

H.O Oyegide

THOU
GAVEST
ME NO
KISS



Thou Gavest Me No Kiss

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ISBN:

Published by:

BP Productions Ltd,
Queen Elizabeth II Road,
Total Garden, Ibadan, Nigeria.
bpproductionsltd@gmail.com

Author's Contact: +234 810 929 0884



DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to **the** almighty God who **is** its originator;
the **One** who stands by me always in **His** great work, to **Him**
alone be the glory forever and ever. Amen!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my uttermost gratitude to the almighty God, for His grace and mercy upon my life and for the vision of this book, to Him alone be glory forever and ever. Amen!

I am greatly indebted to my amiable wife for always being there at all times. She was the first person I discussed the vision of this book with, and I was amazed to hear the words of encouragement that came from her against all odds. “When are you starting the writing?”, she asked. Thank you for always believing the word of God in my mouth. May the Lord reward you accordingly in Jesus name.

I also appreciate these vessels of God for their great impact on this vision, in prayers, advice, support, and encouragement: they include Apostle Imoledayo Immanuel, Prophet Akintunde

Iyiola, and Pastor Faith Agboola. I pray that the Lord increase His grace upon your lives and ministry in the name of our Lord Jesus.

I also like to thank my family and friends for their undeserved support in all ramifications, most especially my spiritual mother who happens to be my mother in the flesh too, Prophetess C. O. Oyejide, for your prayers and support always, specifically on this work, I pray that you will not miss your reward here and hereafter in the name of Jesus Christ.

Thank you and God bless you all.



PREFACE

This book is not written to take the place of the holy Scriptures in the life of the reader; rather, it is to enhance the reader's understanding of the scriptures. It is not for sale. The commandment is to get it across to as many people as possible in the service of God. The Lord is helping the author and other generous children of God to ensure that this book is widely published. If you, therefore wish to join this glorious work to ensure that the book is printed in large scale so that it would be distributed to as many that may be in need of the light of God contained in the book, you can reach the author via the following numbers:

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God Bless you!



FOREWORD



This book is a timely gift from God to the body of Christ through his servant, **Prophet Hezekiah O. Oyejide**. Today, many are so busy with the work of God that they have no time to walk with God in fellowship.

The book **sheds** light to why and how to stay in fellowship with God and not be too busy with ministry without the God of the ministry.

I am very sure that you will be blessed reading this book and **put it into practice**.

May God bless his servant and the readers of this beautiful book in Jesus name .

Imoledayo Immanuel
(A man sent from God)

The themes are beautiful and thought-provoking. They highlight the importance of prioritising one's relationship with God, the danger of allowing ministry to rob one's Christlikeness, and the importance of genuine love for God and communion with Him. The writer did a perfect job.

The message is well passed. It challenges believers and ministers to "kiss" the Lord. It is a book worth reading and I can easily recommend it.

Prophet Elijah Abiara & Pastor Mrs Tope Abiara



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INTRODUCTION

It is very important for every servant of God to know the priorities of God for their lives and ministries. This is because misplacement of priorities can cause a lot of disappointment and failure in this glorious divine assignment. Every one that became successful in the work of ministry set their priorities right. They could differentiate between what is compulsory and what is just necessary.

Today, many are given to too many things that only amount to nothing in the sight of God. This is because they have placed what ought to come last as their first, and what ought to be first as their last. The injunction in Matthew 6:33, "*But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.*" is not only applicable to the world alone, it is also applicable to ministers of the Gospel too. God desires that the eyes of understanding of His vessels be opened to the things which ought to be of top priority in their lives. The result will be much fruitfulness for His kingdom.

Furthermore, it is obvious that we are first Christians before becoming a minister of God, but in one way or the other we have allowed ministry to rob us of our Christlikeness. Many ministers have become antichrist today: an **antichrist** is not only someone that is against Christ, but also someone that is usurping the position and the authority of Christ in the church. The strong desire for self-success, fame, position, and self-breakthrough had turned **many** into swindlers even though they are genuinely called of God.

How about those that are running everywhere accumulating titles upon titles? Each time you come across such vessels, instead of mirroring Christlikeness, **all they** do is about their title. And if **anyone** fails to recognise them by those titles, then you have crossed the bar. **This is nothing but pride** of life being spiritualised. It is not what we need for this sacred work.

The Lord is preparing his end time army, and one of the greatest criteria to be enlisted is right and pure motive. God is looking for men whose motive for serving him is love, and not worldly things that will soon fade away (1 John 2:17). **He is** looking for men that **would** not be like Demas **who loved** this present world and was lost in it.

“For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica...” 2 Timothy 4:10 KJV

Let us also take a journey into the book of Revelation and see what the Lord has to say to **His** servants in the church at **Ephesus**.

“Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

Nevertheless, I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

*Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.” **Revelation 2:1-5 KJV***

Why will Jesus remove **her** candlestick? Because **she** has left **her** first love. How many servants of God are guilty of this today? Can you take an inventory and consider how you started your walk with Jesus and what it **is** now that ministry has come in. **Is the** difference not as wide as the sky? Although, you call it a spiritual growth, but heaven **regards** it as spiritual disintegration.

Our God is a jealous God (Exodus 20:5). He will not allow

anything to take His rightful place in our hearts; not even what He has given to us or conferred on us?

It is high time we **sought** to know the most important things in the heart of our Caller and be ready to give ourselves to them so that our profiting may appear to all.



CHAPTER 1



THOU GAVE ME NO KISS

And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat.

³⁷ *And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment,*

³⁸ *And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment.*

³⁹ Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, this man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner.

⁴⁰ And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on.

⁴¹ There was a certain creditor which had two debtors: the one owed five hundred pence, and the other fifty.

⁴² And when they had nothing to pay, he frankly forgave them both. Tell me therefore, which of them will love him most?

⁴³ Simon answered and said, I suppose that he, to whom he forgave most. And he said unto him, Thou hast rightly judged.

⁴⁴ And he turned to the woman, and said unto Simon, Seest thou this woman? I entered into thine house, thou gavest me no water for my feet: but she hath washed my feet with tears, and wiped them with the hairs of her head.

⁴⁵ Thou gavest me no kiss: but this woman since the time I came in hath not ceased to kiss my feet.

⁴⁶ My head with oil thou didst not anoint: but this woman hath anointed my feet with ointment.

⁴⁷ Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven, the same loveth little.

⁴⁸ *And he said unto her, Thy sins are forgiven.*

⁴⁹ *And they that sat at meat with him began to say within themselves, Who is this that forgiveth sins also?*

⁵⁰ *And he said to the woman, Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace.*

Luke 7:36-50, KJV

One of the rare privileges anyone **could** have during the earthly ministry of Jesus was His visitation. He rarely visits men's abode. The Bible gave us the record of His visitation to Peter's house **in** Matthew 8:14, Zacchaeus **in** Luke 19:1-10, and Lazarus house. Another man He visited was Simon, a pharisee. Simon, being the host of the Lord, was in great favour with the Lord. I believe he would have honourably set **the** table before the Lord. The best meal prepared by the best chef would have been on the table, **and** of course the best cutlery would be made available too. What do we **expect**? He must have thought within himself that, "I am hosting the Lord, the healer, dead raiser, miracle worker." What a rare privilege this was. But another event took place! There came a woman with a bottle of costly ointment in her hands and tears in her eyes who was eventually recognized and regarded above the host himself. The woman's name was **not mentioned** while the host is well known **by** the Lord. Yet the woman struck a chord in the heart of the Lord that Simon was unable to strike. Simon was a religious leader; a pharisees for that matter. Pharisees **were a set** of people that are known to be the most learned and skillful when it comes to the law and prophets, but here was a woman who wasn't **in** anyway

religious, yet the Judge of all commended her above Simon the host. What was it about the woman that made the Lord to **commend her so?** As a sinner well known to Simon, he condemned the Lord in his heart for allowing her to touch Him, but the Lord accepted her above 'holier-than-thou' Simon.

Simon didn't understand that Jesus knew how to be separated from sinners without isolating from them (Hebrews 7:26).

After considering the whole matter critically, I became curious, because if we would conclude that the reason Jesus spoke well of the woman was because she gave costly ointment, let's be reminded that Mr Simon also gave something valuable, too. A meat feast, not a bread feast. If we could estimate what it might have cost him to prepare the feast, we would discover who had spent more between Simon and the woman. It occurred to me that the Lord accepted the gifts offered by both of them, but He regarded that of the woman above Simon's. You may ask "why?"

The Lord emphasised on just three things:

- “Thou gavest me no water” (v 44)
- “Thou gavest me no kiss” (v 45)
- “Thou gavest me no oil” (v 46)

If you consider the word "Thou gavest me no" critically, it connotes that those were the things Jesus expected Simon to have done but He failed to do them. His failure was simply that he didn't understand that the Lord's food is not what he thinks (John 4:34). When the

Lord wrap the three acts of the woman together, he called them ‘Love’. That’s what the food of the Lord is, but Simon was oblivious of this. The Lord said, “**thou gavest** me no water”; “thou gavest me no kiss” and “thou gavest me no oil for my head”. Without doubt, the act of the woman was significant to the Lord’s burial as Jesus remarked when Mary did the same to Him (John 12:1-8). Let’s us consider these three substance that the Lord mentioned one after the other.

THE WATER

Water symbolises purification in Jewish culture. It is used to remove dirt, blood and other impurities. It is also often used in a ritual bath called “mikvah” for purification.

So, as far as Jesus is concerned what the woman was doing is prophetic, they weren’t a coincidence; they pointed to His death. Although she didn’t come with water, but she substituted it with her tears to wash the master’s feet.

Why the feet? Why didn’t she wash any other parts of His body?

How beautiful are the feet of those that bring Goodnews (Isa 52:7); and because Jesus brought the Goodnews and He being the very Goodnews himself, it must be His feet?

Furthermore, you don’t wash a corpse of someone if you are a stranger to the person. The person has to be a family, a relative or a friend. The woman, though a stranger, acted not as one to Jesus. How many Christians and ministers of God are treating Jesus like

a stranger today because of lack of or inadequate intimacy. There is a lot to learn from this sinful but yet loving woman. Her heart made her to obtain a greater mercy than the self-righteous Simon himself (Luke 7:47).

As spiritual as Simon claimed to be, he couldn't understand the prophetic significance of what **this woman** did. All **that Simon** saw about this woman was sin, but the saviour saw beyond that; Jesus saw wisdom and love in action. Does it mean that Jesus was endorsing the sinful lifestyle of the woman? Absolutely **no!** But the emphasis is that activities without genuine act of love is fake; it is like a cloud without water.

THE OIL

Oil is part of what the Israelites use to mask an unpleasant odour that a corpse may be sending forth. We saw the graphic picture when Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of **James**, and Salome took a sweet smell oil to Jesus' grave to anoint **Him**.

“And when the Sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices, that they might come and anoint him” Mark 16:1, KJV

When Mary the sister of **Martha** did the same, Jesus said she did it for His burial.

“For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did it for my burial.” Matthew 26:12, KJV

In their own understanding as a nation, this was a way of showing compassion, respect and care to any deceased. It is also part of the purification process for the corpse as the fragrance is believed to purify the body. This was their way of honouring the deceased. It acknowledges how important the body is to them and the connection of the soul to it. This is why Jesus said the woman loved much (Luke 7:47). This is how anyone can move the heart of the Lord, regardless of who he or she may be.

THE KISS

There is more to a kiss than whatever interpretation our minds could give it. It is from the Greek word '*philema*', which connotes friendship and affection. Literally when we hear the word 'kiss', we think of a man and a woman in a relationship; but firstly, let's consider what 'kiss' is according to the Jewish culture. Since the Lord demanded kiss from Simon who was obviously not a woman; therefore, it means there is more to it than we think.

According to the Jewish culture, kisses have a pivotal meaning, and are used to express various emotions, show respect, and mark important life events. For instance, the "Shalom Kiss" is a kiss on the cheek or forehead as a greeting, farewell or symbol of peace. There is also the "Kiss of Respect", which is a kiss on the hand or forehead as a form of respect for elders, Rabbis, and Torah scholars. There is also a "Kiss of affection", which is between family members or close friends expressing love and affection. This type was the one Esau gave His brother, Jacob, when they

finally met each other again after so many years of isolation.

"And Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck, and kissed him: and they wept" Genesis 33:4 KJV

The Jewish people also kiss mezuzah (This is a parchment with biblical verses) on the doorpost when entering or leaving a home, as a sign of respect and connection to God. They also kiss the Torah in synagogue services. Congregants kiss Torah scroll as a sign of respect and reverence for the sacred text. During holidays like Sabbath or wedding, kisses are exchanged as a sign of joy, celebration and community.

Therefore beyond doubt, we now realize that kiss in Jewish culture is different from what we Africans understand it to be. To the Jews, it symbolises love, connection, respect, reverence, bond, peace, and harmony. In fact, it was so significant to them to the point that this was the way through which Judas could betray the Lord.

⁴⁸*His betrayer had given them a sign: "The One I kiss, He's the One; arrest Him!" ⁴⁹So he went right up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed Him. Matthew 26:48, 49 KJV*

Therefore, when the Lord said unto Simon “Thou gavest me no kiss”, it was actually love and communion that He was demanding from him; not activities, because the Lord remarked that the woman that kissed His leg loved much.

"Wherefore I say unto thee, her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much..." Luke 7:47 KJV

This woman kissed Jesus' leg because it would soon be nailed for her sins. She was having a great heart-to-heart communion with the Lord above what natural mind can comprehend. But here is Simon, he thought all his activities - serving table - can impress Jesus, but little did he realise that it was fellowship that the Lord is demanding for. This is where many of us are **sidelined** today; we **think** we can impress Yeshua by much activities; jumping here and there without quality time with God, oh, no! This is a graveyard mistake, and this is why many are **dry** like a tree that is cut down far away from the scent of water.

Now, pay attention to this, you may be the prince or king of preachers, **but** if you are not in a deep and perpetual communion with the one you are preaching you are a hypocrite. You may be the best distributor of **tracts** in your local assembly, **if you do not have a personal relationship and fellowship** with the Saviour, what He is saying to you today is, "**You did not give me a kiss**"; no love, no communion. Maybe you are a good teacher or a great writer, but I **desire** that you hear the Whisper of your Saviour to you saying, "**You did not give me a kiss**". Oh man of God, thank God for your just concluded program and the crusade, but can you hear the tender voice of your Caller saying, "Thou gavest me no kiss"? Gone are the days when you usually do so in the secret place, when you **used** to have a rich moment with **Him**, when ministry has not crowded His presence **out** of you, when programmes here and there have not **become** a stumbling block, rivalry and distraction between you and your sweet Jesus; when you **were** seeking **Him** because of Him, and

not because there is an urgent programme where you want Him to move mightily to prove that you are on fire or because there is a project to execute. Since you are now a big man of God, busy now and then with invitations from all over the globe, how **would** you have time for the **One** that has lifted you? What you need to realise is that you are getting dry and life is being sapped of you. Oh, don't you know? Very soon it will dawn on you, but I pray that it wouldn't be too late.

This is the time to return to the Lord in a sober reflection and repentance, Many of us are also guilty of Simon's error; activities without genuine love for God. Is there anything wrong with serving God? No, **but what should be our top priority is having a deep and continuous communion with God.**

I hope you remember a woman whose name was Martha? **She also committed the same error. The Lord visited her, too as He visited Simon, and warned her against much activities with little or no fellowship of Love with the Master at His feet.**

“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one.^[a] Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.” Luke 10:41,42 NIV

You would not understand why **the** Master said Mary has **chosen** the right part that no one can take away from her until you discover that she was the first preacher of resurrection, and not even one of the

twelve apostles. She preached it to them before they themselves begin to preach it to the world.

¹¹*But Mary stood without at the sepulcher weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulcher,*

¹²*And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.*

¹³*And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, because they have taken away my LORD, and I know not where they have laid him.*

¹⁴*And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.*

¹⁵*Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.*

¹⁶*Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.*

¹⁷*Jesus saith unto her, touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.*

¹⁸*Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the LORD, and that he had spoken these things unto her.*

John 20:11-18 KJV

Mary has a great record that no one can take away from her. It was written in the memorial book in heaven forever. Her heart drove her to the Lord's grave at the right time. Many of us don't know what we are missing. Probably, Martha would have been the one to have this honour, but she missed it. Nothing of note or impact was mentioned about her in the Scriptures.

KISS ME WITH THE KISSES OF THY MOUTH

"Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine" Song of Solomon 1:2 KJV

The Jewish people believe that the book of the Song of Solomon is figurative and prophetic - about them and God. But we the children of God believe it is all about Christ and His bride, which is the Church. The kisses of mouth are one of the ways married couples express their love to each other. How then do you, as a bride of Christ, have a mouth-to-mouth relationship with your groom who is invisible? Is it not through your interaction in the secret place? You speak with your mouth He hears, and He speaks too and you hear.

Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not. Jeremiah 3:33 KJV

Is that not the kiss? Or is it not when you pour on the scared book? (The Bible)? He speaks to you through them and you also react, maybe with joy and rejoicing like someone who has eaten honey and honeycomb (Psalms 19:10).

Prophet Jeremiah also said,

"Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart..." Jeremiah 15:16 KJV

Is this not the ‘kiss’ the Lord is demanding for? Or what do you think it is? Do you think it is about wearing collar or a priestly garment of many colours everywhere? Is it about carrying a megaphone around? Or shouting and jumping on the pulpit? Is that what the ‘kiss’ is?

Read the scripture again:

"Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine" Song of Solomon 1:2 KJV

It says, “thy love is better than wine”: Love is a product of the heart; the posture of your heart towards the Lord is the most important thing. Am I against you serving the Lord? No. Is God against your service? No. But the Bible says, “He that abides in me and I in him the same will bring forth much fruit.”(John 15:5)

Simon! Simon! Simon!

Thou givest me no water

Thou givest me no oil

Thou givest me no kiss.

If we set our priorities right, all other things will fall in place.

"If you know this thing, happy are you if you do them"



CHAPTER 2



THE POWER OF COMMUNION

"Our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ"

1 John 1:3b KJV

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.

2 Corinthians 13:14

When the Lord made man in His own image, the idea **was** primarily because of communion. He gave man all the organs of communion;

mouth to speak, ears to hear, and **eyes to see**. He also gave man the emotions and feelings to relate well with Him. It is not as if God cannot survive without man; God has been surviving and doing fine from eternity past before He made anything. He is all-sufficient with or without the existence of anything. But why then did He has to create the angelic beings and man? He had to because of His **benevolent** attitude. His glory, splendour, blessings, and beauty are too much that He considered it a waste and as selfishness if there are not some kinds of beings that are benefiting from them. We all know that the earth is full of the glory of God, but we also need to know the reason; it is because this God is a benevolent God. That is why you would see expressions such as: “Call unto me”, “seek me”, “come unto me” in the Bible. This is a way of showing us His benevolence towards us.

When the Lord created the angelic beings, He made them a ministering spirit. In other **words**, the only way through which they can sustain and maintain their relevance with God is by service.

“And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.” Hebrews 1:7 KJV

If peradventure they decide not to serve, then they lose their honour, relevance, and glory. That's why the bible says,

*“The angels that kept not their **first** estates, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgement day” Jude 1:6 KJV*

They “kept not their first estate **but** left their habitation” means they ceased to serve and left their service post. Thus, the Judge of all decided according to His justice system that if they **wouldn’t** serve, they are good for nowhere than the prison. It means, “since you are useless and irrelevant to me, be in the prison house”.

How about **Lucifer**? What made him to fall? He suddenly became tired of service, but he wanted dominion. **He** was formally the chief minstrel of heaven with **unique** and unusual abilities to sing unto the Lord. And the more he was doing this, the more he was **radiating** glory and beauty. Unfortunately, he became arrogant because of this beauty, not realising that both the glory and the beauty were outcome of his obedience in serving God. He desperately wanted to rule but he fell.

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!

For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north:

I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

*Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.
Isaiah 14:12-15 KJV*

Unlike the angels, man was created for fellowship, dominion, and service:

Fellowship

And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. Genesis 3:8 KJV

Dominion

And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. Genesis 1:26

Service

"And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it." Genesis 2:15 KJV

Fellowship helps **man** to retain his dominion, and dominion graced him an ability to serve in the garden unhindered by the enemy. Satan became an eternal enemy of man because God gave the authority he is panting after to man free of charge without stress or prayer request. Little wonder the psalmist says.

"What is man that thou art mindful of him? and son of man, that thou visitest him, for thou art made him little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honor. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou

hast put all things under his feet. "Psalm 8:4-6 KJV

So in the cool of the day, the Lord would always come to man and commune with him because of his effectiveness in service. His dominion is **tied** to those moments of communion. If anything should break his connection with God, then he **loses** dominion and his right to serve, and eventually **becomes** useless as dung. I **could imagine** Satan weeping and **raging** on that day, I **could** picture him looking for means to overthrow man from his position of authority, since he had failed in the mission of overthrowing God in heaven. He thought within himself that his only hope is to seize the authority on earth, and little did the man know that there is a battle around the corner. Each time he is fellowshipping with God, Satan will stand afar off full of wrath, **rage**, jealousy, and envy. When the Lord eventually gave the man the commandment regarding the forbidden fruit, I see Satan rejoicing and said “At last, I have found the key to my agelong desire”. And the moment Eve came to the scene, I see him rejoicing again, that now is the time to **overthrow**. When he deceived the woman, the woman also reached out to the man and deceived him, and the man fell and lost his connection with God. When the Lord came to commune with the man as his custom was, the man was nowhere to be found.

*“And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him,
where art thou?” Genesis 3:9 KJV*

His response revealed his fallen state.

“And he said I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid...” Genesis 3:10 KJV

Has any change **happened** to God's voice? No. **It was the man that lost connection.** Thank God for the second Adam, Jesus, who has redeemed us from this state, we couldn't have had hope of reconnecting back to God again. (1 Corinthians 15:45)

In a nutshell, man is not like angels created mainly for service. But today, many are lost in the service, far away from the Owner of the work as far as the east is from the west. Service without a deep and sacred relationship with God will only make us to discover our nakedness like Adam.

“And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” Genesis 3:10 KJV

Truly, we are completely naked without him. That is why the Lord says, “...Men ought always to pray and not to faint...”**Luke 18:1 KJV**

It is in the place of fellowship that we are clothed with His glory.

COMMUNION AND MINISTRY

There will be so many failures and defeats if we attempt the Lord's work in isolation from God's presence. He is the vine and we are the branches, there is no fruitfulness in service and the work of ministry without Him. The vine does not need the branches to be vine, but the branches need the vine to be branches (Read this again, over and over).

How many ministers of the gospel have died today because of the burden of ministry? How many are still dying quietly now? How many have developed terminal sickness like hypertension, high blood pressure, and even strokes because of misplacement of priority? This is not the will of God. How are we going to be doing the work of the Spirit with the energy of flesh? Isn't that contradicting? It will only lead to vexation of Spirit.

Are we not like Peter who toiled all night in the flesh and caught nothing?

And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret,

² ~~*And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he were washing their nets.*~~

³ ~~*And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.*~~

⁴ ~~*Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught.*~~

⁵ ~~*And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net.*~~

⁶ And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake.

⁷ And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink.

⁸ When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.

*⁹ For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken: **Luke 5:1-9 KJV***

Peter was an experienced fisherman, he knew well that the best time for fishing is at night, he depended so much on his experience, like many are **puffed up** today because of **their** long years of ministry, yet he caught nothing. **It is never how far but how well.** When Peter found Jesus, it was the same sea of Galilee, same net, but different result.

Instead of running from pillar to post seeking for what works, we would do well to go back to the presence of God and stay there. Jonah who absconded from the presence of God ended up in the belly of whale (Jonah 1:17). How many ministers of God are in the belly of whale today?

Sir, your ministry **does not** have a location problem, your wrong location in the Spirit is the serious problem. You have employed all strategies, but you caught nothing. You think you could invite a popular man of God or a famous gospel singer, but what you

should know is that the crowd that traced them to your church building will still follow them wherever they go from your place; why? It's a law: "*For wheresoever the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.*" **Matthew 24:28, KJV.** Some even went further to invite comedians to the house of God. What a dishonour to the holy sanctuary of God where He has put His hallowed name! What they don't realise is that God doesn't seek smiles to win.

How about those who are looking for great men of God everywhere for *laying on of hands or* impartation? "Daddy, I want a double portion of your anointing", they remark.

Firstly, no great and spirit-filled servant of God will lay hands on you swiftly, because the Bible says lay hand on no man suddenly.

Secondly, you can't be asking someone to give you two hundred naira when he only has one hundred naira. What was Elijah's response to Elisha he made such request from him? He said, "You have asked for a hard thing, you don't understand what you are asking for, I can't give you beyond what I have". Till today, many think it was Elijah that gave Elisha the double-portion of the anointing, no; it wasn't Elijah, it was God. Let's go back to the scripture for study:

And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces. 2 King 2:11,12 KJV

The only thing **Elisha** took was the mantle that was rent into two pieces, he took half while Elijah took half away; is that double portion? That's a half mantle. And surprisingly, the only time he used it was at Jordan, the Bible didn't say he was carrying the mantle everywhere for miracle. How did the double portion that made him to do twice of what his master did came? It came from God through his hunger, as it is written: "**Blessed are those who hunger for they will be filled**".

I am not in any way against impartation, I am also a product of many impartations **through** God's servants; **however**, we need to understand that a man can only impart us **by virtue of his** deep and sacrificial walk with God; he **cannot** impart the relationship. An intimate relationship with the Lord can neither be transferred nor transmitted, and this is what we need the most.

How about those who spend huge amount of money on advertisement? There will be a lot of defeats and heartaches if divine approval and endorsement have not first been secured from the Lord; without this, all the money expended on social media, flyers, and the like will be a great waste. John the Baptist didn't have any advertisement in his own time but the whole Israel gathered in the wilderness to hear him.

"In those days came John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea,

² And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

*³ For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying,
The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of
the Lord, make his paths straight.*

*⁴ And the same John had his raiment of camel's hair, and a
leathern girdle about his loins; and his meat was locusts and
wild honey.*

*⁵ Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the
region round about Jordan,*

⁶ And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins."

Mathew 3:1-6 KJV

It got to a certain point that **John the Baptist** became the most relevant in his generation that Jesus would say “until the time of **John** the Baptist” (Matthew 11:12) as if he was the only one on earth; yet, all this happened **without any advert**. How about Jesus? Multitude would always gather around Him (John 6:2), everywhere He was found during his earthly ministry.

Likewise the apostles; in their days, their results were so astounding that people said they turned the world upside down.

*And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain
brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have*

turned the world upside down are come hither also;

Act 17:6 KJV

If we can take some days to study the life and ministry of **these** people, we will find out that they **treasured** their time with God above ministry. This is one secret I have discovered about them. They understood that their part is to stand in God's presence in the secret place, while God's part is to glorify himself in the open place. Today, many have left their part and doing God's part, this is too dangerous; carrying the burden that only God can carry.

How did Jesus start his ministry? Was it not by forty days and nights of prayer and fasting? And what was the result? Diverse signs and wonders; His fame spread abroad (Mark 1:28).

How did the disciples start their ministry? Was it not with ten days of deep communion with God in the upper room? I believe you know what happened consequently: The outpouring of the Holy Spirit that spawned the conversion of three thousand souls who continued in the doctrine of the apostles.

"Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

⁴² *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."*

Act 2:41-42 KJV

How many of the souls that we claimed were converted in our

diverse crusades are we able to disciple; even after collecting their phone numbers and their addresses? In the time of the apostles, there were no phone numbers through which they could follow-up, yet they are abiding fruits (John 15:16).

Don't you think we need to run back to God and cry out to Him in repentance for labouring for Him in the energy of the flesh. The Bible says, *"For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh."*

Philippians 3:3, KJV

The less confidence we have in the flesh, the more reliance on Him we would be and the more biblical results we will have. Our challenge is that we **think** the way of God can be substituted for civilization. We need to **understand** that the age of technology cannot render the way of God obsolete. They are the same forever. Let's us humble ourselves and find the good part in the ancient path.

"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein." Jeremiah 6:16 KJV

YOU AND MINISTRY

The **earlier** we realise that we are more important to God than ministry, the faster we will begin to do exploit for Him. Your ministry cannot go farther than you have gone with the Lord, **neither can it be powerful** than your power with God. People must

have seen and heard about your **impact** for the Kingdom of God before they begin to ask about the name of your ministry.

Jesus was the **One** who sent the apostles to the world, He was also the **One** who told them to wait in Jerusalem first in fellowshipping with God till they be endued with power from on high before they launch out for ministry. This means they are God's priority before ministry.

*“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.” **Mark 16:15 KJV***

*“And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.” **Luke 24:49 KJV***

Where did their power come from? Was it from ministry? No, it came from above. Every **impact** your ministry would make will come from God through you to the ministry. You need to know that you are a million times important than ministry, and Jesus is trillions of times important than your ministry.

Today when you hear Methodist Church, what will come to your mind? John Wesley, isn't it? When you hear Cherubim and Seraphim, you will quickly remember Moses Orimolade; Christ Apostolic Church will bring Joseph Ayo babalola to your memory. It is the glory that those men derived from God's presence that impacted their ministry. That is why even after they had long gone to be with the Lord, their life and labuor is still



resonating till today as though they are still physically with us.

If it **would require** closing down our churches for a year or two to seriously seek the Lord, it worth the price. **Within a little time, we will achieve greater things for the Lord than the many years** of wasted labour. We can't have such a mighty God and be achieving little or nothing for Him. How **can we have** such a glorious God and be bringing shame to His name?

If you fail to find Him quickly, you will only be seeing your **impacts** in the dream; you won't be able to realise them. Many who died today without fulfilling purpose saw what they could have become in their dream, only to wake up and die as a mediocrity. Every great prophecy about your calling will remain a prophecy till you leave here, if you don't strive for their fulfilment by God's grace. It is time to be earnest with the Lord. It is time to come out of the crowd.

Isaiah was a man with a great mandate for the prophecy of the coming of the messiah, but he couldn't enter the fullness of his calling until he began to seriously seek the Lord. He was alone in the temple when the Lord appeared to him. He cried out, “I saw the Lord!!!” What have you seen that transformed your life? Every great vessel of God saw something from the Lord.

In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.

² *Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with*

*twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet,
and with twain he did fly.*

³ *And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the
LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*

⁴ *And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried,
and the house was filled with smoke.*

⁵ *Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man
of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean
lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.*

Isaiah 6:1-5 KJV

When Isaiah found God, the problem of his life and ministry was discovered and solved. In the next chapter, he began to prophecy about the birth of Jesus, which was the exact reason for which he was born.

¹⁴ *"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a
virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name
Immanuel." ***Isaiah 7:14 KJV****

Don't you think you need to emulate Isaiah and become something in the hand of God that will last forever?



CHAPTER 3



EIGHT BENEFITS OF COMMUNION

The benefits of communion with the Lord are countless; however, we must understand that these benefits are just a mere consequence of our communion with Jesus, our motive for seeking Jesus must not be for anything, whether spiritual or material. The only accepted motive for seeking Him is seeking Him because of Him alone.

Eight of these benefits are carved out to stir up earnestness in the heart every servant of God.

SANCTIFICATION

Salvation and calling are enough **reasons** why God uses a man, but sanctification must be included. Since God is a Holy God, He cannot use an impure vessel.

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" 2 Timothy 3:16-17 KJV

²¹ *"If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work." 2 Timothy 2:21 KJV*

This possibility is only available for men who perpetually commune with the Lord (Isaiah 6:1-7).

In the presence of God, our hearts are made manifest to us; **wrong and sinful motives** are revealed; and this will consequently lead to repentance; divine help is sought from God and these will result in genuine sanctification. Studying, meditation, books, sermons are all good but they aren't sufficient for this work. We must experience the Mekoddishkem dimension of God. It is in His presence that He will fire what you have read and heard from your head into your heart. That is the reason for Jesus' prayer for His disciples:

*"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.
John 17:17 KJV*

WISDOM

Many thought it is only power that is needed for ministry, but **it is not so**. Wisdom is the principal thing (Proverb 4:7). Wisdom is the inspired instruction from God that is peculiar to **your** calling. **This is** divine strategy for outstanding results.

When John the Baptist was baptizing men, he never saw it anywhere. And the idea behind it was to identify and reveal the messiah.

"And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water."

John 1:31 KJV

What is it that the Lord showed you that is not written in any book in the world? What is it that He showed you that is not copied from another minister or ministry? It is copy and paste ministry that is **rampant** today because people are no longer waiting on God for their own template. For instance, in the days of Joseph Ayo Babalola, using water for healing **was not** common, he received the insight from the Lord and the result was quite wonderful. How about when he rings bell and demons **would scream** and run away for their dear lives. The wisdom was given to him by an encounter he had with the angel of the presence of God. Anyone can copy him but they can't have his result. Even in the Bible, Moses didn't build an ark and Noah didn't build a tabernacle. They both have their clear instructions from the Lord in the secret place. What is it that the Lord is building through you that has not been built before?

ANOINTING

"And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing."

Isaiah 10:27 KJV

Anointing is the energy of the Holy Spirit that destroys the work of the devil. It is not enough to know how to preach and teach, anointing is **needed** for **effective and successful teaching and preaching ministry.**

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

²*To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;"*

Isaiah 61:1-2 KJV

You can read all the books in the world and become a companion of the internet, yet your ministry will lack power to make men obedient to the Lord without the **anointing**; they will rather be hardened.

*"For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ hath not wrought by me, to make the Gentiles obedient, by word and deed," **Romans 15:18 KJV***

Word alone is insufficient, the force of the spirit that is proceeding out of your vessel is what will propel men into action. A dry message will become a **burden** on you and the people; that's why you will see them dozing off during the sermon, or checking their time to know when they will be free from the burdensome hour. But if unction is present, four hours will be as four minutes. You don't need to compromise the truth by sugarcoated mouth to interest people, anointing will make them have interest even if you preach hell and lake of fire.

“But truly I am full of power by the spirit of the LORD, and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin.” Micah 3:8 KJV

INFLUENCE

Influence is a divine grace to compel men to follow you to follow Christ. It is born in the spirit; it comes by grace as our walk with God becomes deep and intense, it doesn't come by luck. If God wants to achieve a great thing true a man, He gives him influence.

“And immediately his fame spread abroad throughout all the region round about Galilee.” Mark 1:28 KJV

This is why people always troop to hear Jesus from everywhere. His influence first covered Galilee, (Mark 1:28) and throughout Israel (Luke 4:37), and finally the whole world (John 12:19). You can't conquer territories by gifts, grammar, or even anointing. There are gatekeepers in every territory that **determine** the destiny of the land.

“But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withheld me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia”

Daniel 10:13 KJV

These beings can only be conquered by the mighty hand of God or through his **angels**. In the above scriptures, Gabriel remarked that it was angel Michael that helped him against the prince.

COVENANT

One of the great rewards that the Lord often give to His vessels that **walk** with Him is covenant. Covenant are immutable as day and night: God was saying unto David regarding the nature of His covenant that...

“Thus saith the LORD; If ye can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their season;

²¹ Then may also my covenant be broken with David my servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne; and with the Levites the priests, my ministers.” Jeremiah 33:20, 21 KJV

“My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.” Psalms 89:34 KJV

Here, we see the potency of God’s covenant.

There are different **kinds** of covenant that the Lord made with His servants: God can make a covenant of protection with you to ensure

that you are adequately protected from all assaults and attacks from the pit of hell till you finish your assignment here on earth. He can also make a covenant of provision with you and your ministry, so that regardless of what your needs or the needs of your ministry **are** it will be sufficiently met, even if it takes God to use strangers (Isaiah 60:10). This is **why** you cannot just **begin to envy** or be jealous of a minister that is experiencing financial ease in ministry, because you don't know the business he has transacted with God in the deep (Psalms 42:7).

SENDING

We need to know the difference between calling and sending. There are many called minister, but **it is** only few that the Lord **recognizes** as His sent ones. Today, if a man perceives the calling of God upon his life, instead of answering the call by running to the One that called him; nay, he will **run** immediately to the world and **begin to run** errands for himself. Suppose you have a child and you wanted him to buy you a bread, you will call his **name**; if he answers, then it means he heard you clearly, and then what should his action be? **Is it not** to come to you and verify the kind of errand you want to send him? But if on the other hand he **presumes** that he **knows** why you called him and eventually **brings** table water instead of the bread that you desire, what **would** your reaction be? That your reaction will be God's reaction, too to those that are called but sent themselves.

"I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran..." Jeremiah 23:21
KJV

This is the error of **an** average minister of God today. And that is why there is great hardship in their ministry. Many are looking older than their age because they are carrying the burden that the Lord has not put on them. If you send yourself to do certain work which the Lord has not **sanctioned**, you will be the one to finance it, there won't be any provision from above, because the Lord didn't send you. **That is** why many are borrowing, writing letters to different churches for financial help, crying on radio and television for financial help that is waiting for them abundantly in God's presence. We will do well if we answer **His** calling by running to **His** presence and **crying** unto Him. Many need to repent and say, "Lord, I know you called me but I sent myself, have mercy on me".

It is not every called one that will build church, but unfortunately if a man hears a call today, the first thing he **would** be thinking is "How will I get a land to build a church", even without confirming the **nature** of his calling, his ministerial office, those that God is sending him to, the jurisdiction of his calling, and the like. Thus, we have so many churches today but with little impact. I can hear the Lord screaming with loud voice, **asking** "Who will I send and who will go for us?" Who will go for us because many had gone for themselves.

GRACE

When God calls a man, it is not about the strength or the wisdom of the person

²⁶ “*For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:*

²⁷ *But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;*”

1 Corinthians 1:26-27, KJV

We are as weak as dust, but he that called us called us in hope that sooner or later we will learn to surrender to His grace so that His strength will be perfect in our weaknesses (2 Corinthians 12:9). He does this that we may not have an occasion to boast.

“Not of works, lest any man should boast.” Ephesians 2:9, KJV

Every of our past failures, defeats and disappointments is for one purpose, and that is to break our confidence in the flesh (Philippians 3:3). If we don't know this, we won't know how easy ministry can be.

Every qualification that we need for God's work aren't what we have naturally, they all come on the platform of Grace. Holiness, faith, integrity, abilities, gifts, and other operations of the Sprit are only obtainable by grace.

Our ministerial growth, financial growth, and every other growth are connected to our growth in grace.

"And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him." Luke 2:40 KJV

If you **study** the scripture **carefully**, you will see a **colon** mark there, what it means is that the reason he grew, waxed strong in the spirit, and was filled with wisdom is because the grace of God was upon him. Our spirit grows at the same pace with our growth in grace, thus the ministry is positively affected and impacted for Christ and His kingdom.

Paul remarked that he works more than every other apostle. This because of the grace of God upon him.

"But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me." 1 Corinthians 15: 10, KJV

Since I **discovered** this secret, I **found** rest and peace in God's work, my perspective about ministry changed. At a point in time, when I see people entering into the ministry, I almost scare them out of it, because then I have not found rest in God's grace; I used to believe ministry is nothing but a punishment. But thank God for the revelation of His grace. No matter how earnest you may be, without grace you will be regarded as **an unserious fellow**. Oh the mystery of grace! Let us trust God to teach us more about His grace so that we **would** allow him **to** carry **the** burdens that **Him** alone can carry.

May the Lord humble us more to cling unto Jesus in order to receive grace for grace (John 1:16).

ALIGNMENT WITH GOD

When we receive the Holy spirit, we possess Him, but as we commune with Him, He will possess us. The latter is better.

“May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.”

Ephesians 3:18-19, KJV

It is when we are filled with all the fullness of God that the impossible becomes a cheap possibility for us. It is not enough to desire more of Him; when we receive the Holy Spirit, He comes into us with all of Him. So, more of Him will require more of us. As we commune with Him, He fills us with Himself. The Bible calls it the process of mortality being swallowed up by life.

“For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life” 2 Corinthians 5:4, KJV

This is an absolute immersion. Like when one is immersed in water, the only thing that would be seen is the water not the fellow. Likewise, water being the symbol of the Holy Spirit, it is the Holy Spirit that would inevitably be seen when we are immersed in Him through our fellowship with him.



CHAPTER 4



MEN OF PRAYER

It is common and normal for a man of God to go into 21 days of fasting if there is a need, such as a new building project, a new program or event, or when there is an attack against the church. Prayer is spontaneous and normal at such times. However, beyond such immediate needs, what is more important to the Lord is intimacy. Intimacy is what the Lord is asking for. Men that will shut down all distraction and say, “Lord I have come to spend time with you, I didn't come with prayer request, I have just come to fellowship with you”. The feedback will surprise

you. It is an outright error to be lost in a work **and forget** the owner of the work. The Laodicean church was doing ministry and prospering but left the owner of the work outside knocking (Revelation 3:20). Can you imagine that?

One day, the Lord said to me that, “Many of my servants thought loving ministry is loving me. No, I am not their ministry and ministry is not me. Your ministry ends here under the sun but my relationship with you will continue till eternity, when I will marry you as my unspotted bride in the Kingdom of my Father”. (Ephesians 5:27)

When I discovered this, my love for the ministry died and my love for **Him** increased. I said, “**Lord**, this ministry is even becoming a distraction against my walk with you, how I wish I don't have one: The time for programme, counselling, and travelling would have been for you **Lord**”. But He said, “Let it be so, but just prioritise me in your life”. My love for the pulpit dies as I spend **more** time in **His** presence. I am no longer afraid to miss Sunday service or any service for His presence. No more worry because of anyone who may not want to come to church because I am not around. I let them **realise** that if you come for Jesus, whether you see me or not, you will worship the Lord. The result was that an unusual grace began to attend my ministry, little things brought great result, and signs and wonders increased. It was then I realise that the secret of success in ministry is to love the Lord **above** ministry. He will take over **His** work and to your surprise, ease will come; all pressure will subside,

and life will become beautiful and easy, oh what a place to be!

When I consider men that God used mightily in the body of Christ, I take a look at their faces; I found no pressure, no struggle. I asked myself, “How are these men doing it that they keep looking younger like a baby as they continue to do great things for God? Even in their 80s and 90s, they are still bouncing round the world. How are they doing it?” Thank God I found out the secret: It is nothing but what we have been discussing: Casting your cares on Him in the secret place. There are times in the month that you won't see them, times in a week that they will retreat to God's presence for grace and mercy.

Let's us consider what some of them said about spending time with God:

MOSES ORIMOLADE

This order holds an unshaken faith in the word of God and prayer and fasting for purification.

E. A. ADEBOYE

Don't let the devil attack your prayer life, if he does you will be weak like any other man.

W. F. KUMUYI

If you are on the pulpit always you will be drier than a tree that is cut down.

C. H. SPURGEON

He that knees the best shall stand the best.

PASTOR CHRIS OYAKHILOME

I can give up preaching ministry for his presence.

DAVID YONGGI CHO

I start my day by fellowshipping with Holy Ghost, my senior partner, so that I can secure his assistance throughout the day.

JOHN NELSON

If you spend several hours daily with God you will see great things.

DAVID STONER

Be instant and constant in prayer. study, book, eloquence, fine sermon is all nothing without prayer, prayer brings spirit, life, and power.

GBILE AKA NNI

I don't need to be running round the world to impact it, if I cook myself in the secret place, it won't be long that the world will trace me through my aroma.

WILLIAMS ARTHUR

If thou then, wouldest have thy soul surcharged with the fire of God, so that those who come nigh to thee shall feel some mysterious influence flowing out of thee, then must draw nigh to the source of that fire, to the throne of God and of the lamb, and shut thyself out from the world which so swiftly steal our fire away. Enter into thy closet and shut thy door, and there isolated before the throne, await the baptism: then the fire shall fill thee, and when thou come forth, holy power will attend thee, and thou shall labour not in thy own strength, but in the demonstration of

spirit and of power.

D. K. OLUKOYA

As a minister, you need to be permanently connected to God as iron to the socket so as to remain hot for him.

WATCHMAN NEE

Prayer is the acid-test of the inner man's strength. A strong spirit is capable of praying much and praying with all perseverance until the answer comes. A weak one grows weary and fainthearted in the **maintenance** of praying. Prayer is the union of believer's thought with God's will.

CHARLES G. FINNEY

If a young man is a good scholar, a fine writer, make good progress in exegesis, and stand high in intellectual culture, they have strong hopes of him, even though they **must know in** many such case that these young men cannot pray; that they have no unction, no power in prayer, no spirit of wrestling, of agonizing, and prevailing with God, yet they are expecting them, because of their culture to make their mark in ministry, to be highly useful. For my part I expect no such thing of the class of men. I have infinitely more hope of the usefulness of a man who, at any cost will keep up daily intercourse with God; who is yearning for and struggling after the highest possible spiritual attainment; who will not live without daily prevalence in prayer and being cloth with power from on high.

FRANK LAUBACH

Just the privilege of fellowship with God is infinitely more than anything that God could give. When he gives himself, he is giving more than anything else in the universe.

FRANK LAUBACH

I have tasted a thrill in fellowship with God which has made anything discordant with God disgusting.

E. STANLEY JONES

Spiritual power comes out of inward fellowship with God, and abandonment to his purpose.

HENRY E. M.

A habit of devote fellowship with God is the spring of all our life, and the strength of it.

CHARLES SPURGEON

Holy service with constant fellowship with God is heaven below

CHARLES E. FULLER

Fellowship with God means warfare with the world.

THE AUTHOR

In communion with the Lord he takes our burden, and we take his strength and peace.

These are **some** of the many quotes of men that God mightily used in their various generation, I believe those timeless words **are** well able to stir up a new desire in our hearts to draw nearer to the Lord.



CHAPTER 5



THE PLACE OF FASTING

Today when we hear about fasting, we often think it is a way to suicide. “Don’t kill yourself, you meet ministry in this world, and you will leave it here, many that are yet to be born we still do ministry...”. These and many are the common comments regarding fasting. In as much as these words are true, the truth is that fasting **takes** an important role in our fellowship with the Father, son, and the Holy Spirit.

What is fasting? It is an abstinence from food to be closer to God. The Bible says food does not take one to God. “*But meat*

commendeth us not to God; for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse.” 1 Corinthians 8:8, KJV

Although, there are many **who engage** in fasting today in ignorance, and consequently they damage their body system. Now, there is a fast that is safe and there is a fast that is injurious.

How then do we know a fast that is safe? Fasting biblically under the leadership of the Holy spirit is always safe. Many **have** engaged in a complete fast i.e. a **prolonged** fast in a wrong way and **they** consequently **destroyed** their body which is the temple of the Holy Spirit; some even died as a result of this. This is nothing but absolute ignorance. When one engages in a **prolonged** fast like this without water **for** cleansing and sustaining the body, **it is** a great mistake. It is quite surprising that many **do not** know the difference between food and water. The only time a fast is safe without taking water is when the fast is short like three days. Don't believe my word for this; **let's** go into the scriptures.

“Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish.

So Mordecai went his way, and did according to all that Esther had commanded him.” Esther 4:16-17 KJV

Esther and the **Jews** that were in captivity fasted without food and water, but it lasted for just three days. This is a message to us that

fasting is only safe without water for short period of time. Except we are under the ambiance of heaven. Esther's fast was not for the purpose of drawing closer to God or for ministry, but to seek favour with the king. But someone will say how about Moses, Elijah, and Jesus' fast? Let us carefully consider their fast together as students of the Bible.

MOSES

"And he was there with Lord forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the Ten commandments."

Exodus 34:28, KJV

If we just pick these particular scriptures that Moses fasted for forty days and forty nights without food and water, the end of it will be disaster; one will just die like a chicken.

Firstly, the Bible didn't say Moses went to the mountain to fast, but to meet with the Lord. So, if the meeting had taken them just three, seven, eight, or ten days, Moses would have left there immediately. He spent forty days and nights there because that was the time it took them to have the meeting. So, there was no mentioning of fast in that passage but just went to meet the Lord as he was summoned. He didn't go along with food and water probably because he thought within himself that the meeting wouldn't take a long time.

Secondly, during those forty days, Moses was under intense manifest presence of God that made food and water to be irrelevant

to his body. The presence of God that clothed the mount was sufficient to sustain him. So, if you **must** venture into **such an exercise** of abstinence from food and water for a **prolonged** time, you will need to be under such an ambiance of glory as Moses was. That would be a scriptural fast.

Remember that there was a time when Jesus was teaching the multitude on the mountain for three days, and those days they didn't even remember food and water because their desire for it **had** been suspended by the degree of the presence of God that was present.

"Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way." **Matthew 15:32 KJV**

They **would** faint on their way home because they would have left the ambience of glory that was sustaining and preserving their body. You **would** testify to this that when some certain levels of God's glory invade our meeting, time flies like a bird and appetites are lost. That is the nature of the presence of God. Therefore, it is injurious to engage in prolonged fast without water and also without the glory of God to replace this pivotal substance.

ELIJAH

"And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword.

Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of

one of them by tomorrow about this time.

And when he saw that, he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beersheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there.

But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers.

And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat.

And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again.

And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee.

*And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.” **1 Kings 19:1-8 KJV***

Now, Elijah, after he has slain the prophets of Baal, Jezebel sent a demonically anointed word of threat to him, and that word carries so much **weight** that a man of fire would suddenly be afraid and run away. So, he decides to run to Horeb the mountain of God. This journey would take him **41** days: A day journey to the

wilderness and **40** days journey to Horeb. Surprisingly, there was nothing like fasting in this scenario too: He was going on a long journey without food and water and without a means of transportation. The journey would have been too strenuous for him. So, the Lord sent an angel to him to give him food and water that will preserve him for the whole forty days and **nights**. You will need this same miraculous food to imitate Elijah too.

In Moses case, there was God's glory that aided him, in the instance of Elijah, there was a miraculous meal: If you aren't given such a rare grace, it would be ignorance to imitate them. Imagine how many that had died because of their misconceptions about these instances they copied. Now let's consider Jesus' fast.

JESUS' FAST

In Jesus' case, it was a fast. But the Scripture didn't directly enunciate whether He took water or not. So how are we going to know whether he took water or not? What we need now is to find out the definition of both food and water.

Food: According to *Webster Dictionary*, “Food is defined as a nutritious meal in a solid form”

Water: “Water is a clear, colourless, odourless, and tasteless liquid substance that is essential **for all known form** of life”

According to the above definition, food is different from water, and even in function; water is used for human hydration, while food imparts strength. Even in the scriptures they **are** differentiated.

“In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.”

2 Corinthians 11:27, KJV

Paul, the writer of this epistle, was obviously an intellectual man. He differentiated fasting from hunger, and hunger from thirst. Fasting is abstinence from food, while thirst is abstinence from water. So, when you are fasting without water, you are not only fasting, but thirsty too. And it is fasting (An abstinence from food) that the Lord is demanded of us not thirst.

“Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.”

Matthew 17:21, KJV

Many think they break their fast by drinking water. You can only break a fast by food not by water. How about liquid substances like tea and other soft drinks? These are not water anymore, because food substances like sugar and flavour had been added to them.

Furthermore, the Bible says concerning his fast that “*He was afterward an hungred*”. Normally it should say he was thirsty even before hungry, because when you are on a prolonged fast like this, you will be thirsty far more than hungry. Experience of many that engage in such fast showed that the hunger will leave generally the fourth day and return many days later. In Jesus' case, it came forty days later, to some it can come back earlier or later. But the thirst will not leave until the person drinks water, and if the person refuses to drink it, the body will be choked and destroyed.

Therefore, the Bible differentiating between fasting and thirsting, says He was only hungry. If he was thirsty, the Bible would have said He was afterward thirsty and hungry. So, it is a dangerous act to be engaging in a prolonged fast without water. This is the reason why fasting has become a controversial topic in the body of Christ.

The question now is, does fasting cause any sickness or disease like ulcer? In fact, according to the scripture fasting is the best medicine to the body.

"Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to lose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?

Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward."

Isaiah 58:6-8 KJV

Your health shall speedily spring forth. This is the word from **the Great Physician** that made the body. Even some doctors like Tanner, Frank McCoy, Dewey, Haskell, Carrington, Hazard, Eales, Sinclair, Macfadden, Tilden, Brook, and host of others **have** discovered the truth that was captured in the book of Isaiah

58:8 about the physical benefits of fasting; they cure their patients of any sickness and disease through fasting. Fasting is good for our spirit, soul and body. Research has shown that the reason many had ulcer is their inappropriate way of breaking their prolonged fast. When you fast for a long period of time, your stomach becomes like a stomach of a new born baby that can't assimilate every kind of food. But many, because of the length of the time of fast, they want to eat every food and they thereby injured their stomach. The problem is not the fast but lust for food. A constructive teaching will guide one on how to fast in a danger-free way.

Many believed Jesus fasted for forty days and forty nights because of His divinity, but the Bible made us to realise that He left his divinity in heaven and took on humanity. Doctor Tanner proved them wrong by engaging in Jesus' fast himself three times but with the intake of water.

Therefore, fasting is safe if we attempt it with understanding. The benefits is stupendous for our spirit, soul, and body.

FASTING AND COMMUNION

After my salvation, I found out that I lost appetite for food, and this lasted for months. During those times, I usually skipped breakfast and launch, and sometimes I would skip dinner, not because I wanted to fast, but I did not just feel like eating. I only gave myself to much study and prayer, I felt like Jesus should come and take me out of this sinful world. And even when I

entered into ministry, I lived a fasted life until I met some ministers **who** talked me out of it. They said, “You better take it easy, don't kill yourself”. Initially, I didn't listen to them, but **over time**, I obliged and stop the fasting habit. I thought within myself that I need to listen to those that have gone ahead of me. But after **some time**, I discovered that I began to lose so many abilities. Meanwhile, during those time of consecration fast, I had a certain grace to pick the thought of people with ease. During the service, I **would** stop while ministering, and say that “someone is thinking this and that and the person will raise up his or her hand, I will then address the thought and then continue ministering to the congregation.

Many are the grace that were alive in me then, but when I entered into the season of feasting and enjoyment, I began to lose many of them; I didn't know that those graces were a consequence of my deep communion with the Lord. The Lord **afterwards** warned me that I should live by the Scriptures and not by **the experience of men**. He began to show me from Genesis to Revelation, the importance of fasting in His work. I studied the ministry of Jesus and the **apostles** and I found out that they gave themselves to prayer and fasting, and if it is so important for them, how much more I.

The disciples of John asked Jesus why his disciples weren't fasting like them, and he told them that when he leaves the earth they will. And this is the time he was referring to.

“And the disciples of John and of the Pharisees used to fast: and they come and say unto him, Why do the disciples of John and of the Pharisees fast, but thy disciples fast not?

And Jesus said unto them, Can the children of the bridechamber fast, while the bridegroom is with them? as long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast.

But the days will come, when the bridegroom shall be taken away from them, and then shall they fast in those days

”Mark 2:18-20 KJV

Notice, he didn't say they wouldn't need to fast forever because they were not like Him, He said in those days they will fast. And when He was teaching on the mount about fasting, He said, “When ye fast” meaning there will be a time to fast, because he didn't say “if” but “when”.

How about the apostles? They started their ministry in the upper room with fasting and supplication. And the Bible also says they ministered to the Lord by prayer and fasting.

“As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.” Act 13:2 KJV

Every time God wants to move in any generation, **He teaches the** the willing **vessels first** about the secret of prayer and fasting. By **this**, they learn how to keep their **bodies** under, so that both their spirit and the **Spirit of God** will find expression (1 Cor**inthians**

9:27).

FASTING THAT WORKS

Now, lets consider how to have biblical results in our fasting. Note this that there is no iron-clad-rule in fasting; everyone must follow the leading of the Holy Spirit as they fast. This is because we are unique and we have different grace (Roman 12:3). The Bible taught us, in the book of Ecclesiastes, how to fast accurately

“Woe to thee, O land, when thy king is a child, and thy princes eat in the morning!

Blessed art thou, O land, when thy king is the son of nobles, and thy princes eat in due season, for strength, and not for drunkenness!” Ecclesiastes 10:16-17 KJV

There are two emphases in the above scripture: the time of eating and the size of the meal. He said the princes should not always eat in the morning, and that is a fasting. And it goes further to say that even if they will break the fast, it should be a breaking for strength not for drunkenness. It means the quantity should not be much.

This is where many miss it, they fast much but with little or no result, because they break their fast with drunkenness. It is not only through liquor that one gets drunk, overeating can cause this too. The spiritual and the physical benefits will be lost this way. It is possible for one to have lust for food and still be fasting; this will be revealed by how the fellow breas his/her fasting. The fellow will endure the fast knowing that sooner or later he is going to have

his mountain of food again. **Oftentimes**, we are not missing it in the “when” but in the “size”.

If we study about Elijah **intently** in the house of the widow in Zarephath, you **would discover** that he had been without food and water for days before he got to the house of this woman and surprisingly when he got there, he didn't say bring me much food and water because I am seriously hungry, **he only** demanded for little cake.

“So he arose and went to Zarephath. And when he came to the gate of the city, behold, the widow woman was there gathering of sticks: and he called to her, and said, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink.

¹¹ And as she was going to fetch it, he called to her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of bread in thine hand.

¹² And she said, As the LORD thy God liveth, I have not a cake, but an handful of meal in a barrel, and a little oil in a cruse: and, behold, I am gathering two sticks, that I may go in and dress it for me and my son, that we may eat it, and die.

¹³ And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son.

”1 Kings 17:10-13 KJV

He knew the secret; he knew that overeating will exalt his body over his spirit. When average believers want to break their fast **nowadays**, they calculate all the food they've missed before **so as**

to cover them. This is why many will fast till doomsday and will never have any result. It is even better not to fast and be temperate in eating than to fast and break it like a glutton (1 Corinthians 9:25).

Our body mustn't be ruling over our spirit and soul. That is why the Bible, in revealing our tripartite nature, would always put the spirit before the soul, and the soul before the body (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

The reason for fast and temperate in eating is because God is spirit, not flesh and bone; He can only relate with our spirit. So, if your body **is** in the ascendancy God can't relate with it. It must be your spirit.

Note this that we must fast according the level of the grace that is at work in us. Don't try to over-push yourself. Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, don't compare yourself with anyone. Kill your bear, before lion, and lion before Goliath (1 Samuel 17:34). The path of spiritual growth is line upon line, and precept upon precept, here a little and there a little (Isaiah 28:10). Go little by little until you conform to the very image of the man of Galilee.



CHAPTER 6



MY DECISION YOUR DECISION

When a message like this is read or heard, the proper response shouldn't be an applause for the author or the preacher, but a prompt action and a firm decision.

Having discovered this about the 'Lord's Kiss', what is your plan now? Are you just going to drop this book without any new plan or decision for your life and ministry? God didn't bring this book across your path just to entertain you or to increase your head knowledge, but to spur you into action.

Decide to spend time with the Lord today. Pick up your calendar and schedule a time of retreat into His presence. It may be a day, a week or a month; make a plan for the date, time and the location, you will be amazed of the result as you make this your lifestyle.

Don't put your trust on anyone claiming to be the patron or matron of your ministry. It is pride and arrogance for a mortal man to usurp such a position unto himself. God's work can only be sponsored by God himself.

And you don't need any assistance from Satan, you are called to destroy his kingdom not to build it. Stay with Jesus.

All that you need for your glorious calling - men, material resources, gifts of the Spirit, and all other divine enablement are waiting for you in His presence. Will you keep them waiting?

The power of God wouldn't fall on you luckily on the pulpit, but in your secret place with God. If any power falls at all from the pulpit, you brought it there; it is the result of the grace He deposited in you in those precious time with Him.

Stay with Jesus long enough to the point that you can behold His glory and become exactly like Him (2 Corinthians 3:18). You can't be like Him and fail. He is the true light that lightens every man that cometh to the world. And light makes manifest (Ephesians 5:13). Your manifestation is dependent on how much Jesus has lightened you up.

Forget about those **who have** abandoned and left you; maybe the members **who** have gone; find your **Caller** and let **Him** brood over you, I tell you many of them will trace you back and find you. No one wants to be identified with a failure. Study to be quiet, follow after holiness, build capacity with God and your ministerial capacity will be built too.

My prayer for you is that you will finish well and you will not miss your crown. At the end of your race, may you say like Paul:

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

⁸ *Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing" 2 Timothy 4:7-8 KJV*

