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# **EQUIPPING YOURSELF TO RECEIVE GOD'S PROMISES**

## DEDICATION

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Winnie, my beloved wife, who has been a source of comfort and support for both our children and the entire family of Jesus Come Revival Ministries, where I am honored to serve the Lord. Your presence in my life has been an incredible blessing and a constant source of encouragement.

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# Introduction

Life is a journey filled with challenges. Embrace these challenges and fearlessly navigate through them, for they are the stepping stones to growth and success. Along this path, many will falter and give up, but not you. You are destined for greatness because you have the courage to face adversity head-on.

In times of hardship, it may be tempting to succumb to tears or mental exhaustion. But remember, it is those who persevere both physically and mentally that emerge victorious. Look at any successful person, and you will see someone who has overcome obstacles with unwavering determination.

While friends and family can offer support, they alone cannot guarantee your triumph. Place your faith in God during these trying times when all seems lost. It is through His strength that miracles happen and paths are illuminated even in the darkest of moments. Trust in Him and know that He will guide you towards victory.

Different cultures and backgrounds present unique challenges for each individual. How well you handle these hurdles determines whether you will triumph or be defeated by them. Do not let fear drive you into the rivers of despair or push you towards self-destruction. Instead, summon your inner strength to rise above adversity like Paul did when he proclaimed, "I have fought a good fight, and I have won!"

There may be moments when it feels like you are trapped in a small room with no escape or hope for the future. In those moments of darkness, open your mind and spirit to Jesus Christ – the light that leads us out of despair. Even when it seems impossible, remember that just as God created a path through the Red Sea long ago, He can create a way for you where none existed before.

Sometimes our goals appear within reach only to fade away before our eyes. We become disheartened as we lose direction and purpose in life.

But do not mourn what was lost; instead, focus on what lies ahead with renewed determination. Your next goal may bring uncertainty, but do not let the fear of failure hold you back. Embrace the unknown and trust that it will lead you to new heights.

Do not dwell on the past or allow yourself to be consumed by regret. Rest your mind in the present and let it guide you towards a brighter future. Life is too short to be filled with frustration and despair. Instead, find contentment in what God has already blessed you with and strive to develop your own unique gifts and talents. By doing so, doors will open where none existed before.

Avoid hasty reactions or impulsive decisions. Give yourself time to reflect and seek guidance from God. In those moments of contemplation, solutions will flow like rivers from within your heart.

Dreams are beautiful, but only when lived out can they become a reality. Do not merely dream; live each day with purpose towards achieving your dreams. Those who merely dream never reach their destination, while those who actively live life reach beyond their wildest dreams. Look at Joseph, son of Jacob – he did not just dream his dreams; he lived them and overcame every obstacle in his path.

Your dream may face setbacks along the way, but do not linger at the starting line. Keep your focus on catching up with it because as you move forward, so does your dream. Each person's journey is unique, so embrace the path that unfolds before you – for God knows exactly where it leads. Even when paths seem closed off, believe that they will open up if you remain faithful to your vision.

Life is a cycle of growth and transformation – from birth to death, conception to birth once more. Just like the world itself, life presents valleys and mountains, weaknesses and strengths. No one is entirely strong without some weakness or entirely weak without some strength.

Remember that balance is the key in living a fulfilled life. Do not hide your weaknesses nor flaunt your strengths. Seek humility, for it is through humility that God will uplift you in His perfect timing. He knows the plans He has for you and will raise you up when the time is right.

My friend, learn to live life uprightly and embrace its challenges with unwavering determination. As a Christian, remember that Jesus Christ is the embodiment of life itself (***John 14:6***); lean on Him for guidance and strength as you navigate this journey. With Him by your side, there is nothing you cannot overcome

# Chapter 1

## What is a promise?

A promise is a declaration, written or verbal, made by one person to another, which binds the person who makes it, either in honor, conscience, or law, to do or forbear a certain act specified; a declaration which gives to the person to whom it is made, a right to expect or to claim the performance or forbearance of the act. The promise of a visit to my neighbour gives him a right to expect it, and I am bound in honor and civility to perform the promise. Of such a promise human laws have no cognizance; but the fulfillment of it is one of the minor moralities, which civility, kindness, and strict integrity require to be observed.

In law, a declaration, verbal or written, made by one person to another for good or valuable consideration, like a covenant, by which the promiser binds himself, and as the case may be, his legal representatives, to do or forbear some act; and gives to the promisee a legal right to demand and enforce a fulfillment.

A binding declaration of something to be done or given for another's benefit; as the promise of a grant of land. A promise may be absolute or conditional; lawful or unlawful; express or implied. An absolute promise must be fulfilled at all events. The obligation to fulfill a conditional promise depends on the performance of the condition. An unlawful promise is not binding, because it is void; for it is incompatible with a prior paramount obligation of obedience to the laws. An express promise is one expressed in words or writing. An implied promise is one which reason and justice dictate. If I hire a man to perform a day's labor, without any declaration that I will pay him, the law presumes a promise on my part that I will give him a reasonable reward, and will enforce much implied promise. Hopes; expectation, or that which affords expectation of future distinction. **Proverbs 23:18** *"For surely there is a reward, and thine expectation shall not be cut off."* That which is promised; fulfillment or grant of what is promised.

He commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father. **Acts 1:6-8** *"And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem,*



*but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? And he said unto them, it is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."*

*This promise happened in Acts 2:1-4 "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."*

The promise of God is the declaration or assurance that God has given in his word of bestowing blessings on his people. Such assurance resting on the perfect justice, power, benevolence and immutable veracity of God, cannot fail of performance. **"The Lord is not slack concerning his promises."** 2 Pet.3:9. The Bible is filled with the promises of God. The highest authority seals these promises, The Word of God. In **Hebrews 6:13** it says, **"For when God made a promise to Abraham since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore by himself."** and this promise came to pass.

In each promise, God pledges that something will (or will not) be done or given or come to pass. These are not flippant, casual promises such as we often make; these promises of God are rock-solid, unequivocal commitments made by God Himself. Since God is faithful, the recipients of the divine promises can have full assurance that what God has pledged will indeed be realized. In the book of **Numbers 23:19** **"God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?"**

### **Why should we trust in God's promises?**

This is a question that many of us have asked ourselves about. God is reliable and I am a living testimony of his. Some took more than twenty

years. The Lord showed me in a vision that I was preaching in the city of Nairobi and after 11 years of prayer and fasting, a fish vomited me at the heart of the city of Nairobi, where I began the ministry. I confirmed all that God had said about it. There are still many more promises that I am looking forward to seeing fulfilled because God is faithful to His promises.

***“Say therefore to the people of Israel, I am the Lord, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. And I will deliver you from slavery to them. And I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great acts of judgment. I will take you to be my people and I will be your God. And you shall know that I am the Lord your God who has brought you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians. I will bring you into the land that I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I will give it to you for a possession, I am the Lord.” (Exodus 6:6 – 8)***

**Why should we rely on God’s promises?**

i. *Because of His Character*

God is not a man and not human. He doesn’t have a fallen nature. He’s never sinned and never lied. He is the essence of righteousness and can’t lie. He is the truth and only speaks the truth.

ii. *Because God does not change*

**Malachi 3:6** *"For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed."* Unlike man, God never changes in his person or his purposes. We may change our minds as we age, or our situations but God didn’t decide to do something then a thousand years later realize it was a bad decision.

iii. *Because of His Infinite Wisdom*

When God makes a promise, it’s the best possible promise he can make. He won’t discover later he could have made a better promise. God never needs to make course corrections. He knows the end from the beginning. **Isaiah 46:9-10** *"Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.'"*

If God has said it, he will do it. If he has spoken it, he will fulfill it. He’s

not messing around with your life. For these reasons, we should trust God's promises and heed his warnings. He's going to do what he said. Sooner or later. Even if it hasn't happened yet. Even if you can't see how he could fulfill it. Even if your eyes, ears, mind, and feelings are screaming it can't happen. If God has made unshakable promises, we should devour his word. If we drift from reading God's word, our faith will wane, our prayer life will wane, our joy will wane and our hope will wane. So let's read God's word, grab on to his promises, and then say in the face of hopelessness, God is not a man. He won't lie or change his mind. He said it, so he'll do it. I believe it.

### Examples of God's Promises

- i. God promised to bless Abraham and, through his descendants (**Genesis 12:2–3**). This promise pointed to the coming Messiah for whom Abraham looked (**John 8:56**).
- ii. The promise to Israel to be their God and make them His people. He fulfilled it. **Leviticus 26:12–13** *"And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and ye shall be my people. I am the LORD your God, which brought you forth out of the land of Egypt, that ye should not be their bondmen; and I have broken the bands of your yoke, and made you go upright."*
- iii. The promise that if we look for Him we will find Him (**Deuteronomy 4:29**). He is not playing hard-to-get. *"Our God is near us whenever we pray to him"* (**Deuteronomy 4:7**).
- iv. God promised protection for His children (**Psalms 121**). He was the vigilant watchman over all Israel.
- v. God promised that His love will never fail (**1 Chronicles 16:34**). He is faithful in every way.
- vi. God promised Israel that their sin could be forgiven, their prosperity restored, and their nation healed and repentance opened the road to fellowship and blessing. **2 Chronicles 7:14** *"If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face*

*and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."*

- vii. God, under the terms of the Mosaic Covenant, promised prosperity to Israel for obedience and destruction for disobedience. Unfortunately, Israel eventually chose to disobey, and the nation was destroyed by Assyria and Babylon. (**Deuteronomy 30:15–18**)
- viii. God promised blessing for all who will delight themselves in His Word. **Psalm 1:1–3** *"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."*
- ix. God promised salvation to all who believe in His Son. There is no greater blessing than the gift of God's salvation. **Romans 1:16–17** *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel; it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who has faith, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed through faith for faith; as it is written, "The one who is righteous will live by faith."*
- x. God promised that all things will work out for good for His children. This is the broader picture that keeps us from being dismayed by present circumstances (**Romans 8:28**).
- xi. God promised comfort in our trials He has a plan, and one day we will be able to share the comfort we receive (**2 Corinthians 1:3–4**).
- xii. God promised new life in Christ Salvation is the beginning of a brand-new existence (**2 Corinthians 5:17**).
- xiii. The promise of spiritual blessing in Christ whereas, in the Old Testament, Israel had the promise of physical blessing, the church today has been promised spiritual blessings "in the heavenly

realms.” Our inheritance is reserved for us (**Ephesians 1:3; 1 Peter 1:4**).

- xiv. God promised to finish the work He began in us. God does nothing in half measure. He started the work in us, and He will be sure to complete it (**Philippians 1:6**).
- xv. God promised peace when we pray. His peace is protection. It will *“guard your hearts and your minds in Christ”* (**Philippians 4:6–7**).
- xvi. God promised to supply our needs (**Matthew 6:33; Philippians 4:19**). Not that we get everything we want, but our needs will be taken care of. We are more valuable than the birds, and our Heavenly Father feeds them (**Matthew 6:26**).
- xvii. God promised that our burdens be lifted at Calvary (**Matthew 11:28–30**).
- xviii. Jesus promised abundant life to those who follow Him (John 10:10). Following Jesus brings us more spiritual fulfillment than we could have anticipated.
- xix. Jesus promised eternal life to those who trust Him (**John 4:14**). The Good Shepherd also promised to hold us securely: *“No one will snatch them out of my hand”* (**John 10:28**).
- xx. Jesus promised His disciples power from on high (**Acts 1:8**). In this power, they *“turned the world upside down”* (**Acts 17:6, ESV**).
- xxi. Jesus promised that He will return for us (**John 14:2–3**). From then on, we will be with Him always.

### Why do we need God's promises?

John Piper says *“The knowledge of the glory of God must be promising if it is to carry power. We must know it and believe that we are included, that the promises are ours, that the call is to us”* (1 Corinthians 3:21). God is all powerful (**Psalms 62:11**). We need his promises because;

*i. It enables us to stand the challenges of life*

Life shakes us up. It smacks us with wind and waves. It might be a trial, suffering, a personal temptation, dealing with guilt and shame, struggling with something like anxiety or fear, or the discouraging howls of an extended spiritual wilderness. When these storms blow hard, what keeps us upright? What sustains and steadies us is the promises of God. **Isaiah 28:16 "Here's what the Lord God says: "Behold, I set in place in Zion a Foundation Stone, fully tested and proven to be faithful and secure. And written upon this precious cornerstone is this: 'Those who trust in him will not act in haste.'"**

*ii. God is a promise-making God*

God's promises have proven to be the rock-solid foundation we need. **"By his divine power, God has given us everything we need to live a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself through his marvelous glory and excellence. And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises" (2 Peter 1:3-4).**

*iii. They are sealed*

Every promise of God is signed, sealed, and delivered to the believer because they are in Christ. Whenever God acts on our behalf or strengthens us for any good work He calls us to do, He does so through His promises. The promises of God are sufficient to satisfy us and sustain us. **2 Corinthians 1:20 "For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us."**

*iv. It teaches us to depend on God's grace*

***"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."*** **Ephesians 2:8-10.** We live by grace through faith in Christ not just at salvation but day to day. The more we hold on to promises as a rhythm of life, the more our fingers loosen their grip on performance-based living as the means by which our relationship with God stands or falls. Gracious promises free us from performance-based living that crushes us.

v. *We learn to depend on the sufficiency of Christ*

**2 Corinthians 3:4-6** *"Such confidence before God is ours through Christ. Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim that anything comes from us, but our competence comes from God. 6And He has qualified us as ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life".* We regularly battle temptations and trials thinking we operate from a position of insufficient resources, but promises remind us we live out of Christ's sufficiency and fullness for us. We face a struggle, a recurring temptation, or an unwelcome trial and all we see is our own helplessness, weakness, and emptiness. It's overwhelming when we compare the mountains we face with the limits of our own skills, strengths, and stamina. When we look within, we realize we're in trouble and we give way to fear, anxiety, or discouragement. But when we depend on Christ, we win over this forces. Promises remind us that there is great provision awaiting us, but it's not from us but from God.

vi. *we learn to focus our faith on Christ*

**Hebrew 12:1-2** *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."*

Promises get our eyes off self, so that we may look to Christ Jesus. They bring a hand to our chin, lifting our eyes upwards to see the glory and grandeur of God who is ready to step in and step up on our behalf. Promises place us under the power of God, the resources of God, the blessings of God, and the care of God. Anything we might lack on our own is more than made up for by the generous and gracious promises of God. The only way we can endure trials, resist temptation, love sacrificially, and live with joy is by living out of the fullness of God's resources. The Bible is like the PEZ dispenser of beautiful and empowering promises given in Christ. We turn page after page of Scripture and out pops promise after promise for us. Cling to them. Turn to them. Depend on them.

vii. *They help us see god clearly*

**Isaiah 26:3** *you will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.* Promises help us see God clearly, rightly, and as a God so much different than any other person we've known. They change our perspective and posture towards God from fear and intimidation because they unveil His beauty, kindness, mercy, goodness, and love. God goes out of his way to convince us that in Christ we are completely and powerfully loved, out of the Father's grace not because of the child's goodness. God isn't waiting for you on the other side of whatever you're going through today or in this season. He is with you. He cares for you. His love is set upon you right where you are. He wants more for you but He's not demanding more from you. Promises assure us of these truths when our thinking leads us astray.

viii. *They help us to overcome the lies of the devil*

**Genesis 3:1-5** *"Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, 'Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?' And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' "Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."*

We listen to the condemning lies of our accuser when we should listen to the life-giving promises of God. Ever since the Garden, Satan has whispered into our ears things about God. "God did not actually say this." "God is trying to limit you and keep you from becoming happy or becoming like Him." Satan not only whispers lies about God but he holds out empty, false promises to us. "You will become like God." "You'll be happy or fulfilled if you do this." His promise always fails, and then after we've fallen for them (again) he quickly returns with condemning lies. "God could not accept you. Look at what you've done. You'll never change. Everyone is disappointed in you." Even though it only leads to our destruction, we listen to the lies of our accuser.

God's promises help us silence those lies so we hear the true, burden-lifting, and life-giving promises of our great Advocate. Jesus always tells us what is true, whereas our Enemy sits on a throne of lies. Jesus always



delivers on his promises, where sin and Satan are full of shiny, empty promises that never pay off. Jesus tells us all the blessings and promises we have in him. Jesus assures us He will never leave us, and that in him, we have what we need. **Hebrew 13:5** *"Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."*

The Accuser seeks our harm with his empty threats but the Advocates seeks our good with his strong promises. The Accuser wants us to think about the "what if's," the "what could be," the way we feel or how things "seem." The Advocate pushes the theoretical to the side so we plant our feet on what is true, and who God is and will be for us. God's powerful promises crush my unbelief, doubt, and fear. Hear them. Stop listening to lies and start speaking the truth of God's promises. When bombarded with lies, battle with the sword of Scripture through God's precious promises. *"No matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ"* (2 Corinthians 1:20).

## **Keys to Possessing God's Promises**

Jesus said to Peter and other disciples in the book of **Matthew 16:19** *"I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."* The following are the keys to possessing God's promises.

### **i. Faith**

*Therefore, while the promise of entering His rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be deemed to have fallen short of it. For we also received the good news just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, since they did not share the faith of those who comprehended it. Now we who have believed enter that rest. As for the others, it is just as God has said: "So I swore on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'" Hebrew 4:1-3*

Have faith in God, for he is the source of the promises. **Hebrew 11:1** *now faith is a substance of things hoped for, and a reality of things unseen.* In **Hebrew 11:6**, *"And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him"*. Faith brings about the substance that we have been hoping for. This is good concerning God's promises. It is the one that moves mountains and makes God to reward us.

Faith makes us not to waver concerning the promises of God for our lives. It gets us strengthened to obtain God's promises and persuades us that that He has power to do what he said he will do. **Joshua 21:45** *"Not one of the good promises which the Lord had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass."*

## ii. The Star

The star is the glory upon our lives. *"Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. Darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn (Isaiah 60:1-5).*

A star does not struggle to shine. God has a plan and purpose for our lives. It is his desire to see his children shine, for we are the light of the world. Even Jesus had a star. **Matthew 2:1-32** *Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.*

The star gives direction to our lives for a life without direction is a failed life. In the beginning of creation, before God gave commands, the earth was empty and void. The spirit of God hovered upon the waters, but the earth lacked shape. Wherever there is no direction, life is empty and void but when God spoke and gave direction, things began to take shape. **Genesis 1:1-3.** *"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light."*

We need direction in our lives. God's promises are the technical design of our lives and with the star, comes connection to the glory that was meant for us. **Jeremiah 29:11-11** *"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.*

*The star upon your life attracts what is meant for from the spiritual realm and brings it to the physical."*

King Herod killed all the young male children because he wanted to kill the star of Jesus Christ. He never believed that God would have a king apart from himself in Bethlehem. There are people who believe that no one else can rise up in a given place. There was a family that had a witch who had declared that no one in the entire clan could grow richer or successful than him. One day a young boy emerged to be successful in life and the witch called him and demanded that he should accept to sink into poverty. It was a very tough battle since he had vowed that no one else would prosper in their village. The boy through God's grace administered the prayer of deliverance, and the man collapsed, and struck by paralysis and after three days, he confessed and died. God will fight for the star upon your life and make it shine.

The star is meant to connect us to the good things that are meant for us. Joseph was meant to be a great man. God revealed this to him as a promise. When his father heard of it from him, he rebuked him, and his brothers hated him. We may be hated because of the star that the Lord God put upon our lives. But God makes the stars to shine. His brothers wanted to kill him, but instead they chose to sell him into slavery where his the star shone, till the master put him in charge of all the slaves. He was then transferred to the prison where the king kept royal prisoners. This was a strategy by God to make him prosper. He excelled in the prison, till he was loosed and made next to the king in Egypt.

The star attracts what you need in order to fulfill your destiny. There are things we repel and attract, when the glory of God is upon us. It is good to be aware that the enemy comes to kill, to steal and destroy. If we are not sober, the devourer pounces on us. **1 Peter 5:8-9; *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world"***. A sleeping Christian is unable to resist the enemy. **Deuteronomy 18:10-11 *"There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch. 11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer"***.

### iii. Anointing

The Anointing is the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer. It enables us to understand, apply, and administer spiritual truth. The presence of the anointing enables us to have a spiritual connection. God has great and wonderful promises for us. He anoints us to have the fruit of the Holy Spirit upon our lives. ***"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn."***

The following are the biblical benefits of God's anointing upon our lives to receive God's promises;

- a) Anointing divinely enables you to pursue God's promises. ***Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law"***
- b) It gives us power to dominate; ***there you will subdue those opposing God's promises over your life (Acts 1:8).***
- c) It makes the words of our mouth and confessions effective. The enemy will not be able to manipulate what God enables you to say. ***Luke 21:15 "For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict." Psalms 8; 1-2 "LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens. Through the praise of children and infants you have established a stronghold against your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger."***
- d) Anointing gives you protection to pursue the promises of God over our lives. When Israel was pursuing the land of promise, anointing kept her safe to her destiny. The enemy must be stopped from blocking our way to destiny. ***Psalms 105:14-15 "He suffered no man to do them wrong: Yea, he reproveth kings for their sakes; Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm."***

- e) Anointing deals with the burdens upon our shoulders and the yokes in our necks. Burdened people are bound to grow weary, stagnate, not grow, but the Lord has purposed to take away this burdens and make it light for our vision the fulfilment of our destiny (**Isaiah 10:27**).
- f) We are empowered to deal with gates of the enemy, whose duty was to block us from getting out of bondage and entering into God's promises. This makes us to subdue nations and loose the armor of kings. Gates are opened and no one can shut them; crooked places are straightened; gates of bronze and bars of iron are broken in to pieces, in order for us to access hidden riches and treasures **Isaiah 45:1-3; 28:5-6**).
- g) Anointing will enable us to arrest the gatemen in the kingdom of darkness and rebuke them, so that they can pave way to allow us to possess God's promises for our lives (**Amos 7:4; Hosea 7:12**).
- h) It is the power to disarm the enemy. When the enemy is disarmed, he has nothing else to do, but watch you as we enter into God's promises for our lives (**Proverbs 14:19** *"Evildoers will bow down in the presence of the good, and the wicked at the gates of the righteous."*)

#### iv. Strategic Planning

Planning is the process that takes you to your destination. Without a plan, there is no direction. God's promises are taken under God's plan. Possessing Jericho was not easy it was done under strategic planning by God and obedience to Him. **Joshua 6:1-6** *"Now Jericho was strictly shut down because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in. The Lord said unto Joshua, See, I have given into thine hand Jericho, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valor. And ye shall compass the city, all ye men of war, and go round about the city once. Thus shalt thou do six days. And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets. And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him. And Joshua the son of*

*Nun called the priests, and said unto them, Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the Lord." the promises of God that you have a role are not easy to achieve.*

- a) Strategy helps you focus on aligning the unique gifts and resources that God has given you for a purpose (**Joshua 6:7-20**).
- b) It helps you to use well your time and resources. God has given time and chance to everybody and does not give resources to be wasted. The prodigal son wasted his resources that were meant to be invested **Luke 15:11-16** *And he said, "There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to[a] one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything."*
- c) It helps you in overcoming pressures and people from taking you to the wrong direction. **Nehemiah 6:1-15** *"Now it came to pass when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had builded the wall, and that there was no breach left therein; (though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates;) That Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief. And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you? Yet they sent unto me four times after this sort; and I answered them after the same manner. Then sent Sanballat his servant unto me in like manner the fifth time with an open letter in his hand; Wherein was written, It is reported among the heathen, and Gashmu saith it, that thou and the Jews think to rebel: for which cause thou buildest the wall, that thou mayest be their king,*

*according to these words. And thou hast also appointed prophets to preach of thee at Jerusalem, saying, There is a king in Judah: and now shall it be reported to the king according to these words. Come now therefore, and let us take counsel together. 8 Then I sent unto him, saying, There are no such things done as thou sayest, but thou feignest them out of thine own heart. 9 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. 10 Afterward I came unto the house of Shemaiah the son of Delaiah the son of Mehetabeel, who was shut up; and he said, Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us shut the doors of the temple: for they will come to slay thee; yea, in the night will they come to slay thee. And I said, Should such a man as I flee? and who is there, that, being as I am, would go into the temple to save his life? I will not go in. And, lo, I perceived that God had not sent him; but that he pronounced this prophecy against me: for Tobiah and Sanballat had hired him. Therefore was he hired, that I should be afraid, and do so, and sin, and that they might have matter for an evil report, that they might reproach me. My God, think thou upon Tobiah and Sanballat according to these their works, and on the prophetess Noadiah, and the rest of the prophets, that would have put me in fear. So the wall was finished in the twenty and fifth day of the month Elul, in fifty and two days."*

- d) Strategy helps you to defeat enemies who have combined themselves to block God's promises from materializing. Joshua 10:6-9

#### **v. Divine Connection**

There is power in connection when God gives his promises to us, he also makes connections to make them happen;

- a) When we connect with God, his promises are made possible (**Jeremiah 32:27; Luke 1:37**). Nothing is too hard for God.
- b) It links us to God's power to open tough gates that were locked against us (**2 Kings 4:8-17**).
- c) It makes you to flourish. Keep connected to Christ (**John 15:1-7-1** *"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear*



*fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”)*

d) It leads to changing of your situation (2 kings 17:7-16)

#### vi. **Commitment**

- a) It enables you to stand strong and overcome obstacles (James 4:4).
- b) Helps you to be faithful and loyal to a certain cause.
- c) It gives you a sense of responsibility.
- d) It helps you to stick to something.

#### vii. **Have an altar**

An altar is a place of prayer and meeting with God. We attract God, who enables us to subdue the power of the enemy. This makes it possible to attain God's promises. It's a place where God speaks to us to give us direction (**Isaiah 30:21**) and enables us to reign. It's a place the watchmen are situated to see the fulfillment of God's vision (**Habakkuk 2:1-3**). It's a place of safety (**Proverbs 18:10**). When we build your life on Christ Jesus, we are safe (**Isaiah 28:18**). For us to fulfill God's promises in your life, we must be safe. Mizpeh is a place of covenant, between Laban and Jacob, God himself being the witness (**Gen 31:49**).

An altar is a place where you meet in times of crisis looking to God for intervention **2 Chronicles 20:3-12**, **Joshua 18:26**. Israel was not ready to continue being oppressed by evil altars and their agents. Christ wants us free from the power of the oppressor.

An altar is a place where you offer sacrifices like tithes, offerings, praises, and worship to attract an open heaven and receive blessings from above.  
An altar is a place of sacrifice; an offering presented to god as a token to



express thanksgiving, acknowledge guilt, and restore good relations. Our sacrifice speaks when it touches the heart of God. the bible says that the sacrifices of God are a broken heart and a contrite spirit; this one, God will not despise (**Psalms 51:17**) God gave us Jesus Christ as a sacrifice to atone for our sins through His blood (**Romans 3:25**). At the altar, Israel repented. It's a place for repentance (**Lev 26:1-2**). The altar trains us to worship God sacrificially. When you sacrifice on the pure altar of the Most High:

- a) The Lord releases protection against the enemy, thus enabling you to take a journey for His promises for your life.
- b) The Lord will put panic and confusion in the camp of the enemies, forcing them to flee, leaving us to fulfill our destiny.
- c) God empowers us to charge and pursue our enemies. This is the assurance of our victory (**1 Samuel 7:11**).
- d) It makes God cast stones against the enemies who oppose God's promises for our lives which allows us to move on (**Joshua 10:9-10**).
- e) He shatters those who oppose him, making us succeed (**1 Samuel 2:10**).
- f) The Lord arises and throws his arrows against the enemy and tears their evil foundations. *Who can escape the Lord's arrows?* (**2 Samuel 22:15-16; Deuteronomy 32:23**).
- g) God makes wicked altars useless by rendering them ineffective (**1 Kings 18:22-29**).
- h) God silences evil altars over our lives.
- i) Denies gods the chance to rise in our lives again (**1 Samuel 5:1-3**)
- j) Gods fall and break, serpents' heads are broken and crushed, priests of darkness are commanded to leave us alone (**1 Samuel 7:12-13**).
- k) God comes in to judge the evil powers that are resisting our deliverance and blocking the way to God's promises (**Exodus 9:23-25**).
- l) You must be delivered and the enemy must follow God's directives and set us free.
- m) Our victory in war is assured. **Deuteronomy 1:30** *"The LORD your God, who goes before you, He will fight for you, according to all He did for you in Egypt before your eyes, and in the wilderness where you saw how the LORD your God carried you, as a man carries his son, in all the way that you went until you came to this place."*
- n) It enables us to take back what the enemy snatched from us. **1 Samuel 7:14** *"And the cities which the Philistines had taken from Israel*

*were restored to Israel, from Ekron even unto Gath; and the coasts thereof did Israel deliver out of the hands of the Philistines."*

- o) Your enemy is forced to be at peace with us; *1 Samuel 7:14, Proverbs 16:7 "When the Lord takes pleasure in anyone's way, he causes their enemies to make peace with them."*

*2 Chronicles 17:10 "And the dread of the LORD fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that surrounded Judah, so that they did not make war against Jehoshaphat."*

An altar has three important things;

- (i) The throne of God, established above all other things.
- (ii) The name of God that is above all other names.
- (iii) The glory of God, where God does not give glory to another.

*Genesis 13:14-16 "And the Lord said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee. Then Abram removed his tent, and came and dwelt in the plain of Mamre, which is in Hebron, and built there an altar unto the Lord.*

## **Cultivating your heart to receive God's Promises**

Have you been waiting to receive God's promises in your life? God's word is clear that His will for you is wholeness, abundance, peace, and blessing in every area of your life. If there are areas in your life where His will isn't being done, pressing needs and desires about which His promises don't seem to be manifesting. Don't give up on God for he cares about the promises he made for you.

Your heart carries the issues of life; and must be well guarded. God's promises spring up from spirit to physical. **Proverbs 4:23 "Guard your heart with all diligence, for from it flow springs of life."** I encourage you to go to the garden of your heart and see if it's in prime condition to reap a harvest of God's promises. Learn to cultivate the kind of soil that receives all God has for you by checking your heart vitals, evaluating your

love walk, and avoiding things that block your blessing;

- a) Let the Lord search your heart

***Psalms 139:23-24 "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."***

- b) It is God who examines your heart

***1 Thessalonians 2:4 "Instead, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, not in order to please men but God, who examines our hearts."***

***Psalms 19:12 "Who can discern his own errors? Cleanse me from my hidden faults."***

God is faithful to his promises, but God would like a heart that can receive his promises by working with him. ***"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him."***  
***2 Chronicles 16:9***

**What kind of heart do you have?** The answer reveals your ability to receive from God. When you go to the doctor for a physical examination, the first thing he or she examines is the condition of your heart because the heart is critical to the total function of your body. The same is true for your spiritual heart. God always looks at the heart in every matter (**1 Samuel 16:7**). Outward deeds are not always evident of the state of one's heart, but He knows the condition of our hearts regardless of how we might appear to the world.

Jesus used the parable of the sower in **Mark 4:15-20** to illustrate four kinds of heart soil. The seed sown in this parable represents the Word of God (**Mark 4:14**).

### **I. The Stony Heart.**

***"I will also sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. I will cleanse you from all your impurities and all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will remove your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh"*** **Ezekiel 36:25-26**

*Ezekiel 11:17-20 "When they return to it, they will remove all its detestable things and all its abominations. And I will give them singleness of heart and put a new spirit within them; I will remove their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh, so that they may follow my statutes, keep my ordinances, and practice them. Then they will be my people, and I will be their God."*

*John 3:3, "Jesus replied, 'Truly, truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again...' Jesus answered, 'Truly, truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.'"*

A man's heart by nature is like a stone but God through His grace removes the stony heart and gives you a heart of flesh, where his promises can flourish. The stony heart is cold. A person who receives the word of God with fire jumps up at the promises of God and quickly cools. He moves towards sin and lust for the things of this world. It is a heart that cannot grow in love towards God. Such a heart receives the word sown in their hearts, but when they hear, Satan comes at once and by force takes away the message which is sown in them; **Mark 4:15**.

This heart will not grow in faith, which displeases God and leads to loss of God's promises. These are people who hear the Word, but there is no harvest or result. For example, they hear the message of the gospel, but they don't get saved. Satan may have told them that they weren't good enough, or perhaps that it would cost them too much. At other times, pride and selfishness allow the devil to come and steal their seed. The result is always the same: Seed that is stolen means there is no seed to yield a harvest. They have no real root in themselves, and so while these people endure for a little while; when trouble or persecution arises, they immediately stumble and fall away. Such people will find it hard to receive God's promises. These are people who have no root of the Word of God.

Think of what a root does for a plant. It nourishes it, feeds it, and anchors it during a storm. These people stumble and fall away from the Word when adversity comes their way. Instead of holding on to the Word of God to see them through the storms in life, they let it go. They have no fruit concerning God's promises for their lives.

## II. The Thorny-Ground Heart

These are people who “hear the word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desire for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful. Many Christians fall into the thorny-heart category. If you take a look at their lives, they aren’t bearing much fruit in the areas of healing, prosperity, and deliverance. So, what could be happening? At first, they get excited about the Word of God. They’ll hear a message on prosperity, for instance, and they’ll go home saying, “Hallelujah! I’m going to prosper in the Name of Jesus!” But, over time, worries, fears, and troubles become more real than the truth in God’s Word. This heart puts more stock in what the world says than what God says. In doing so, they forfeit their harvest **Mark 4:18-19**.

## III. The Soft Heart.

This is the Heart that receives the promises of God. God sends his word with a purpose and that's the promise of God. He declares in **Isaiah 55:11** *"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."* Jesus makes it very simple when He says the good-soil hearts are *"the ones who hear the word and accept it and bear fruit,"* That means, not only do you accept the Word, but you cultivate what has been sown. God's word comes into your life as a promise. Feed your heart with the Word of God and let the Word be the final authority in every decision you make. Once your soil is cultivated, it is ripe for God to give the increase. Then, the time will come when you can “put in the sickle” for your kingdom harvest taking care of your heart:

- 1) Resist the devil

*1 Peter 5:8-9 "Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of suffering."* Sure, you’ll get knocked down sometimes. But when you do, get back up and say, “Look here, Devil, I’m not going to let you steal the Word out of my heart. It’s in there and I’m meditating on it. I’m saying it with my mouth, and I’m acting on it until God’s blessings overtake me. If you don’t believe me, just hide and watch!” If you take that attitude, no matter what

that devil does, he'll never make a "thorny-ground" Christian out of you!

## 2) Evaluate Your Love Walk

***If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing" 1 Corinthians 13:1-2.*** Love makes you more than a conqueror.

***Romans 8:35-37 "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us."*** Love helps you to relate with other people.

How do you treat people? How do you talk to and about them? Are you bitter? Have you forgiven? These are things every believer needs to consider when seeking a manifestation of the promises of God. Offense is one of the most crippling things the devil has ever come up with. You can be sure he will give you plenty of opportunities to get offended. What is the answer? Become so filled with love that offense can't come near you. We must learn to live in love, walk in love, talk in love, and edify one another in love. Then when the pressures come, when the hard times come, when disasters approach us, we won't have to stop and think. We will immediately react in love.

## 3) Avoid things that block your blessings

***1 John 5: 4-5 "because everyone born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world: our faith. Who then overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God."*** What are the types of thorns that can crop up in your heart? **Mark 4:18-19** reveals;

*The Cares of the World*

Most often, these include concerns about health, finances, marriage and children. This can be a daily struggle, but the bottom line is, you can't be in fear and walk in faith at the same time. If you want to cultivate a heart that

produces a hundredfold harvest, you must seek to drive worry, fear and anxiety out of your life by learning to trust God and by putting your faith in His Word concerning every issue in your life. Cast your cares to God.

***1 Peter 5:7 "Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you."***

***Matthew 6:25-33 "Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one [a]cubit to his [b]stature? "So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not [c]arrayed like one of these. Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? "Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."***

### *The Deceitfulness of Riches*

We know that prospering is a good thing, it is God's will for us to be blessed financially. What is outside of His will, however, is when money or material possessions become the most important priority in your life. If money or making money becomes more important to you than spending time in the Word, attending church, or spending time with your family, it has become a heart issue and a thorn that is stealing your blessing from you.

### *Longing for other Things*

**Mark 4:19** calls these "the lusts of other things". This can also be described as foolishness or folly. With hundreds of cable channels and the internet, it's not difficult to find an unlimited supply of foolishness to feed on! When you spend more time-consuming worldly entertainment than the Word of God, your heart will become cluttered and take on thorns that crowd out THE BLESSING.

# Chapter 2

## *Barriers to God's Promises*

**Deuteronomy 20:1;** *When you go out to the battle against your enemies, and see horses, and chariots and a people more than you, do not be afraid of them; for the Lord your God is with you, which brought you up out of the land of Egypt.*

**Ephesians 6:11-12;** *Put on the whole armor of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.*

## **God's Promises and Spiritual Battles**

God's promises are available to us, but we must be prepared to fight spiritual hierarchies to the end to receive them. With the Lord on our side, no powers can overcome us. We can't assume victory in a battle, but we must face spiritual battles with courage in the Lord. Joshua told the Israelites to be strong and courageous in the Lord. The Lord's strength can make us stand in the toughest battles and still win.

God has given us good and beautiful promises, but we have allowed Satan to take them away. Promises of good health, healing, victory, joy, and many more are in the hands of the enemy. To receive these promises, we must fight. One of the toughest promises is to reach the lost with the gospel through God's servants. It's snatching souls from the kingdom of Satan. Jesus died for our souls to be saved and enter eternal rest with God our creator.

These hierarchies of Satan are not obedient to religion, age, or wealth. They need the Lord's power. Jesus said, ***"Whoever wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."*** Why follow Jesus? He is the way, the truth, and the life. His words are true. Following Jesus is not easy because we can easily deny him in hardship or persecution. Would you be well-equipped to fight all the hierarchies till you see the Lord's word come



to pass? If you are moving in faith and are focused, you are sure to win in the Lord what he has promised you.

## **A Vision of Fighting the Battle**

One time, I faced many challenges and hardships in my youthful spiritual life. Many good believers and saints were falling out of the way of Christ, and others were falling prey to corruption and immorality. I began to pray to the Lord for help. At that moment, I could pray for others, and they could see their results while I was stuck. I fasted and prayed several times without seeing any answer. I was about to give up when the Lord showed me a vision of fighting the battle till I win.

In the vision, I was in the ocean, and it was so vast that I could not see the ends in either direction. I was standing on a rock and could not afford to swim. It was a risky place but a surely founded rock. Three people had purposed to make me fall from this rock into the ocean. Each had a test, and winning meant breakthrough to my call in the ministry. The three men had a real tactic. I had the power of salvation within my mouth. This is the power of speech.

The three men had the power to move freely within the ocean, whereas mine was limited on the rock because falling from that rock meant death. They came for me while on the rock and forced me to lift a heavy container, which I did not know its contents. I tried to refuse, but their threats made me try to lift it. The load was so heavy that it pulled me from the rock, and I dropped into the ocean. Just before I dropped, I had called on the name of the Lord. I said, "Jesus!" I was in the ocean, and I was going to die. God sent two good Samaritans who I believed were angels.

They had the power to swim. Before I fully drowned, they rescued me and put me on the next rock within the ocean. Then they left me there. I believe it was my field of testing. The three people did not give up. They came again, but this time it was a different man from the first one who handed me another heavy container. Imagine I had no power to resist whenever I was given the loads. Like the first time, it led to my second drowning, though I never delayed calling on Jesus. The two angels were right there. They swam with me and took me to the third rock within the ocean and also left me alone. The rocks were a bit raised so that waves of the oceans and currents could not reach their top.

The three men came again and handed me a new luggage container. It was the third man who handed me this. I took it, and I was right back into the ocean. I thank God for reminding me to call unto the name of Jesus as I took the containers.

This third time, the two angels came to my rescue, but they did not return me to the rock within the ocean. They were swimming, and I was lying on top of their backs. For sure, it was a long journey till we reached near the shore. One angel helped me swim to the end and held my hand to the beach. Now I was on the plain land, walking without drowning, nor fearing as I had been on the risky rocks of the ocean. The other angel, who remained, went down to the bottom of the ocean, and when he appeared, he shouted in a terrifying voice and said, "Arthur, you have now won the battle, go into the whole world and preach the gospel." Then the two angels disappeared, but left me in the land of safety.

I began to ask myself after the vision what this was all about. I could not find the answer, thus I went back to prayer so that God would reveal something to me. He openly told me that there are three things that are traps to God's servants. If one can overcome them, then he becomes a true servant who has denied himself and taken his cross to follow Jesus.

### ***The First Test: The Love for Money.***

We are called to serve the Lord, but the love of money has become a trap to us. Judas Iscariot loved money so much, though he attended many crusades and seminars held by our Lord Jesus Christ. He could easily betray his Lord! The devil knew out of the twelve, one who could easily drown when it comes to money. Dear men and women of God are falling out of the true way of Jesus Christ because of the love of money.

We need money, but we should not love it more than our God. People are compromising sin in the house of God and in whichever place of God's service for the sake of obtaining money. We are called to preach the gospel. Jesus never said, "Go ye in the world and make money!" We need to love the Lord and the lost. He suffered, first and foremost, for the lost. Money is a blessing to follow us as we serve our God, or else we lose and drown.

Man goes to an extent of worshipping the devil for the sake of obtaining money. Family members and friends, wives, husbands, and children are sacrificed to get wealth. This is not a need for money, but the love of it. The rich making their accounts fat because we love money, while we leave the poor to die poor and squander funds, which are donated to the poor. Widows and orphans are not getting their dues because we love money. We are servants of God, but we love money so much that we forget our service to his people. Jesus loved people more than piling for himself. That's why when he had preached to five thousand men (women and children excluded), He enquired what they were going to eat! He did not ask what he or the twelve were going to eat! They all needed something! God did a miracle because the prayer was genuine. Jesus did not call the boy and tell him to share his food with Him and the twelve, while he sent others out. He blessed it, and God caused it to be for all of them.

The Lord taught me a lesson that If I loved money, I will forget my call. Let's commit to the call to serve, and God's blessing shall follow us including money and riches.

### ***The Second Test; the love of men and women***

I say this because some mighty women servants of God go through this trap of men, while some servants of God are under the trap of women. When the Lord blesses us with financial blessings, we get the poor opposite sexes and prey on them. Widows are flesh for us, and young ladies our food. No wonder HIV has even fallen on some of us servants of God. Flesh mind is hostile to God. When we are possessed by the mind of flesh, we grieve the Spirit. We interfere with serving our call.

***"The love of money, women, or men is the root of all evil" [1 Timothy 6:10- 12].*** The pursuit of wealth is the catalyst for various forms of malevolence, leading some individuals astray from their faith and subjecting them to immense sorrow. However, as for you, the esteemed person of God, it is imperative to distance yourself from these temptations and instead strive for righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, and gentleness. Engage in the noble struggle to uphold your faith, lay hold of eternal life, and fulfill the noble confession you have made in the presence of many witnesses. I also encourage you to ***read Ephesians 5:3-5*** for further guidance.

### ***The Third Test; Pride***

Pride is the final stumbling block that emerges when one reaches a point of self-reliance, believing they can thrive without God's guidance. This self-centered mindset breeds arrogance. In the book of ***Isaiah 14***, Lucifer, the leader of heavenly praise and worship, succumbed to the allure of seeking personal adoration. This fatal decision led to his downfall. Similarly, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, upon observing the grandeur of his palace, boasted about his own might and attributed the empire's construction solely to his power. God swiftly intervened to demonstrate that Nebuchadnezzar's existence and authority were solely by His grace; ***Daniel 5:1-31***.

At that moment, the Lord inscribed a divine message on the wall with His fingers, declaring that Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom was numbered and finished. Darius did not live to enjoy his reign. This serves as a reminder that even the most powerful and influential kings and leaders should not succumb to excessive pride beyond what is acceptable to God. Nebuchadnezzar, once a ruler in a magnificent palace was reduced to a wild animal surviving on grass, banished from the palace to the wilderness due to his arrogance. Those who possess positions and ranks, especially those who know God, should give Him glory for their existence. It is a privilege and favor from God to be born and to be who you are.

The apostle Paul, in his wisdom, acknowledged that his identity and worth were solely derived from his relationship with Christ. Despite his past as a murderer and persecutor of Christians, God transformed him into a heavenly ambassador. Pride serves as a weapon wielded by Satan to bring down men of God. On occasion, God grants us power to lead a group of people, regardless of its size. However, we must never disregard the importance of the individuals we lead. Without them, we cease to be leaders. This principle is applicable to families as well. A husband exists because of his wife, a wife because of her husband, a father because of his children, and a mother because of her offspring. Should we discard them, our position becomes meaningless. To attain God's promises, we must learn to set aside our pride. God humbles the proud but exalts the humble. This principle remains unchanging. Even non-believers who acknowledge God but elevate themselves above Him are eventually brought low. Although it may temporarily seem favorable, as Belshazzar experienced, their downfall is inevitable.

Herman, being placed above all princes, as described in ***Esther 3:1-8, 17***, allowed pride to consume him, leading him to plot the destruction of the Jews. However, God was on the side of the humble, and Herman ultimately faced his own demise, hanging on the gallows he had constructed for Mordecai. Mordecai, in turn, assumed the position that Herman had held. It is disheartening to witness individuals, once granted power, become arrogant and revel in the oppression of those who do not conform to their desires. The opportunity to lead is a special privilege bestowed upon us by God. The same God who allows others to be under our authority is the same God who has elevated us to our position. Without His intervention, we would be nowhere, just as the one who is nowhere would remain lifeless, devoid of purpose.

Pride poses a significant threat to devout servants of God. It grieves the spirit of God, extinguishing His influence for the sake of maintaining authority within the church. Jesus, in His promise, assured us that we would receive power after the Holy Spirit descended upon us from on high, enabling us to be His witnesses (Acts 1:8). However, pride often causes individuals to seek power and recognition from the congregation before they can truly become effective witnesses for Christ.

***Will this approach enable you to move in alignment with God's promises?***

Pride, pride, pride! Let us remain vigilant and humble ourselves before God. Humility is the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Those who walk in the Spirit of God must also walk in humility; (***Philippians 2:8; Romans 6:6; James 4:6,10; Psalms 25:9; Matthew 11:29; Psalms 138:6; Proverbs 16:5,8,13; 21:4; Isaiah 66:2***). Pride, self-reliance, and arrogance act as barriers to fulfilling the Great Commission. I am grateful that God has taught me this lesson in a peculiar way.

My prayer now is, ***"Lord Jesus, help me overcome these obstacles and focus on you, walking in your ways. Amen."***

# Chapter 3

## *Barriers to God's Promises: Giving Up*

God's promises are available to us, but there can be resistance and challenges in attaining them. The Bible encourages us to be patient and establish our hearts as we wait for the fulfillment of these promises. For every promise of God there is a demonic power resisting it.

***James 5: 7-8; therefore be patient brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how a farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and the later rain. You also are patient; establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.***

In Paul's teachings, he emphasizes the importance of patience and perseverance in reaching our goals and attaining the promises of God. The analogy of a farmer is used to illustrate this principle. Just as a farmer patiently works the land, sowing seeds and tending to them with the expectation of a bountiful harvest, we too need to have a clear goal and diligently work towards it.

Paul warns against being a foolish farmer who plants nothing because even if they are patient, they will never reap anything. Similarly, if we have no goal or vision, we will not achieve anything, no matter how patient we may be. Setting goals and having a clear direction is essential in reaching success and seeing the fulfillment of God's promises in our lives. Patience alone is not enough; it must be coupled with action and purpose. We need to be intentional in our efforts, working towards our goals with perseverance and determination. By aligning ourselves with God's will and actively pursuing our goals, we create an environment for His promises to manifest in our lives.

The Bible says in ***Proverbs 15:22*** that “*where there is no counsel, purposes are disappointed, but in the multitude of counselors they are established.*” It goes on to say in ***Philippians 2:13***; *It's God who works in you both to will and do of His good pleasure.*

Many people, who had their heads held up to their many visions, are looking down to the ground where all of them were buried. They do not see any of their visions in the world around them. God works in you both to will and do what pleases Him. But you must know God's will through His promises then establish your heart and your mind to the goal.

One day, in a vision, the Lord was teaching me how it's good to depend on him and allow Him to lead me to attain his promises for me. In the dream, I saw that I was in a thick forest and was dark that I could not afford to come out of it. All the directions were bleak that I had nowhere to go. I was at the point of giving up when somebody came to my rescue. He asked me where I wanted to go and I told Him that I just wanted to reach the main road out of the forest. He introduced himself to me as Mr. Counsel, the father of achievement and purpose. He picked me by my right hand and directed me to the East. I was so encouraged for being led, and he promised that with him, I was going to surpass my expectations (*Amos 3: 3*).

As we left the forest to the main road, I saw a sign post on the road. It was pointing to the North. It was called 'confession road.' With Mr. Counsel, we began to walk to the North for a long distance, and finally, we saw a highway named 'Possession Highway' also pointing to the North. Along the way, I became so weary and tired, that I could move no more so I rested under a tree and prepared to take a nap. To my surprise, Mr. Counsel was still strong and when he looked behind and saw that I was sitting down he came back and said, "O poor discouraged man, why have you given up! Arise, and let's go, you have not yet reached your destination." He picked me up with my right hand. By his touch, my strength was renewed and we continued with the journey. As his word was, I saw a wonderful city called 'possession city' and I was strengthened and I quickened my steps till I was right in the city that had everything I ever desired.

Like my trial in every direction in the forest, many people are just rotating in one place. Some people had so many goals that they were mixed up and now do not know which one to go for and achieve. With such people, years will come and go, but they will never move an inch. Divided-minded Christians achieve nothing spiritually. Their hands are full, and they do not know what to release and what to go for.

For any dream to be achieved, it begins with confession. God plants a good goal in you. You confess it, and then you begin to walk towards it. While you walk on it, you begin to possess it by faith. Confession is the father of possession. After possession by faith, which is a tough path, due to discouragements, you enter the city of possession. In **2Kings 2:1** says time had come for Elijah to be taken away to heaven. He left Gilgal with Elisha, whom he had anointed to serve in his office. Elijah told Elisha to remain, for God had sent him to Bethel. Elisha said, "I can't leave you," and they both went to Bethel. Children of the prophets in Bethel had known that Elijah was going to be with the Lord. They approached Elisha and said, "Do you know that your boss is leaving you?" Elisha said, "I know, but be quiet."

Since the day Elisha was anointed, his focus point changed. He was not ready to call it quits. He was sure he knew what he wanted from Elijah, and at all costs, he wasn't going to back off. Dear, when the devil discourages you concerning your call in the ministry, what do you tell him? They both went to Jericho, where prophets there discouraged him. To Jordan, they were together, for Elisha had a purpose, and was focused on the heavenly call. Fifty, and the sons of prophets, observed from afar. Elijah smit the waters with his robe and the two crossed Jordan. Why two? Because Elisha was not prepared to lose the vision he had received. Finally, Elijah told him to ask for anything he wanted. The time you focus on the Lord, He can give you His promises. **John 15: 7; if you abide in me and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what you will, and it shall be done unto you.**

Elisha had been so focused that he could not afford to look back. He was so devoted to serving and following his master to the bitter end He then asked for a double portion of anointing. What would you have asked for, Wealth, power, to rule over others, money, or women? Elisha knew that by first seeking the kingdom of God and his righteousness, other things were going to follow suit. Though his request was hard, there was a condition. God says, **"I am the Lord your God, is there anything too hard for me? If you see me being taken away, you will get it, and if not, there will be nothing for you."**



Getting into God's promises has conditions. Look at how far the servant has followed his master, to extend of miraculous crossing of the river Jordan. Elisha will need what it took for the two people to go over Jordan if he has to come back and serve as a prophet in Elijah's office. Since he's on the highway of possession, near the city, he's determined to end the race in triumph and get really what he asked for.

There is nothing important, to achieve, unless you reach the city of possession. The journey to God's promises is tough and long, but the fruits of the labor are sweet. The wilderness was so challenging, the wall of Jericho was a barrier, sons of Anakims were terrors, but the land of promise was full of milk and honey. They did not wake up and find themselves flown into it. Some were destroyed on the way, for the promise to come true. We need Mr. Counsel, lest we die poor with a lot of promises missed that are around us due to giving up on the way.

***Psalms 119: 133, 105-Thy word is lamp to my feet and light unto my path. Order my steps in thy word o Lord.***

This shows that we are on the move if we have to attain it. Those who move in darkness stumble many times on blocks and may even fall and be punctured. But in light, we see the stumbling blocks and safely jump over them. The word of God is the lamp. In John chapter one, Jesus is the word of God. He's the way, the truth, and the life. He's the door to enter into God's promises. Let the word of God order your steps if you are to reach His purpose for your life. You do not tell somebody to lead you while you are dormant. There was one who loved so much. His name is God. He sent his only son. Jesus himself loved us, and he said, ***"I will become flesh, go to the world, dwell with those people, and then die for them [John 1: 1-14].*** He came to the world with a promise and he focused on it. He was not here just for leisure and pleasure! After turning into flesh, the word never gave up. He was to do all that he came for! He did well in the world ***[Acts 10: 38].*** He had confessed his suffering and death on the cross, which was prophesied by old prophet's stone on promises about Him, went unturned.

During persecution, he had a very difficult time, in which without focus would have called it a day! But he was being ordered in steps by God's word of promise. Paul, the apostle spoke and said, "Imitate me as I imitate Christ." Since Christ on promise never gave up, who are we to give up when we know this is God's will and promise for us?

***John 19:28-30; Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, said, "It is finished bowing his head, gave up his spirit.***

For sure, it was over! Looking at the situation we have from more than two thousand years ago now! Many people are going to die frustrated because of giving up on every promise of God for them. We see Peter denying the Lord at the time of persecution. This is because Peter was wrongly focused. He had purposed to enter a promise that wasn't his for that time. His death could not bring salvation, for his blood was Adam's, but Christ's wasn't [*John 1: 29*].

Some people have never decided anything in their lives. They just want things to happen by chance. ***Mark 11:24; whatsoever you ask and do not doubt, shall be given to you.*** When you ask for nothing, you get nothing! When you have set no goal, you end up in a group of failures. Set a goal, the right goal. Remember that before you ask, you must first seek God's kingdom and his righteousness. ***Matthew 7:7; ask and it shall be given to you.***

The bible speaks of a Canaanite woman who had a daughter with epilepsy. This lady was determined to get her miracle. It was not a surprise to her when her daughter was healed. She had already expected and knew ***that "if my Lord will respond to my cry, my daughter will be ok."*** All she wanted was Jesus' help. She wasn't trying to see if Jesus would do, as many of us try. She was sure it was going to be the end of her daughter's problem.

She did not need a spy to come up with research results, nor an appointment to interrogate Jesus if it was possible. She just went after him by faith! She called three times without a quick response. If she were a doubting woman, she would have thought ***"may be this Lord knows my problem is so hard for him."*** But her faith was real. She wasn't empty in her heart, though she was not a Jew! Jesus addressed her and said, "I can't give food for the children to dogs." ***But she was so focused on healing that this could not turn her away."***

Many saints and many people turn back so quickly when insulted or discouraged while seeking God concerning something. It may be from

gossip or negative reports from spies, and that's all they can do anyway. They go by the words of men without giving a thought, but they reject the word of the living God concerning their situation. This woman got her child delivered because of her faith. She was sure that as long as Jesus would respond to her, her family would have a wonderful joy and be free from fear. They had lived in tension and fear that their beloved daughter may drop into water, fire, or on the rock and die. A child in the family shows the continuance of generation. He can symbolically represent one's vision for the future.

There comes a time when a vision has no stability. Though this Canaanite family had lacked rest, deliverance changed things upside down. She had just told Jesus before her miracle that dogs feed also from droplets of food under the table. For sure, such dogs are healthy and strong! She knew that Jesus was a king. Eating food remains from the palace is a privilege, for it's better than a first-hand meal from a poor man's home. Getting it from Jesus was better than first hand from Satan who transfers a problem from head to chest or so! He has no power to do good because he is the father of all evil. The devil was the source of the problem for this daughter and unrest in this family. All she needed was the king's attention, and she got it (*Matthew 2:2*).

I find her faith to be challenging. She called for her tum without waiting to witness a miracle performed by Jesus in her presence. The Israelites desired the Anakims to be slain before they ever arrived at Jericho's wall. This woman was only looking for a savior; she didn't need a gathering or a crusade on Sunday.

Men wander aimlessly in search of tranquility. Giving birth to an issue creates another one. From marriage issues to divorce, to murder or even suicide, from family strife, to clan disintegration and national conflict, suffering and agony are growing! While many walk to church, many are unsure of what they need. They hunt for large sums of money and stockpile them in homes and banks, yet they don't seem content. They take several spouses, but the women leave their husbands because they are unhappy; they have a large number of children, gain international influence, and construct opulent houses that never bring them peace.

***Isaiah 9: 6; Jesus is the prince of peace. God is the father of peace.***

***Isaiah 57: 16, 19; For I will not contend forever, neither will I be wroth;***

*for the spirit should fail before me, and the souls which I have made I create the fruit of the lips, peace, peace, to him that is far off, and to him that is near, says the Lord; and I will heal him.*

*John 14: 27; Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*

In trials, they spat in His face, plucked out His beard, hit Him across the face, and made fun of Him, but he was still in perfect peace. He had peace inside that no storm was able to disturb him, no matter how fierce it was. In Pilate's presence, he had peace, as he was mocked.

*Isaiah 53: 7; He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; he's brought as a lamb to the slaughter and as sheep before her shearers are dumb, so he opened not his mouth.*

This is because he was at peace. He had prayed in the garden of Gethsemane before arrest, ready to face what lay ahead. He had surrendered his will unto the Father to win the race.

*Matthew 27: 28-31;* On the cross, he was still able to keep his peace. Because of peace, he was able to pray while suffering, "*Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.*" It never mattered that his flesh was torn, and body ached in pain. We need this peace to retain victory amid every storm. Peace of the world is here today and gone tomorrow, but that of Christ is eternal. This peace does not change your surroundings but changes you, in your surroundings! When you are focused on God's promises, you have peace.

Troubles will be around us until second coming of Jesus. Hold your peace in the presence of the Lord. The evangelist martyr Stephen had it, that he could afford to ask the Lord to forgive his murderers. He was so heavenly-focused that unforgiveness could not settle in his heart!

Jesus is right where you are. Don't be overwhelmed by problems. Do not lose faith because you are alone. He's right there! You need to draw his attention towards you. *James 4: 8; Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners, and purify your hearts, ye double-minded.* Instead of crying unto the Lord to show his attention to

them for help, which they had already been promised, the children of Israel murmured. Apostle Paul advises us that we should not be quick to utter a word.

We may speak a negative word that will affect our agreement with God. Confession can lead to possession. God does not forget his promises, and neither does he break his covenant. He says, ***"A mother will forget her child, but I the living God will not forsake you."***

From the beginning of this chapter, we learn that a farmer waits patiently. This farmer does not wait for early and later rains without preparing the land. He toils for his great harvest. He gives himself first, which is a sacrifice. When God wanted to bring us back to Him, He gave us His best 'His son' and when he wanted us to be His servants, he gave us himself 'the Holy Spirit.' You can have land but still harvest nothing because you planted nothing! You may sow in thorny bushes and have no good harvest because you planted in poor land.

***Jeremiah 4: 3; for thus says the Lord to the men of Judah and Jerusalem, break up your fallow ground, and sow not among thorns.*** This is advice to the farmer who plants with a vision of a good harvest. Many students, when they find education to be tough, do not devote themselves to it, leading to giving up on learning and, thus failing to achieve their goals. This is just symbolism. What I mean is that not many are prepared to work for their promises from God. Laziness is part and parcel of them.

In the world today, we see goals buried and forgotten. There are school dropouts, drug addicts, thugs, robbers, gangsters, rapists, and many of the sorts while at birth, these men and women were so admirable. Bad company ruined their good morals and vision and they got lost in the process. Beautiful ladies and handsome young men are lost into drugs and immorality. Some have become idlers because they lost track! But to equip yourself, you can say, —I am going to work hard with the help of the Lord till I turn back to the right path."

Because our dreams were lost, many families are at war. Life has lost all purpose. Many have experienced the loss of loved ones, careers, and business upheaval. We weep all day and all night. Jesus gave us his serenity. He was walking in God's promises, thus he had it.

We are advised not to give up. Let's focus on God who blessed us with a spouse, business, education, job, authority, and so on. Even though life is meaningless when you face trouble, our God is Jehovah Shalom; ***The God of Peace***. He is faithful. ***Philippians 1:6; God who started a good work in you shall be faithful to complete it.*** You are not living by mistake. If so, then you are the problem. Just come back to your senses and move on the right path and you will find rest.

***Isaiah 14: 3, 7; and it will come to pass in the day that the Lord shall give you rest from your sorrow, fear and hard bondage where you were made to serve.***

Even in marriage, God planned that a family should have a destiny. Not a short time marriage and divorce. God created man in his image and God is faithful (***I Corinthians 1:9***). He expected man to be faithful. But man has taken the devil's character since his fall. This is the character of unfaithfulness. Many things are happening in families. God warned against adultery, but it's a family affair today. Marriage vows are no longer honored. Today you say, "Till death do us part," tomorrow you are in court seeking a divorce. You promise to love each other during the morning; in the evening there is total war in the house.

Many are wondering, "Where do we get our peace?" Man has legalized homosexuality and lesbianism to make him satisfied, but in vain. Divorce and gays' will not bring peace in the family, because they aren't part of God's promises. Our husbands are out, looking for unborn beauties to fill their emptiness, only to retire home with sexually transmitted diseases and HIV, producing unwanted children, which give rise to street children. Our children are losing parental care because of the death of their parents through HIV and AIDs. Our wives are looking for extra love and coin from extramarital affair which leads to the murder of their husbands, marriage breakdowns, and even death by sexual diseases. Others, by pull and push in marriages have developed bitterness, hatred, unforgiveness, pain, suffering, and even depression. Some had been blessed with wealth, but due to HIV and AIDS and marriage complications, they're spoiling their children's future. They have children, but lack of vision has led to bad character and suffering. I urge you to turn to the Lord Jesus and regain your senses. Pray for

your unfaithful spouse to change. After sincere prayer, give each other time to change. Do not stray too far! Begin a renewal of your soul, mind, and body. Some parents turn to heavy drinking to solve family and life challenges, but this is not a productive way forward. Let's seek the Lord!

He can bring us peace in the midst of all this. For some good men and women, life has become so challenging that the future seems bleak. Though it may take time, God's promise is true. He has a way out for you. Some have taken loans, failed to repay, and had their properties auctioned. This makes them wonder, 'Where is the future?' Some have resorted to crime but have not found peace. Some have become filled with anger due to failure to achieve their dreams. They don't take time to reflect on their lives. They react hastily in any situation and can easily become violent over minor disagreements.

Some young people have lost their anticipated partners and are frustrated, giving up on life. Others have vowed not to marry and are living as monks. Remember that the love of God is still with you! Don't give up and do not let the devil control you. Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Call on the name of the Lord to bring you peace and control your mind.

Do not give up in life while under the Lord's guidance. Some Christians have prayed for things and, due to delay, have given up. Do not grow weary in doing well. Some have been praying for God's blessings and have not received them. This is a time of restoration. Some women have been praying for their husbands, and husbands for their wives, but in vain. Their characters are deteriorating. I urge you not to give up, but to continue trusting in God. As long as you are in His plan, He will lead you through anything, even fire, and you will come out with Him. ***Lamentations 3:26*** teaches us that it is best to wait upon the Lord in patience.

The story of Naaman, who was healed after washing in the Jordan seven times (***2 Kings 5:10***), teaches us that giving up would never have

brought him the miracle and the power of the mighty God. In ***Genesis 21:14-19*** recounts the story of Abraham, Sarah, and Hagar. God's promise for a baby boy for the elderly couple eventually came true at the appointed time.

However, due to the long wait, Abraham and Sarah doubted and decided that Abraham should have a child with Hagar. They had a son named Ishmael but God later made it clear that Sarah would have a child, not Hagar. Hagar became a single parent due to their impatience. ***Mark 10:6-8*** reminds us that God's plan for marriage is that a man leaves his parents and is joined to his wife, and they become one.



## Chapter 4

### *Barriers to God's Promises: The Sin of Murmuring:*

As we walk on the journey of God's promises, sometimes we are hard-pressed with problems that are so tough that we end up complaining. Before I learned that God wants us to pray to Him, asking for help, direction, and even strength, I used to complain during challenges in the ministry and in my life journey. One day, I had just finished a revival meeting where many people had received the Lord and were saved from sin. Happy in Christ Jesus, I was also amazed at God's love and the touch to His people. But while on my way, I discovered that I was in need of funds that I did not have. I began to grumble to the Lord and said that I was tired of serving God when I needed money so seriously. I had forgotten His promises of provision to my needs (*Philippians 4:19*). As I reached the house, I was physically exhausted and had not enough food, whereas God had really reached His people through me. I was now being degraded spiritually that I did not pray before retiring to bed. But God really loves His children. At night, the Lord showed me an interesting vision.

In the vision, I was leading a huge crowd towards the sea. Near the sea, I was told to baptize every one of the people in water in the name of the Father [God], the Son [Jesus], and the Holy Spirit. After baptism, they were required to enter into a huge ship, which was near the place of baptism. When this work was over, I was told to walk on water and was given direction to the area where we were going.

The route on the water was drawn for me, and the journey began. I was so happy to have been given power to walk on the water whereas the people I led were in the ship. While in the middle of our journey in the ocean, I felt it was now too much for me to walk on water and be the ship director. I knew going into the ship meant that the journey would stop or the ship would lose direction and all the people would perish. I began to complain to the Lord and told Him that I was tired of leading this ship. I wanted to be in the ship with people. As I went on complaining, the power to float left me. I began to sink deep in the ocean vertically down.

Before I fully got drowned in the ocean, I cried out with a loud voice, "Lord! Have mercy on me and forgive!"

God will save you when you are losing track of His promises, the time you repent and call unto Him for help. To repent is to turn from evil and do right (*Isaiah 30:15, Acts 3:19, Acts 20:21*). The angel of the Lord came down for my rescue. He held the hairs on my head, as it was the only remaining part of my body, which was yet to drown off. He pulled me out and held me by His hand. Then He said to me, "I am angel Michael whom has been sent by God to rescue you." He was so harsh to me for what I had done. He told me that the Lord had made my feet strong as a horse, and my duty was only to speak and point as He does the work. My work was too little to complain about! He commanded me to arise and go on with my work, for I had not reached these people where they were destined.

With fear and trembling, I continued with my work. Saints, God gets angry with us when we murmur after receiving a negative report from spies (intellectuals and researchers). Those who keep their faith in God's promises don't keep complaining, but they keep praying and seeking His face. Research is good, in fact, the best, but what God has told you He will do, even without pre-proof, He will do! God sent Moses to deliver His people from Egypt by signs and wonders. Pharaoh and his people thought that God would give up His mission and Pharaoh's will dominate, but this did not work! God sent Elijah to present himself to King Ahab and promised to bring rain. After all that tough process of destroying Baal's prophets and prayer, God finally manifested Himself and brought rain. Don't give up, the Lord God is with you!

***1 Corinthians 10:10*** says ***“do not murmur as some of them did and they were destroyed.*** The sin of murmuring is a weapon that the devil uses to deny man what God has promised him. Many things happen to us in our lives, and if we are not focused on God's word, we murmur and lose hope. One of the things is when we face hardship in our life's journey. This makes us forget God who planned for us in our lives.

We are so used to moving in a smooth flow life that we fail to know that there are hardships, like the time the Israelites left the land of Egypt, God moved in their midst with signs and wonders till they had crossed the Red Sea. After a three-day journey, and had no water. They became thirsty and

murmured. Also, loss of property by fire, accident, or robbery can lead to murmuring.

When we focus on our belongings than the provider we are liable to murmuring whenever something we own gets lost. Our brother Job, in the old days, lost all physical properties that he had plus his own children. He was brought down from the famous richest man to one of the poor people of his days. I am convinced that he was a healthy man, but this test brought him to one of the deadliest sicknesses of those days. Where do you get this? He had boils (the words say). Life was so unfair to this innocent man. I am sure God never warned him before that he was going to face such a situation. It does happen to us.

We are not warned of our property that is going to be stolen, or about the fire that will burn our house in a few days to come. Neither are we informed of the coming sickness in our lives that will make us bedridden. Job was a real man of God! He withstood all this and remained a believer, looking to his God whom he served. (*Job 13:15, Job 5:18*).

Another thing is losing a loved one. We are so discouraged when we lose a close person whom we loved so much or we depended on him. We always question God why He took away such an important person when He knew that we needed him. Some people begin to live a hopeless life completely, never to become positive again. Some of us hate God for this action. We do not even want to associate ourselves with the things of God. It is only when we come to our senses and react like Job when he lost his beloved children who held his future.

Death is so bitter, my dear. It denies the rich his wealth, good worldly things, and the poor is denied his tattered clothes and an uncondusive life that he has lived. It disconnects us from our loved ones. Job knew that in this world we are passing by. Whatever family God gives unto you, He expects you to take care of it, but it belongs to Him. You give your child all that pertains to life, but he dies by accident, murder, or even incurable diseases. Why this if life is in our total control? One day onetime, we are all going to be out of our physical bodies. As I am writing to you this message, I am convinced and I believe that I will go to be with the Lord one day, and that I really wait as I serve Him!

That's why I pray that His word may dwell in me richly, and that may prepare myself for His promise of future eternal life. Dwelling in God's presence is a very special and precious thing I have desired. When He joins us in fellowship tears are fully wiped, joy is released in abundance, the atmosphere around us becomes spiritually admirable. God is good! A message of discouragement will also make us murmur in our lives. We see that out of the twelve spies, ten came with a message of defeat, and only two were positive.

The children of Israel could not understand this message. It was so hurting down deep in their hearts. "Why did we leave Egypt?" they asked. They preferred to have their children safe but in the land of slavery. They might have been questioning why God performed all those miracles to bring them to the land of death so that instead of dying in slavery, they all die in war! It's quite strange how these things were happening.

God never lies, but this message made them take God as a liar, though they had not reached that land and gotten defeated. Friends, we always do complain when we are told the door is locked for us. We have seen our dear youths committing suicide because of being deserted by their lady friends or boyfriends. They have wished they were never born and sometimes wish that they never met these people. We have seen people committing murder because they lost jobs, marriage hit the rocks, their leadership has been put to challenge. One day in my life as a servant of God, I was speaking in one church somewhere, and the Lord gave me a word of knowledge about a sister there who had tried to commit suicide three times but failed due to God's intervention. She had now decided to go and fall into the river that evening and vanish for good from the face of the earth.

For all these days, she had been so harsh to everybody, even her own mother. The friends in the church had begun to avoid her due to her harshness and abusive language that she was using. Nobody knew what she was going through apart from one girlfriend she had shared with. I called her for prayers. She came forward weeping. After a word of prayer for her, Jesus touched her pain and wiped her tears, showing her His personal love. Before you drop down due to being overwhelmed, turn back and look up on Christ Jesus. (Matt 11:28). I felt that I needed to interrogate her. She narrated to me how she had been in love with another

young man for two years, and they had agreed to enter into holy matrimony within the next four months. The man had promised her that he was going to pay part of the bride price, then do the necessary for this great day of their lives.

One day, this girl decided to have a fast of three days, so as to have God's assistance in all their plans. The third day in the evening, after her fast, the man of her dreams came by. She was so glad to have him visit her on a special day, which she had received spiritual nourishment. She served her future husband to be with a cup of tea and they sat to talk.

She could see from his reaction that this man wasn't at peace. At long last, this man told her point blank that their relationship was over. He did not want to say anything much beyond this statement. Were you this lady, what would you have done? She was so angry with God. She wondered why this would happen when she had prayed for their relationship! As we talked, the Lord told me that this man was suffering from HIV and did not want to waste time for this dear sister. This message of parting had come to this man after she had prayed and God wanted to save her. I told her, young lady, what the Lord is saying is true. He will confirm this to you in a short time to come. As we parted, I saw some hope in her eyes, and she promised never to commit suicide, but live till she will see the future that the Lord had for her.

After one month, she got a message from one of her friends who thought that they were still together with that man that he was sick and was admitted. When she went to that hospital, another friend of hers who was a nurse told her that they had found him HIV positive. After one week the man was no more, and she attended his funeral. She managed to forgive him at long last, and she also prayed that God forgives her. I met her three months later, and she was one of the happiest persons. She told me that she would never feel pain when she prays and God intervenes as a situation.

If saints who are believers in God would take it positively when they pray to God concerning His will in a situation, and He does something not their way, they would never fall out of life depressed and backslide. The point of focus is very important in every living man created by God, but His direction is the best. If we are on track with Him, we won't die in the boat at the middle of the ocean because of storms! We must be prepared to

handle discouragement in our lives and see how we can make it positive.

We have seen some of our parents who would have taken care of their children, some few more years committing suicide or living recklessly to end their lives because they have been told of their health status. When hope is gone and faith is gone, it's hard to be alive again. One day the Psalmist prayed and said, "*My soul, hope in the Lord.*" When all is gone, the Lord will remain. Jesus said that all things will pass away but God's word will remain standing forever. These are some of the things that affect a man in his life.

## Effects of Murmuring

1. When a Christian murmurs before God, he invites an invasion of satanic attacks. In the book of ***Numbers 21:4-6***, we see how God allowed serpents to bite and kill Israelites when they murmured against Him. A serpent stands for a demon.
2. Murmuring also means that you have not believed the promise that God made to you. And the Bible says in ***Hebrews 11:6*** that "*without faith, it is impossible to please God.*" Lack of belief made the Israelites be destroyed [***Jude 1:5***].
3. Murmuring brings God's judgment and punishment [***1 Cor 10:5***]. This will cause death, for the wages of sin is death. God wants you to stand firm in His word, so that He will destroy the devil by His hand. In the book of ***Jeremiah 28:16-17***, we see that when prophet Jeremiah gave a word of prophecy concerning the future of Israel, prophet Hananiah doubted it and he went as far as giving Jeremiah a nice slap. God judged Hananiah and he died because of this, though he was a whole prophet of God.
4. Murmuring removes the presence of the Lord in your life and the enemy (devil) gets more access to you. ***Numbers 14:42***, after murmuring and it angered the Lord, He was not in the midst of the Israelites. When the Lord is not with you, my dear, who is with you? You are either in the hands of the devil or in the hands of the Lord as His creature. The psalmist said one time like this; "*One thing I desire is that I may dwell in the house of the Lord my God all the days of my life.*" Moses once prayed and asked the Lord not to remove His presence from them. The Apostle Paul wrote and said, "*if God be for us, who can be against us?*" (***1 John 4:4***) The Lord who lives in us is greater than the devil in the

world surrounding us. This means if the Lord has left you, you are already with the devil, *'the enemy of God's plan for you.'*

5. Murmuring makes you lose the promise the Lord made for you. **Hebrews 3:11, 17, 19** shows how they lost their promises because of murmuring, which was caused by unbelief. That's not what God expects from His children. As you travel along the way to attain God's promises for you, situations cause you to lose faith. Things are sometimes so tough that you have no other alternative other than losing faith, which prevents you from achieving the goal. **Deuteronomy 1:34-35** says *"The Lord heard the voice of their murmur and swore, saying that none of this evil generation was going to step in Canaan."*
6. Murmuring brings disobedience. This is where one starts doing things presumptuously, and in rebellion. Israelites decided to go forward without God. They were unable to obey when Moses warned them not to proceed. A man who tries to calm down before making the next step in a situation gets things more right at most. **Deuteronomy 1:43, 45** say *"The Israelites returned from defeat and cried to God who never heard their prayer."* It was time to repent, but they prayed. In the book of **Isaiah 59**, we learn that the hand of God is not short to save, nor unable to deliver, but our sins do separate us from God.

This lesson has been so challenging to me. However much we feel that we are so sinful, God is still faithful and able to forgive us when we repent. If the Israelites repented the way they did in **Numbers 20**, they would have been forgiven. Many times when we sin, we do not repent but give excuses for our sin, which isn't right with our God. I once faced this situation in my life.

This is just one experience, but saints, we do get into this sin many times. I had a purpose to go to the United States for my higher education. I was so focused that I could not turn to any side apart from American University. One time, my trip was at stake because I wasn't making any progress. I kept on complaining until I hated everything, including myself. I lost track and stopped moving. I was doing completely nothing until one day the Lord spoke and said, "Now that you are not going to America, turn around and look for something to do." As I was asking Him, He showed me that I was in the university and was studying animal diseases. I wondered because it had not come to my mind to take such a course. Two years later, the vision came true!

## Why should we stop murmuring?

1. Because the Bible says so in the book of 1 Corinthians 10:10.
2. So that we may not be judged nor destroyed by the hand of the Lord.
3. Because it does not improve our situations but worsens them and gives the accuser (the devil) a chance to be on you.
4. It causes bad side effects on your life. ***Proverbs 18:24*** says, "***Life and death are in the power of the tongue.***" Your tongue can bless or curse your own life. Negative utterances concerning God's promises for you can cause bad side effects. Your attitude will always move by your confession. No wonder the Apostle Paul advises us when we are sick to say, "***I am healed,***" and when poor to say, "***I am rich.***"

## How should we stop murmuring?

1. We must learn to thank the Lord for everything and in everything. 1 ***Thessalonians 5:16-17***. Our dear brother Job did it. When he received a report opposite of the good daily reports, he rent his clothes and worshiped the Lord, saying, "***Blessed be the name of the Lord, for He gave and He has taken.***" (***Job 1:12-3:4***). This is hard for anybody to say when faced with such a challenge! Job was so focused on the promise of eternal life. This made him curse the day he was born, for it made him face this on earth. He blessed the day he would die, for he knew there is hope and light in the life eternal. He equipped himself so well for God's promises. He guarded his tongue. He knew he could not be blessed yesterday but now and future. He said, "Let there be darkness in my past but light in my future." Saints, let's really learn to thank the Lord for everything and in everything. The power of Job's tongue made him see a blessed future than the past one. Get clothed with praise and thanksgiving. Our brothers Paul and Silas faced imprisonment because they were preaching the living Jesus Christ. They were whipped and wounded, then chained together with criminals. Despite all this, they still praised the Lord with songs until the presence of the Lord came down, causing prison doors to open. They turned their problem into a blessing. God gave them peace, and they were encouraged to go and preach the more! The doors did not open because they complained.



2. ***Philippians 4:6-8***. We are called upon to pray about everything. God does not encourage us to entertain worries as we face challenges on our promises from Him. By prayer and supplication, we should make our requests be known to God. Worry is labor, but labor in vain. Psalm 127:2 says, "It is in vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he gives his beloved sleep." Saints, God's promises are for us. Let's present to Him the challenges we face, for He will help us get going till we attain the promises.

3. ***Be still and know that I am God - Psalms 46:10***. Hold your peace in the presence of the Lord. He has a good plan for you. He is prepared to lead you safely! Moses said the same words to the Israelites. [*Exodus 14:13*]. You must believe in God [*2Chron 20:20*] - If you believe in the Lord's report - by prophecy and His word, you will not be swayed by situations. To equip yourself, read and study the Lord's word regularly. He is there for you.

4. ***Proverbs 3:5-7*** say Trust in the Lord and lean not on your own understanding. God has promised and is faithful. Don't doubt Him! The understanding you have may be the one God had, but He has a solution with Himself when it comes to what He has promised you.

5. ***Rom 12:1-2, Matt 11:28, and 1 Peter 5:7*** say Surrender all things pertaining to life to God. I mean all, not some! You need peace of mind for you to run a healthy life, so as to achieve God's promises. God is not limited. Don't weigh Him with your problem because He was, He is, and He will be, but your problem is reversible. I know it was hard for Israelites to grab the land of promise by faith because they had believed God only when a miracle happened and not near the miracle. This meant they did not believe God's promises.

Friend, God is a God of promises. A promise is what you purpose to do in the near future. You can't promise what you've already done. God is faithful to His promises. The Israelites of the time were so poor in faith that they did not please God. After one miracle, they were not sure that God could perform the next! What a poor group of believers they were. Many believers of today are facing the same challenges. We only believe when we see. Disbelief caused that generation to perish in the wilderness.

Jesus said, *"Woe unto you who do not believe, yet the Son of God is in your midst."* Simple faith says we must believe God is and will be. Faith is a substance of things hoped for. It is the title deed of hope object. Joshua and Caleb possessed the Promised Land because they had faith. They saw the sons of Anakim, the highly raised and strongly built walls of Jericho, but they saw God high up above the heavens. He reigns above and below forever and ever.

This gave them the title deed to possess the blessing. They were not yet there, but had the title deed and no one would deny them the land!

Dear, what you believe in, according to God's will and promises, is exactly that way. However strong the gates are, however raised the mountains are before you, it remains as God said. The time the apostles were preaching the gospel, the Pharisees and the chief priests took them into prison and locked them in. They even put the security men in charge of the gates. But this did not stop them from being free. As a saint, I die when God says I die and live when He says so! God is not going to direct you to the slaughterhouse and allow them to kill you before He has done it all with you in the world.

Jesus foretold of His death and resurrection. The chief priests heard it with their ears and prepared a sure security to prevent Him from resurrecting. They put a big stone and a strong army of equipped watchmen at the grave. But this did not mean that they could prevent Him from resurrecting! What is the work of man to the power of the almighty God? God created man, and the brain of man has made the things man calls powerful and supreme, whereas the highest limit of man's thinking is the beginning of God's foolishness. The bulky bodies of the Anakims' sons were only dust and ash and flowers that shine and immediately wither. They can't compare with the word of God, which remains the same forever.

The wall of Jericho was built by man, who was created by God. If I am a boss over 10 billion dollars, and I make you charge over one thousand, you are not my boss! With your one thousand, I can totally do without it! But you can't do without mine. That's God and man. God needs you, and you need God, but He can do without you. A friend of God is one who believes. When you believe God, you are sure to face tomorrow because

you know He lives.

***Daniel 11:32 say "those who know their God shall be strong and shall do exploit."*** Israelites did not know their God. They saw miracles from God they did not know nor believe. That's why they could easily turn and worship idols. With such miracles, how could they bow before an idol that did nothing? Man is strange and really strange! Where on earth have you read that God worshipped man? This is because man is His creature. How and why would man make an idol without breath and worship it instead of God?

# Chapter 5

## *Barriers to God's Promises: Disobedience*

Disobedience is failing to do what you are supposed to do, or doing what you are not supposed to do. It's also doing what you are supposed to do in the wrong way.

***Deuteronomy 1:39, 42-43 say Moreover, your little ones, which you said should be prey, and your children which in that day had no knowledge between good and evil, they shall go in there, and unto them will I give it, and they shall possess it. And the Lord said unto me, say unto them; go not up, neither fight; for I am not among you; lest you be smitten before your enemies. So I spoke unto you; and you would not hear, but rebelled against the commandment of the Lord, and went presumptuously up into the hill.***

The sin of rebellion is as witchcraft. Saints, to get the promises of God, do not need rebellion. You must be ready to stop when the Lord says stop, and move when He says you move! Look at our friend who was a powerful evangelist. His name is Jonah. ***[Jonah 1:1]*** This saint was a great servant of God. God had called him. He had obeyed the call, thus he was serving. But in his service, he decided to rebel. God gave him a word to go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it, for their wickedness had come up before God. The plan of God was that those who hear his voice and repent; He would pardon and remember their sins no more. The promise of God in the book of ***2 Peter 3:9*** say ***The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.***

Jonah was trying to interfere with God's plan and promise. God was going to destroy the land of Nineveh, but before destruction, He was going to send a warning and give a chance for repentance. Jonah decided to flee to Tarshish. Jonah is a type of preacher who is called and directed by God to go and save the lost in a tough, sinful place, but is running to green pastures where he wasn't called. Right now, some people like Jonah are on their way to a different direction though they're called 'evangelist Jonahs.'

All they want is a suitable and comfortable land where you don't deal with evil most.

Dear, every promise of God requires a step of faith and obedience. Sometimes the price you pay is so high that you can easily surrender and give up. Jonah knew that the people of Nineveh were stiff-necked. He forgot that the one who called him was more powerful and is a convictor of souls. He was the one to save, but Jonah was the message carrier. Though he took his own way, he did not see Tarshish. The Lord brought trouble on the way. He tried to hide among the innocent travelers, but there was still no peace! He was found and thrown into the sea. God did not allow him to die in the sea [wilderness] because he was carrying an important message. While in the belly of the great fish, which the Lord had prepared, Jonah repented and cried unto the Lord for another chance to live. [Jonah 1:17] The fish took him right at the shore of Nineveh where he had avoided. Things God has purposed to do can't be totally stopped by man. As we are called into God's kingdom, when we fall away, He gives us another chance to come back to Him.

When you disobey God, you can't expect the blessings of all. Troubles, trials, anxieties, and anguish come your way like a whirlwind. Sometimes others suffer, even our children, our mate, brothers and sisters, mums and dads, together with friends. Nineveh was a gentle city, and Jonah wasn't prepared to go there. But you can't get away from God's presence, no matter where you may go. The Psalmist said, **"Where can I hide from thy face, O Lord?"** Some feel that if they could just get out of the church they're attending and go far off, it would be well with them, but it won't! God will be right there to deal with you wherever you go.

If you have a calling on your life, you cannot run from it. You may deny it and cast it aside, but it will follow you to the grave. Knowing that you disobeyed God will haunt you, and you will keep asking yourself, "Why did I rebel?" On the ship, while others were praying to their gods and throwing their belongings, evangelist Jonah was dead asleep. Some people are spiritually sleeping because of their rebellion against God's word for them. They think that everything is fine, but one day they will have to wake up, only to discover that there is a storm and they are feeling the impact. In verse 6-9, we see how Jonah said, ***"I am a Hebrew; I fear the Lord." When spiritually asleep, a Christian says everything is fine. I love the Lord! I am praying and doing everything I am supposed to do! But they know they have rebelled against the word of God. Jonah confessed that he was fleeing from God's presence and the people tried to take the ship to the shore in***

***vain. They were trying to be good to him, but he never changed the mind of God! Many people tell the disobedient person smooth talk of encouragement, "we will get along, everything will just be fine."***

They don't know they are hurting the person plus themselves. God, by His love, gave you His only begotten son, that if you believe in Him, you would not perish. Why would you want to do something that is disobedient to Him? When God has called you to do something, heed that call, care for it, cherish it, and obey it. Don't take the idea that you can do your own thing now and later take up the call! Jonah could not go to Tarshish first and later come back to Nineveh! Disobedience can lead to days, weeks, months, and even years of afflictions.

Another good saint, who was born anointed as a great judge of Israel, was Samson. He was a good judge, but his life changed when he disobeyed God. God had a special anointing for this leader. He knew what God had promised about him. He knew the rules pertaining to his call but wasn't prepared to keep them. God had warned the Israelites not to marry foreigners, but Samson did not obey this! He was a leader, but the first foreign lady we see Samson with is a harlot. A chosen saint to be found with a harlot in bed? This day changed Samson's whole life. He became rebellious to elders' advice, up to his own parents. By this, he was out of God's plan and ways, thus losing God's promises for him. By the time he reached Delilah's body, Samson was anxious, double-minded, and full of lust's trials. No one could stop him because of his might. He also had freedom of choice.

God has given you a promise and a choice, my dear. You can decide to obey His word and get the promise or disobey and lose it! Though Samson rebelled, he believed that he would disapprove God's promise of not putting darkness into light. He knew that inviting sin into his life was putting away God's spirit and power. For sure, that's what happened. He must have expected a powerful and a brilliant future, which did not come. He was a healthy young man, full of the spirit from God and His power. But when he revealed its source to Delilah, she removed it, called the Philistines, and Samson, rising and shaking himself up, found that he was powerless.

The Philistines took him in, removed his eyes, and he became a blind Samson who could not see the future as a mighty judge of Israel. On his final day of death, he prayed that God would give him one chance to defeat the enemy as he goes home. He died one day a hero but did not

achieve the promise to the end. Yes, he served for twenty years, but he died for rebellion to God's promises. Many saints, like our dear servant of God Samson, have reached a time of rebellion. They know God's promises and purpose for them, but are deliberately walking out of it! Some pastors, teachers, prophets, apostles, and evangelists are not going to reach their promise from God because of disobedience and rebellion! Not only will these groups, a lot of people lose their vision because they rebel against the road to it.

In *Numbers 22-31*, we see prophet Balaam. God tells him not to go and meet King Balak, but Balaam insists that God allow him to go because of the promises the king made to him: prestige, honor, and money. Finally, we see him in Numbers 31:8 slaughtered with a sword! He can't go long enough in his ministry because of a change of focus. When what we want is contrary to God's will and word, the worst judgment God can send to us is to let us have what we insist on, but we pay the price on our way. *Psalms 106:5*-He gave them their requests but sent leanness into their hearts.

You need to ask the Lord not to let you have your own way when it's contrary to His will. Let Him cause you to know His will and fulfill it. From our first book of *Deuteronomy 1:42-43*, I can tell you that if you know the battle belongs to God and He is not in your midst, how do you go for war? You need Him, my dear. The Israelites were not conquering their enemies because of their strength, but God's. Without His hand, they were defeated. The same applies to us. You can't achieve and move in God's promises without His help! Christians, we should not be quick to doubt God's word. He is faithful. Being known for faithfulness, God is dependable. When He says 'No,' that's it, and when He says 'Yes,' He means it. Do not fear the resisting forces on what God promises you. He will be with you to complete it! Isaiah 43:1-5 says, 'Fear not; for I am with you.' He told the Israelites in Nehemiah's days to rebuild the city of Jerusalem. Many who believed to be great wanted to resist the construction, but it was God's plan, thus no one could stop it. When God tells you to go and do something, He is actually going to do it through you. All you need is to obey what He has told you.

Some time back, I had gone to visit our home, and one of our church members had a tough financial problem. The family was getting torn apart because there was no fee for the children's education, and food shortage was their daily experience. We had some food in my family, but we were nearly going through the same problem. While I was planning to leave home back to town, the Lord showed me a vision concerning the situation of this family in depth, and then He told me, *"Arthur, you are the one to feed this family now, and also take the*

***children back to school."*** This shocked me because I had no money. Within my pocket, I had sixty Kenya shillings. I woke up in the morning, not knowing what to do.

I spent the whole day thinking of how I was going to help. I had booked my bus back to the city and had the ticket, but I needed fifty shillings for the bus stage. It was during the afternoon when I made up my mind to obey the Lord's word and went to visit this family. By seeing me, they were so happy! I shared a lot of God's word with them. I was with a brother in Christ who had accompanied me. For sure, they did not even have a meal to put on the table for us. After our chat, I introduced to them the good news that I had come with enough food together with school fees.

I assured their children that I was going to take all three of them to school. After my words of assurance, together with the word of God, they knelt down, so humbled, to a word of prayer. My prayer went like this, ***"Lord, I thank you because you know that I am unable to do what you told me to do concerning the situation of this family. But I am just a vessel to be used. What I have, I am handing the whole of it to this family to take the children to school and supply their food according to your word. Thank you, Lord, because you are fulfilling your word. In Jesus' name, I have believed and prayed. Amen."*** At the end of my prayer, I gave the money to the mother of the family.

She couldn't believe that the money helped much, but at least they had something to eat that night. We left them feeling happier and more hopeful than when we found them. The next day, a lady I had prayed for blessed me with one thousand shillings for my travel back to the city. I felt so grateful to God that I decided to use the money to buy exercise books for a child in need. Before I left that evening, someone offered to take the same child to school the following day. As I departed, good things started happening. Two weeks later, I received word that all three family members were in school and had enough food. I give all the glory to God. Sometimes we may doubt God's promises, but if we obey and trust Him, He will prove Himself faithful.

John 2:1-10 says ***"And on the third day, there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Both Jesus and his disciples were called to the marriage. And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus said unto him, 'They have no wine.' Jesus said unto her, 'Woman, what have I to do with you? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said unto the servants, 'Whatever he says unto you, do it.' And***



*there were set six water pots of stone, after the manner of purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece. Jesus said unto them, "Fill the water pots." And they filled them to the brim. And he said unto them, "Draw out now and bear unto the governor of the feast." And they bore it. When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine and didn't know where it came from (but the servants who drew the water knew), the governor of the feast called the bridegroom and said unto him, "Every man at the beginning sets forth good wine, and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse; but you have kept the good wine until now."*

All these happened under faith and obedience. By faith, Mary went to Jesus to inform him of the finished wine. She knew the Messiah must have some help in this situation. If it were of our days, could anyone turn to God for physical needs? Not many would turn to God in such a faith. Secondly, she advised the servants to do as Jesus was going to say. Mary was a good preacher of the moment. She knew who Jesus was and that his word was alive. She did not want these people to be swayed around. Their goal was to get more wine and she had the person to turn them to. Right now Jesus still says, "Come to me all, all those who are carrying heavy burdens and I shall give you rest." You need rest my dear, and he is the giver.

You may obey this word or continue carrying your burdens till they pin you down before you enter the rest of the Lord. Would you please, "do as Jesus tells you?" Putting water into pots and expecting wine is not a natural phenomenon of wine production the process would have been so cheap! When you fill a pot with water, you will get it still water after three days. But the servants just filled the pots to the brim. They were desperate, for they had faced a shortage in the middle of the feast. They were unsettled, but there was only one way to solve their moment problem; 'to do what Jesus says they do.' Unless you obey, you won't get the water and hand it to the master of the ceremony to taste the wine. Imagine it was wine at the tasting of the ceremony master.

Once Jesus touched the lepers and told them 'Go show yourselves to your priests as they went, they became whole and priests declared them clean. They were not healed before taking this step. The water could only be wine at the testing of the chief guest of the ceremony. Many of us have and will never see what God promised us to come true because of fear, doubt, and murmuring. Fear has made many people remain in their

cocoons of dormancy. When told 'pick up your thing and go free,' they are afraid of being in freedom. No wonder Jesus came to set the captives free, but many captives fear freedom. Some could be born again at the moment, but they fear being born again, losing some worldly things that God does not condone, being deserted by a boyfriend or girlfriend, and disillusioned by family members and workmates. They know that if they become believers, they will be saved and will get into eternal life if they keep the faith, but the prize looks too high to be achieved.

The woman with the issue of blood for twelve years was a captive of the situation. [Mark 5]. She had stayed in this situation for a good time to get used to it. But when she heard of a savior, she changed her mind. This was her situation because she had no savior. But now that He had come, she wasn't going to hesitate. During those days, such a woman was not to be seen among people, and a woman could not see the priest and leave unstoned in such a situation. She had to focus on the healer, till she could not see the multitudes. She needed healing and not people. She wanted to touch only the helm of Jesus and not to hug him. She needed peace from the peace giver. She was not looking for recognition in her tough, painful, and shameful situation. Why hide in your hard-pressed situation when you have the savior? All you need is Jesus. She came from far off, but immediately she touched the helm, her issue stopped. She was now whole, and could now see other people who were with Jesus because she was whole. Let's not focus on those barriers of our breakthrough, but focus on the promises of God and God himself. Jesus said, "I came that you may have life and have it in abundance. I came that you may be free and free indeed." Be set free from fear.

Pride is an enemy of the journey to God's promises for you. God wants you to trust him and be fully sure that He can perform. Do not be double-minded. Just enquire of His direction on where he has told you to go and begin to go. God has no useless plan for you, but the whole of it is useful. That's why when you depend on him you will depend on his promises and you will walk in them to achieve them. Naaman was a captain of the host of the king of Syria, a great man with his master and honorable because by him the Lord had given deliverance unto Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper (**2Kings 5:1**). *And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying Go and wash in Jordan seven times and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean. But Naaman was wroth and went away and said 'Behold, I thought He will surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God and strike his hand*

*over the place and recover the leprosy. Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus better than all the waters of Israel? May I not wash in them, and be clean?*

So he turned and went away in a rage. His servants were of encouragement to him till he obeyed and flesh became like that of a little child and he was clean. The spirit of pride was going to prevent this man from healing. When he left his nation of Syria, he had a vision of getting clean. He had been promised that when he came to see the man of God, he would become whole. But as much as he expected to heal, he expected it his way and thought not God's way. He wanted the man to come out of his place in humility to the 'Big' Naaman and humble and even touch the leprosy and remove it. But he got it wrong!

Many people approach the throne of God with pride that when they leave, they go home with their situation both physically and spiritually. While Naaman was coming to Israel, he passed the two rivers he was talking about. He used to shower purified and treated water, but it could not cure him! He carried wealth for he also thought that by bringing wealth he would touch the heart of the prophet by paying and getting well. Elisha did not even come out to see what Naaman had for him to give a word. Though Naaman got this word opposite of his expectation, he had come with faith that he was going to be made clean. There were clean rivers in Damascus than Israel, but God was in Israel. Having better things in your house than in the house of God does not guarantee that you will be safe and well at home than in the church. God made the difference!

If you want to get into God's promises, be where He is, even if it's uncomfortable for you. You must be humble, and He will lift you! The time you want to carry Damascus with you into God's land, you find it impossible. Don't compare the good things of the world and the anointed things of God. Anointing makes the difference. We must swallow our pride and do what God wants us to do. Some people are praised and worshipped by subjects to the level that they forget to praise and worship God their creator.

They even expect to be worshipped right in the house of God. Naaman, though sick, expected worship from Prophet Elisha, who never bothered to do it anyway. By humility, Naaman went to Jordan, the dirty river in Israel, washed himself seven times and for sure he was clean! If the prophet talked of the worldly pays, Naaman had them, but he forgot one

thing that all the things of the world belong to God. Even the wealthiest man has just been given part of God's blessings. You're just given these things by grace my dear. God had a healing in the things found in His land, and not in Damascus for Naaman. Pride leads us to rebellion and disobedience, which destroys our journey towards God's promises. Going back to Syria with his problem because of pride would not have saved Naaman.

We must obey God's word for us to move in His promises. Sticking where you are makes things worse. As I said before, it's a sin when you fail to do what you are supposed to do while you know it. God told the Israelites that they were going to the land of Canaan. That generation lost the land because of doubt! They expected God to break the walls of Jericho and destroy the Anakims' sons while they were still far off so that they would believe the land was theirs. That was not God's operation. He was fighting one war at a time. This is a chronological arrangement of God concerning his promises. He did not make a way to the Red Sea before the Israelites reached there. They saw the miracle while stuck there at the shore. God knew this was the route, but he waited for them. Don't lose sight while on the journey to God's promises. Seeing the Red Sea may challenge your faith, but God who told you to move in that direction already had a plan for you. He already made a way right in the middle of your barriers. Don't turn back! At the Red Sea, God was teaching his people that at the next battle, as long as He was with them, victory was sure. You don't need to be dismayed. God will be right there with you.

Friend, do not allow anyone to kill what the Lord has purposed in your life. We have advisers, but some don't know the tough journey you have made and the obstacles God has planned for you to go through. Neither a spy nor scientist could have predicted that without a miracle, the children of Israel could pass through the Red Sea. It was not naturally possible. Egyptians pursued the Israelites, but they all perished.

Sometimes we may want to backtrack on our journey, but we discover that even going back through the same route needs a miracle. God will not prepare a way on the Red Sea to go back. God has blessed us with wise men and women in the gospel and the community. When they know that this is entirely the hand of God taking you to what and where He has promised you, they will advise you positively and discourage you from getting off track. But other voices may discourage your focus.

The ten spies advised against the Israelites going to the land of promise. They were discouraging them from achieving their goals. The wall of Jericho was not tougher than crossing the Red Sea, but they still lost their faith because of this advice.

## **Prayer: Weapon to Our Journey.**

If it were not for God, some of us would not be where we are at the moment. Depending on God is not easy, with the world totally around us. We must be careful by watching and praying, lest we doubt the word of God. It was during one of my fasting sessions while at Mombasa in my foster mother's house. They were there for me while in fourth form in my high school, and six years down the line, I have stayed with this family. My meeting with them came around while I was with my friend who was their son. We met in high school, and we were classmates. In our second grade, I led him to receive Christ as Lord and Savior. We began to love and cherish each other as brothers. We ended up in the same room in our dormitory, and we were desk mates. When his parents came to visit him, they got to know me, and my spirit united with them. This was the beginning of our togetherness. I thank God for that.

Back to my testimony, during the fast, I prayed and studied the Word of God. One night, while I was in deep sleep, I saw a vision that changed my life. I dreamt that I was in a big field which I could not see its end and was filled with lots of short but strongly standing objects like people, which looked like idols. These creatures were shorter than me, around two feet tall, but strongly built. Where I was standing, and praying vigorously as though in a wrestling field there was a woman behind me.

This prayer had power as I rebuked, those standing creatures were falling down. As this happened, I was moving forward, as they fell. As I approached the middle of the field, I saw a man whom I knew was a believer in God. He was so afraid though he did not fall down. He began to run as fast as he could towards me. Immediately he reached me, he hugged me, crying and complaining that I was rebuking him and making him uncomfortable. This shocked me, but I encouraged him and told him to stand behind me, for I was at war with the devil and his demons and not with man.

As I went towards the end which I could not see, I was lifted up to heaven.

I stood before the Lord, and there were four angels on his right-hand side.

## **The four kinds of prayer levels**

I was full of the fear of the Lord in His presence. The four angels had each a bowl that was transparent. The Lord was speaking to me and explaining the whole story. "There are four kinds of prayer levels," He said. The first angel had a bowl that was empty and dry. The second bowl had a little liquid, the third one was almost half, and the fourth was full. The Lord went on to tell me that the liquid within the three bowls was the prayer of the saints.

### ***The First Bowl***

The first bowl was explained as a totally prayer-less group who never uttered a single word of prayer to God who are living under grace.

### ***The Second Bowl***

The second angel had a bowl with very little liquid which symbolized the saints who pray only in need of food on Sundays. Their prayer does not cause any havoc in the spiritual realm. Also, such people are living by God's grace. They like comfort zones, and they're lukewarm in their spiritual lives.

### ***The Third Bowl***

The third bowl was half full. These are people who pray by routine. They fear going in deep God-seeking prayers and with such lacks spiritual breakthrough. There have no revival, and are lazy in fellowship. They do have some spiritual fire, which comes and goes off immediately.

### ***The Fourth Bowl***

Turning on the fourth angel with a full bowl, the Lord looked at me and said, "You are in this bowl, but you are not fully praying at that level. This is a type of Elijah's prayers. One prays till he can declare God's oracles. Elijah declared not to rain till at his word. He had really mourned for the people of Israel while they were in idolatry. Such prayers are

effective. You pray to see God's word come true, not just because it's time for prayer. It's an out of comfort zone prayer."

He went on to explain to me a situation whereby Jesus, after dismissing the crowd, went to pray and after this, he began to walk on water while the waves were disturbing the boat the disciples were in. The Bible says that the disciples saw Jesus and thought it was a ghost. John recognized him, but strangely, Jesus was walking on water, which had powerful waves. Peter, who was in the boat with other disciples, called out and said, "Lord, if you are the one, bid me to come to you." Jesus bid him, and at his word, Peter left the boat.

The boat was a bit comfortable, though the waves were disturbing it. He went right and stepped into the uncomfortable zone. He was fighting right in the warfare to reach where his master was. He was fighting the battle Jesus was fighting, but not waiting in the boat anymore. Because he obeyed, Peter was the only disciple who walked on water.

Right there, he began to lose faith when he focused on the waves because they were powerful, but the Lord was with him in the battle. No wonder Peter was also crucified at his death but decided to be upside down. Jesus, as a real intercessor, goes right into the battle. Deep mourners in prayer also go right into the battle. The fourth type is also a real intercessor. Day and night, he prays for saints and for the lost. He has no rest till he sees results. He wants saints to keep the faith, to be established, to preach the gospel, and God's glory to rest within the world through them.

Such a church experiences real revival, takes inventory of demon-possessed areas, witchcraft dominating areas, and declares the captives free. This type of prayer makes hypocrites and lukewarm people uncomfortable, though they're present. It shakes the devil's kingdom. It brings healing of the soul and the spirit. It's the mother of real spiritual salvation and deliverance.

I can remember in his last part, he talked of the teaching of tears in the book of Revelation. I had personally never understood this teaching till that night. By the time I left that place to come back to my senses, it was midnight. I couldn't sleep anymore. I had been taught a new teaching on prayer, and what I wanted was to pray. I felt like even though I was fasting, I had never really prayed. From that moment to 7 a.m. in the

morning, I was in prayer, and hours were passing like minutes.

Dear, to reach what God has promised us, let's pray. God has promised to be exalted even among the heathen and in all nations. Let's pray to torment the spiritual powers and dominions of darkness. Prayer is a detonator of spiritual bombs of the devil and a releaser of these and exploding bombs of the mighty God.

Satan has weapons to destroy the children of the mighty God, but prayer renders them useless! In ***Revelation 8:3-5*** the prayer of Elijah, when he wanted rain to come, after God had promised him the rain. He did what Jesus taught of watching and praying. In ***1 Kings 18:43***, Elijah's posture of prayer was somehow unusual. It was the position for travail-the painful pressure necessary for birth. The same way, the Holy Spirit often causes us to travail in prayer so that God's word and purpose can be brought to birth. Elijah was praying and watching through this servant. The servant would go and watch for the sign of the cloud while Elijah prayed. After seven times of praying and watching, there arose a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said to the servant, ***"Go up, say unto Ahab, prepare thy chariot, and get thee down, that the rain stop thee not."*** (Verse 44-46).

The power of the Lord came upon Elijah, and taking his cloak into his belt, he ran ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel. Imagine, after prayer, the man of God could run faster than the chariot! Elijah was waiting upon the Lord to see the promise of rain come true. He wasn't prepared to pray and forget. He watched till he saw it happen. His tears were right in the bowl that is full in heaven. He was praying that Israel may turn back to the living God, and for sure, revival came, and the enemy of God was not at peace at that time. Saints, let's watch and pray! Souls are languishing in Satan's cells and prisons. They need freedom. They're crying, and your prayers can do havoc to the cells and locks of the devil. You're the candidate, my dear reader.

Elijah was a man like you and me. Let's pray, saints, let's pray! Remember Daniel, Meshack, Shadrach, and Abednego's prayers. They prayed even when it was wrong according to the nation's decree. They knew God's promise of saving in any situation and His desire to be worshipped by all. They prayed till even the heathen found out that they did really pray. They were judged and proved guilty, but their bowels were full in heaven.



Prayer warriors who fill their bowels in heaven bring out results in every area. God lifts and lowers kings. Those who exalt themselves and claim to be gods in the land of God-fearing people are lowered back to dust by the prayers of the saints. People like the Great Ahab were preyed by dogs! They were so proud, but by the prayer of the servant of God, they could not live and die in prestige. Their generations were cleared.

Prayer is a real weapon in the spiritual realms. It gives no peace to the false prophets and soothsayers. It's a real weapon for God's promises since it makes them come true. Prayer: ***"Lord, help me to be a mourner, which I may come to see real results of prayer."*** —Lord, teach us to pray! ***Luke 11:1.*** It was stated by one, ***"Those who believe pray, and those who pray believe!"***

Where are you, my dear reader? If you believe, you won't complain to God, but you would rather pray. If you pray, you do not doubt because those who come to the Lord must believe that ***He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.*** This is faith. God is not air, but real. Let's press on to achieve the goal that the Lord has set before us. ***The journey is long, the race is tough and strenuous, but we're going to see the king!***

Runners run; they're sure they will finish the race; they're set to win! This is because of practice and preparation. Some runners are well-trained and rehearsed, but they're still not sure that they can obtain anything in life. After training and equipping yourself, you are sure to win, come what may, as long as everything is well set in the field for you. What a wonderful assurance! Answers were coming down that even the fire could not burn them.

Daniel could not be preyed by lions in the den. They had tough decrees for those who served the living God, but God disapproved their decrees and went ahead to exalt Himself the more. Many people turned to God, and there was revival in Babylon up to the palace.

# Chapter 6

## *Seeking God's Promises*

***Genesis 21:14-19; And Abraham rose up early in the morning and took bread, and a bottle of water, and gave it unto Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, and the child, and sent her away: and she departed and wandered in the wilderness of Beersheba. And the water was spent in the bottle, and she cast the child under one of the shrubs. And she went and sat her down over against him a good way off, as it were a bowshot; for she said, let me not see the death of the child. And she sat over against him and lift up her voice, and wept. And God heard the voice of the lad; and the angel of God called unto her; what aileth thee, Hagar? Fear not, for God has heard the voice of the lad where he is. Arise, lift up the lad and hold him in thy hand: for I will make him a great nation. And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water, and gave it to the lad to drink.***

A vision is an objective with a plan for achieving it. A promise from the Lord indicates that it is part of His plan for you to succeed. For Abraham and his wife Sarah, God had a vision. In their old age, he promised this lovely couple a boy child. Such a family would never be expected to become parents. The wife resembled a granny who had finished having children. Nevertheless, God kept his promise to them, and it was fulfilled in God's time. But because it was taking so long, Abraham and Sarah talked about how they would have this baby for a long time in a family committee. Sarah firmly believed that Abraham was meant to be with another woman, not her.

Ishmael was Hagar's son, conceived and born when Hagar was acquainted with Abraham. Although God had promised a son, he clarified that this was not what he meant when he stated Sarah would become pregnant.

Abraham's family was about to grow with this baby son. The birth of the child brought about gladness. As the kid grew older, Sarah insisted that Hagar be sent away. When God said the same thing, Abraham had to obey.

***Mark 1 0:6-8; But from the beginning of creation, God made them male and female. For this cause shall a man live his mother and father, and cleave to his wife; and the two shall be one flesh: so then they are no more two, but one flesh.***

To realize a goal, you may occasionally need to relocate from one location to another. A child's upbringing is under the control of their parents. However, the woman leaves her parents when the prospect of marriage arises, and the guy follows suit in order to start a new family. God has made this promise. Parenting alone is not part of God's plan. Abraham and Sarah's impatience led to Hagar being a lone parent. Ishmael was the one who ordered Hagar's exile.

Before this new vision, Hagar was Sarah's servant. She was no longer in contact with the child's father. She was by alone now, holding her future in the palm of her tiny boy's hand and a little water. It was up to him to carry on Hagar's name. She was traveling to a distant country after losing her work and the man who had transformed her from a maid to a mother. In his vision, Joseph saw himself as a powerful man who had people—including his own brothers—bowing before him (*Genesis 37–45*). This vision would not be conceivable while he was still at home with his family, as his own father had rebuked him! Jacob had been a dreamer who had received the majority of God's promises in dreams, but he questioned the vision God had given his son.

But God had placed it in Joseph. The father adored him so much that he could send him anywhere far from home. Thank God that the spirit of hatred entered his brothers. If they had given him their entire devotion, like their father had, Joseph's vision would not have been realized. Some of us have a desire that God has placed in our hearts to achieve, but we are so good to everyone around us that we are unable to move forward.

We adore our home so much that we cannot bear the thought of taking a step closer to our dream. We adore being single and would never marry. Despite being unable to predict how the vision would materialize, Joseph stayed obedient to God and the father after having the dream. The brothers had gone one day to tend to their herds and had been gone for a while. God is the one who extended their visitation so that Joseph

could be freed from the bondage of his family. From his cell, he could see that his father had left him an inheritance of wealth. There are a few of us over there!

For Joseph it was a unique deliverance. God had seen enough to allow him to remain with his father, sitting in his compound and dressing in the unique garments that his father had given him. So the father dispatched him! He set off on an expedition into the woods to bring food for the boys. They considered killing him when they caught a glimpse of him from a distance. Joseph was headed toward realizing the vision. He was not going to be killed and he was not going to return to his father. The clothing his father had given him was taken off while he was in the hands of his brothers.

He was not going to Egypt with the father's deceitful spirit. He was becoming a different man. A father's loving arms and family inheritance were to be cut off. To fulfill the vow, he was assuming the shape of a slave before changing into a son. Jesus did not appear as a spirit to save us. He shed his celestial body and assumed the form of a man born of a woman. The father was with him, but he had to die in order to save mankind because he was a man in body. After placing Joseph in the hole, they abandoned him.

As soon as they had traveled a little distance, the Lord showed them who bought slaves in Egypt and gave one of them instructions to persuade others to sell him as a slave rather than letting him die in the pit. Joseph disconnected with his family and traveled as a slave under the care of strangers, yet he was headed toward the destiny that God had planned for him.

**Matthew 2:1**, Herod sought to kill Jesus at birth, but he was unable to do so since Jesus had come to die in order to save mankind and carry out the mission that God had given him. The divine command was issued to Abraham, the father of Ishmael, to depart from his homeland to a land that God would reveal, where he would become the patriarch of nations and be blessed in the Promised Land.

This covenant was detailed in my initial book, "Gospel with Actions." Hannah entered into marriage with Elkanah with the foresight of progeny to advance their lineage. Individuals often relocate to seek job opportunities or settle on new lands. Agriculturists diligently cultivate their fields, sow seeds, and await a bountiful harvest. Education is pursued for our children to eradicate illiteracy. Christians unite with the vision of establishing a cohesive body of Christ, offering support and motivation.

Salvation is sought for the promise of eternal life. In the scripture of **Matthew 9:27-31**, two blind men trailed Jesus, yearning for restoration of their sight. Furthermore, nurturing a vision is imperative. Paul instructs us to diligently cultivate our salvation with reverence and apprehension. Hagar nurtured her sole offspring, recognizing the necessity of her care as the child couldn't fend for itself. Similarly, a vision requires constant attention. A pregnant woman cares for herself and adheres to medical guidance for a successful delivery. Neglecting a vision, even with fervent prayers and fasting, will lead to its demise without proper care.

A vision demands progression at the pace it dictates. How can one abandon a pursuit they are ardently following? Hagar journeyed with her child, bearing the sole responsibility for its welfare. No one else can carry your vision, as it is uniquely yours. Joseph safeguarded his vision, guided by his faith in God even amidst adversity.

A Christian must embody salvation wherever they traverse. Jesus likened his arrival to that of a thief, emphasizing the unpredictability of the moment. Neglecting personal salvation beyond church confines risks encountering the end before returning to the sanctuary. Visionaries who forsake their aspirations risk losing sight of their purpose.

Lastly, enduring hardships is intrinsic to a vision. Many falter when confronted with adversity, opting to remain stagnant rather than persevere. During challenging times, one must seek divine intervention to navigate through the turmoil. Just as Hagar cried out for help when her child faced peril, seeking divine guidance can restore fading visions. God's intervention rescued Hagar's child, exemplifying how perseverance through hardships can lead to fruition. ***Jeremiah 33; 3; Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which you do not know.***

Hagar had not known of a great nation that existed in the child. She had not seen water, but this came to her knowledge after the cry! While Joseph was being removed slavery clothes and put in prison uniform, he cried, "my God, why have you forsaken me?" God heard the cry and was never going to fail him. Finally, Joseph came out of prison, removed prison uniform and wore prime minister's uniform. The brothers came and bowed to him. In a foreign land, but the vision was true! The two blind men made Jesus to stop and give them sight for vision.

Hannah cried when she saw herself barren. She was seeing her vision of being a mother of her own dying. God heard her cry, and opened her womb. Israelites while in Egypt cried unto God in their bondage of slavery and hard labor. God heard their cry, and he came to save them (*Exodus 3: 7-8*).

God loves you. You are not an error. You are part of God's good plan. Cry out to God if your God-given dream is struggling. He is aware of your issue. He continues, "I have heard the cry of my people and seen their suffering." He will then arrive to save you! Give your load to Jesus; he is watching over you. You are free to follow your vision or return to Egypt when God grants it to you. However, since it's difficult to return to your mother's womb, you wind up living a life of perpetual rotation there till death.

The thief on the right hand side of Jesus on the cross cried for mercy and repented his sins. He had no altar call, nor preacher. Just by being touched in his heart and feeling sorry for his sins, he repented. He wasn't going to get another chance to live and repent. He had only one chance and one life, which was now at stake. It was his decision to grab eternal life or lose it. He did not see the dead rise at the cross, the blind seeing, and other miracles, but he got saved and was with Jesus in paradise! Jesus came to save the lost.

We are losing track. God works miracles, but he wants us to serve Him. With Jesus being the way, we should not go on getting lost in the world. Find the Lord, hold him and remain with him like this guy who survived the second death by inviting Christ in his heart. With a heart, a man believes, and with the mouth confesses and gets salvation. Until you accept your weaknesses, you will not make the weak hands strong.

The thief knew his weakness and he confessed it. To reach God's promises, we must acknowledge where we are even if we are out of the path to what God planned for us, run back and proceed! This guy was not going to hell when he had found the way to eternal life. Can you find your way my dear reader!

The main agenda of their release in Egypt was for the Israelites to go and serve God. God did those miracles to make them believe Him as a mighty God whom they served. But they still had courage to worship idols! According to the spies' report, all that God had told them about the land was true.

They saw the fruits and milk, and must have seen honey also. But the walls of Jericho and the sons of Anakims was the problem. God does not speak part of truth and half lies. He meant what he said. He knew about this land that they did not know. How do you take it, the promise that Jesus gave to his disciples; "I am going to prepare a place for you and I will come to take where I will be?" Do you need a spy to go to heaven, come back and tell you of the goodness and the dwellers? You remember the rich man and the poor Lazarus.

He ate the fat, while Lazarus ate what dropped down from his table. Dogs enjoyed the poor man's wounds. Lazarus did what pleased God, though he never ate well, while the rich man ate well and did what was evil before God. At death, Lazarus went to enjoy with the Lord while this fat guy burned in hell. It does not matter how fat you are when you have lost track concerning the goal God has set for you. It does not matter how much money you have saved if you are out of track. The rich man requested for help from heaven, but could not get any. He requested that Lazarus be sent down to his family members and tell them to do what was good before God.

It's only at this struggling time that he recognized the poor Lazarus as

an important messenger? He had laughed at this poor man while dogs licked his wounds on earth. He never saw any importance in him while they were on earth. He never knew that Lazarus had a soul and spirit same as his! Let's not assume. We have the gospel, and there is no escape if you have to reach God's promises. You can prepare well for hell like the rich man, or for heaven like Lazarus. Prepare yourself for the long journey home where Christ went to prepare for us. It's real, as God himself is real. Don't turn back because of challenges.

I am always encouraged by the vision that I had some years back. During that time, I was facing challenges in life and was questioning if really heaven is real. I was a believer, and in fact, serving the Lord. But I was in hardship. I became Elijah, who requested the Lord to take his life. But I was a bit different. Before I really made this prayer to God, I enquired from him if heaven was real. I even went as far as praying and fasting to get assurance from God. I recall it very well. It was in 1997, December Eighth. I went to bed after asking God for the sign of heaven. I had just completed my secondary school examinations.

I saw two bright men who came to me and asked me why I wanted to go to heaven. I told them that I was facing life's challenges and would not desire to live anymore. One said he was angel Michael and another one was Gabriel. They told me that God had sent them to take me to heaven.

In this vision, I saw myself departing my body and leaving it right there on the bed. I could see it from a distance as I flew with the two angels. We reached high above the clouds and penetrated deeply. Then I saw the entrance, which was opened by one angel, and we went in. The place was excellent. All the people gathered around the throne were worshiping the Lord, crying, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord." I had been bitter about my life experiences, but the joy of the Lord flooded my heart.

My anguish was gone, and I was no longer crying. I was at home, just as my savior promised. The strangest thing was that the Lord was sitting on the throne. I could see his glory, and could not face Him directly. He told me that this was the home He had made for the holy saints. My time to live the world to home had not yet reached. He went as far as informing me that I had led souls in different meetings to accept Christ as their savior. He had set me for his work on earth, and I was not going to be in heaven before I finish my duty on earth.



Finally He said, *"Now your doubt must be off you. I am so real. Go back to the world and help as many as you can to come here. Live right and teach them to live right and believe that I was, I am, and will be."* The two angels must have been waiting for a sign. They came, held me and told me I was leaving, back to the world. I had no power to refuse, though, while there, I had no thoughts of returning to the world. They returned me back, and before morning, I was in my body. It was as though I had really died for some hours. In my body, my strength was renewed. I wasn't prepared to die before I do what the Lord had promised me to do! Before I regained consciousness, I sang this song:

*Lead me my father, to where there's victory,  
The right path to the holy land, to where my father lives, The  
land full of praises, the land full of joy,  
To where there's life, and life forevermore.*

*To the land of holiness, where the redeemed shall walk, To  
the land of the living God, where I've got a mansion, To the  
beautiful city, the city of the Lord,  
I want to stay in this land, all the days of my life.*

*Make me to lie down, where there are green  
pastures besides the still waters, and restore my  
soul, with thy rod and thy shaft, comfort me  
Lord, that I may stay in thy house forevermore.*

*I am praying to thee Lord,  
That you may lead me, Save me at dawn, and when the sun  
sets, Reach me my savior, and wash all my sins,  
That I may stay with you Lord, and praise you all, the times.*

I woke up for morning prayers and felt high in spirits. My faith was rekindled. I had a new hope and surety. Home is real. When I leave the world, I will be alive till eternity in my father's house. I will live more decades and centuries at home than in this world. This makes me say, *'no turning back!'* Many people live in the world rejecting the giver of eternal life of peace and joy, as though they will be on

earth forever.

No one lives up to 200 years, however much man of today strives to live. Soon he withers like a flower, together with the glory of the world and is no more. God has promised us a home. When God promised Israelites land, it was real and he wasn't talking of none existing place; neither was he just saying to please them. Friends, let's go to heaven! The home our Lord has set for us. Where He is, we will be! Don't back off because of the material of the world, which doesn't last with you for long. Keep the call and wait upon the Lord, for the hour cometh and you are no more!

# Chapter 7

## *Responding to the call in the Ministry*

It happened soon after I started high school, amazingly by God's grace. During my primary school years, I encountered significant financial issues. Being the fourth child in my mother's household, and knowing that my two sisters, Caroline and Judith, and a brother, George, had completed eighth grade but were unable to continue their high school education, I realized my chances were small. I decided to stop relying on my own strength and instead focus on the Lord. During that time, I learnt that God's promises are completely true. You can get someplace if you can grab them, adapt them inside yourself, believe them, and then proceed in accordance with them. God's promises make you positive, even if nothing is your way. For you know that God makes a way (*John 14: 6*) where there seems to be none.

As I worked hard in eighth grade, my main goal was to pass the exam and graduate high school. For sure, I performed my best and finished first in my class that year. I was overjoyed, but I needed to do something to keep my dream alive. Before the final exam, I sent an email to my father, who was working and staying in town. He had not committed to educate any of his children. I had also asked my primary school head teacher, who had been so accommodating to me, to write to my father. I had gone so far as to involve the authorities in summoning my father to pay my school fees.

It was amazing to receive my admission letter to a boarding high school. I started the process of seeking for fees. My primary school principal helped me obtain several cards in order to beg donations to cover my tuition expenses. This was unsuccessful since I could only fund a fraction of it. My mother took my acceptance documents to my father's employer, which paid a one-year cheque to my high school. To me, God had began to open me up and guide me to where I had asked Him!

Everything went so beautifully, and I started high school later than the other pupils. As we were ending our second term, we were given new fees structure with increased fee. This meant that I was to add more school fees to the one I had paid for third term. I went home,

affected because I knew things were going to be challenging. All I did was to commit it to God who was my provider. Before school opened, my dear mother went to my father's company where he worked to request for more required fees. To her surprise, my dad had taken a large sum of money for a loan and would not afford my fees. That was the end of his assistance in my education.

When I got this message, my heart pumped so fast and strength left my body. But I was encouraged by Apostle Paul's words, "***let the weak say I am strong***". I took courage and went to school without fees. There, I found a rule saying no fees, no meal card, meaning no food. My school was nine Kilometers from home. I became a day scholar without the consent of the school's administration. This was real risking. I would leave school past six in the evening to arrive home past nine, leave back for school at five to report at seven in the morning.

This did not deter my heart. I knew God had a good plan for my life. I was going to complete my high school education, though I could not see a physical road, to this expectation. My most powerful weapon was prayer, keeping good morals and doing my best for the moment. I could go without lunch and breakfast, only to go home and find a cup of black tea without sugar and boiled vegetable for supper. Everyone has his challenges, and these were some of my challenges.

One day, just after passing through the main high school gate towards home, I met my principal and his deputy. He stopped me and demanded my leave out sheet. To their surprise, I had been using this sheet for one and a half months. He was so disappointed and demanded to know why. God had given me best words to use to explain my situation and my problem. The Lord was right between us so that my principal understood. I always thank God for this man, and the deputy of the time. To cut things short, I was allowed to continue with my education after a discussion between my mother and the principal. This saw me through my first year in high school, giving me a positive heart of reaching fourth year.

It was during this challenging time that God spoke to me through a dream. For sure, God is the God of the future, past and present. That is; He is the same yesterday, today and forevermore. In the book of Numbers chapter 23 and verse 19. The bible says that ***God is not a man that he should lie; neither the son of man that he should repent.***

He has said, and shall he not do? ***Or has he spoken, and shall he not make it good? He goes on to say in Psalms chapter 89 and verse 34 that I will not break my Covenant, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips.*** Saints, we need to equip ourselves for God's promises. The journey to every promise needs a sacrifice and your response.

The Lord gave me a dream at my tender age concerning His call for me in His ministry. In the vision, I saw our house of that time. It was a very old semi-permanent house, which was built by my father thirty years ago. We had no other house. I was sleeping on a sack in the sitting room and covering myself with a dirty tattered blanket. Nothing was encouraging as I laid myself down to sleep. After a short time, somebody came to me and woke me up. What he told me made me to completely doubt him! He requested me to wake up because the president and his ministers had come to see me.

For sure, ***"how could the president recognize such a poor home and a poor boy like Arthur?"*** I questioned myself, which made me not to act at his word. No sooner had I slept than the president himself marched in with his ministers and stood right on my right side. He called me by my name and commanded me to wake up. I wore my clothes while in the tom blanket. My clothes were so dirty because I had lacked soap for long. They were also tom! But to my amazement, this did not deter the president from completing his mission. He went on to greet and even hugged me! I felt so loved, and my mind was at peace. His next word shook me. ***"I have come for you because I want to make you my twelfth minister. I have eleven, but I have found that you are the one to make twelve. From now on, you are my minister"*** He went on to command his servant to quickly take me for shower and clothe me for the work. Surely, they did it. I was so smart! I became a minister and never went back to stay in the former house of my father again.

My dear reader, God is good and loving. I could not understand how the president could hug such a dirty person. I remembered the power that is in the blood of Jesus Christ, God's love for the sinful world and the way of reconciliation in ***2 Corinthians 5:18-21, John 3:14-17***). Jesus came to seek that which is lost (Matt 19:10). God was teaching me how He was going to use me to do His work as a minister with Him as the president.

Every minister has a duty, but if he is not equipped well and lack training, he fails to have a good success. God's work needs training and equipping. This should not be overlooked by those called of God. After becoming a minister, I was being shown how things are done in my ministry. As I woke up in the morning, I began to question the vision. My mind was seriously convincing me that I was wrong! This was because of my family back ground, from poverty to a ministry? As time went by, I came to know that really God had made me a minister in his body on earth. I am to do my duty without murmuring. Since then, God has been using me, by His grace to reach people and churches and fellowships with the gospel. I also knew that God had called me to be an apostle. I never had thought of it, but God had planned. God is not a respecter of persons, what he says He will do, He surely will! Even though I was un-presentable, He made me a minister, and now I am, I have always desired to give him more of myself that I may gain more of Him. He makes my life and service very meaningful.

*Deuteronomy 1:25-32* talks of the twelve spies. *"And they took of the land in their hands, and brought it down unto us, and brought us word again, and said, it is good land which the Lord our God has given us. Notwithstanding, you would not go up, but rebelled against the commandment of the Lord your God: and you murmured in your tents, and said, because the Lord hated us, he has brought us forth out of the land of Egypt, to deliver us into the land of the Amorites, to destroy us. Whither shall we go up? Our brethren have discouraged our heart, saying, the people is greater and taller than we; the cities are great and walled up to heaven; and moreover we have seen the sons of Anakims there. Then I said unto you, dread not, neither be afraid of them. The Lord your God who goes before you shall fight for you, according to all that he did for you in Egypt before your eyes. And in the wilderness, where you have seen how the Lord your God bore you. As a man does bore his son, in all the way that you went, until you came into this place. Yet in this thing, you did not believe the Lord your God"*

This is the real weakness of man, whom God created. Many of us will only believe when we see. The spirit of doubt is hovering around God's people. God cannot promise you what He can't do.

In **Genesis 18:14**. We learn that nothing is too hard for God. If God would make for the Israelites a path in the Red sea, did they expect any obstacle on their way that could defeat them and their God? If God would bring the release of Israelites from Egypt, the land of slavery with His mighty hand without them playing a big role, could He fail to destroy the Anakims without difficulty? They found out that what God had spoken of in the land of promised was true, but were not sure they would get it!

Many at times, God does for us great things. But when we face the next problem, we quickly get discouraged and lose hope. God knows that there are obstacles on what He is promising you, but this does not hinder him from the promise. Prophet Samuel anointed David to be king at a tender age. He was just a shepherd enjoying his duties in the field. God says in **Jeremiah 29:11** *"I have good plans for you."*

A good planner draws a program expecting some barriers and challenges, but makes a provision in advance to counteract them. From the time David received the anointing; to God he was already the King of Israel, whereas to Israelites, Saul was the king! David began to move as a king within his heart not shouting to everyone about his anointing- He easily faced a bear, fought and smote it to save his father's sheep.

He went as far as killing a lion to rescue his father's sheep and his job. For sure, he was a shepherd who loved the sheep and his job. Do you really love the job that the Lord has given you to do? As though this wasn't his job enough he went ahead and killed Goliath who was a terror to God's people. This was his way towards the ministry of God's promise to him of being king over Israel. The Lord was really leading him as a good shepherd. A true shepherd will not let his sheep down (**John 10:18**).

After some time of peaceful moments, Saul, the present physical anointed King came to know something about it. He wasn't happy with David anymore. He became a thorn in the life of this, innocently anointed to be king young man. David did not choose himself, but God chose him and promised him to be the next king. Life became so hard for this young man.

Day and night, the evil spirit would come into Saul, sending him to kill the young king. David would try to hide, but one could see him and inform Saul and soon he would hear Saul coming and run for his life. Though all this was happening, God did not fail to guard the anointed young man. He was really faithful.

David was passing through valley of death! That's the term in **Psalms 23:4** *"though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. I will fear no evil: for you are with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me"*. This valley is tough, but God as a shepherd, David was delivered from death by the hand of Saul. I am challenged that, though in the valley of death, David never lost track with God. It was a testing time towards his promise from God. He would enquire from God whether to move or remain dormant, and God would tell him what to do. This led to his dream coming true! Jesus was with God. While here on earth, we see in the gospel of John the eleventh chapter that Lazarus was sick. This man was a friend of Jesus and Jesus was his friend. Mary and Martha, the sisters to Lazarus were also His friends.

Lazarus became seriously ill. The two sisters approached Jesus in a meeting and told Him about this. Jesus said; *"I will come and heal him"* As time went by, the man's heart stopped pumping and he was right in the valley of death. But he was only going through it! The promise was *"I will heal him"*. For four days, the rotten body of Lazarus lay in the grave. Then the owner of the promise came. For sure, He honored His promise. He called Lazarus from the valley of death and Lazarus rose again! He never failed in his promise. Friend, God will not fail you in his promises.

When Jesus Himself faced this valley, He took only three days and He was through! Many people who reach the valley of death die and rot right there, but those who hold firmly on the promises God give unto them, they receive grace to go through it. This valley of is not pleasant my dear. It destroys the lives of many, and possibly for good but those who trust the Lord remain standing (**Isaiah 28:16, Ephesians 6:10**) by holding on the promise, David became a king. Jesus spoke of a parable of a sower in the gospel of Matthew 13:24-25 and said, *"A man sowed good seed in his field. But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat and went his way"*.



This is exactly what the enemy of the promises that God made to you does. A promise is like seed. It's to be fulfilled, though not tangible at the start.

One must guard his heart not to receive a wrong promise from Satan, which can interfere with God's good promises for him. But the Great shepherd (Jesus) had a solution to such evil promise of doom from Satan. In **Matthew 15:13**, He said, ***"Every seed that my father has not planted shall be uprooted"*** When God anointed David as a king, he did not also promise him death in the hands of the mighty Saul. But Saul had a tare that he kept promising to plant in David's life. This was a tare of death, which was opposite from what God had promised. Saul's seed of death was uprooted and destroyed, only because David held on God's promise of kingship. Hold on, God is faithful.

God wants us to hold onto His promise for us! Grab it and hold it my dear reader. God knew that the walls of Jericho were highly built and the Anakim's sons were there before He made plain His promise to the Israelites through Moses! He had made the same promise to Abraham more than four hundred years before this time. It was not the twelve spies who made it known, what was in Canaan to God!

God is all knowing. When the Lord promises you a good future, it's not you who will tell him of how big your adversaries are, for He knew it before you spoke. If He called Jeremiah before he was born to be a prophet, He knew Jeremiah was a man, and would not be dumb, nor be abnormal. If God called you to preach and you are a stammerer you may not be sure but He even knew that you would be that way before you were born. He set you aside before you were born and reveals the promise at the appointed time, where your role is to get hold of it and take care of it, then move to its maturity. Don't abort your calling. That's why you exist as a sign and a wonder. And many creatures are waiting for your manifestation. God shall be manifested through you! No turning back.

## *Conclusion*

Returning to the lesson, the spies' message to the Israelites was to encourage them since they knew what God said was true, but also evaluated additional things that God did not see as dangers to the promise. God did not fail to mention the wall of Jericho in the prophetic word he sent to Moses. He ignored it since he knew all the people needed were confirmation of where they were going.

When we obey God's word, we have no reason to fear that Satan would deny us heaven. We don't care about these formidable devils. God has granted us authority. He promised us eternal life if we accepted Christ as Lord and Savior and followed him. Satan won't affect, and the gates of hell shall split wide open, in case they try to prevail. The Lord, who called you, has a purpose for you, and if you are not a believer, then receive Jesus Christ.

He will give you this assurance of eternal life. Claiming that you have eternal life without salvation is like a candidate preparing for exam without registering. Jesus said he was going to resurrect and it was exactly so! What he promised is real! Let's go to heaven my dear. God wants us there! He is patiently waiting that all may reach repentance and enter his kingdom of rest and not in the lake of fire, where there's no rest forever. (*1 Peter 3:9; 1 Kings 8: 56; Psalms 119: 89.*)

*Deuteronomy 2: 1-3; Then we turned and took our journey into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea, as the Lord spoke unto me; and we compassed mount Seir many days. And the Lord spoke unto me, saying, ye have compassed this mountain long enough; turn you northward.*

Israelites were stuck on mount Seir. After murmuring and being declared by God not worthy to enter the Promised Land, they became so confused. They were now rotating in the wilderness. They camped here, till God reminded them of their journey. Some saints, while growing in their spiritual lives reach somewhere and become dormant. At such a time, you can't pray, you've no heart for fellowship, and no interest in the word of God.

The race is in trouble. Unless the Lord reminds you that 'it's enough' you don't make the next step. Let's be focused on the Lord and run the race that is before us properly, to be victors and be crowned. A dormant church or Christian is viable to become lukewarm, rebellious, and hypocrite. You get used to everything, even church program with no revelation of the word of God by the Holy Spirit and He is not recognized in services. If it's a church, divisions can easily arise, for dormant minds can be Satan's workshops. When you lose focus of your vision, you become so confused that you can't go anywhere. Take care!

In *Deuteronomy 2: 13-18, 24-36*. Documents how God fulfilled his purpose. He did away with all the generation He had said in 38 years His hand was against them, to destroy them from among the host, until they were consumed. This is when the real journey to the Promised Land now began! After all this clearance and cleansing, we now had a new generation. God wants us to destroy our old nature and take up the new nature of Christ. The old nature has no room for God and His promises. That's why Jesus told Nicodemus in John chapter three that to enter the kingdom of God, one must be born again.

*2 Corinthians 5:17, while in Christ Jesus, I am a new creation. The old things have passed away, and I am born again. God was really watching over the children of Israel. He even knew when the old generation was over! Then he commanded, "Rise up ye, take your journey".* After God has worked on your spirit of disbelief, and the old nature is dead, you become refined and pure and the journey begins. God had given the Israelites victory in all the next cities they passed, beginning with Sihon. When God says **'I will give to you,'** He means it! What God gives to you belongs to you whether the world likes it or not. It's only 'you' who can reject or dump it! Kings of these nations would arise and resist Moses, but they were all conquered. God

was with the new generation. When the old nature of defeat leaves you, you no longer die depressed. You get new strength to go for what the creator meant for you in your life. With God, you become a conqueror.

***Allow the Lord to remove in you anything that can prevent you from reaching the destination that He has purposed for you in your life.***

## ***Poem on Vision***

*Said from the beginning, by the wise counsel, where there is no vision, Goals are never achieved.*

*A vision is a real goal, Set with an agenda to be achieved,  
Showing you the route to follow, where there is no vision,  
Goals are never achieved.*

*Vision is a pregnant woman, One day shall bear a child,  
Day by day looks forward to it, where there is no vision,  
Goals are never achieved.*

*Vision wants sacrifice, Hold it tightly,  
Follow it to the end; where there is no vision,  
Goals are never achieve*

