

BY MY SPIRIT

Moses O. Aderibigbe



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All correspondence to:

**Pastor Dr. Moses O. Aderibigbe
Gofamint Students Fellowship,
International Headquarters,
Km. 40, Lagos-Ibadan Expressway,
Aseese, Ogun State, Nigeria
Redemption Camp P. O. Box 921,
0803-541-4235.
e-mail: mosesaderibigbe@yahoo.com**

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to

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INTRODUCTION

“And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him, and said unto him, The Lord is with thee, thou mighty man of valour. And Gideon said unto him, O my lord, if the Lord be with us, why then is all this befallen us? And where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt? But now the Lord hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites” (Judges 6:12-13).

There are many questions begging for answers when we ponder on what our fathers have told us. Like Gideon of old, we have heard from the records as written in the Bible, how the heroes/ heroine of faith through the power of Holy Spirit did so many wonders in their days. We heard of how God parted the Red Sea and made Israel to walk on dry land, the miracles that brought water from the rock, the manna that rained from heaven and all the signs and wonders that happened through the prophets of old beginning from Moses, Samuel, Elijah and Elisha among others.

In the same vein, we heard about the new covenant brought by our Lord Jesus, which was extraordinary, through the fullness of His Spirit. We were told, how the early disciples were wonders to their world, through the power of His Spirit. Mighty revival, which brought repentance, conversion of souls and the display of the manifold power of God in deliverance, healing, and miracles were daily occurrences.

Some contemporaries, who we have tagged God's Generals have not leave less of the fullness of His Spirit. We were told how Charles G. Finney's appearance, caused 200 souls to weep without any sermon, he rode on a horse through a city and people went down on their knees crying for salvation. John G. Lake was a man with the tongue of fire; he healed the sick so much so that he was arrested for practising medicine without license. St. Patrick of Ireland used his signature to raise a corpse that had been buried for six months and cursed snake in Ireland and till date there is no snake in Ireland.

Francis Assisi of Italy carried God to the point he understood the singing of birds. Also, top on the lists is John Wesley, who when he was driven away from the city, while preaching, went to his father's grave and used it as pulpit and seven hundred people came to listen to him. The young Finney Dake, who got converted at age seventeen, recited the whole New Testament off heart and through the power of the Spirit wrote annotated Dakes Bible. The likes of Jonathan Edward, Wigglesworth, Kenneth Haggins, D.L Moody, Billy Graham, Ayo Babalola, Benson Idahosa, R. A George etc. have made their prints in the sands of time.

Still living among us is what our fathers in this Mission as led by our General Overseer Pastor (Dr.) E. O. Abina told us. We heard about their passion for souls, and the value placed on the word at the inception of the church. The move of the Holy Spirit with signs and wonders following, the demonstration of the love of

God among the brethren, which made them to have all things in common without anybody lacking, as obtained in the early Church. We have been told about the godly virtues and the fear of God that permeated the Church, which made them to worship God in Spirit and truth. Our fathers who pioneered this work of God as we are told, were not school people, hence, had no might or power to rely on, but they leaned only on His Spirit.

Meanwhile in our days, which is the era of materialism, our pursuits are more for ephemeral things, and we are running after the acquisition of higher degrees in different fields of profession. Thus, this human knowledge only helps us to amplify the Scripture rather than preach it the old way. Hardly do we see sinners turning to God because of the fear of hell, but they are attracted to the Church because of prosperity and social connection.

No reasons to weep any more when the message of repentance hits us, because our affections are no longer on things above. We depend more on our might and power to accomplish the purpose for which we are created. And like Gideon said, it appears that the Lord has forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the enemies that are now thorns in the sh of the Church of God.

Of a truth, we are in a similar time such as when the returnees from exile were laying the foundation of the Temple. The elderly ones who once saw the glory of the former temple wept with a loud voice, while the younger ones shouted aloud for joy, it was

indeed, a mixed noise in the community. However, despite the challenges facing this generation as stated above, there is good news for us that our hope is not lost, ‘the good old days’, which our fathers have told us about was great and memorable.

God has good new days for us too, our spiritual and physical victories are not behind us, and rather, they are still out there waiting for us. The glory of the latter house is to surpass the former, and all the prophetic agendas of the end time, which will usher in the last revival is anchored on “it shall come to pass”. These are the days of His power and the Lord is already pouring out His Spirit upon His sons and daughters.

Beloved, just like the angel told Gideon; “...*thou mighty man of valour...*” we also were born with might and power. There lies in you, inner strength and ability to carry out one activity or the other. However, as humans, we would not be able to accomplish so much for God if we depend solely on our might and power. It is against this background, we are gazing up with a willing heart for the impartation of His Spirit. Zerubbabel had all the might and power in his custody, yet the construction of the temple was brought to a halt by those who claimed to be mightier and more powerful. Not until the Spirit of God, which is the breath of God, hovered like He did in the beginning of creation, before the work commences.

Therefore, for us to fulfil our purpose and accomplish our divine

assignment on earth, we need His Spirit for impartation, empowerment and anointing into a deeper realm of the supernatural, which is to last for eternity.

CHAPTER ONE

Understanding Might

One of the ways believers describe God, more importantly when we are faced with frightening situations is to remember that He is Almighty (ruler of all). All other things may appear mighty but our God transcends everything put together. God began to show His Almighty right from the first page of the Bible where He was introduced as God. The creation story is a demonstration of how great He is. He called what is from what is not (*nihilo ex nihilo*); He commanded light into existence and separated it from darkness, He divided waters from waters and made the dry land to appear. Grass, herbs and trees yielding seeds after their kinds and the moving/living creatures were called forth to take their rightful places in the water, firmament and to creep on the earth. The last creature was man, he was made to share His DNA, made in His likeness and image, and he became the only partaker of the divine nature. Man became mighty while his Father retained His Almighty. Man was given a charge to become a god for other creatures, while His Father remains God.

To this end, human beings, by formation are positioned to be mighty and do things by might. Many, therefore, from the generation past as the world progresses, have put to use their might in many spheres of life to exhibit the potential planted in them by God. It is on the basis of this revelation, we shall examine the word ‘might’ and venture into what God has put in us to exercise dominion and discover the extent that our human strength can go. Our readiness to learn as believers at this time of the move of His Spirit and resolve to depend absolutely on Him for total

accomplishment will be our focus in this chapter.

The Meaning of Might

Might is from the Hebrew word ‘*Hayil*’, which means sheer force of labour. This is closely related to the word strength. Might also denotes “inherent ability, capability, and ability to perform anything”. In Greek translation, the word ‘might’ means “to have strength, be strong, be well able”. And literally, “might” is the strength of many (an “army”).

Common to the meaning of the word ‘might’ as itemised above is; strength, potency, energy and ability. This implies that for all mankind, either male or female, there is an inherent ability us, which is capable of producing a force that can make things happen. This perhaps is what made the Psalmist to conclude that; ***“I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well”*** (Psalm 139:14).

Going through human history from the Biblical days, human beings have been performing several activities and feats that show that they possess some inborn ability. For a proper understanding, we shall consider the following sub-headings:

- (1) Spiritual ability (fellowship and relationship with God)
Genesis 2:7.
- (2) Physical ability (to till the ground and dress it) Genesis

2:15.

- (3) Rational (discerning) ability (to sense and make a choice)
Genesis 2:16-17
- (4) Mental/Intellectual ability (to create and invent things)
Genesis 2:19-20.
- (5) Relationship ability (to keep companionship) Genesis 2:21-25.

Spiritual Ability

“The (empty headed) fool has said in his heart, there is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable deeds; there is none that does good or right (Psalm14:1 AMP).

In reality, the consciousness of the existence of God is inherent in all mankind, it is only when men refused to acknowledge this fact that they pretend as if God does not exist. Apostle Paul went further to note that; ***“And so, since they did not see fit to acknowledge God or approve of Him or consider Him worth the knowing, God gave them over to a base and condemned mind to do things not proper or decent but loathsome”*** (Romans 1:28 AMP).

The above Scripture reveals that, all human attempt to look away from God will amount to doing things that are of no significance,

improper and worthless in life. However, looking at the efforts of the natural man in search of the supernatural which gave birth to religion and the proliferation of religious groups all over the world today, one will wonder why is this aspect of human life so important to individuals and society at large? The answer is not farfetched, it is simply because there is a spiritual potency inherent in mankind.

But it is sad to note that despite the good reasons why religion is instituted (i.e. as a medium of contact with God), the reverse of such purpose(s) is the case. Religion and religious people have become a threat to peace and harmony in all societies, it has become a barricade rather than a way between man and God. Saul of Tarsus was such a man so zealous in demonstrating his inherent spiritual ability. As a Judaist, he persecuted the followers of Christ, thinking that the best way to serve God and accomplish his purpose was by spiritual-human might. Not until he was intercepted on the way to Damascus before he knew that it was ***“not by might but by my Spirit, says the Lord.”***

Different dispensations through which God relates with man, as Bible scholars reveal, substantiate further that there is a spiritual ability inherent in man. Take for instance, in the dispensation of innocence, Adam and Eve were conscious of God’s presence in the Garden of Eden, they had fellowship together, hence from within their heart, there was the yearning for His presence. Also, the dispensation of conscience was full of revelations of

consciousness of obedience to the dictates of the conscience as to doing what is right and wrong. When Cain slayed his brother Abel, he had his conscience pricked when God asked for Abel’s whereabouts. Moreover, the time of the law was when the law was given to Moses to regulate and guide the Israelites on both their relationship with God and fellow humans. Several efforts were made by the people to live by the law, despite the limitation set by the Adamic nature. Even up till now, which is known as the dispensation of grace, being the time of the fullness of grace brought by Jesus, the innate ability to seek God is found in all men and women all over the world. This is evident from the way people are responding to the word of God through evangelistic outreaches.

We can go on and on to see other records of spiritual consciousness of man, but let us look at the conclusive words of Solomon “...*He also has planted eternity in men’s hearts and minds (a divinely implanted sense of purpose working through the ages which nothing under the sun but God alone can satisfy), yet so that men cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end* (Ecclesiastes 3:10 AMP).

It is, therefore, clear from the word go that God has planted spiritual might in us, like a natural seed, hid under the soil waiting to break forth. The seed has the potential of sprouting from the soil and growing into a tree. The vacuum of eternity in our minds and hearts is waiting for the seed of the tree of life to sprout and

grow. The major challenge being faced by mankind in almost all the dispensations up till now, is the inability to accept God's own way of nurturing this spiritual seed as purposed. Rather than follow the simple way of salvation by accepting Jesus as the way the truth and the life, human beings prefer to go through a stipulated way of religion as laid down by the traditions of men.

Summarily, the subject of spiritual ability inherent in man presents to us three categories of people: The first are those who have refused to retain the knowledge of God in them. This group of people are sceptics, they are doubters (John 1:45-47), and subject everything about God and spirituality to scoffing (2 Peter 3:3). The second group are those who are merely religious, they have the form of godliness but deny the power thereof (2 Timothy 3:5). They are in the Church because they are born there and their parents compel them to always show up (1 Samuel 2:12). The third category are those who though are aware of the spiritual ability in them, refuse to put it to use. These are people like Gideon who was aware of the miracles that their father told them about but could not stir up the strength inside of him to rescue his people from the Midianites. All thanks to God that he heeded the charge to go in his might and save Israel (Judges 6:13-14).

Beloved, whatever category you belong, the truth is that you have the seed of God in your heart, all you need to accomplish God's purpose for your life has been deposited in you. This seed is not buried but planted, hence there is a chance for you to allow the

seed to fall into a good ground, germinate, sprout forth and blossom. If the seed is still by the way side, on the rocky ground or in the thorns, you have access to the Spirit of God to help you reposition your seed (Matthew 13). May you discover where the spiritual seed of the word falls in your life so as to become fruitful by His Spirit in Jesus' mighty name.

Physical Ability

“And the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend (cultivate it) and guard and keep it” (Genesis 2:15)

Man possesses physical strength to carry out basic activities for his sustenance. God instructed Adam ever before his fall to cultivate, guard and keep the land in the Garden of Eden, this would require him to exact physical labour on the ground. The curse placed on him, when he disobeyed God only made the toiling painful and required sweat before bread could be produced. The Lord said:

“And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the

herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. (Genesis 3:17-19).

The physical strength to develop our skills in whatever vocation we found ourselves has already been implanted in our natural body system. Whatever part of the body where anyone is physically deficient, not withstanding, divine providence has put in place whatever may be needed to survive. On this note, Paul the Apostle insists “...***if anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. For we hear that there are some who...are not working at all, but are busybodies*** (2 Thessalonians 3:10-11). There is no tenable excuse to be idle, the economic recession or job scarcity in our society is not enough to render you redundant.

Therefore, as youth, you have the physical ability to study hard, read wide, acquire skills and add value to your life. The Bible records that; “***Whatever your hands find to do, do it with all your might, for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in Sheol (the place of the dead), where you are going***” (Ecclesiastes 9:10). Your determination to succeed will go a long way to help you to be diligent in all you do and consequently excel in all your life’s endeavours. Beloved, you are well able.

However, for our physical labours to be blessed and handsomely rewarded beyond our natural efforts, we need to understand the

role of the divine. This is why Paul admonishes us that ‘***I have planted Apollo water, but God gave the increase***’ (1 Corinthians 3:6). Impressive as your physical ability is, there is a place of the impact of His Spirit to help and brood upon your labours for increase.

Rational (discerning) ability

“And the Lord commanded the man saying, you may freely eat of every tree of the garden. But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and blessing and calamity you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die (Genesis 2:16-17 AMP).

God endowed the man He made with the ability to reason. Rationality has to do with discernment, making a right judgement, and taking rational decisions. This natural endowment is what differentiates human beings from ordinary animals that act by instinct. To Adam, he was instructed as a free moral agent to differentiate what is good from what is forbidden, the implication of making a wrong decision was made known to him as well. Thus, he could not blame God when he disobeyed and yielded to the opinion of his wife to do contrary. Beloved, as a free moral agent, the choices you make in life will determine the result you will get.

God does not force anyone to do something, everybody is born

free to make decision. Our thoughts are meant to be occupied by many devices but for God to have a say in our lives, His counsel is what is expected to come to pass. The point to note here is that all human beings possess the innate capacity to act rationally, this ability confers on us the power to make choices and take decisions as we deem fit. Moses challenged the children of Israel on the importance of making a right choice when they settled in the promise land. He avers; ***“I call heaven and earth to witness this day against you that I have set before you life and death, the blessings and the curses; therefore choose life that you and your descendants may live”*** (Deuteronomy 30:19). Joshua in like manner posits; ***“And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the river, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”*** (Joshua 24:15).

Following the above, the rational ability places man on the vantage position of making decisions on all aspects of human endeavour. Joseph decided not to sleep with the Potiphar’s wife and the young Hebrews in Babylon also made a choice not to defile themselves with the king’s meat. However, where decision becomes critical, King Solomon advises that ***“Be not wise in your own eyes; reverently fear and worship the Lord and turn (entirely) away from evil. In all your ways know, recognize and acknowledge Him, and He will direct and make straight and plain your path”*** (Proverbs 3:7&6). Here is the voice of wisdom, may the Spirit

of the Lord assist us to heed His counsel.

Mental/Intellectual Ability

“And out of the ground the Lord God formed every (wild) beast and living creature of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them; and whatever Adam called every living creature, that was its name. And Adam gave names to all the livestock and to the birds of the air and to every (wild) beast of the field...” (Genesis 2:19-20).

One of the popular wise sayings states that, ‘creativity is the mother of invention’. God fashioned Adam with mental capacity to be creative and thus he became an inventor. Without any prior knowledge or pre-meditated thought, all the living creatures were brought to him, and he gave name to each of them one by one. In doing this, the Scripture went further to affirm that ***“...and whatever Adam called every living creature, that was its name”***. Strictly speaking, this statement reveals the nature of the intelligent being created by God. It appears that an impromptu examination was conducted for Adam and when he finished writing the paper and submitted his script, the Almighty God, Who is the giver of wisdom, knowledge and understanding could not see any error and thus gave him 100/100. What a super intelligent being made by God called man!!!.

Beloved, we are created with unique intelligence and we possess higher mental capacity to operate in the class of gods. All the descendants of Adam have not lived less of this; as each generation has demonstrated its contributions in creativity outputs. The contributions of men in the Bible days and contemporaries men like Henry Ford who invented automobile engine, Wilbur and Orville Wrights, born of clergy parents in Ohio who invented what is today known as Airplane. Others like Albert Einstein, Michael Faraday, Bill Gate, Steven Jobs, Mark Zuckerberg and host of others have not left the world the way they met it. Some female inventors also includes Hedy Lamarr, Stephanie Kwolek, Mary Anderson, Ruth Graves Wakefield and host of others too numerous to mention.

We cannot afford to go unnoticed, our world is equally waiting for the value you and I will add. However, all these inventions have not been solely based on human might, most inventions that make the world better than it was were and still being birthed by His Spirit.

***"The secret things belong to the LORD our God,
but those things which are revealed belong to us
and to our children forever, that we may do all
the words of this law."***

Consequently, whatever the level at which you may be operating in mental capacity, you need the impartation of His Spirit to be able to accomplish God's purpose in life.

However, we need to be aware and not to take it for granted in this wicked world, that there are star gazers, whose aim is to search out stars, either for good or bad. We need the power of the Spirit

to triumph over them (Matthew 2:1-16). I am using this medium to intercede for those whose mental abilities have been tampered with by evil powers or being hunted or already captured for evil purposes (i.e. mental disorder or derailment), may the power of God that rescued our Lord Jesus from King Herod deliver them in Jesus name.

Relationship Ability

“...but for Adam there was not found a helper meet (suitable, adapter, complimentary) for him. And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam; and while he slept, He took one of his ribs or a part of his side and closed up the (place with) flesh. And the rib or part of his side which the Lord God had taken from the man He built up and made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. Then Adam said, this (creature) is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of a man. Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and shall become united and cleave to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not embarrassed or ashamed in each other’s presence” (Genesis 2:20-25).

Relationship with others, whether in wedlock, friendship, fellowship/church, nation and the world at large is so crucial to God that He has equipped man with whatever is required to co-habit. No one is created to live alone or in isolation, and life becomes more meaningful only when we stand as helpers for one another. This being the case, the period when Adam had no help meet, God testified that it was not good for him to be alone, and He brought the woman, which He made for him as his help meet. From that time on, Adam had a companion, a helper and someone who could complement him. Natural virtues, capable of sustaining human relationship, such as love, patience, submission, tolerance, forgiveness etc. were given priority to moderate relationship.

Our world is in polar opposite today because the ability needed to maintain good relationship is neglected and sacrificed on the altar of selfishness and wickedness. Most marriages are collapsing, homes are shattering, friendship has become conditional, fellowships/churches are no longer places of refuge, and nations are at war against each other. In fact, the world at large is in disarray.

It is, therefore, high time we sought the face of God to bring back the wind of change through the power of His Spirit for the perfect restoration of the lost virtues which were inherent in us to maintain a good relationship. We need the Holy Spirit to help marriages and homes to live in love and total submission to the will of the Lord. We need the brooding of His Spirit to maintain good

friendships, especially as members of God's family, I mean the Church and Fellowship. Our nation-state, in particular and the world at large, is in dire need of the move of the Holy Spirit to bring the fear of God upon men and usher in the end time revival we are anticipating the global harvest of souls into the kingdom, as we await the coming of the Lord.

CONCLUSION

In this chapter, we have been able to examine the meaning of might as inherent ability and strength. The first man created by God was endowed with all natural abilities and this has given us the vivid pictures of what capacities God has put in man. The extent to which human ability can go has been discussed and the conclusion centres on the need to rely absolutely on the power of the Holy Spirit before we can boldly say; ***"I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me"*** (Philippians 4:13).

CHAPTER TWO

Understanding Power

Power is one of those commodities that everyone irrespective of gender, colour, status and geographical location desires to have. Spiritual activities are surrounded by the issues of supremacy of power and financial power, which is required to overcome poverty and acquire everything needed for a good living is on high demand. The people in government are in need of political power to run the affairs of the state. The judges, lawyers and law enforcement agencies also make use of their constitutional powers to enforce the laws of the state. These and many other examples show the importance of power.

However, from the context of our focus, going by the Scripture; ***“...For there is no power but of God, the power that be are ordained of God”*** (Romans 3:1). All powers that are in existence are delegated by God. Therefore, there is no power in operation that is not directly sourced from God. By implication, God is the giver of power and He determines how the power must be used. As a creature of God, everyone, equally has some measure of power to live and exercise dominion wherever he or she may be. Nevertheless, the efficacy of such power is still dependent on God.

We shall proceed to discuss in full what the meaning of the word power is in relation to our subject matter.

The Meaning of Power

Power is an English concept which refers to a variety of ideas relating to ability, capacity, authority, and might/strength. Power

is the capacity of an individual to influence the conduct (behaviour) of others. The Greek word *dynamis* (dunamis) refers to as power or ability, inherent power, ability to achieve and the potential for functioning in some way or the other. Merriam Webster Dictionary explains power as (1) ability to act or produce an effect (2) possession of control, authority or influence over others. Also, The Complete Christian Dictionary sees power as the ability to act effectively, while the New Concise Bible Dictionary posits that power is the ability to exercise authority effectively.

Putting these together, power is seen as ability, which an individual possesses to influence, produce an effect, act effectively and exercise control. Power as earlier noted emanates from God, and man was created with power to achieve, influence, and exercise authority, in this wise, all powers that exist is derived from God. In both the Old and New Testament, and up until this contemporary world, there are series of examples of where powers were given to men to exercise authority. The influence of power from time immemorial could be seen from the spiritual, military, political, economic and social dimensions. On this note, we shall discuss the influence of power in all thesesopes:

Spiritual Power

The highest level and greatest realm of power that is most effective and potent is the spiritual. Power that is generated from the

spiritual is mysterious in nature and difficult to fathom, this is because most times the causes or causers are unseen. It is only through its effects that we know that power has been displayed. When God sent Moses back to Pharaoh to let His people go, little did Pharaoh know that the mandate was from YAHWEH, the only God of Israel. Pharaoh handled the case like a negotiation between the government and the labour unions in the civil society trying to agitate for increase in minimum wage or demand welfare of members. Not until Moses dropped his rod and it became a serpent, swallowed the Egyptian serpents, before Pharaoh consciously accepted that the engagement was a demonstration of power from the spiritual realm.

Beloved, we need to understand that the spiritual determines the physical, and the demonstration of spiritual power has two sides, which are two parallel lines that can never meet. We have the part of God, Who is the Possessor and Giver of all the powers in heaven and on earth and He gives it to whom He wills. The other side is that of Satan, whose power is counterfeit and corrupted because he is using it to do illegitimate actions, which are not authorised and permitted by God. Basically, just as God delegates His own power to His children to effectively utilise it for the good of mankind and bring glory to His holy name.

In like manner, Satan releases the counterfeit power to demons (the fallen angels), human agents (witches, wizards, familiar spirits and false prophets) to obstruct the will of God. But in all, the

Scripture affirms that *“it is the devil that have been sinning from the beginning, and for this reason the Son of God has manifested to destroy the works of the devil”* (John 8:).

The power of God is available for all those who have genuinely repent of their sins and accept Jesus into their lives as Lord and Saviour. So, we have access to power as God’s children and from the time of the Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended, we have become carriers of God’s power. Is your life being tormented by the devil and his agent? Jesus said, *“Behold I have given you authority and power to trample upon serpents and scorpions, and (physical and mental strength and ability) over all the powers of the enemy (possesses); and nothing shall in any way harm you”* (Luke 10:19). This is the power that must be at work in us and not the power of the devil. Our Lord Jesus has defeated Satan, made a public show of him and triumphed thereby. Glory be to God in the highest!

Since human power cannot operate in the realm of the spirit, we need the power of His Spirit to conquer and accomplish God’s given assignment for our lives. The influence of satanic power must not be dominant in our lives, homes, and Churches/Fellowships. We must rise boldly in the power of the Spirit to exercise our dominion and testify like our Lord Jesus *“...for the prince (evil genius, ruler) of the world is coming. And he has no claim on me. (He has nothing in common with me; there is*

nothing in me that belongs to him, and he has no power over me)” (John 14:30). May this confession be our constant testimony in Jesusname.

Military Power

Men of war are those who are specially trained to fight battles. They are equipped for wars and are in custody of armory. Nations that are better equipped with war implements often subdue others under their domain through their military power and influence. The Philistines had military influence over the nation of Israel before David became their king, but David, being a man of war, at no distant time subdued the Philistines and made them subjects under Israel throughout the period of his reign.

All the great empires that existed in the ancient world, i.e., Egypt, Babylon, Persia and Assyria among others, exercised military influence over the then world. Our contemporary world is undergoing the same experience, but with all these military might, the Bible says *“The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but deliverance and victory are of the Lord”* (Proverbs 21:31). As the prophecies of the end time are fast fulfilling, and the nations of the world are gathering momentum through their military power to stop or hinder the free flow of the gospel, they shall fail by the power of His Spirit. We must be awake out of sleep and put on the whole armour of God as good soldiers of Christ. The songs below buttress this point:

- **Ho! My comrades, see the signal,
Waving in the sky!
Reinforcements now appearing,
Victory is nigh!**

Chrs: *Hold the fort, for I am coming,
Jesus signal still.
Wave the answer back to heaven:
“By the grace we will”*

- **Stand up, Stand up for Jesus,
Yesoldier of the cross!
Lift high His royal banner,
It must not suffer loss
From victory unto victory
His army shall He lead,
Till every foe is vanquished,
And Christ is Lord indeed**

This is the time for the Holy Spirit to open our eyes to see that they that are with us are more than they that are with them. Hear what the Bible says *“When the servant of the man of God rose early and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was around the city. Elisha’s servant said to him, alas, my master! What shall we do? (Elisha) answered, fear not; for they that are with us are more than they that are with them. Then Elisha prayed, Lord, I pray you open his eyes that he may see. And the Lord opened the young man’s eyes, and he saw,*

and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha” (2King 6:15-17).

Beloved, we need not be afraid, because God is our refuge and strength, the Psalmist says *“Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea”* (Psalms 46:2). We must believe according to God’s word that they that are with us are more than they that are with them. May the Lord open our eyes on a daily basis to see the horses and chariots of God’s army surrounding us everywhere we go in Jesus name. Therefore, we must not depend on any military power for our defence, our defence is in the name of the Lord who made the heaven and the earth. Hear this; *“some trust in Chariot and some in horses, but we will remember the name of our God. They are brought down and fallen: but we are risen, and stand upright”* (Psalm 20:7-8).

By observation, it appears that not so many Christians are interested in joining the military and para military profession. It is high time we changed this trend, we need Christians in all sections of the military and para military ranks: Navy, Airforce, Army, Police, Customs, Immigration, Road safety Corps, Civil Defence and so on. The church of John the Baptist enjoyed the patronage of all these men in uniform, when Nehemiah was equally building the wall of Jerusalem, he raised men with military tactics to take up sword so that the enemy will not overrun them. We must raise young people, who will through the power of His Spirit work in

these professions and use their influence to strengthen the work of God. Perilous time demands some military tactics that will equip the Church in the physical realm, while the angel takes charge of the spiritual.

Political Power

People who are privileged to lead and rule over the affairs of men (secular government), from time immemorial, accrue a lot of powers to themselves. They use the advantage of their office to influence so many things. To those with good intentions, on one hand, they make use of the power to help the poor, reduce the rate of suffering and raise the standard of living of the people.

On the other hand, those who are wicked and corrupt oppress the people and make life difficult for them. In the strength of this, through political power some ancient rulers have challenged the authority of God because of the power at their disposal. Pharaoh said ***“Who is the Lord that I should obey His voice to let Israel go? I know not the Lord, neither will I let Israel go”*** (Exodus 5:2). He challenged the authority of He who determines who should rule the affairs of men! God eventually displayed His supreme power over him and his followers who did not care to know who God was, they all perished in the Red Sea. What a great God!

Nebuchadnezzar was another king that challenged God’s authority and power, at the first instance, when Shadrach, Meshack and

Abednego refused to worship his statue he declared ***“...and who is that God who can deliver you out of my hands”***? (Daniel 3:15). After a while, he thought within himself again; ***“Is not this the great Babylon that I have built as the royal residence and seat of government by the might of my power and for the honor and glory of my majesty”*** (Daniel, 4:30). This was a serious statement of someone who felt and thought that He was in charge, and in control, but the Bible goes further; ***“While the words were still in the king’s mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you. And you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with living creatures of the field. You will be made to eat grass like the oxen...”*** (Daniel 4:31-32).

Our great God eventually showed up and refused to share His glory with anybody. Nebuchadnezzar was driven away from human community and lived among the beast as God ordered. It was until he eventually acknowledged that God rules in the affairs of men, before he regained his understanding. This is to note that, no matter how powerful any king or ruler may prove to be, God is the one who enthrones people and gives power to men. We must, therefore, be aware that power is transient and only God is the One Who gives power to whom He will, the little power committed to you must be used cautiously.

The point to note here is that even though man is given power to

exercise influence over others, the power must not be misused and any rulers that attempt to challenge the supremacy of God must be brought to order by God's people through the power of His Spirit. As a representative of Christ on earth we must not permit any misrule to affect or hinder the gospel of our Lord Jesus. Remember that our weapons are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of stronghold.

The early disciples did not allow Peter to be killed by Herod after James had been beheaded, prayer birthed by the power of His Spirit was made without season for him (Acts 12). We must rescue our Churches/Fellowships and nations from the hands of wicked rulers whose intention is to hinder or stop the gospel of our Lord Jesus. May the Lord send His angels like the days of the apostles to knock down those whose intention is to slay God's servants and His anointed ones in Jesus name.

Above all, we need the children of God, who have a sense of calling into politics to rise up and vie for political offices at different levels. For the Church to have a say among the policy makers is not an aberration, instances of great nations of the world like South Korea where many members of the parliament are members/ministers in the church is a good example to emulate. The Church must also owe it a duty to give spiritual/moral backing to those who volunteer to serve in politics, the roles of the likes of Joseph and Daniel are enough scriptural examples.

Economic/Financial Power

King Solomon in his words affirms that “...*Money is a defence... and that... money answers all things*” (Ecclesiastes 7:12, 10:19). The place of financial power in any human endeavour cannot be overemphasis. The interesting thing is that our God is the one who owns all the silver and gold in the whole universe. The Bible says; “*The silver is mine and the gold is mine, declares the Lord Almighty*” (Haggai 2:8). There were those who are blessed in the Bible days and in our contemporary world as well with silver and gold. Father Abraham was rich and he used his financial power to influence the things of God and the people around him.

In fact, the wealth of the Jews all over the world till date is traceable to the financial covenant blessing of Abraham. Similarly, King Solomon used his financial power to turn Jerusalem to a place of attraction in the then world. Every nation came in troops to see the wonderful architectural design of the Temple and the palace he built for himself because of his abundant riches. Through his financial power, there were many non-Jews that came to see and knew about the God of Israel.

Given the importance of financial power, the ministry of our Lord Jesus did not suffer any setback through financial constraints. Wherever and whenever financial power was needed to come to play, there would always be a miraculous supply. By this token, I pray that the grace enjoyed by our Lord Jesus, which made Him

never to lack financially, be made available for us to fulfil our own ministry in Jesus name. When one lacks this power, the effect is always negative, the case of the wife of one of the sons of the prophet that died was not a suitable story. The debtors threatened to enslave her children until she would be able to pay, all thanks to God for sending His prophet who by the power of the Spirit brought a miraculous supply to meet her need. May the power of financial blessing that will make our influence to be felt, come upon us in Jesus name.

The church is in dire need of men like Joseph of Arimathea who will use their financial power to influence the work of God and contribute towards the need of the Church. ***“When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him.*** (Matthew 27:57-58). On this note, may I join my voice with the prayer of our Daddy the General Overseer, Pastor (Dr.) E. O. Abina to say that may God bless the committed and make the blessed to be committed in our church in Jesus name.

Social Power

There are so many Bible characters that used their social power to influence lives for good. Abraham influenced Lot and he became blessed, the opportunity he had to live with his uncle brought a turnaround in all areas of his life. Through Abraham, he had more of the knowledge of God, he acquired skill that made his flocks

to multiply, and thus he became financially great. All these and many more experiences helped him to survive the tides when he became independent and sojourned in strange land – Sodom and Gommora. The disciples of Jesus that were unlearned and untrained in formal schools (common men with no educational advantages) became bold in words and with strong determination to defend their faith in the face of opposition. After a careful observation, people around pondered on what could be responsible for the sudden change, ***“...they recognised they had been with Jesus”*** (Acts 4:13). Their master had influenced their lives to the extent that the people around them could notice the changes.

However, Dinah the daughter of Jacob was a bad example of those whose lives were overwhelmed by social power. She went out to visit the daughters of the land and the Bible records that ***“And when Shechem son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he seized her, lay with her, and humbled, defiled, and disgraced her”*** (Genesis 34:2 AMP). She left her safe haven for where immorality was not an issue, she was seized by those whose lives had been badly influenced by their corrupt family background and community.

They humbled, defiled and disgraced her. Whereas, back in the community of Jacob, such a thing was a taboo, we can see this from the reactions of his brothers; ***“When Jacob’s sons heard it, they came from the field, and they were distressed and grieved and very angry, for (Shechem) had done a vile thing to Israel***

in lying with Jacob's daughter, which ought not to be done" (Gen. 34:7). Amnon the son of David was also badly influenced by his friend Jonadab, who gave him advice on how to rape his half-sister, Tamar (2 Samuel 13).

Beloved, the company you keep will determine the path you choose to follow in life. Social influence makes people 'bird of the same feathers, which flock together'. Evangelist Dr. R. O. Usenu, many years back gave us an acronym of the kinds of friends to walk with in life; we have the **SIF** and **SKF**. The SIF are the 'success inspiring friends', while the SKF are the 'success killing friends', your choice determines your destination. Therefore, the influence of the company we keep, the community/environment we are, goes a long way to have impact in our lives. But the good news is that as long as we remain on the Lord's side, walking by the Spirit and living in the Spirit, even though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we shall fear no evil, for God is with us.

All it takes is our determination to stay on the Lord's side. Joseph was so determined when he said *"...How then can I do this great evil and sin against God?"* (Genesis 39:9). Daniel in Babylon also *"...determined in his heart that he would not defile himself by (eating his portion of) the king's rich and dainty food or by (drinking) the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the Eunuchs that he might (be allowed) not to defile himself"* (Daniel 1:8). We have a choice to allow the Spirit of the Lord to influence us to walk in the path of righteousness.

Always remember the Scripture: whosoever you yield yourself to obey that is the servant of whom you are. Be aware!

CONCLUSION

In this chapter, we have been able to see the meaning of power, and our understanding of this concept is from the basis of influence that power breeds. The spiritual influence is such that cannot be underrated, the military, political, financial and social power as well have been clearly defined. The major focus of this chapter is that, while each of these aspects of power is very important in life, they remain mere human efforts for accomplishing a goal without the involvement of the Spirit. The positive side of these influences need the help of the Spirit of the Lord to bring them to bear, while the negative sides, which must be resisted and denounced are equally in dire need of the Spirit power to put them on hold. Above all, since all these activities are from the flesh, they profit nothing, and that is why our next focus is on the Spirit that gives life.

CHAPTER THREE

Understanding the Mystery of the Spirit

Common to all societies, from the primitive period, is the belief in supernatural powers and this is a familiar concept within the community where people live and grow from childhood to adulthood. Almost all natural things are mystified, there are trees, rivers, forest, and certain locations that are dedicated to the unseen forces and are reserved for the supernatural.

The encounter Paul had in Athens where he found an altar with the inscription; **TO THE UNKNOWN GOD**, made Paul to accuse the people of being superstitious in all things (Acts 17:22-23). This submission, in a way, testifies to the fact that everything that is outside the physical realm can be perceived by people for special treatment. Hence, it is important for us to discuss in clear terms what the mystery behind the supernatural which is called ‘spirit’ entails.

Most African communities are noted for superstitious beliefs, taboos are placed on many natural things which the people by tradition have mystified. Masquerade, which ordinarily is carried by normal human beings are deified and expected to be feared as a kind of invisible power. All thanks to God for the light of the gospel and civilisation that is dispelling all these works of darkness.

Our focus here is to discuss in details the mystery of the Spirit. We shall look at the meaning of spirit in general, the Spirit of God, the spirit of man and that of the devil, which is also known as unclean spirit.

The Meaning of Spirit

Literally, the Webster Dictionary defines the word spirit as “a life-giving force” and also from the Latin word *spiritus* it means “breath”. In the same vein, looking at the root meaning of spirit from the Hebrew word *ruach*, it means “wind,” or “breath”. Both words are commonly used in the Bible to refer to the Holy Spirit. The book of Genesis 1:2 says; “The Spirit of God [*Ruach Elohim*] was hovering over the waters”.

This refers to the Holy Spirit. Also, in the same Genesis 2:7 *ruach* is translated as “breath of life”, which God breathed into the nostril of Adam that made him a living soul. Bible scholars further claim that Genesis 8:1 use *ruach* to describe the “wind” God sent over the earth to recede the flood waters. Altogether, the word *ruach* is found almost 400 times in the Old Testament.

Following the above, we can draw the conclusion that the word spirit in its simplest form is a life giving force, a wind or breath and its basic feature is that it is outside the natural realm and it is equally invisible. Jesus throws more light on this when He says ***“The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit”*** (John 3:8).

Although, there are many other names in the Bible that describe the Spirit of God, all these and many others shall be discussed in this chapter.

TYPES OF SPIRIT

THE SPIRIT OF GOD

The conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the city called Sychar provides an answer to one of the most important questions, which all believers in God will love to have a direct answer to. This all-important question is; **who is God?** Jesus, affirmatively responds that; **“God is a Spirit (*a spiritual Being*) and those who worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in truth (*reality*)”** (John 4:24 AMP). Going by this assertion, to say that God is a Spirit implies that He is a spirit Being, operating outside the realm of nature. He is invisible, that means He cannot be seen by mortal eyes. Similarly, God is said to be Omnipotent (all powerful), Omniscient (all knowing), Omnipresent (can be found everywhere) and so on.

Thus, our human thinking about God’s attribute, which makes us to reduce Him to a man that must have hands, ears, legs, heart, emotion and feelings is myopic. Actually, in operation, God’s possession of these attributes are true, i.e. we pray and He answers, that means God does have ears to hear prayers. However, He is not a man that have two ears as we do, neither can we comprehend fully His personality because He is a Spirit. The knowledge about God as prophet Isaiah says is incomprehensible.

Having established the fact that God is a Spirit, there is a further need to understand the personality of God. If God is a Spirit, how does He relate with man? How did He become flesh and dwelt

among us? How does His Spirit operate? Responses to these questions will lead us to discuss the doctrine of Trinity. This doctrine simply states that there is a Triune God (one God in three persons), God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; ***“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one”*** (1 John 5:7). The Bible unequivocally reveals three persons in one, which features in different ways but of the same origin.

These three personalities have been in existence and operation right from the beginning. For instance, during the creation, the Father, Son (Word) and the Holy Spirit were present (Genesis 1:1-3, John 1:1), they all carried out the work that none but God can do in creation. During the Baptism of Jesus at river Jordan, the Trinity manifested (Matthew 3:17) and above all, Jesus after His resurrection commanded the disciples to baptise in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

The point to note here is that, when we mention the Spirit of God, we are referring to God as well as to the third person of the Trinity, who is the Holy Spirit. He is the third person of the Trinity, He has the same authority, power and glory as the Father and the Son. Just as it is mentioned about the God the Father, the Holy Spirit equally has all the attributes of God. He is eternal (Hebrews 9:14), Omniscient (1 Corinthians 2:10), Omnipotent (Luke 1:35) and Omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-8) and soon.

The Personality of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is not just a force or a thing, He is a person who has a personality as does the Father and the Son. The Bible uses personal pronouns to refer to the Holy Spirit; instances when Jesus says ***“Even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me”*** (John 15:26), ***“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth”*** (John 16:13), these and many other scriptural verses use personal pronouns to refer to the Holy Spirit. Some other personal actions of the Holy Spirit, which only a person can perform are listed below:

- (1) He speaks - the Holy Spirit do speak: ***“He that hath an hear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches”*** (Revelation 2:7). When last did you hear Him speak to you on any matter?
- (2) He comforts – He is called a comforter, ***“Then had the churches rest... and were edified; walking in the fear of the Lord, and the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied”*** (Acts 9:31). He is a ‘stand-byer’ or ‘part-taker’. Are you sorrowful because of one challenge or the other? The Holy Spirit is standing by you and He is gently whispering ‘it is well’.
- (3) He calls people to the work of the ministry – ***“The Holy Ghost said, separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work***

whereunto I have called them” (Acts 13:1). The call of God is still being laid upon people for special assignment. Are you sensing the voice of the Holy Spirit in this direction? You can follow that composer ‘Just as God who reigns on high speak to men in days gone by, so He is still calling men today - ‘just obey, just obey’.

- (4) He guides us – “*Howbeit when he, the spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth*” (John 16:13). How often do you listen to His guidance, we need Him more than ever before to order our steps into doing the right.
- (5) He teaches us – “*But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you*” (John 14:26). We have Him as our great teacher, there is therefore no room for knowledge deficiency and ignorance.
- (6) He is our helper – “*Likewise the Spirit helpeth our infirmities...*” (Romans 8:26). He is a very present help in the time of trouble.
- (7) He prays for us – “*The Spirit itself maketh intercession for us...*” He stands in the gap for us so that we would not be swift away like a shaft.

R.A Torrey in his book *The Presence & Work of the Holy Spirit* highlights different names that the Holy Spirit bears:

- (1) **THE SPIRIT** – this is the simplest name by which the Holy Spirit is mentioned in the Bible (John 20:20, Genesis 2:7, Job 33:4, John 3:6-8). As this name implies, **He is sovereign** – the Spirit, like the wind, is sovereign. You cannot dictate to the wind the direction it would go, it does as it will (John 3:3, 1Corinthians 12:11). **Invisible yet mighty** – the Spirit, like the wind, is invisible but nonetheless perceptible and real and mighty. To those who tell us that they do not believe in anything that they cannot see, not one of them has ever seen the wind, but they all believe in the wind. So, likewise the Holy Spirit is real. **Indispensable** – the Spirit, like the wind is indispensable, without wind, that is “air in motion,” there is no life.

If the wind should cease to blow for a single hour, most of the living things on earth would cease to be. But when the Spirit blows steadily upon the individual or Church/ Fellowship and community, there is abounding spiritual life and health. **Life giving** – the Spirit is life giving, “*it is the spirit that giveth life...*” (John 6:63). Israel, in the prophet’s vision, was only bones, very many and very dry, until the prophet prophesied unto the wind to blow and breath of God’s Spirit entered into them, only then they “*stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army*” (Ezekiel 37:9-10).

- (2) **THE SPIRIT OF GOD** – The Holy Spirit is frequently referred to in the Bible as the Spirit of God. “*Know ye not*

that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you”? (1 Corinthians 3:16). The difference in this name is that He is not just “the wind” as discussed above but rather “The wind of God”.

- (3) **THE SPIRIT OF JEHOVAH** – This name of the Holy Spirit is used in Isaiah 11:2 (ASV): “*And the Spirit of Jehovah shall rest upon him.*” The only difference between this name and the one preceding is that God is here thought of as the covenant God of Israel.
- (4) **THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD JEHOVAH** – The Holy Spirit is called “the Spirit of the Lord Jehovah” in Isaiah 61: 1 (ASV) “*The Spirit of the Lord Jehovah is upon me; because Jehovah hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives.*” The Holy Spirit is not just being referred to here as the Spirit of Jehovah but as the Spirit of the Lord Jehovah. He is spoken of as not just the covenant God of Israel, but as Jehovah, Israel’s Lord as well as their covenant keeping God.
- (5) **THE SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD** – The Holy Spirit is called “the Spirit of Living God” in 2 Corinthians 3:3: “*Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart.*” The significance of this

name is made clear by Paul the apostle when he draws a contrast between the word of God written with ink on parchment and the word of God written on “fleshly tables of the heart” by the Holy Spirit. This implies that the Holy Spirit makes God a living reality in our personal experience instead of a mere intellectual concept.

- (6) **THE SPIRIT OF JESUS** – The Holy Spirit is called “the Spirit of Jesus” in Acts 16:6-7 (ASV).
- (7) **THE HOLY SPIRIT** – This name occurs frequently and is the most familiar; Luke 11:13: “*if ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?*” This name emphasises the essential moral character of the Spirit. He is holy in Himself, we are expected to bow in His presence and cry ‘*Holy, holy, holy*’ (Isaiah 6:3) as Isaiah saw in his vision. Our hearts and Churches/Fellowships must be holy to accommodate Him.
- (8) **THE SPIRIT OF JUDGEMENT** – The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of judgement (Isaiah 4:4). The Holy Spirit brings sin to light, to convict sin.
- (9) **THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH** – The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of truth (John 14:17). He communicates and imparts truth to those who receive Him.
- (10) **THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING** –

The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of wisdom and understanding (Isaiah 11:2). The Holy Spirit imparts wisdom and understanding to those who receive Him.

- (11) ***THE SPIRIT OF COUNSEL AND MIGHT*** - The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of counsel and might (Isaiah 11:2). He gives us counsel in all our plans and strength to carry them out.
- (12) ***THE SPIRIT OF KNOWLEDGE AND THE FEAR OF THE LORD*** - The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord (Isaiah 11:2). It is the work of the Holy Spirit to impart knowledge to us and to beget in us a reverence for Jehovah, a reverence that reveals itself above all in obedience to His commandments.
- (13) ***THE SPIRIT OF LIFE*** - The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of life (Romans 8:2), because it is His work to impart life.
- (14) ***THE SPIRIT OF GRACE*** - The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of grace (Hebrew 10:29), this name brings out the fact that it is the Holy Spirit's work to administer and apply grace of God.
- (15) ***THE ETERNAL SPIRIT*** - The Holy Spirit is called the eternal Spirit (Hebrew 9:14). The eternity, the deity and infinite majesty of the Holy Spirit are brought out by this name.

All these names and many more are what the Holy Spirit is called

and well known for. However, following Pastor David Yonggi Cho, there are certain symbols that are used to describe the Holy Spirit with their various implications. These include;

Water – Water is used as a symbol of the Holy Spirit because it is indispensable for the preservation of life, we need the Holy Spirit to preserve our spiritual life (John 7:37-38). Water is also for the cleansing of our bodies, clothes, kitchen utensils etc. so our spiritual life should be cleansed daily by the Holy Spirit.

Fire – John the Baptist had earlier said that Jesus will baptise with Holy Ghost and fire (Matthew 3:11) and on the day of Pentecost there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them (Acts 2:2-3). The most perfect way of purification is fire, so fire burns away that which is unwanted, the same way the Holy Spirit burns away all debris and filthy things in a believer's life. Fire also gives light, so likewise the Holy Spirit brings light into our hearts to see the secrets of heaven.

Oil – Oil symbolises the Holy Spirit. Anointed places and persons are holy, set apart unto God. God commanded Moses to sanctify the tabernacle of the congregation, the ark of the testimony, all instruments and the altar by anointing them with oil (Exodus 30:25-29). As we consecrate ourselves as royal priesthood and holy nation the anointing of the Holy Spirit rests upon us. Oil prevents friction and lubricates, the same way the Holy Spirit anointing greases believers' life and makes them flourish.

Dove – When Jesus was baptised at Jordan, the heavens were opened and the Spirit of God descended like a dove and lighted upon Jesus (Matthew 3:16). Dove is noted as emblem of peace, the Holy Spirit brings peace to believers' hearts. It is also a symbol of meekness and humility, believers who claim to have Him must not be rude and speak insultingly. The dove is pure and harmless, so, the Holy Spirit does not bite, tear and kill but saves, heals and binds up. He can be grieved when frightened or harassed, the Holy Spirit like the dove can easily be frightened, if harassed once or twice, the dove will leave that place for ever. So the Bible warns us ***“Grieve not the holy Spirit of God”*** (Ephesians 4:30).

THE SPIRIT OF MAN

The breath of life, which God breathed into man's nostril is what made him a living soul. That means that the mortal man that was formed from the dust of the earth would have remained dust if not for the infusion of God's spirit into his life. And in reality, that is the end result of man when the spirit, which is the breath of life in him departs from the body. God declared to Adam; ***“In the sweat of your face shall you eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you shall return”*** (Genesis 3:19).

In a similar view, Job remarks; ***“But there is (a vital force) a spirit (of intelligence) in man, and the breath of the Almighty gives men understanding”*** (Job 32:8 AMP). Here, Job recalls that a vital force is what God infused in man at the point of creation, and that is what made him to share His likeness and image. Prophet

Zechariah notes further that ***“...the very God who threw the skies into space, set earth on a firm foundation, and breathed his own life into men and women”*** (Zechariah 12:1 MSG).

In short, all human beings have a spirit in them and this is the immaterial aspect of man that will return to God when the flesh (body) returns to dust of the earth. According to Solomon; ***“Then shall the dust (out of which God made man's body) return to the earth as it was, and the spirit shall return to God who gave it”*** (Ecclesiastes 12:7). This vital force in man is what is regenerated when anyone gives his/her life to Christ, this is the new man Paul the Apostle refers to as the regenerated man.

This part as the name implies performs a vital role in sustaining the life of God in man and it is always in constant conflict with the flesh. The spirit of men is capable of controlling and directing the affairs of their lives and the direction to go, and this is largely depended on who such life is yielded to (God or devil).

There are certain functions that the spirit in human beings can carry out. Namely, the spirit of man can speak (Job 7:11), it can be hurt when constantly disobeyed, it might or not be at rest (2 Corinthians 2:13), and can rejoice (Luke 10:21), also it can be refreshed (1 Corinthians 16:18).

It is important to know that we need to constantly live and walk in the spirit, in order to connect our own human spirit with God's own Spirit for us to give Him the quality of worship He requires. Remember the word of Jesus ***“...they that will worship Him must***

worship in spirit and truth". This means that without the connection of man's spirit with that of God's, no worship is acceptable to Him. You can ask yourself, are you worshipping God in spirit or in the flesh? The present day style of worship has given so much provision to the flesh than the spirit. Worships that are fully spirit engulfed will be less of fashions parade, mere talking and tonguing without power, and display of eloquences on human logic/ psychology at the expense of the word that can transform. Beloved, we need the fire of His spirit on our spirit man to wake us up again.

The Spirit of the Devil or Unclean spirit

The spirit of the devil, which is also known as demon, evil or unclean spirit are used in the Scripture interchangeably, but these all mean the same thing. In Luke 9:42 ***"And even while he was coming, the demon threw him down and (completely) convulsed him. But Jesus censured and severely rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the child and restored him to his father"*** (Luke 9:42 AMP). Demons, evil and unclean spirits are the fallen angels who followed Satan in the rebellion against God. They operate by the spirit of the devil to oppress, depress, obsess, afflict, deceive, manipulate, steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10).

The Bible presents demons as spirit-beings and they have no bodies, Jesus after His resurrection said to His disciples ***"See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself, feel and handle me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones, as you see***

that I have" (Luke 24:39). But demons can possess and act upon human soul, spirit and body. They are capable of entering in, assuming control, speaking and manipulating human persons. Several instances of their manifestations were common during the earthly ministry of Jesus and His disciples.

The case of the mad man of Gadarenes who was confined to the tombs as a dwelling place was a pathetic story of how wicked the demonic spirits are. In Mark 5:4-5: ***"For he had been bound often with shackles for the feet's and handcuffs, but the handcuffs of (light) chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he rubbed and ground together and broke in pieces; and no one had strength enough to restrain and tame him. Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always shrieking and screaming and beating and bruising and cutting himself with stones"***.

All thanks to God for sending Jesus to deliver mankind from the devil and his agents. The demons that possessed and tormented this man spoke and requested that Jesus should send them into the swine, and over two thousand swine violently ran into the sea and perished. This shows that the demons that possessed this man spoke through him, they overpowered him, took over his reasoning ability and subsumed him to do whatever they wanted him to do. On this note, may I declare by the power in the name of Jesus, every power that holds your life captive, making you to do thing contrary to what God has ordained your life for, they are rebuked, cast out and commanded to stop every operation in your life from

now on in the mighty name of Jesus.

The point I am emphasising here is that evil spirit can speak through their captives and this is a sign of their ability to manipulate human beings. Paul and other disciples also encountered a slave girl who was possessed by the spirit of divination and brought financial gains to her master by soothsaying (Acts 16:16-18). Paul cast out the evil spirit out of her and she was completely delivered. Every spirit of divination that is making merchandise of your life (they are using your stars to promote themselves and you are just a carbon copy of your originality), may their evil work be terminated in your life today in Jesus name.

Beloved, Jesus has given us the power to cast out demons, He says; ***“And these attesting signs will accompany those who believe in my name they will drive out demons...”*** (Mark 16:17). We have the power of attorney in His name to drive out demons. When the Lord Jesus appointed the seventy and sent them two by two to preach the gospel of the kingdom, they went and they returned with joy because the devils were subjected to them in His name (Luke 10:17). We have equally been appointed and sent, the mandate to go has been made publicly known, and all depends on us to obey and witness the power as of old. The Holy Spirit is still looking for more vessels to possess and use to dispossess the evil spirit wherever they are hiding to torment God’s people.

This is the day of His power, the Spirit of the Lord God is in force

to accomplish the end time agenda through our generation. We cannot afford to remain a spectator, the night is far spent and the day is at hand, let us make ourselves available for the impartation of His Spirit. The singular reason why they are yet to see our signs has made cultists, yahoo boys with magical powers, people with familiar spirits, men of other religious group to be having their days and feasting on their preys even on some of our members on our campuses. The time has come for power to change hands.

You can be connected with this power of God today, all it requires is for you to allow the Holy Spirit to work through you and accomplish the purpose that will bring the fulfilment of His promise. ***“...And I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh...”***

CONCLUSION

In this chapter, we have discussed the three types of spirits that exist. The Spirit of God is seen as God Himself as well as the third person of the Trinity. The spirit of man was said to be the breath of God in man’s life that made him a living soul. The evil spirit is equally seen as the devil’s spirit which must not be allowed to operate in the lives, homes and gathering of God’s people. True believers have been commissioned by Jesus Christ to bind them and cast them out in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are, therefore, being called as followers of Christ the Anointed one to destroy the works of the devil through the power of His Spirit.

CHAPTER FOUR

The Purpose and the Impact of His Spirit

“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see vision...And I will show wonders in heavens and the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke...that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be delivered...” (Joel 2:28-32 KJV).

“But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth” (Acts 1:8 AMP).

“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed (qualified) me to preach the gospel of good tidings to the meek, the poor, the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up and heal the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the (physical and spiritual) captives and the opening of prison and the eyes to those who are bound” (Isaiah 61:1 AMP).

There is a purpose behind every conception, and the God we serve has a purpose behind everything He lines up to accomplish. Right from the Old Testament, God has been releasing His Spirit in

measure upon people to carry out one assignment or the other. Moses was empowered to deliver God's people from slavery, Elijah was empowered to defend the God of Israel in the time of godless leaders and Baalism. Zerubbabel was empowered to complete the work of the building of the temple that began after the return of the exiled.

But for the end time agenda to be accomplished, there is the need for an out pouring of His Spirit without measure. No wonder the Bible records that *“For since He whom God has sent speaks the words of God (proclaims God's own message), God does not give Him His Spirit sparingly or by measure, but boundless is the gift God makes of His Spirit”* (John 3:34). Jesus came in the fullness of the Spirit, and that was why He was able to accomplish what He was sent to do. In His manifesto as written for Him to fulfil through Prophet Isaiah, Jesus declared that He was anointed by the Spirit to preach the gospel to the poor.

There was no other things that engaged Jesus than preaching of the good tidings, He went from villages to cities, from one river side to the other, despite all these, when He still saw the multitude of people He was moved with compassion because they were like sheep without a shepherd. Similarly, the broken hearted, those who had been wounded emotionally, those who suffered neglect and rejected by their kinsmen, family and the community at large due to one challenges or the other were healed.

He came and set the captives free, both the lawful and the captive

of the mighty were set loose. The freedom was not for those who were alive alone, those who had been dead and buried were freed from the captivity of the devil, they came out of the graves after His resurrection and went to the holy city, and appeared to many people (Matthew 28:52-53). Truly, all power in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus. Hallelujah!!! This was what Peter saw and was inspired to proclaim; *“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).

However, as a good master, His desire for His disciples was to do greater works than He did, hence He told them to tarry until they were endued with power from on high. Just as Prophet Joel laid it down, it surely came to pass on the day of Pentecost. The Spirit of the Lord came down in His fullness and the disciples were filled with power from on high. Eversince that time, the upper room experience has become a reference point for the purpose and impact of His Spirit. It is on this note that this chapter is to examine the impact of the Holy Spirit in the agenda of God for the end time church.

The Holy Spirit and the work of salvation:

The encounter Jesus had with Nicodemus, a member of a Jewish ruling council, who by all standard was a teacher in Israel but yet to experience a new life, which the Holy Spirit ensures, elucidates the place of the Spirit in the work of regeneration. Jesus told

him, “...*I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, unless a man is born of water and (even) the Spirit, he cannot (ever) enter the kingdom of God. What is born of (from) the flesh is flesh (of the physical is physical); and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not (do not be surprised, astonished) at my telling you, you must be born anew (from above)*” (John 3:5-7 AMP).

This passage identifies two elements that are required for anyone to experience a new life; ‘water’ and ‘spirit’. Water refer to the Word of God, “*that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word*” (Ephesian 5:26), the Word of God on one hand, is a major instrument in the work of regeneration, “*being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God*” (1 Peter 1:23).

So, when the word as a seed is sown into the heart, then the Spirit of God being a life giver, on the other hand, as the Scripture says “*it is the spirit that giveth life*” (John 6:63) would make the Word alive. In 2 Corinthians 3:6 the Bible says “...*the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life*”. The letters as used by Paul, given this context, according to Torrey, draws a contrast between the Word of God outside of us – written with ink upon parchment or engraved on tablets of stone – and the Word of God written within us on the tablets that are hearts of flesh by the Spirit of the living God. The point here is that if we receive the Word of God outside us in a book or tablets of stone, it will kill us, bring condemnation and death but the Word of God written upon our hearts by the Spirit of the living God will bring us life.

Beloved, the Holy Spirit is the power behind the conversion of souls of men. The message Peter preached that made three thousand people to surrender their lives to Jesus was powered by the Holy Spirit. We need the move of the Spirit more than ever before in our generation. It should be noted that the crave for materialism in this generation is posing a serious challenge to the efforts towards soul winning, but with the power of His Spirit, we shall win many more to Christ in Jesus name.

However, for us to effectively do this, we all must allow the Holy Spirit to complete the work of salvation in our lives and we believe that He is the one that is responsible for making the Word to be alive in the heart of the sinner. It is not enough to just be engaged in preaching without giving the Holy Spirit His full place to do His work on the souls we are ministering to. The instances of terrible sinners that have been saved, and brought to their knees before Jesus, are evidences of the power of the Holy Spirit in the work of regeneration.

The Holy Spirit and Holy living

For a regenerated man to live a life that is above the flesh, such individual needs the power of the Holy Spirit. We live in the world where the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life operate. To triumphantly live above the world and its systems on daily basis, there requires a life giving force from above. Paul’s analysis of the struggles between the good that he wants to do and the evil he would not want to do speaks volume on the importance

of the Spirit's power; *"For I do not understand my own actions (I am baffled, bewildered), I do not practice or accomplish what I wish, but I do the very thing that I loathe (which my moral instinct condemns). Now if I do (habitually) what is contrary to my desire, (that means that) I acknowledge and agree that the law is good (morally excellent) and I take sides with it. However, it is no longer I who do the deed, but the sin (principle) which is at home in me and has possession of me"* (Romans 7:15-17). On this note, Paul laments on his human weaknesses; *"O unhappy and pitiable and wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from (the shackles of) this body of death?"* (Romans 7:24 AMP).

This was an honest expression of a reality of the struggle most people who claim to be regenerated and desire to do the will of God are going through. But thanks be to God that the story of Paul's life did not end there, there is good news for us concerning the work of the Spirit, he concludes that; *"Therefore there is now no condemnation (no adjudging guilty of wrong) for those who are in Christ Jesus, who live (and) walk not after the dictates of the flesh, but after the dictates of the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life (which is) in Christ Jesus (the law of our new being) has freed me from the law of sin and of death."* (Romans 8:1-2AMP).

The foregoing Scripture has revealed the secret of the possibility of holy living, it is absolutely by living and walking in the Spirit, just as the Scripture says; *"But I say, walk and live (habitually) in the (Holy) Spirit (responsive to and controlled and guided*

by the Spirit); then you will certainly not gratify the craving and desires of the flesh (of human nature without God). "...If we live by the (Holy) Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit (if by the Holy Spirit we have our life in God, let us go forward walking in line, our conduct controlled by the Spirit)." (Gal.5:16,25). The combination of living and walking in the Spirit guarantees a victorious life over the flesh and sin. Beloved, we really need the Holy Spirit more than ever before as we journey through the land.

The Holy Spirit and Soul Winning

The purpose of the Holy Spirit's power as promised by Jesus and fulfilled on the day of Pentecost, was for the disciples to become witnesses of His death, resurrection, ascension and His second coming. Beginning from Jerusalem to Judea, Samaria and the uttermost part of the earth. This was what the early disciples were doing, following the example demonstrated by the Lord Jesus Himself when He returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee, to preach the message of the kingdom, which made His fame spread through the whole region (Luke 4:14).

The early disciples also went in the power of the Spirit and the Lord was confirming the Word with signs following. The first witnessing by Peter won three thousand souls (Acts 2:41), the second witnessing won five thousand (Acts 4:4), these was a mighty move in the history of the early Church. The Holy Spirit, indeed, worked with them. Also, Phillip the Evangelist experienced a more pragmatic power of the Spirit in his evangelistic outreach.

His visit to Samaria with the message of Christ brought great joy to the city, and as if that was not enough, the angel told him to go towards the south on the way to Gaza and he obeyed. The Holy Spirit later informed him to go near and join the chariot of the Ethiopian man, which he did. After preaching and baptising him in the water, he was caught away by the Spirit and the man saw him no more but went his way rejoicing (Acts 8:8, 26, -39). That was a remarkable demonstration of the Spirit power experienced by the disciples of old? We must also seek the Lord to do same, and much more through our lives as we are obedient to the great commission.

Apostle Paul was another vessel through which the Holy Spirit harvested many souls to the kingdom of God. Indeed, he was an Apostle to the Gentiles, he moved as led by the Spirit from one Gentile nation to the other with records of people turning to the Lord. Generally, all the early disciples were involved in soul winning because they were filled with the power from on high. No single category of people was left out in their soul winning exercise, either great or small.

Cornelius, a military officer and his household were ministered to and baptised in the Holy Spirit (Acts 10), some of the Greek philosophers believed and turned to the Lord, other great men in authority like Festus, Felix and King Agrippa among others were reached with the gospel of Jesus through the power of the Spirit. Howbeit, for the end time revival that will usher in the Lord to be accomplished, God is still looking out for vessels who will reach

out to all men as the disciples of old did. The unanswered question is still begging for answer, Can God depend on you?

The Holy Spirit and Spiritual gifts

One of the dynamic workings of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers is the distribution of His gifts to profit withal. The Bible records; *“But to each one is given the manifestation of the (Holy) Spirit (the evidence, the spiritual illumination of the Spirit) for good and profit. To one is given in and through the (Holy) Spirit (the power to speak) a message of wisdom, and to another (the power to express) a word of knowledge and understanding according to the same (Holy) Spirit; To another (wonder-working) faith by the same (Holy) Spirit, to another the extraordinary powers of healing by the one Spirit; To another the working of miracles, to another prophetic insight (the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose); to another the ability to discern and distinguish between (the utterances of true) spirits (and false ones), to another various kinds of (unknown) tongues, to another the ability to interpret (such) tongues”* (1 Corinthians 12:7-12). The gifts of the Holy Spirit as first manifested in the life and ministry of Jesus made the gospel of Jesus not just in words but in power.

The word of wisdom: The Lord Jesus through the gift of the word of wisdom became a blessing to our world by using divine wisdom to solve some difficult questions. The Pharisees set a trap for Jesus when they wanted to instigate him against the Roman government on issue of taxation. By the word of wisdom, He told

them to give to Cesar what is for Cesar and to God what is meant for God. We need this gift, on one hand to escape, in order not to be ensnared by our words, on the other hand, this gift is also needed for us to succeed in whatever area God has ordained us to shine. Our world is waiting for men and women greater than Solomon in wisdom to proffer solution to some of the endemic problems affecting the world at large. Men like Daniel who possessed excellent spirit could not be forgotten, you too can get it from God. The Bible says; *“if any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upraideth not; and it shall be given him.”* (James 1:5). May you receive the wisdom that will make you a solution to your world in Jesus name

The gift of the word of knowledge: The manifestation of this gift in the ministry of Jesus wrought a mighty work in the life of the Samaritan woman, and this made her to become an evangelist and brought the whole city to Jesus because she was told everything about her life. The secret things belong to God and the Lord is waiting for a new generation of men of Issachar who have understanding of times and would tell people what to do. May this gift impart our lives to bring an end to every darkness in our land. Great men like prophet Elisha cannot be forgotten by the king of Israel, when he revealed all the military secrets of the king of Syria to him (2Kings 6:8-12), this was beyond the intelligence network of men but by my Spirit, says the Lord.

The gift of faith: Jesus released the gift of faith by cursing the fig tree not to produce any more, and on the second day, the tree

became dried as it was said. This is a special gift of the Holy Spirit, and it is beyond the general faith that saves. To break a new ground for God and fulfil divine mandate, we need the gift of faith.

The gift of healing: The Lord Jesus through the gift of healing ministered to people with different kinds of sicknesses and diseases. Lepers were cleansed, palsy, issue of blood, epileptics, high fever and lots more were attended to by Jesus. The early disciples left no stone on turn, they too were used by the Holy Spirit to heal through shadow, apron and laying of hands. Beloved, we cannot afford to do less, the nature of sicknesses and diseases ravaging the present world demands the power of the Spirit as of old. The gift of healing is still available for those who covet and will pay the price to reach out to people without medical license.

The gift of miracles: Only the power from above can suspend nature, Jesus through the gift of miracle suspended the laws of nature to do the impossible. He created sight for the man that was born blind, Lazarus that was dead for four days was brought back to life. When money was needed to pay tax to the tax collectors, fish became an ATM machine and the bill was settled. His ability to walk on water, commanded the storm to be calm, made His disciples to marvel and said, *“...What manner of man is this, that even the winds and the sea obey him?”* (Matthew 8:27).

Testimonies of the miraculous, through the power of the Holy Spirit, also abounded among the early disciples, they witnessed the demonstration of God’s power with undeniable evidences. That

generous woman (Dorcas), who God was using mightily to take care of widows and suddenly died was brought back to life (Acts 9:40), Eutychus, a young man who fell from the third floor and was picked up dead was also brought back to life (Acts 20:9). The contemporary believers are not left out of the flow, the likes of Wittglesworth, Charles Finney, Whitehead, Babalola, Idahosa, Abina, Adeboye, Kumuyi and so on are evidences of the Spirit power. To this end, dearly beloved, our campus world is yet to see our signs, we must, like it happened at Thessalonica, invade the land as men and women that have turned the world upside down (Acts 17:6).

The gift of prophecy: Just like the prophet said “... *and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy...*”. The gift of prophecy is highly needed for edification, exhortation and comfort of the Church (1Corinthians 14:3). However, the most important aspect of this gift manifested through Jesus Christ and He was able to prophesy, and foretell the future and the end of the age. The knowledge about the end time events that is necessary to equip the Church and prepare her for heaven, has been made known through Jesus Himself.

And now that we have the Bible as a written prophecy, all other prophecy must comply with the written word of God. Also, this gift transcends the time of Jesus to the early disciples and the example of the four virgin daughters of Phillip the Evangelist, who prophesied, testifies as evidence to this fact (Acts 21:8-9). The Lord is still in search of sons and daughters who will be so

dedicated, consecrated and be committed to Him and be impacted with this gift so as to become blessings to their world. Can God find you worthy?

The gift of discerning of Spirit: This is a gift that the Holy Spirit imparts on His people to detect different spirits that are in operation. Like we earlier mentioned, we have the Spirit of God, the spirit of man and that of the devil. In 1 John 4:1, Apostle John wrote on the importance of discerning of spirits; “*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world*” (1John 4:1). This gift, when is in operation helps us to distinguish the spirit that is prophesying at a particular time and this will guide us to accept or discountenance such message(s). Also, it will help us to detect lying spirit that are deceiving people into teaching and following heretic doctrines. Beloved, we need this gift in our Fellowship especially for our leaders to detect the false agents sent to lie, confuse and bring division and disunity among us and be adequately dealt with.

The gift of tongues: This gift of tongues is so called because it enables believers to communicate in an unknown language. There are two types of tongues, we have ‘tongue of signs’, this is the evidence we receive as a proof of inward fullness when we are baptised in the Holy Spirit. But after the initial sign by speaking in tongues, if we continue speaking in tongues, then the person has received the gift. Although, in many occasion so many people receive the ability to speak in tongue as a sign and a gift

simultaneously. The advantages attached to this gift is worth craving for; it helps in engaging in a deep spiritual communication with God (1Corinthians14:2), it opens doors to deeper prayer and praises (2Corinthians14:15) and it is a sign to unbelievers (1 Corinthians14:22).

The gift of interpretation of tongues: This gift manifests when the Holy Spirit gives the inspiration of the interpretation of unknown language. Interpretation of tongues is different from an ordinary translation of a foreign language. It is the Spirit's impartation which enables the believer to explain tongue-given messages with an understanding language to the audience. Interpretation of this nature may be word for word or while the message in tongue may be short, the interpretation may be long. In all, beyond the theory, we need the demonstration of this wonderful works of God in our life and Fellowship as well.

There are many other gifts, which the Holy Spirit endowed believers with to carry out different assignment. These include Administration, Help, Ministry, etc.

The Holy Spirit and the fruit of the Spirit

To ensure a balanced and fruitful Christian life, the Holy Spirit empowers believers with both the gift and the fruit of the Spirit. Those gifts of the Spirit earlier mentioned are necessary but not sufficient without the fruits of the Spirit in the making of a new man who is created to be like Christ. While Paul admonishes believers to covet earnestly the best gifts, he further shows us a

more excellent way; it is on the strength of this, we shall proceed to look at the fruit of the Spirit which takes its root from love.

“But the fruit of the (Holy) Spirit (the work which His presence within accomplishes) is love, joy (gladness), peace, patience (an even temper, forbearance), goodness (benevolence), faithfulness, gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control (self-restraint, continence). Against such things there is no law (that can bring a charge)” (Galatians 5: 22-23).

Love: From the Greek word ‘agape’, this is a fruit of the Spirit, which makes a Christian to care and seek the highest good of another person without motive of personal gain and any condition attached (Romans 5:5, 1 Corinthians 13).

Joy: This fruit generates feelings of gladness in a believer's heart, when such heart rests on His love, grace, blessings and promises that are in Christ Jesus and the possibility of eternal home (Psalm 119:16, 2 Corinthians 6:10).

Peace: The fruit of peace gives rest of heart and mind to believers based on the knowledge that all is well between him and His heavenly father. This fruit makes Christians to be free from anxiety and worry, it guaranteed security in the midst of turmoil (Philippians 4:7, 1 Thessalonians 5:23).

Longsuffering or Patience: This fruit enables a believer to have the ability to endure, to be slow to anger and tolerate things. It enables believers to bear long with frailties and offences without murmuring or resentment (Ephesians 4:2, 2Timothy 3:10).

Gentleness: This is a fruit with a disposition to be gentle, soft spoken, even tempered, cultured and refined in character and conduct. It promotes kindness in the life of a believer and makes them not to be willing to hurt or cause pain to others (2 Tim. 2:24-26, Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:12).

Goodness: The fruit of spirit that enables one to be good, kind, virtuous, benevolent, generous and God-like in life and conduct. (Ex. 33:19, Rom. 2:4 Eph. 5:9, Luke 7:37-50).

Faith: This fruit of the Spirit enables a believer to have a firm and unswerving loyalty, confidence and reliance in God and all He says (Matthew 23:23, Romans 3:3).

Meekness: This fruit makes a believer to be restrained and submissive, balanced in tempers and passions, coupled with strength and courage to control self in the face of provocation (Psalm 25:9, 2 Timothy 2:25).

Temperance: This fruit of the Spirit releases the power of self-control, and ability to have mastery over personal desire, appetite and passions (Prov. 23:1-3, Romans 13:14, 1 Corinthians 7:9, 9:25).

For us to fully demonstrate a new life in Christ, the above mentioned fruit of the Spirit must be our watchword. To this end, that song composer who recited; “I want to be like Jesus” ended it up by saying, “Jesus, give me grace to be like you”. We need the grace, which the Holy Spirit makes available to those who long for it.

CONCLUSION

In this chapter, we have discussed the reasons behind God’s decision to pour His Spirit upon all flesh. The example laid down by Jesus reveals the need for the power of His Spirit upon human lives, and a prompt obedience to this instruction by the early disciples made them wonders to their world. Also, the impact, which the Holy Spirit makes on the people through the gifts of the Spirit was examined and the point of emphasis in this chapter challenges us to arise and get hold of the Spirit’s power, so as to turn our own world upside down as said concerning the disciples of old.

Having seen the significance of the power of Holy Spirit, one may now clearly understand the reason why God told Zerubbabel that it is not by might nor by power but by my Spirit. Of a truth, the Spirit of God is what gives life, it is that wind of God that cannot be restrained by any might or power under heaven and it is the water that cleanses from all filthiness. Just as it was said, the Holy Spirit is the fire that refines and the oil that greases and he is also capable of destroying yokes.

It is on the strength of the Spirit’s power, which is at work, that God challenged the mountains before Zerubbabel to become plain. To this end, the next chapter will be addressing the mountains that are currently on the way, which are capable of challenging the authority of God in our lives, and these put together shall become plain in Jesus name.

CHAPTER FIVE

Moving your Mountain by His Spirit

“So, big mountain, who do you think you are? Next to Zerubbabel you’re nothing but a molehill...”
(Zechariah 4:7 Messg.).

“What are you, mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground...”
(NIV).

“That tall mountain will be like a flat place for Zerubbabel...” (ERV).

Factually, mountains are a large mass of earth and rock, rising above the common level of the earth, and given the height of Everest (29,029 ft.), which is the highest mountain in the world, it goes beyond what anyone can ignore. Similarly, mountains are perceived from the spiritual sense as opposition, problems, challenges, obstacles, difficulties and so on that create obstructions on the way to success or accomplishment in life. This view, of seeing mountain as obstructions to a man or woman who is regenerated, empowered by the Spirit and faith full, to some school of thought in Christian faith, is not true.

To them, there is no mountain anywhere, it is mere ignorance on the path of such Christian who does not know his/her position in Christ. Of a truth, since we have been made to sit together with Christ in heavenly places, which is far above principality and powers, there is nothing, so called mountain anywhere, anymore, which is capable of obstructing our ways. It is obvious, therefore,

that a New Testament believer in Christ, possesses some kind of grace, powered by the Holy Spirit, which makes them unstoppable by any form of obstacles, called mountains.

However, since one of the benefits of being children of God is for us to know the mysteries of the kingdom (Matthew 13:11), and equally not to allow the devil to take advantage of us as we are not ignorant of his devices. (2 Cor. 2:11). We shall examine some of those things that may be perceived as mountains and get the right knowledge, sufficient to turn them to a level ground. These we shall study from the experience of the Israelites who were the direct recipient of this word that form our main text.

It is important to understand from the context of our text, that the mountain which the people of Israel as led by Zerubbabel faced at this time, was a stiff opposition from the adversary to stop the building of the temple. The people that returned from exile to Jerusalem had set their highest priority on rebuilding the temple, having learnt from their years of captivity on the importance of putting God first in their lives. (Psalms 137).

The foundation laying ceremony was with a mixed feeling, there was a confused noise of weeping by the elders who saw the former glory and the noise of the shout of joy from the younger generation (Ezra 3:10-13). The very time the construction of the building started, those enemies of God (probably Samaritans 2 King 17:24-34) arose and pretended to join them in the work. This deceptive offer of help was a plot to infiltrate the Jews and disrupt the

building of the temple. But Zerubbabel, Joshua and the elders turned down their offer and the battle line was drawn. Thus, they weakened the hands of the people, troubled them, hired counsellors against them to frustrate their purpose and finally, they wrote a letter to Artaxerxes the king to stop the work (Ezra 4:1-8).

Following the above, identifying what became mountains to the Israelites at that point in time is now obvious, they comprise of whatever:

- Weakens the hands of people
- Troubles the life of people
- Hired counsellors (agent) to frustrate purpose(s)
- Letter to put a hold on a good work that is on going

These were the main oppositions, which faced the Israelites like mountains. We shall examine how these may constitute oppositions to our own lives, families, Churches/Fellowships and the nation at large.

Mountains that Weaken the Hands

In the preceding chapters, we have seen that human being was made to be strong, God has put in every man and woman the inner ability to exercise might and become mighty. The singular reason why God did that is to enable him/her to achieve the purpose(s) and

accomplish the set goals. The word ‘hand’ as used in this sense, is a symbol of strength. It is with our hands that we handle many important things such as tools, instruments, and weapon and indeed, it is man’s hands that achieve success for him. David famous warrior’s psalms attest to this; ***“Blessed be the Lord my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight.”*** (Psalm 144:1).

In fact, our hands are the main tools to work, labour, build, offer worship offering, play instruments, write examination, carry baby and also to carry out different functions that lead to progress in life. This being the case, for the enemy to stop any one from fulfilling his/her purpose, the first attempt will be to weaken the hands. This may come in form of sickness, unnecessary delay in passing examination, securing employment, getting a marriage partner, causing financial inadequacies, mental retardation, emotional and psychological weaknesses.

Putting all these together, they are not in any way bigger than the God we serve. All the efforts of the enemies, which were aimed at weakening the hands of the Israelites, and also that stood as a mountain was turned to a plain ground before them through the power of His Spirit. In the same vein, every force that are aimed at weakening your hands with one problem or the other shall become a level ground before you in Jesus name.

This weapon of the enemy to weaken people’s hand from a similar Bible passage, further confirms that it must not be taken for

granted. The experience of Nehemiah when he was building the wall is another event that draws attention to the importance of this matter. The Bible records that; ***“For they all made us afraid, saying, their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not done. Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.”*** (Nehemiah 6:9). At this point in time, the enemy threatens Nehemiah and the children of Israel who were involved in the building of the walls of Jerusalem.

The fear they posed to them automatically weakens their hands, but all thanks to God who helped Nehemiah to know the best prayer request to place before God at such a critical moment; ***‘O God, strengthen my hands’***. What a great lesson to learn from this man of God. He chooses to focus on God, rather than concentrating on what the enemies were doing, he simply asked God to strengthen his hand. Today, we give more attention to the enemy than looking unto Jesus who is the author and finisher of our faith. May the Lord, through the help of His Spirit sustain our focus on Jesus alone.

Beloved, whatever thing you are doing in life towards the accomplishment of your purpose, (career, business, ministry, marriage etc.), you must be aware that the enemies will come and pose themselves like a mountain to weaken your hand. But just like Zerubbabel and Nehemiah did, all you need do is to learn to call upon God to strengthen your hand by the power of His Spirit. We must not forget that the Holy Spirit is a strengthener, He gives

power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increases their strength (Isaiah 40:29-30). As we wait upon the Spirit of the Lord for direction, guidance and power, no mountain shall be able to stop the good work that God has commenced in our lives in Jesus name. Our total dependence on the power of the Holy Spirit will demand that we set aside all our human might and power, and then depend absolutely on His Spirit. The expected results will just be as the Lord has said, all mountains shall become plain in Jesus name.

Mountains that trouble the lives of people

Trouble means a distressful or dangerous situation, and going by the word as inspired from Job ***“Man who is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble.”*** (Job 14:1). Given this scripture, it will be interested to know that no one who is born into this world is immuned from trouble. However, the times of trouble are not meant to last forever, this perhaps is what Robert Schuller meant when he titled his book; ***Tough time never last, but tough people do.***

Trouble becomes a mountain when life can no longer move on, when a project has to stop and when whatever goal set to be achieved becomes impossible. The enemies of the Jews as the scriptures says; ***“...troubled them in building”*** (Ezra 4:4c), they created a distressful and dangerous situation for them when they were building, their mind was not at rest to concentrate on the work, the fear of the unknown made the work to be so difficult

and unachievable as an immovable mountain.

David in Psalm 22, through the Spirit of God testified of the suffering of Christ and the glory to follow. As a type of Christ, he complains and mixes comforts with his complaints, i.e. ***“My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?”*** (Psalm 22:1). He later comforts himself, ***“But thou art holy...our father trusted in thee...they cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded”*** (Psalm 22:3-5). In conclusion, when he later complains, he mixes prayer with his complaints ***“Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help.”*** (Psalm 22:11).

The point to note here is that, David as a human king in this psalm actually had several times of trouble, yet he received comforts from the Lord through the power of His Spirit. His request that the Lord should not be far from him is an expression of a desire to enjoy the comfort of His Spirit. Typologically, Jesus went through the same experience while on the cross, with the sins of the whole world upon Him. It was indeed a time of trouble for our Lord Jesus. In another way, the writer of Hebrew succinctly puts it thus ***“During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission”*** (Hebrew 5:7).

Times of troubles are bound to come like a mountain that wants

to abide forever, but like David did, we must not allow it to stay, efforts must be made to call upon God to rescue us and deliver us. If Jesus our Lord could cry and pray as the Bible language expresses it; “... **he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death...**”, the solution to troubles that surround us is not farfetched. We must offer prayers to God, with loud cries and tears, no trouble that comes our way is permitted to put a hold upon us. We must rise in the power of the Spirit to overcome such trouble as David and our Lord Jesus overcame.

The nature and dimensions of trouble differ, to some it could be spiritual (demonic affliction), physical, mental, financial, marital, academic and health wise. But the good news is this, having fully known what the nature of the Holy Spirit is, He is capable of surmounting all forms of trouble that stand as mountain and turn them to a level ground. Let me remind you, the Holy Spirit is the wind of God, capable of blowing away all powers that seem invisible, which are troubling your life. He is the Spirit of fire and He can consume anything that constitutes trouble in your life.

By the same token, I release the fire of Holy Ghost upon all troubles and troublemakers of your life in Jesus name. You will not die in that trouble, when it appears that the trouble of crucifixion brought an end to the life of Jesus, the resurrection morning brought a new dawn. The Spirit of God quickened His mortal body and grave could not hold Him captive, I speak to your life by the

power of the Holy Spirit that every trouble that has held you captive up till this moment, they shall lose their grip over you in the mighty name of Jesus. Are there yokes put upon you by the devil troubling your life? By the anointing of the Holy Spirit, those yokes are destroyed in Jesus name.

Hired Counsellors to frustrate Purposes

A counsellor is a professional who counsels people, especially on personal problems. By the nature of their job, they are good analysts, they forecast, predict and are also good in calculation. Men like Ahithophel the Gilonite, who was a personal counsellor to king David cannot be forgotten for his wisdom. The Bible records about him reveal that; “**And the counsel of Ahithophel, which he counselled in those days, was as if a man had inquired at the oracle of God: so was all the counsel of Ahithophel both with David and with Absalom.**” (2 Samuel 16:23).

This man served David and from the statements above, most victories recorded by David in wars could not but be possible without due reference to God and men like Ahithophel. But his alliance with Absalom after the palace coup made David to perceive the problem he had as a mountain that no might nor power could bring down but only by the Spirit of the Lord. David therefore, having heard that Ahithophel was among the conspirators with Absalom, he said “**...O Lord, I pray thee, turn the counsel of Ahithophel into foolishness.**” (2 Samuel 15: 31). The good God who always delights in the prosperity of His people hearkened to

David's prayer, hear what the scripture says; "...***For the Lord had appointed to defeat the good counsel of Ahithophel, to the intent that the Lord might bring evil upon Absalom.***" (2 Samuel 17:14). May I speak to your life that every evil counsellor hired against your life shall suffer double defeat of their evil counsel against your life in Jesus name.

God stood by His word, and the good counsel, which would have destroyed David was rejected. Thus, the Bible concludes; "***And when Ahithophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his ass, and arose, and gat him home to his house, to his city, and put his house in order, and hanged himself and died, and was buried in the sepulcher of his father.***" (2 Samuel 17:23). Indeed, no mountain can stand against the children of God to frustrate their purpose, our God will not allow it. We must at this point be rest assured that there is no man that can stop the good work that God has begun in our lives, by the power of His Spirit, we shall surely overcome them in Jesus name.

The case of Haman against Mordechai is similar to the experience David had, it is the same God that we serve who turned the evil plot of Harman upon himself. Every gallows, which the enemies might have erected to hang your destiny, may they themselves be hanged on it, they will be the ones to carry their load and get the reward of their labours in Jesus name.

Balaam was hired by Barak to curse Israel, but God disallow him. In the same vein, human and demonic agents may be

hired to monitor, regulate and frustrate people's life. There were cases of people with glorious future, who were equally intelligent and academically sound but were monitored to the extent of becoming insane and eventually committed suicide.

We were told a life story of a classmate of one of our National Evangelist. Dr. E. O. Falade said, this mate of his was so brilliant that before they had their final School Certificate Examination in final class (year 5), this fellow had made all his papers in year four, with grade 'A'. He did the final examination with them again and made 'A's all round as well. Immediately the result was out, he secured admission to study Medicine in one of the prestigious universities in Nigeria and won a scholarship to proceed in year two.

Suddenly, he developed mental illness and was withdrawn back home, after several efforts through the traditional therapy, he came back to the University but was no longer able to cope. Having been advice to withdraw, he returned home and was offered to learn a printing job, with the intention to become a printer. Given the might and the intellectual power which he possessed and which would have positioned him as a medical doctor, he was not able to cope with the frustrated situation he found himself, hence, he went a-head and hanged himself. It was the evil hired counsellor that frustrated the purpose of God for his life.

Beloved, are there evil agents monitoring your life and regulating

your progress and movements in life? Their intention is to ensure that the purpose of God for your life does not come to pass. They rose against the Jews and they stopped the work of the building, they are mountains that must be brought down through the power of the Spirit of the Lord. In another sense, some agents against people's life are humans, they may be a supervisor, lecturer, a fellow students, boss or colleague in the office, neighbours, relations and close or distant relatives. Whosoever he/she may be and wants to be a mountain before you from today, they are brought down in Jesus name. God spoke against the Edomites, while rebuking the pride of their heart, He said ***"...O thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, that holdest the height of the hill: though thou shouldest make thy nest as high as the eagle, I will bring thee down from thence, saith the Lord."*** (Jeremiah 49:16).

The above, is a word of assurance from the Lord against every counsellor hired to oppose, hinder and attempting to prevent us from fulfilling our purpose in life. They will surely come down from their nest by the power of the Spirit of the Lord. God has done it before by bringing Ahithophel, Haman and Satan, who is their master down, and He is at work to do it again. All evil agents are coming down in Jesus name. Jesus told the disciples; ***"...I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven"*** (Luke 10:18). All evil counsellors will follow the order of their master Satan, to fall from their heights. Not by might nor by power but BY MY SPIRIT, says the Lord.

Letter to put a hold on good works that are on going

The last thing that constituted a mountain like opposition against the work which God commissioned Zerubbabel and the people that returned from the exile to do was a letter written by the enemies to Artaxerxes the King of Persia. The content of the letter was indicting (building a rebellious house, Ezra 5:12) and ridiculing (bad city, Ezra 5:12), it instigated the king against the people (they will not pay toll, tribute, customs and the revenue will be damaged, Ezra 5: 13). It was provoking (that search may be made in the book of the records Ezra 5:15), and lastly the letter had been certified and made authentic (we certify the king, Ezra 5:16).

Given the importance of a letter as a written or printed communication, Rehum, a chancellor and Shimshai the scribe, wrote a letter of accusation to King Artaxerxes against the Jews to stop the work of the building. Although, the details of the accusation was not given by Ezra but there was an element of truth in it that Jerusalem had rebelled against the king in the time past. However, the point to note here is that, the motive behind the letter was to stop the work, ridicule the people, raise adversary against them, and provoke the king to issue a decree for permanent stoppage of the work of the building.

Our concern here is that, the sources of many problems that stand as mountains is as a result of the letter of accusation written by the devil and his human agent to obstruct the plan of God in people's life. Many are in the position of Uriah the Hittite whose

letter of death sentence was in his hand. David wrote in the letter dispatched by Uriah himself to Joab his commander how he would die. Innocently and ignorantly, he delivered what contained his death sentence and the last we heard about the man whose name means the light of Israel, was that his light had been quenched on the battle field.

By the token of this word, every evil letter written to terminate and put an end to the plan of God for your life, is consumed today by the fire of Holy Spirit in Jesus name. Whatever negative reports from the doctors, which is already in your case file, written concerning your health, is reverse for good from this day in Jesus name. Many students are at the verge of being issued letters, advising them to withdraw and such letters are under processing, waiting for the final approval, by the power of His Spirit, the letters are withdrawn in Jesus name. Every negative reports written against you in the office, school, embassy, and even in the occultic world are consumed today by the fire in Jesus' name. I don't know what the enemies may be accusing you of, which is capable of putting a stop to fulfilling your purpose, from today you will overcome them in Jesus name.

One of the benefits of the cross, which the man of Calvary brought to us is that Jesus has blotted out every handwriting against us, all the written accusation, which the law entrenched; ***“Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to the cross;***

And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them, openly, triumphing over them in it.” (Colossians 2: 14-15). The Lord Jesus has conquered the devil and has made us overcomers through His blood shed on Calvary and the words of our testimony. Hallelujah.

For your information, the Bible reveals the devil as an accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10), he is everywhere issuing letters of accusation to condemn, and stop the good work that God has begun in our lives. Like we acknowledged, truly the Israelites had rebelled against the kings by not submitting to their wishes, hence, the enemy's points were valid to condemn them. In the same vein, some Christians have gone their own ways to do contrary to the will of God. Some committed fornication and adultery and possibly aborted the pregnancy, some might have stolen money, books and materials belonging to others and school authority, others might have joined secret cults and ritual yahoo to make money, some are disobedient to their parents and by law, their days may not be prolonged on the earth.

All these and many more are valid proofs for the devil to file a case against your destiny. But in all, there is an advocate, we have a mediator, hear what the Bible say about Him; ***“And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel”*** (Hebrew 12:24). Jesus has completed the work and the gate is open for as many as we come in to be free from the accusers of brethren. You can be

free today as you allow the Holy Spirit to help you to Jesus and obtain forgiveness, cleansing and impartation of His Spirit for a victorious Christian life.

CONCLUSION

This concluding chapter has revealed to us the main essence of this book. The intention of God for the Israelite not to depend on their might and power but His Spirit is now clearly defined. What we termed as mountains, which represent the oppositions we face on a daily basis are nothing before God. The expectation of God, therefore, is for us to depend more on His Spirit for guidance, strength and help as we journey through the land. May His abiding presence through the power of His Spirit leads us to the heavenly promise land.

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