

**LATE PROPHET
GABRIEL OLUBUNMI
FAKEYE:
*A Great Living Counselor***

Most Senior Mother-in-Israel
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The word “**counselor**” is defined in one of its many definitions as “a person trained to give guidance on personal or psychological problems.” It can also be defined as a trained professional who can help you work through your personal problems. The counselor helps you to resolve problems in a positive way by helping you to clarify the issues, explore options, develop strategies and increase self-awareness. Other synonyms for the word include: adviser, consultant, guide, mentor and confidant.

Late Prophet Gabriel Olubunmi Fakeye during his life time may not have obtained a Ph.D. degree in Counseling from any earthly University; he could however be rightly assessed by all standards as a born, spiritual and gifted Counselor. His counseling legacy brought back together broken homes, resuscitated dead businesses, healed wounds and calmed strained nerves. For people with listening ears and some level of faith, the counseling legacy of Prophet Fakeye still elicits miracles till date, though he is peacefully resting at the bosom of Christ, his Lord and Savior. The Apostle Paul was inspired to say this about Abel in Hebrews, Chapter 11 verse 4, while talking about Heroes of Faith – “Through it he, although he died, yet speaks.” Through what does Abel speak? Through faith! Abel was the first human ever to develop that sterling quality. So powerfully did he demonstrate faith that his example is alive- a vibrant standard that we can apply today. If we learn from his faith and seek to imitate it, then the record of Abel is speaking to us in a very real and effective way.

The analogy above could be applied to Prophet Gabriel Olubunmi Fakeye’s counseling legacy. Although Fakeye died, his counseling legacy speaks to us daily, in the course of weathering through life’s daily battle. He indeed passed unto us (his congregation) and the entire Nation, more than required to enable us live a happy Christian life. All we need to do is reflect on his teachings, or go back to our archives and apply those lessons to our practical life. As such, it is not an exaggeration to say Prophet (Dr.) Gabriel Olubunmi Fakeye is a living great Counsellor, though he has transited to the great beyond!

Baba Fakeye has personally been my mentor. This is because his ideologies cum my professional skills as a trained Counselor had assisted me earlier to set up a successful Counseling Clinic which I run to date. His sudden exit therefore came to me as a shock. I was however consoled in the fact that he had given more than enough to take me to greater height in life and in my career, and I believe this applies to all who have been privileged to

be associated with this great man of God either as a member of his nuclear family, the congregation or the Nation at large. This is not to say that we would not have been more excited and pleased to have him stay longer with us than he did. We love him but God loves him more than us.

A reflection on the work of late Prophet G. O. Fakeye as a gifted Counselor revealed that hardly would he preach without linking his sermon or teachings to the family challenges that confront every home and proffering solutions to them. This earned Baba Fakeye a special appellation and the tag 'family man to the core'. It is in line with the family virtues I will like to discuss the roles of family members in upholding their homes vis-à-vis Baba Fakeye's legacy as outlined below:

INDIVIDUALS

Every individual must see himself or herself as a goal-getter in all ramifications.

As a **child**, you must be focused on your choice of career, obey constituted authority, make your parents happy, and keep good friends as you are judged by the company you keep. You must be a good ambassador to your family, church and the nation as a whole.

As a **mother**, the responsibilities for keeping the home intact are in your hand. When the home fails, the mother receives the bulk of the blames from left, right and center. The general assumption is that the mother must be capable of coordinating the finances at home, aligning the income with home expenses and checkmating wastages.

The **man** is the God appointed (or if you prefer, anointed) head of the family. His efforts should be focused towards providing for and making everybody in his household happy.

HUSBANDS

Husbands must love and strive to make their wives happy. They should endeavour to develop their spouse to an appreciable level because the abilities and capabilities of the wives dictate the level of the household in general. Do not be a wicked husband that is happy when the wife is in pains or sad. Treat your wife as your first born so that she can think right in directing the affairs at the home front.

WIVES

Wives must totally submit to their husbands and treat them as their first born. There should be no alternatives to your marriage. Be hospitable to visitors. Keep only family friends (No single friends). Communicate well with your husband and children because a problem discussed is half-solved.

CHILDREN

Children should be seen as unique individuals who need special attention. Each child's challenges should be identified and appropriate solutions provided accordingly.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I wish to once more emphasize on the fact that as simple as these highlighted principles and counseling issues appear, they are the foundation for a happy family unit, happy Christian life, successful community and a healthy Nation. We should all therefore strive to embrace them.