Be excited at kingdom projects and heaven will be excited at your life project! Let His kingdom matter to you and your life will matter on the earth! Let the zeal of the Lord's house consume you. Budget for the kingdom. Don't give carelessly. Plan your giving to excite God and move heaven on your behalf. When you give to ensure meat in God's house; He gives to ensure meat in your own house too. Much more than that, your giving guarantees you additional insurance cover beyond the harvest.

### **Men of God**

These are the second Biblically recognised recipients of your giving.

**Philipians 4:14-19** says:

***Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction. Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God. But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.***

Now, there are many people who quote Scriptures and make faith confessions who chant Philippians 4:19 without paying attention to the earlier part of the Scripture. Verse 19 was provoked by what the Philippians did in verses 14-18. You can trigger prophetic intervention in the areas of supply and abundant life when you recognise and sow into the life of a true man of God. You can also contact the grace he carries by sowing into his life for that purpose. It is wisdom for winning cheaply in the battles of life.

### **Humanity**

God is passionately concerned about the well being of His creation. Therefore, He expects that when He blesses you, you should be a river and not a dam. You should be a channel of blessing onto others. Your life through your resource distribution must mean something to someone. You must be God's hands to raise someone up from poverty; God's ears to hear the cry of help from a helpless soul and lend a helping hand; God's eyes to see the misery ravaging the world and do something about it; God's legs to lead men out of the dungeon of life into liberty. Your life must count for something. You are created a seed, look for a human earth to be planted so you can live forever to His praise.

### **2Corinthians 9:8-9**

***And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work: (As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor: his righteousness remaineth for ever.***

### **Romans 15:26**

***For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem***

The Bible says we will always have the poor amongst us. They are also God's children. We have a responsibility towards them. God is able to make all grace

abound towards us for increase and multiplication so we can fund good causes that touch His heart. Budget for social causes; the poor, motherless babies homes, orphanages, *etc.* You will be lending onto God. The payback is out of this world!



## Chapter Twelve

### THE POWER OF THE TONGUE

**John 10:17-18**

*Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.*

This is the last in the series of the four dimensions of the power to get wealth. It is, however, by no means the least. It is so dangerously important that it can make nonsense of the other three powers. It does not matter the size of your seed sown, the power to take it up again is the Power of the Tongue! Until you exercise it, your seed remains unproductive! You sow with your hands, you harvest with your mouth! If Christ had not risen, His sacrifice would have been in vain. Our salvation would have been impossible. He exercised the power to take His life up again! Alleluia! He rose again on the third day. By His resurrection, we have victory over the issues of life. Your giving or sacrifice is like His death and burial. If you do not exercise this resurrection power, your sowing would be in vain and frustration will hallmark your life. Victory over poverty, lack, stagnation, and the likes will be practically impossible.

**Numbers 14:28-30**

*Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the LORD, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you: Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward which have murmured against me. Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I swear to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.*

**Proverbs 18:21**

*Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.*

The Bible is very clear about the fact that death and life are in the power of the tongue. This is exemplified in the Scripture on the ten spies, their evil report, the murmurings and the attendant destruction based on their words. Every one that

spoke negatively and those that murmured were destroyed in the wilderness and never got into the Promised Land.

**Mathew 12:36-37**

***But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.***

The tongue has a fruit according to the Bible; only those who love it can eat it! There are many people who give right, but speak wrong! Many destroy their seeds with their tongues and then wonder why there is no change in their life. You water your seeds with the words of your mouth. When you speak wrong words, you are pouring hot water on your seed, it will die, but when you speak the right words, they are like the dews of heaven on your seeds, they hasten the growth process.

Hold a mirror to your mouth and speak, water comes out. That is what waters your seed. Every negative word spoken on your life with your mouth destroys the productive ability in your seed. Therefore, you need to MIND YOUR LANGUAGE! Don't allow shyness to make you speak wrong! Don't allow peer pressure to make you agree to a destructive statement. Flee any environment that will compel you to speak wrong. Avoid any relationship or gathering that will make you speak negative words on your life. You have exercised your power of divine ideas and you are productive. Divine favour has made you an attraction. You have sown precious seeds and made tearful sacrifices. Now is the time to exercise the power of the tongue to call your blessings forth. Act like your Father. Call those things that be not as though they are. Do not be quiet! Shout it loud. Let no man silence you. Let no man take your voice. Speak right. MIND YOUR LANGUAGE!

**YOU SHALL BE RICH WITHOUT STEALING!!!**

# Epilogue

## THE EXPECTATION PRINCIPLE

**Proverbs 23:18**

***For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off.***

Expectation is the mother of manifestation. If you expect nothing, you get nothing! You must be expectant! Abraham was expectant! Hannah was expectant! David was expectant! Expectation empowers you to go through the challenges of the moment. Expectation gives you a voice to exercise the last of the powers; the power of the tongue without which there can't be any manifestation. A covenant is a two-way deal. Once you play your part, you have a legitimate right to be expectant! God expects you to have expectations of Him just as He has of you. Do not disappoint Him. Do not disappoint your destiny. Expectation is a spiritually legitimate act. Expectation is an expression of faith! When you have no expectations, you are not working in faith and you consequently constrain heaven from helping you. It is time to imagine and expect your harvest. You shall be rich without stealing!

**Believe it! Say it! Act it! Live it! And it shall surely come to pass in Jesus name!**

**About the Author Kolawole Oyeyemi leads the Gospel Farmers Ministries International; a dynamic ministry anchored on Isaiah 61:1-3. This teaching and training ministry has various arms including a vibrant young church, The Chapel of Uncommon Grace with a mandate to raise onto God, 'A People of Integrity, Power and Passion', located in Lagos, Nigeria.**

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