



THEY THAT KNOW THEIR GOD

- EMEKA NDUKWE

The first thing Elisha did after the mantle of Elijah came upon him was to part the river Jordan by striking it with the mantle of Elijah. And at that point, he said "Where is the God of Elijah?" (**2 Kings 2:14**). He knew God as Elijah's God; He had not known God for himself.

However, the same Elisha, after he had known God for himself, said "send Naaman to me and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel" (**2 Kings 5:8**). He was no longer shouting "Where is the God of Elijah?" Namaan's case was more than the doctors could handle. They had done everything medically possible, and yet his leprosy persisted. It was a severe case of leprosy. It demanded the ministry of a man that has known God for himself and not the man that hides under a "borrowed anointing".

Look through the scriptures and you will discover that it was only once that Elisha said "Where is the God of Elijah?" As he matured in God and got to know God the more, he no longer operated a borrowed anointing. These days, with every little challenge, you hear people screaming "O God of Bishop David Oyedepo!", "O God of pastor Paul Enenche!", "O

God of pastor David Ogbueli!". If the Spirit of God leads you to do that on a particular occasion, then it's okay and acceptable. But to make it a formula for prayer means that you are not growing in faith! It means you are not getting to know God for yourself. And it is because people would not know God for themselves that they idolize men of God. You are not helping any man of God by idolizing him, rather, you're indirectly asking God to take him before his time! Don't forget that the Lord, our God, is a jealous God (**Exodus 34:14**).

I was in Dunamis Church headquarters in Abuja, Nigeria, and a young man was sharing his testimony. According to him, he was stuck in the night in heavy traffic on his way to the hospital with his pregnant wife who started bleeding. Instead of calling on the name of Jesus Christ, he was saying "Paul Enenche...., Paul Enenche". When the man got to that part of the story, the Senior Pastor, Paul Enenche, got up from his seat and did what a wise servant of God would do by rebuking the man. He made the young man know that it was the Name of Jesus that he should have called upon. The Senior Pastor pointed out very clearly to the congregation that no one should idolize him, so he could live

long and fulfil his ministry on earth.

A family in the church I pastor had their aged father undergo surgery in the hospital. At the end of the surgery, it appeared he was having some complications. Before I could get to the hospital to see things for myself, they stood in the gap for their aged father, blasting in tongues in intercession. When I eventually arrived they had already done most of the job in the spirit realm. All that was left for me to do was lay hands on the man and speak one or two words of faith. To the glory of God, he fully recovered and is still alive. I looked at those members of my church that did the intercession and said to them "thank God you are knowing God for yourselves".

The seven sons of Sceva never said, "In the Name of Jesus that we know". They rather said, "In the Name of Jesus that apostle Paul preached...." (**Acts 19:23**). And they (the seven sons of Sceva) were subdued, beaten up and stripped naked by the demon they went to cast out. The seven sons of Sceva did not know God for themselves. All they knew was that Apostle Paul preached Him. It is your knowledge of God that makes the Name of Jesus weighty and powerful in your mouth. Apostle Paul knew God, and so, the Name of Jesus in his mouth cast out devils. The seven sons of Sceva didn't know God for themselves and the Name of Jesus in their mouths did not carry any divine backing.

There is more to the name of the Lord than people think. The name of the Lord is legally appropriate in the mouth of His covenant children. It is not for those who do not know God. That is the reason the scriptures say that the name of the Lord is a strong tower and that the righteous run into it and are saved (**Proverb 18:10**). It is not just anyone that runs into it. The scripture was very specific about it- the righteous is the one that runs into it. The righteous is the one that has a covenant with God, he is the one that knows God. Those that

understand the gravity of the name of the Lord don't call upon Him carelessly, nor do they call upon Him without results.

Why does the scripture say that the prayer of a sinner is an abomination unto God? As stated in the book of **1Peter3:12**, it is because the sinner does not know God. He is a total stranger to God. It is like a stranger that you know nothing about trying to claim an inheritance with you. It, therefore, sounds abominable to God. The scripture says that the sheep hear the voice of the shepherd and that they would not heed the voice of a stranger (**John 10:27**). In the same vein, the shepherd does not hear the voice of a sheep that is not His, neither would He heed to it. You cannot understand the mystery of the Name of the Lord until you are covenanted to Him.

The only prayer from a sinner that is not abominable to God is the prayer of repentance; when he confesses his sins to God and invites the Lord Jesus Christ in his life.

THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, THE WEAPON OF WARFARE

Samson knew God enough to tear a lion with his bare hands. He didn't need physical weapons, because God Himself is the weapon of the man that knows Him. The man that knows the Lion of the tribe of Judah does not run away from the roaring lions of life. The knowledge of the Lion of the tribe of Judah was the reason why Samson never ran away from the lion that roared at him.

Look through the scriptures and you will discover that Samson exhibited two dimensions of strength when a young lion charged at him on his way to Philistine. The first dimension of strength he exhibited was inner strength, which is what you could refer to as courage. He was courageous enough not to run away at the

roaring of the lion. Note that the scripture said that it was a young lion, so you won't say it was because the lion was too old that Samson was able to tear it with his bare hands. Fighting a young man is a more strenuous thing to do than fighting an old man. The same applied to a young lion.

The next dimension of strength that Samson exhibited was overwhelming strength. That was the strength by which he overwhelmed the lion and tore it into pieces. All the same, he needed the first dimension of strength to be able to exhibit the second dimension. That is why it is the man that can withstand the fiery darts of the devil that can quench it (**Ephesians 6:11**). If he cannot withstand it, he cannot quench it. You cannot quench what you cannot withstand!

Those two dimensions of strength were exhibited by Sansom because he had known God for himself. And that knowledge of God was enough weapon, and he did not need to carry any physical weapons to fight the lion. When the scriptures say that the weapons of our warfare are mighty through God, it also means that they are as mighty as God (**2Corinthians 10:4**). I will throw more light on that in one of the forthcoming episodes of the publication.

And so, God says in His Word that it is they that do know their God that shall be strong and do exploits (**Daniel 11:32**).

TWO MAJOR KEYS TO KNOWING GOD

1. Spending time with God in deep communion.

The man that spends time with God and continues to do so will not only know more of Him but will eventually become more like Him. The scripture says as we behold His face, we are transformed into His likeness (**2Corinthians**

3:18). In other words, as we fellowship with Him, we are transformed into Christ Jesus. That was exactly the case with Apostle Paul; he was transformed into another Christ by deeply fellowshipping with Christ Jesus. No wonder the devil said, "Jesus I know and Paul I know..." (**Act 19:15**). In other words, Paul was another dimension of Christ on earth!

Just like the souls of a man and his wife mix in the place of communion, so does your spirit mix with that of Christ in the place of communion with Him in deep fellowship. That is why the scripture refers to you as His bride. Every bride has a dimension of her groom mingled in her spirit. In the same vein, you should carry the fullness of God in your Spirit. That is achievable by spending quality time with God especially as you wait on Him in fasting and prayer. Fasting and prayer concentrate your spirit on God so you can draw from Him maximally. Don't just fast because of needs, also fast because you want to know more about God.

That is when the deep calls unto the deep. Your deep hunger for God calls unto the deep dimensions of God. It is at such times that some inexplicable dimensions of the knowledge of God are deposited in your spirit. It was such an experience of the dimensions of God that Apostle Paul said that he was not permitted to share (**2Corinthians 12:4**). That is also how prophets get revelations of ages to come. You can also operate in that dimension if you can pay the price of spending quality time with God in deep fellowship.

Apostle Joshua Selman referred to it as the knowledge that would be downloaded into your spirit as some divine software. When he said that, I understood what he was talking about because such knowledge can only be caught in your spirit. It is not a fleshly knowledge and therefore cannot be caught in

the flesh. It is downloaded in your spirit, giving you an understanding and dominion that the ordinary mind can never have.

2. Fellowshipping with the brethren.

There is a dimension of God that can only be caught in the place of fellowshipping with fellow believers. When God said in His Word that where two or three are gathered in His name He is there in their midst (**Matthew 18:20**), he revealed another dimension of His presence that is different from the one you encounter one on one with Him in your closet. That is why God instructed that you should not forsake the gathering of the brethren. It is not a suggestion, it is rather an instruction that we should continue to obey.

Saul, the king of Israel, experienced transformational knowledge at the place of fellowshipping with the brethren. Samuel, the prophet, had told him to join the fellowship of

the prophets as they prophesied. He was told that it was there that he would be transformed into another man (**1Samuel 10:6**). The transformation was not going to happen anywhere else, not even at the place where he was anointed king of Israel with the Lord's horn of oil. It occurred only at the place of fellowshipping with the brethren.

A lot of people are busy looking for God, not knowing that God has been waiting for them at the place of the gathering of the brethren. Those that are good at missing church services will always have limited knowledge of God. God is concentrated at the place of the gathering of His people. The glory cloud dwelt at the place the people of Israel gathered in the name of the Lord (**Exodus 40:34**). Those that know God don't miss the place of the gathering of the brethren and those that don't miss the gathering of the brethren will know Him the more.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

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