

INTRODUCTION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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ABOUT THE BOOK

This book is aimed at unfolding the mystery of divine instruction and how to understand it, as many Christians today lack its understanding.

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.” Hosea 4:6

Believers are dying because they lack the spiritual knowledge that would have helped them to overcome the manipulations of the devil. This book will set you free from the tricks of the devil, inspire and open your understanding as you read.

INTRODUCTION

Many Christians have been in the church for so many years and lack the understanding of the move of God.

God has been sending messages to instruct and guide the church, but the church lacks the understanding of these. It is not only members of the church that are ignorant of God's messages, but some so-called ministers of the Gospel also lack adequate knowledge about divine instruction.

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee." Psalm 32:8-9

However, some understand and recognize a divine instruction, but if the message does not suit their purpose or personal interest, they will ignore it and still expect the church to experience divine presence of the Holy Ghost.

Many do not even know what the call of God is all about; what is expected of a servant in the house of God, as well as the mystery of the kingdom expansion.

Having the full understanding of these in the house of God, will make you a complete Christian.

Our God is full of knowledge and His understanding is unsearchable.

"Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let not arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed." I Samuel 2:3. ***"Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength."*** Isaiah 40:28-29.

God expects you and I to have the full knowledge about the kingdom matters. Whoever lacks the full knowledge of God will automatically be a prey to the kingdom of Satan.

Adequate knowledge and full understanding about the things of God will make you an outstanding person in the Lord, and the entire world will see the glory of God upon your life.

This book will, no doubt, help you to go deep in the knowledge of God. I pray that as you read, the Holy Spirit will help you to receive the inspiration and revelation of the Word in Jesus' Mighty Name.

CHAPTER 1

DIVINE INSTRUCTION

God is the all in all – the Supreme Being. He has the final say in the affairs of man on earth. But in some cases, man find it difficult to trust God for everything. Remember that man can only have an idea, but God has the direction to all things in life. Even the idea that man has, usually leads to failure and disappointment, while God's direction leads to blessings and fulfillment.

“But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26

Apostle Peter was a great, skillful and experienced fisher man. He knew everything about fishing. But there was a night when his knowledge and experience of fishing failed to give him his desired. He could not catch a fish as all his efforts all night were in vain.

After Jesus finished preaching using Peter's boat, He told him to launch his net into the ocean. Consequently, he caught many fishes, which he could not catch all night.

Normally every experienced fisherman comes out to fish in the night, because fish would not come out in the afternoon. But due to the divine instruction from Jesus Christ, Simon Peter, the great fisher man obeyed and received the reward of obedience.

“Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they inclosed a

great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord.” Luke 5:4-8

Many lives have turned upside down today because they find it difficult to obey the instruction of God.

There was a time I needed God to show mercy onto me; so I went into three days' fasting and prayer. After the prayer, God told me to show mercy to a woman that could not buy the school uniform for her son. And to my surprise, the money I had with me at that time was the exact amount of money the woman needed. I obeyed God, even though I needed some money to solve my own challenge. After obeying this divine instruction, someone gave me a phone call and said God told her to give me some money; and surprisingly, the actual amount of money that I needed.

“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints”. I Corinthians 14:33

Brethren, God knows and has the best. Even the mother of Jesus knew the kind of child she had; as she told His Disciples that, whatever He instructed them to do, they should obey.

“His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.” John 2:5

At the wedding in Canaan, Jesus was told that the wine had finished. The Disciples thought Jesus would instruct them to go to a brewery or command heaven to release wine. But Jesus didn't do that.

The divine instruction he gave was that “fetch water inside the pot...” And His Disciples obeyed and what followed, without Jesus praying on the water, was an instant miracle!

“And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece. Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim. And he saith unto them, Draw out now, and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it. When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was: (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.”

John 2:6-10

Obedying a divine instruction makes one's journey in life stress-free with unimaginable miracles and testimonies.

Another good example of someone who received a divine instruction in the Bible was the wife of the prophet, through Prophet Elisha in the book of second kings.

“Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen. And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil. Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbors, even empty vessels; borrow not a few. And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full. So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out. And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed. Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.” 2 kings 4:1-7

The woman told Prophet Elisha about the debt her husband owed before he died. Obviously, she needed the financial assistance of the man of God. But instead of

this, the prophet gave an instruction that provided a solution to her case. Thank God she obeyed and received an instant miracle.

People in the world and even some in the house of God see a divine instruction as being impossible and foolish to obey.

One thing I know is that, blessed are they that obey a divine instruction.

OBSTACLES TO DIVINE INSTRUCTION

There are lots of things that the devil is using to hinder man to obey the instruction of God.

1. **Carnal mind:** The Bible says; ***“For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his”.*** Romans 8:5-9.

No one can serve God in flesh and obey the message of God.

2. **Lack of faith:** It is not everyone in the house of God that has faith in God. ***“For we walk by faith, not by sight:”*** 2 Corinthians 5:7
“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him”. Hebrews 11:6
3. **Scientific or personal belief:** Many people that are called atheists and some certain scientists do not believe in the existence God.
4. **Self-confidence:** You only know what you are capable of doing; but you don't know what can happen through God.
5. **Lack of knowledge of God.**

“Ah Lord GOD! behold, thou hast made the heaven and the earth by thy great power and stretched out arm, and there is nothing too hard for thee:” Jeremiah 32:27

6. **Religion:** Many in the house of God are obstacles towards God’s miracle or instruction.
7. **A wrong doctrine which the Bible calls heresy:** When fake pastors feed the sheep with wrong messages, they will find it difficult to obey divine instructions.

From these points mentioned above, which one is Satan using to distract you from the things of God?

“In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.” 2 Corinthians 4:4.

I pray God will deliver you in Jesus’ Name. God loves you and He doesn’t want you to perish. Accept Him into your life and you shall be guided with a divine instruction.

- **THE MYSTERY OF DIVINE INSTRUCTION**

The Scripture makes us to understand that, the thought of God is far different from the thought of man. Man reason naturally, while God operates supernaturally. And the difference between the two is very wide beyond the understanding of man.

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: 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.” Isaiah 55:8-11

It was God that led the people of Israel out of Egypt to the Promised Land. There was a road that they would have passed to the Promised Land without any stress. (Road through the Philistines). But God did not lead them through that way.

“And it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God led them not through the way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, Lest peradventure the people repent when they see war, and they return to Egypt:” Exodus 13:17

God told them to go through the Red sea where there was no road. Is that not mysterious?

“Is not this the word that we did tell thee in Egypt, saying, Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians? For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness. And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will show to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace. And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea. And I, behold, I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians, and they shall follow them: and I will get me honor upon Pharaoh, and upon all his host, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gotten me honor upon Pharaoh, upon his chariots, and upon his horsemen. And the angel of God, which went before the camp of Israel, removed and went behind them; and the pillar of the cloud went from before their face, and

stood behind them: And it came between the camp of the Egyptians and the camp of Israel; and it was a cloud and darkness to them, but it gave light by night to these: so that the one came not near the other all the night. And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea upon the dry ground: and the waters were a wall unto them on their right hand, and on their left." Exodus 14:12-22.

What an instruction given to natural man to obey! You are seeing what can destroy you on the way and someone tells you to feel free to pass it. Of course, it's impossible. But since the instruction came from God, Moses and the people of Israel had no alternative than to follow it. Humanly speaking, it's impossible, but with God all things are possible. Many believers fail to obey an instruction of God, because it is against the standards of the natural man.

God told the woman of God that was in charge of a church to tell all the women that were trusting God for the fruit of the womb to put water in the dew for seven days. And after that, the water should be blessed for them to drink as God had promised to bless them with children through that means.

There was a medical practitioner among the women that was believing God for the fruit of the womb too. But she doubted the divine instruction and said; medically, germs would enter the water that would be exposed to the dew for seven days. She did not put the water in the dew as they were instructed, let alone drink it. She failed to do what others did, for the fear of getting infected by germs.

Nonetheless, other women obeyed the instruction and they all conceived afterwards. After four to five months, the medical woman saw the

wonders of God in the lives of those women that obeyed the divine instruction; and she ran to the woman of God so as to conceive like them.

And you know that we are serving a merciful God. She followed the same process and drank the water exposed to the dew this time, and God answered her prayer and she too conceived. What a mysterious God!

The word 'mystery' is something beyond the natural level and could be very hard to follow and believe.

The time I was believing God for my house, God kept on telling me that He had already built a house for me. And I told God that I did not have money to build a house; but the Spirit of God told me that what I had then could build a house. And you know to build a befitting house you must have millions of naira. But for me, I had a ridiculous amount of money in my bank account.

But to the glory of God, I took a bold step of faith and started the construction. And as I commenced building, God inspired people to render good financial help; and under three months, the house was ready.

That also reminds me of the construction of our first church building. The only amount of money in the church purse then was just eleven thousand naira. And to the glory of God, God built a mega building worth between fifteen to twenty million naira for us under a year!

There are a number of living testimonies that have been recorded through simple obedience to divine instructions.

WHY DIVINE INSTRUCTION?

It's a big question that someone once asked, that why doesn't God operate or give an instruction that can easily be understood or acceptable by the natural man?

Our God has reasons for everything He does. The following are the attributes of divine instruction:

- I. **It's ever true:** There is no element of falsehood in any instruction that comes from God. Even the Scripture makes us to understand that, we shall know the truth and it will set us free from every manipulation of the devil. ***"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*** John 8:32. The Word of God is pure and ever true. It does not change; it's consistently true.
- II. **It's godly:** Any divine Instruction carries God's presence. It carries the fullness of the Almighty God. The life of God is in the Word and it cannot fail. ***"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."*** John 6:63.
- III. **It's Powerful:** A lot of words had been spoken that had no power, let alone manifesting. But the instruction of God is full of power, which is like a two edged sword – having both positive and negative power. ***"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."*** Hebrews 4:12.
- IV. **It glorifies God:** Wherever the Word or instruction of God is being delivered and comes to pass, people around witness and glorify God for its fulfillment. Of course, in a situation where God sends a message to you through His prophet and it comes to pass, you will glorify the Name of God.
- V. **It's effective:** The Word of God is very effective in nature. If the instruction has not been delivered or uttered, nothing happens; but as soon as the word goes out, actions follow it immediately. What happened between Peter and Ananias is a good example. Actions took place immediately. ***"But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession; And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to***

keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things.” Acts 5:1-5

What happened to Ananias also happened to his wife within few minutes. God is great!

- VI. **It commands testimonies:** Every divine instruction commands testimonies easily. There is no one that follows a divine instruction without testifying. ***“The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.”*** Psalm 19:7
- VII. **It draws people closer to God:** The Bible says; without signs and wonders, people may find it difficult to believe. Divine instructions attract more people to God and make them to believe that the living God is real.

- **GRIEVE NOT THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Many believers and unbelievers had grieved the Holy Spirit in many areas. Many Christians would have long succeeded, but they find it difficult to follow the instruction of the Holy Spirit. Some find it difficult to follow God’s instruction because of the high level they claim they have attained in the Lord. While some on the other hand, use their life experiences to analyze every message that comes from God.

“Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.” Matthew 12:31-32

The Scripture makes us to understand that, sin to God the Son can be forgiven but every sin against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven. Both ministers of the Gospel and some so-called Christians are working against the divine instruction of God in the church. No wonder darkness has gained

the upper hand against many churches today; because we are not ready to follow the instruction of God for the church.

There was a time they had an indoor revival in a church; and the guest minister told the whole church to pray against being implicated in a matter that they knew nothing about. There was a woman in that revival that refused to join others to offer the prayer. Few days after the programme, the woman left her house for her place of business on a Monday morning. She unknowingly boarded a commercial bus that also had fleeing armed robbers as passengers. When the law enforcements pursuing the armed robbers later overtook the bus and arrested them, they pointed at that woman as their matron!

This woman was seriously dealt with and could have died in the course of being beaten, but for the grace of God that saved her. She disobeyed the simple instruction of the Holy Spirit.

There was also a time God instructed me to tell the church to bring their children for a special prayer against the attack of the devil. One woman failed to bring the one and only child of hers to the church. She was at home fighting one of her neighbours when others were in the church praying for their children. And it's a pity she was the only one that lost her child at the time to disobedience.

Please people of God; you can play with anything, but not a divine order or instruction from God.

“Then Elisha said, Hear ye the word of the LORD; Thus saith the LORD, To morrow about this time shall a measure of fine flour be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria. Then a lord on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said, Behold, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, might this thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof ...”And it came to pass as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, Two measures of barley for a shekel, and a measure of fine flour for a shekel, shall be tomorrow about this time in the gate of Samaria: And that lord answered the man of God, and said, Now, behold, if the

LORD should make windows in heaven, might such a thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof. And so it fell out unto him: for the people trode upon him in the gate, and he died.” 2 Kings 7:1-2, 18-20.

In that Bible passage there was a severe famine in the land of Samaria that caused people to be killing their children for food. The king of that city sent a message to Prophet Elisha to help them seek the face of God for a solution. And Prophet Elisha prophesied to the king that by the same time of that day the next day, food would be available in great abundance. The chief captain in the army of that nation doubted and mocked this message of God. And the man of God told him that, he would only see the wonder, but would not taste it. And that was it! The chief captain actually saw the abundance of food the following day as prophesied by the man of God, but it's quite unfortunate he did not eat out of it. He was trampled to death! One of the dangerous things in life is to mock the message of God.

A lot of believers that serve God in the flesh and not in the spirit, usually mock the move of the Holy Spirit in the church today. What a sin that has no mercy!

There was also a time they gave a message to a family not to do an elaborate and well publicized wedding that would have so many people in attendance. The family of the bride mocked this message and even insulted the minister that gave it. Two weeks after the wedding, the bridegroom received a satanic arrow of mental illness.

And there was also a time God sent me to a particular young brother that he should not attend a party. The brother looked at me and smiled and told me that nothing could stop him from going to the party. He went to the party and on his way back home, he was involved in a fatal accident, where two people instantly died. Although the brother did not die, but he had a head injury that almost cost him his life.

“And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.” 1 Samuel 15:22

It's better for you and me to always obey the instruction of God for the good of our lives. So learn not to grieve the Holy Spirit.

- **GOD IS LIMITED TO YOUR HEART'S DESIRE**

This is another point we need to look at. It's true that there could be a divine instruction from God. But this is based on the request you present to God to do for you. If you fail to let Him know what He needs to know concerning you, He will not show himself as God in your life.

Thank God that Jesus was told about the wine that got finished. Supposing he was not informed, nothing would have happened.

“And the third day there was a marriage in Cana of Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: And both Jesus was called, and his disciples, to the marriage. And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come. His mother saith unto the servants, Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it. And there were set there six waterpots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece. Jesus saith unto them, Fill the waterpots with water. And they filled them up to the brim.” John 2:1-7.

The first thing they did was to invite Jesus to the wedding. And secondly they committed a major assignment to His hands. God will not do anything about what you don't tell Him. Some people would travel and fail to present the journey before God in prayer. And if anything happens on the way, you will hear them shouting 'Jesus! Jesus!!' in the vehicle to be saved.

There was a time one of our members travelled somewhere after a message came out in the church that any of our members that wanted to travel at that time should come for prayer. This woman refused to come before she travelled because she reasoned within herself that I might tell her not to travel if she had come for prayer. She embarked on the journey without the leading of the Holy Spirit. Along the way, she encountered armed robbers that crossed the road and killing people. She was terrified and said to herself that she refused to tell me to pray for her over the journey; and she started praying for God's mercy.

Thank God nothing happened to her. Always remember that disobedience to God's leading leads to destruction.

"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Proverb 16:25

God can only act on what you present before Him.

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"

Matthew 7:7-11

It's true that God knows all your heart desires, but He will not grant them if you don't present them before Him. The Scripture makes it clear that is when you ask, seek or knock that you can get your desire from God. God will not do what is humanly possible for you to do. And He cannot go beyond your heart desire also.

Another Scripture says; ask till you are full.

"And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full." John 16:23-24.

Keep on asking God for everything, He is merciful to do all things for as many that present their case before Him in prayer.

Whatever you want to do, take it to God for Him to instruct you on how to go about it.

"I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye. Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee." Psalm 32:8-9.

There a lot of things we miss and fail to discover without the Holy Spirit on our side to guide us.

There was a day we had an all-night prayer in the church I was attending before I started my own ministry. After the vigil, we decided to go back home that night. On getting home, I prayed to God to guide me all the night as I wanted to sleep. And to my surprise, the spirit of God told me not to sleep inside my room, but go to the balcony of the house. And I asked God why? The Spirit of God said there was an attack from the kingdom of darkness that was targeted at me that would lead to death. But to the glory of God, I obeyed the message without minding mosquitoes' bites at the balcony I was instructed to sleep. It was my prayer that made God to reveal the secret of Satan that night.

Please and please don't play with a divine instruction. And always make sure you present your cases before God for divine guidance.
God will help us in Jesus' Name. Amen

CHAPTER 2

THE CALL OF GOD

The call of God is a very great, wonderful and powerful thing upon the life of anyone that is fortunate to receive it. It turns one's life around for good.

The call of God has no age limit. Both the old and small can receive the call of God for a purpose.

Samuel was a small boy when he received the call of God.

"That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I." 1 Samuel 3:4

"Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shows thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:" Genesis 12: 1-2

A lot of the fathers of faith, both in the Scriptures and our present age received the call of God.

- God called Noah to make an ark- Genesis 6:13-14
- Abram received the call of God to depart from his family. Genesis 12:1-3
- Moses received the call of God to lead the people of Israel from Egypt to the Promised Land. Exodus 3:1-8
- Joshua was called to complete the assignment of Moses. Joshua 1:1-2
- Gideon was also called to deliver the Israelites from the hands of their enemy. Judges 6:11-14
- Samuel received the call of God to be a prophet of Israel. 1 Samuel 3:4-6
- God called Elijah to be a prophet. 1 Kings 19:12-13

- Prophet Elisha was also called. 1 Kings 19:19-20
- Peter received the call of God to be a fisher of men. Matthew 4:19
- Paul the Apostle also received the call of God. Galatians 1: 15-16

It was the same God that called Apostle Joseph Ayo Babalola and other great men of God.

There are two types of calls. One is universal and the other is personal.

UNIVERSAL CALL

A universal call is a general call that God extends to everyone unto repentance from Satan and to become His child.

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30

A universal call is also a special assignment given to the saved to reach out to the unsaved.

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

PERSONAL CALL

A personal call is a call that is meant for certain people; which is also referred to as the five-fold ministries.

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:”
Ephesians 4: 11-13

Let us consider the five-fold ministries one after the other:

- I. **Apostle:** (called Apostolos in Greek). This is an ambassador of the great commission or top-ranking official who is one of the 12 members of the administrative council of the early church. Matthew 10:2, Luke 6:13
- II. **Prophet:** A seer of God. He speaks divinely inspired messages to the people; and God speaks through him to others. Genesis 20:7, Ex. 7:1
- III. **Evangelist** – A person who seeks to convert others to the Christian faith. 2 Timothy 4:5
- IV. **Pastor:** This is also called shepherd. They care for the flocks. 1 Peter 5:2
- V. **Teacher** – A person who teaches and holds the second highest office in the Aaronic priesthood. John 3:2. Acts 13:1

All these offices come through the call of God; for the perfection of the great commission that God has committed to all believers.

My questions to you as a believer in Christ's vineyard is; which call are you hearing from God? Is it a universal or personal call? As a believer, you must receive one call from your Creator. And every call has a special grace of God that backs it up.

There is no one that receives the call of God and his or her life remains the same. Don't ignore the call of God upon your life for another person to take over.

• SPIRITUAL GIFTS FOR THE ASSIGNMENT

Every call of God goes with a spiritual gift to support and confirm the call upon the minister. There is no call that is without a spiritual gift to back it up.

Spiritual gifts are usually given to support the assignment of the Gospel. The Scripture makes us to understand that without signs and wonders people will not believe.

“Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.”

John 4:48

Spiritual gifts boost the Gospel and make it more effective in the heart of the people.

When Christ sent His Disciples out to preach the Gospel to the people, He gave them power to heal and cast out evil spirits.

“And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.” Mathew 10:1

Every called minister of the Gospel has one gift or the other to empower the assignment given to him or her, as well as to win more souls to the Gospel. But it's a pity today that many ministers have commercialized the gifts

God gave the gifts to profit the kingdom and not to commercialize it for selfish interest. How do you handle the gift of God that you were given for the assignment? You and I will give an account of how we used our gifts to God.

Prophet Elisha was a man of God that carried out his assignment according to the will of God for Israel. He did not commercialize the gifts of God upon his life. The entire Israel enjoyed the benefits of God through him.

“And Elijah the Tishbite, who was of the inhabitants of Gilead, said unto Ahab, As the LORD God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word. And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Get thee hence, and turn thee eastward, and hide thyself by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And it shall be, that thou shalt drink of the brook; and I have commanded the ravens to feed thee there. So he went and did according unto the word of the LORD: for he went and dwelt by the brook Cherith, that is before Jordan. And the ravens brought him bread and flesh in the

morning, and bread and flesh in the evening; and he drank of the brook. And it came to pass after a while, that the brook dried up, because there had been no rain in the land. And the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, Arise, get thee to Zarephath, which belongeth to Zidon, and dwell there: behold, I have commanded a widow woman there to sustain thee.” 1 Kings 17:1-9

Prophet Elisha was a faithful servant of God that did the assignment given to him wholeheartedly and he was endowed with spiritual gifts.

“And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the LORD God of Elijah? and when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over. And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, The spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him.” 2 Kings 2:14-15

When the sons of the Prophets saw what Elisha did by using the garment of his master to divide the River Jordan, they confirmed that the Spirit of Elijah had actually rested on Elisha.

Spiritual gifts confirm the call of God upon someone. It does revive the grace of God upon whoever that has the call of God upon his or her life.

“And the men of the city said unto Elisha, Behold, I pray thee, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord seeth: but the water is naught, and the ground barren. And he said, Bring me a new cruse, and put salt therein. And they brought it to him. And he went forth unto the spring of the waters, and cast the salt in there, and said, Thus saith the LORD, I have healed these waters; there shall not be from thence any more death or barren land. So the waters were healed unto this day, according to the saying of Elisha which he spake.” 2 Kings 2:19-22.

Immediately the grace of God was announced in the life of Prophet Elisha, his fame spread throughout the whole cities and villages.

The people of Jericho came to him and presented the challenge confronting the city before him. He made himself available freely for the assignment without demanding for money or materials things from them. Prophet Elisha healed the land and water that was bitter in the Name of God of Israel.

He also healed Naaman without collecting anything from him. He did everything to the glory of God.

“And it was so, when Elisha the man of God had heard that the king of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel. So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Elisha....And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant. But he said, As the LORD liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take it; but he refused.” 2 Kings 5:8-9, 15-16

No wonder God used him greatly; as he did double the miracles that Elijah did.

The first Apostles in the New Testament also devoted themselves freely for the work of The Gospel without commercializing it.

Apostle Peter and John healed many people through the spiritual gifts upon their lives, without collecting money from the people.

“Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his

feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God: And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him.” Acts 3:1-10

God used our father in the Lord, Apostle Joseph Ayo Babalola in mighty ways. There are a lot of testimonies of what God did through him, that we are still talking about till today. Even at that, he never collected anything from anybody.

The gift of God upon your life is to promote the Gospel and not to use it for personal interest.

“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”

I Corinthians 4:2

It's expected of every minister of the Gospel to be found faithful. If you are faithful with the gifts committed to your hands, you shall be rewarded greatly. God that sent you requires unwavering faithfulness from you.

Don't follow what fake pastors are doing; obey God that called you for the assignment.

I pray that the special grace to obey till the end will surely come upon your life in Jesus' Name.

Don't ever join the chorus of the ministers that are fond of saying ...' there is no faithful minister of God anywhere again on earth.'

“And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: because the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away. ...Yet I have left me seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal, and every mouth which hath not kissed him.”

I Kings 19:14; 18

Prophet Elijah thought he was the only prophet that was obeying God and felt others had bowed down to Baal. But God told him not to say that; that there were seven thousands prophets in Israel that have also refused to bow to Baal.

With the situations that do not glorify God in our country today, people do all kinds of things to survive and thereby turn against God. Some ministers of the Gospel are increasingly finding it difficult to be faithful. However, there are still few that are still faithful to God and man. Be faithful over the assignment committed into your hands. Every faithful servant shall be rewarded faithfully. Prophet Samuel was faithful to the point of death and God was with him. Be faithful!

- **MINISTERS ARE GOD'S MOUTH-PIECE**

The call of God upon every minister has nothing to do with age. He or she can be old or young.

"Moreover he said, I am the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God. And the LORD said, I have surely seen the affliction of my people which are in Egypt, and have heard their cry by reason of their taskmasters; for I know their sorrows; And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey; unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites. Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them. Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt. And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt? And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain. And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers

hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.” Exodus 3:6-14.

The call of God was upon Moses despite his age and being a stammerer, that was not eloquent.

Prophet Samuel was also small in age when God called him to be a prophet in Israel. In fact he was still under the guardianship of Priest Eli, when the call of God came upon him.

“And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision. And it came to pass at that time, when Eli was laid down in his place, and his eyes began to wax dim, that he could not see; And ere the lamp of God went out in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was, and Samuel was laid down to sleep; That the LORD called Samuel: and he answered, Here am I. And he ran unto Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou calledst me. And he said, I called not; lie down again. And he went and lay down. And the LORD called yet again, Samuel. And Samuel arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And he answered, I called not, my son; lie down again. Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, neither was the word of the LORD yet revealed unto him. And the LORD called Samuel again the third time. And he arose and went to Eli, and said, Here am I; for thou didst call me. And Eli perceived that the LORD had called the child.

Therefore Eli said unto Samuel, Go, lie down: and it shall be, if he call thee, that thou shalt say, Speak, LORD; for thy servant heareth. So Samuel went and lay down in his place. And the LORD came, and stood, and called as at other times, Samuel, Samuel. Then Samuel answered, Speak; for thy servant heareth. And the LORD said to Samuel, Behold, I will do a thing in Israel, at which both the ears of every one that heareth it shall tingle.”

I Samuel 3:1-11

God was not bothered about Samuel's age. He was still small in age, but God revealed to him a secret that was beyond his age.

Jeremiah tried to dialogue with God about his age and inexperience, as he thought that the assignment God wanted to commit to his hands was more than his age. But God told him that before he was born, he knew and had made him a prophet of the nation.

“Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD. Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth. See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant”. Jeremiah 1:5-10.

God had already prepared Samuel and Jeremiah in the womb even before they were born. Age has nothing to do with anyone that God calls to be a minister or prophet.

All the genuine ministers of the Gospel that bear the full presence of God upon their lives could be old or young in age. It does not matter to God They are God's mouthpiece for the people and the nations. The whole nation hears the Word of God through them and they have special grace to do special assignments. God speaks through them and people hear divine messages through them.

Whenever the people of Israel were in a situation that was not clear to them, they would contact God through His prophets or Prophetesses.

“And the LORD said unto Moses, Put forth thine hand, and take it by the tail. And he put forth his hand, and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand: That they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, hath appeared unto thee. And the LORD said furthermore unto him, Put now thine hand into thy bosom. And he put his hand into his bosom: and when he took it out, behold, his hand was leprous as snow. And he said, Put thine hand into thy bosom again. And he put his hand into his bosom again; and plucked it out of his bosom, and, behold, it was turned again as his other flesh. And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign. And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe also these two signs, neither hearken unto thy voice, that thou shalt take of the water of the river, and pour it upon the dry land: and the water which thou takest out of the river shall become blood upon the dry land.” Exodus 4:4-9

Before God will call on anyone, He would have adequately prepared such a person. God prepared Moses well before sending him to the palace of Pharaoh. The people began to receive the messages of God through him.

“And Moses told Aaron all the words of the LORD who had sent him, and all the signs which he had commanded him. And Moses and Aaron went and gathered together all the elders of the children of Israel: And Aaron spake all the words which the LORD had spoken unto Moses, and did the signs in the sight of the people.” Exodus 4:28-30

Moses was the intermediary between God and the people. Anything that God needed to tell the children of Israel was being conveyed through him to the people. This goes to show that ministers of the Gospel are not there for the fun of it, but act as the mouth-piece of God.

“And the men of Kirjathjearim came, and fetched up the ark of the LORD, and brought it into the house of Abinadab in the hill, and sanctified Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD. And it came to pass, while the ark abode in Kirjathjearim, that the time

was long; for it was twenty years: and all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD. And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the LORD with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the LORD, and serve him only: and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines. Then the children of Israel did put away Baalim and Ashtaroth, and served the LORD only. And Samuel said, Gather all Israel to Mizpeh, and I will pray for you unto the LORD.” 1Samuel 7:1-5

When the people of Israel sinned against God, they became powerless and the ark of covenant was taken from them. They went to Samuel to ask him to plead to God on their behalf. Prophet Samuel told them what to do and they obeyed. The prophet pleaded on their behalf and God forgave and set them free.

During the time of Prophet Elijah, there wasn't rain in the land of Israel. It was the prophet that used the authority God bestowed upon him to lock up rain in heaven against the land. And he opened it again after three and half years.

“In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah began Hoshea the son of Elah to reign in Samaria over Israel nine years. And he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, but not as the kings of Israel that were before him.”
2 Kings 17:1-2,

“And Elijah said unto Ahab, Get thee up, eat and drink; for there is a sound of abundance of rain.

So Ahab went up to eat and to drink. And Elijah went up to the top of Carmel; and he cast himself down upon the earth, and put his face between his knees, And said to his servant, Go up now, look toward the sea. And he went up, and looked, and said, There is nothing. And he said, Go again seven times. And it came to pass at the seventh time, that he said, Behold, there ariseth a little cloud out of the sea, like a man's hand. And he said, Go up, say unto Ahab, Prepare thy chariot, and get thee

down that the rain stop thee not. And it came to pass in the mean while, that the heaven was black with clouds and wind, and there was a great rain. And Ahab rode, and went to Jezreel. And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.” 1 Kings 18:41-46.

Ministers of the Gospel carry great authority of God. And whatever they bind remains bound and no one can open it. And whatever they open is opened and no one can lock or close it.

“But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD, that we may enquire of the LORD by him? And one of the king of Israel's servants answered and said, Here is Elisha the son of Shaphat, which poured water on the hands of Elijah. And Jehoshaphat said, The word of the LORD is with him. So the king of Israel and Jehoshaphat and the king of Edom went down to him. And Elisha said unto the king of Israel, What have I to do with thee? get thee to the prophets of thy father, and to the prophets of thy mother. And the king of Israel said unto him, Nay: for the LORD hath called these three kings together, to deliver them into the hand of Moab. And Elisha said, As the LORD of hosts liveth, before whom I stand, surely, were it not that I regard the presence of Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, I would not look toward thee, nor see thee.

But now bring me a minstrel. And it came to pass, when the minstrel played, that the hand of the LORD came upon him.” 2 Kings 3:11-15

A prophet hears from God and delivers the message to the people; and take their case to God as well. When the king of Israel wanted to fight his enemy, he sent for the prophets of Baal; but they could not give him the right answers he needed, until Prophet Elisha came and told the king the right message from God.

The ministers of God in your church are not there for fun, but representing God in the church. Maybe you attended a Bible school or even understand the Bible more than your ministers; I want to tell you that you can't obtain

the special grace of God upon them in any school. Even if you know how to carry out spiritual exercises more than them, yet, they are still your spiritual fathers. He might be your child, sibling, relation, husband or wife; once he or she carries the anointing of God, please honour God in his or her life.

SOME FACTS ABOUT MINISTERS OF GOD

- i. They had been chosen before they were born. Jeremiah 1:5-7, Galatians 1:15.
- ii. They carry the fullness of God. Isaiah 61:1
- iii. They represent God on earth.
- iv. They are God's mouth-piece as God speaks through them to the people and whatever they open or close is established in heaven.
- v. They are shepherds of the sheep on earth.
- vi. They are teachers of the law, which is the Word of God. Joshua 1:8
- vii. They are God's messengers on earth. They receive messages from God and deliver to the people.

Honour God through them if you want to see the good side of God.

Someone once said something; that if you cannot be a friend to a man of God, don't ever be his enemy. Because God controls the affairs of the Gospel through His ministers. The more you honour God in their lives, the more God will bless you and your family.

- **GOD IS NOT AN AUTHOR OF CONFUSION**

The way some people see the ministers of God is as if God made a mistake in calling them. But this is very wrong. There is no mistake or confusion in whatever that God does.

“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.” 1 Corinthians 14:33

Don't forget that Esau did not offend God by making Jacob the head over him. The Scripture says; Jacob I love and Esau I hate. What has Esau done that would make God to hate him? It was a great mystery that no one understands.

“As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid.” Romans 9:13-14.

Also consider the case of Moses, who killed an Egyptian and ran away. He could not speak very well; but he had a brother that was eloquent in the person of Aaron.

“Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel is come unto me: and I have also seen the oppression wherewith the Egyptians oppress them. Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt. And Moses said unto God, Who am I, that I should go unto Pharaoh, and that I should bring forth the children of Israel out of Egypt?”

“And Moses said unto the LORD, O my LORD, I am not eloquent, neither heretofore, nor since thou hast spoken unto thy servant: but I am slow of speech, and of a slow tongue.

And the LORD said unto him, Who hath made man's mouth? or who maketh the dumb, or deaf, or the seeing, or the blind? have not I the LORD? Now therefore go, and I will be with thy mouth, and teach thee what thou shalt say. And he said, O my LORD, send, I pray thee, by the hand of him whom thou wilt send.” Exodus 3:9-11, 4:10-13.

Moses gave God his weaknesses, but God insisted to use him. Aaron was there that could talk very well and also has not committed any offence in Egypt.

What happened in the family of Jesse is also worth mentioning. God sent Prophet Samuel to the family to appoint and anoint a new king for Israel. But on getting there, seven able men came out for selection and anointing. But God told Samuel not to anoint any of them. And even Samuel and Jesse got tired of the whole thing, because there wasn't any other able men like the seven presented by Jesse. But then, there still remained a small boy called David that has not been mentioned or presented in the family. Humanly speaking, David was not qualified for the position of king in Israel; but God wanted him to be there.

“And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD's anointed is before him. But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart. Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this. Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this. Again, Jesse made seven of his sons to pass before Samuel. And Samuel said unto Jesse, The LORD hath not chosen these. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither. And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he. Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.” I Samuel 16:6-13.

David had no qualification that could have made him to be chosen and anointed a king in Israel; or shall we say that God made a mistake or was confused in making David a king? Of course, He did not.

King Solomon and Apostle Paul were another examples in the Bible. Solomon came through a wrong and illegitimate way. He was not as qualified as the other sons in the family of David; but God made him the next King after David in Israel.

“And he said, Thou knowest that the kingdom was mine, and that all Israel set their faces on me, that I should reign: howbeit the kingdom is turned about, and is become my brother's: for it was his from the LORD.”
I Kings 2:15.

Adonijah was more qualified than Solomon in the family of David and even in the entire Israel to be made king; but God changed everything in favour of Solomon. Only God knows and understands everything.

Despite killing Disciples and standing against the Gospel, Saul, who later became Apostle Paul was also chosen by God to be one of the Apostles.

“But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood:” Galatians 1:15-16

The Word of God makes us to understand that, God is in heaven doing what pleases Him.

“But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased.” Psalm 115:3

Even me as a person; I don't think I deserve to be a minister of the Gospel as the last child in our family. I have so many brothers and sisters that are better than me. But it's only God that understands the reason for making me one of His ministers.

God can call the educated or even the illiterates. God can call the poor or the rich. The reason for this is best known to God. Our God is the Alpha and

Omega of everything. What we don't know He knows better. The requirement or qualification of God is different from that of man.

A family once came to me for prayer. But when they saw me, they were sizing me up and wondering that how could this small boy be the pastor? But to the glory of God, I attended to them and God surprised them beyond their imaginations. It was then they confessed what they had in mind when they first saw me.

Whatever you see God doing in your life that is beyond your level or age, give glory to God for making you outstanding and great among the people. If God makes you what you don't deserve, don't share the glory with God and give no room for the spirit of pride to come over you. Finally, brethren don't see God as an author of confusion over anything that is not clear to you. But rather give God all the glory and don't accuse Him for anything.

- **GOD'S BLESSING THROUGH THE PROPHET**

There are a lot of blessings of God you can derive from His ministers. God had empowered them so much so that if you go to them with your challenge, God will give you a way out through them.

The five-fold ministers are full of God's blessings.

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:" Ephesians 4:11-12.

Before you can enjoy the blessings of God through these five-fold ministers, you need to know Christ and accept Him into your life.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

John 3:16, 1:12

You cannot stay out of Christ and be enjoying the benefits of God. God used Prophet Elijah and Elisha for their generation. The people of Israel enjoyed the blessings of God through them.

“And Elijah said unto her, Fear not; go and do as thou hast said: but make me thereof a little cake first, and bring it unto me, and after make for thee and for thy son. For thus saith the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruse of oil fail, until the day that the LORD sendeth rain upon the earth. And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: and she, and he, and her house, did eat many days. And the barrel of meal wasted not, neither did the cruse of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by Elijah... And it came to pass after these things, that the son of the woman, the mistress of the house, fell sick; and his sickness was so sore, that there was no breath left in him. And she said unto Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O thou man of God? art thou come unto me to call my sin to remembrance, and to slay my son? And he said unto her, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and carried him up into a loft, where he abode, and laid him upon his own bed. And he cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, hast thou also brought evil upon the widow with whom I sojourn, by slaying her son? And he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried unto the LORD, and said, O LORD my God, I pray thee, let this child's soul come into him again. And the LORD heard the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived. And Elijah took the child, and brought him down out of the chamber into the house, and delivered him unto his mother: and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth. And the woman said to Elijah, Now by this I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth.” I Kings 17:13-16, 17-24.

People of Israel enjoyed the blessings of God through Prophet Elisha as well. He did double of what Elijah did in Israel. God used him mightily, Even his dead body blessed people.

“And the men of the city said unto Elisha, Behold, I pray thee, the situation of this city is pleasant, as my lord seeth: but the water is naught,

and the ground barren. And he said, Bring me a new cruse, and put salt therein. And they brought it to him. And he went forth unto the spring of the waters, and cast the salt in there, and said, Thus saith the LORD, I have healed these waters; there shall not be from thence any more death or barren land. So the waters were healed unto this day, according to the saying of Elisha which he spake.” 2 Kings 2:19-22, 4:1-7, 14-17.

Ministers of God are full of God’s blessings, which you can tap from and become great in life.

HOW TO ENJOY THE BLESSINGS OF GOD THROUGH THE MINISTERS

1. First thing to do in order to enjoy the blessings of God in the life of a minister is to honour God that called him. By doing so, the anointing of God upon his life will rise to bless you.

Some disregard God that called the minister in one way or other. You lose respect for him, because you are familiar with him or perhaps he is your relation or friend. Remember what happened between Prophet Elisha and Gehazi. Gehazi disregarded the God that called Elisha, his master. He went ahead and did what was morally and spiritually wrong.

“And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant. But he said, As the LORD liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take it; but he refused. And Naaman said, Shall there not then, I pray thee, be given to thy servant two mules' burden of earth? for thy servant will henceforth offer neither burnt offering nor sacrifice unto other gods, but unto the LORD. In this thing the LORD pardon thy servant, that when my master goeth into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leaneth on my hand, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon: when I bow down myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon thy servant in this thing. And he said unto him, Go in peace. So he departed from him a little way. But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath

spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: but, as the LORD liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him. So Gehazi followed after Naaman. And when Naaman saw him running after him, he lighted down from the chariot to meet him, and said, Is all well? And he said, All is well. My master hath sent me, saying, Behold, even now there be come to me from mount Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets: give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of garments. And Naaman said, Be content, take two talents. And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and laid them upon two of his servants; and they bare them before him. And when he came to the tower, he took them from their hand, and bestowed them in the house: and he let the men go, and they departed. But he went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him, Whence comest thou, Gehazi? And he said, Thy servant went no whither. And he said unto him, Went not mine heart with thee, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee? Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and oliveyards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants."

2 Kings 5:15-26

Gehazi allowed the Spirit of covetousness to make him dishonour the God of his master. For this reason, he received the curse that left Naaman. Same way anyone that dishonours the calling of a minister of God will receive a reward of a curse. Cultivate the habit of honouring the God that called a man of God.

2. Another thing you need to do before you can receive the blessings of God through the minister is to make sure you pray for them. Your prayer is very important to them, because most of the ministers of God you see have no time for themselves. No wonder, Apostle Paul said, they should pray for them. The more you pray for your pastor or minister, the more they will grow in anointing; and the more you shall be greatly blessed through them.

An old woman that used to pray for the pastor in a church died. I was told that God revealed the case to the pastor; that the woman that normally prayed for miracles to happen through him was dead. What this implied was that there would be no more miracles again through the man of God; because the person that used to pray for him was dead. Your prayer for your pastor goes a long way in his life. Keep on praying for your pastor.

It was the prayer of the saints that delivered Apostle Peter from being killed by Herod.

“Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.)

And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people. Peter therefore was kept in prison: but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him.”

Acts 12:1-5

If they had prayed for James the same way they prayed for Apostle Peter, Herod would not have been able to kill him.

But the prayer the church offered for Peter set him free from the prison of the wicked Herod. Your Pastor needs more of your prayers, if you desire God's blessings through him.

3. The third thing you need to do in order to enjoy the blessings of God through your ministers, is to bless God through your minister with your substance. If God uses the minister to meet your needs spiritually, it's a good thing to bless him materially.

Some women used their substance to support the ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ, with a pure and willing mind.

“And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, And Joanna the

wife of Chuza Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others, which ministered unto him of their substance.” Luke 8:2-3

If you bless your pastor with your substance, it will definitely command God’s blessings into your life.

A woman once told me how her father in law used to wash the clothes of Apostle Joseph Ayodele Babalola when he was alive. She said that even when the man of God died, there were some clothes of the man of God in the custody of the father in law, which he had to return. And God used the ministry of Apostle Joseph Ayodele Babalola to bless the man and all his children and even grandchildren.

Saul and the servant of his father went to see Prophet Samuel. And they went with a little substance for the man of God. For this goodwill of Saul, he left there with a unique blessing of kingship. What a great blessing!

“And he said unto him, Behold now, there is in this city a man of God, and he is an honorable man; all that he saith cometh surely to pass: now let us go thither; peradventure he can show us our way that we should go. Then said Saul to his servant, But, behold, if we go, what shall we bring the man? for the bread is spent in our vessels, and there is not a present to bring to the man of God: what have we? And the servant answered Saul again, and said, Behold, I have here at hand the fourth part of a shekel of silver: that will I give to the man of God, to tell us our way.”

“Now the LORD had told Samuel in his ear a day before Saul came, saying, To morrow about this time I will send thee a man out of the land of Benjamin, and thou shalt anoint him to be captain over my people Israel, that he may save my people out of the hand of the Philistines: for I have looked upon my people, because their cry is come unto me. And when Samuel saw Saul, the LORD said unto him, Behold the man whom I spake to thee of! this same shall reign over my people. Then Saul drew near to Samuel in the gate, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, where the seer's house is.” I Samuel 9:6-8, 15-18.

If you bless the man of God with what you have, you are commanding an automatic blessing of God upon your life.

4. Another point is that make your minister your close friend in the Lord; not for any ungodly or immoral motive, so that he can lead you in the way of the Lord. You can only tell your close friend your problem; but making the minister of God your close friend will help you to enjoy the blessings of God through him.
5. Be faithful to your pastor in all things. Don't be like Gehazi and Judas Iscariot that disappointed their masters. It requires genuine faithfulness before you can enjoy the blessing of God through your minister. A member of the church playing a double game with his pastor is definitely playing with his or her destiny. Be hundred percent faithful to your pastor. ***"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful."***
I Corinthians 4:2
An unfaithful person cannot receive anything good from God through the man of God, but a curse.
6. Lastly, don't hide anything for your minister. One thing that is very certain is that; you don't hide things for a medical doctor that will treat you. You don't hide anything from a lawyer that will handle your case. I advise that you don't hide anything from your pastor that will take your case to God.

Taking all these steps into consideration will help you to enjoy the blessings of God through the minister of God you are under his ministry. Ministers of God are the product of wonders in the hands of God. Learn to honour them. Your blessings from God shall be delivered to you through them in Jesus' Mighty Name. Amen.

CHAPTER 3

THE MYSTERY OF KINGDOM EXPANSION

God is the Creator of everything; both in heaven and on earth. He owns all things.

“All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.” John 1:3

However, God uses the expansion of His kingdom on earth as an avenue of blessings to every believer that understands the mystery and key into it.

King David had the full understanding of the kingdom of God on earth and he decided to build a house for God in his heart. But God sent Prophet Nathan to him not to build a house for Him, because his hands were full of blood.

“That the king said unto Nathan the prophet, See now, I dwell in an house of cedar, but the ark of God dwelleth within curtains. And Nathan said to the king, Go, do all that is in thine heart; for the LORD is with thee. And it came to pass that night, that the word of the LORD came unto Nathan, saying, Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the LORD, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in?” II Samuel 7:2-5

“And David said to Solomon, My son, as for me, it was in my mind to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God: But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Thou hast shed blood abundantly, and hast made great wars: thou shalt not build an house unto my name, because thou hast shed much blood upon the earth in my sight.” 1 Chronicle 22:7-8.

Despite being denied the privilege of building a house for God, David went ahead and bought all the materials for the intended house, because he understood the mystery of working for God.

“Now, behold, in my trouble I have prepared for the house of the LORD an hundred thousand talents of gold, and a thousand thousand talents of silver; and of brass and iron without weight; for it is in abundance: timber also and stone have I prepared; and thou mayest add thereto. Moreover there are workmen with thee in abundance, hewers and workers of stone and timber, and all manner of cunning men for every manner of work. Of the gold, the silver, and the brass, and the iron, there is no number. Arise therefore, and be doing, and the LORD be with thee. David also commanded all the princes of Israel to help Solomon his son, saying.” 1 Chronicles 22:14-17.

However, God told David that, his son (Solomon) shall build the house for Him. And David bought all the materials needed for the house which is as good as being the person that actually built it.

The blessings that came to the family of David in working for God was beyond human understanding. The God of Israel used everything in Israel to bless King David and his descendants.

“And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places. And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there; for that was the great high place: a thousand burnt offerings did Solomon offer upon that altar. In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night: and God said, Ask what I shall give thee. And Solomon said, Thou hast showed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king instead of David my father: and I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in. And thy servant is in the midst of thy people which thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered nor counted for multitude. Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people? And the speech pleased the LORD, that Solomon had asked this thing.” I kings 3:3-10.

The spirit of working for God also came upon Solomon, the son of David. King Solomon promoted the Kingdom of God by building a house for God and also made a great sacrifice unto Him, even more than David, his father.

Imagine someone blessing God with an outstanding and great sacrifice and God was well pleased. With what Solomon did for God, God visited him in the dream and asked him to request for whatever he needed.

I've never seen anyone that works for God with genuine mind without being blessed. Everyone that I know that worked for God reaped abundant blessings in return.

I was told about a man in this country that used his son as a collateral where he was lent some money to buy a keyboard for the church he was attending. God rewarded this man beyond the level of his faith. The son the man used as a collateral at that time later became a president of this nation.

Even my dear father of blessed memory, used what he had to promote the work of God when he was alive. And we the children are still reaping the dividends of that till today.

One thing I want you to understand today is that, nothing is too big or small to give to God. Every giver to the work of God becomes a great receiver of His bountiful blessings in return.

“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.” Luke 6:38.

Let your giving comes from a good source and genuine mind of love, because God loves a cheerful giver and not otherwise.

“Happy are thy men, and happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and hear thy wisdom.” 2 Corinthians 9:7

Giving to God's kingdom commands great blessings to the life of the giver. Check the Scriptures and you will discover that no one gave to promote the kingdom assignment that did not receive blessings in multiple folds. It takes great and genuine love to give what you have to God.

There is no one that God does not expect to give to the kingdom. God expects both the rich and the poor. Also there is no one that doesn't have something to give. If you don't have money, you will have strength to work for God or if you don't have money or strength, you will have ideas or suggestions you can contribute. In other words, use what you have to promote the kingdom of God.

To work for God is by grace and not by any special qualification. Don't misuse the grace.

I pray that nobody will replace you in the presence of God in Jesus' Name.

- **STRENGTH OF OFFERINGS**

Offerings in the house of God carry great strength in promoting the kingdom of God on earth.

The church of God cannot stand properly without offerings, because there are many financial demands to meet.

The offerings the church collects from individuals are not equal. I mean people give offerings according to their pockets or levels. Some give huge offerings, while some give small. So when these are combined, it becomes a reasonable amount of money that can be used to promote the kingdom of God.

You may be surprised to note that not every minister of the Gospel understands the mystery behind the offerings collected in the church.

Some are so greedy to the extent that they manipulate the offerings that come to the ministry. Such a ministry or church cannot grow, but automatically remains stagnant.

If members of a church are very faithful in paying their offerings, it will change many things in that ministry and many problems or challenges will be settled.

The following are the common offerings in the church of God:

- I. **Thanksgiving Offering:** This offerings helps to take good care of ministers that work in the ministry. And it is also used to sort out some other things in the church.
- II. **Project offering:** This is used to handle the aspect of church building – the worship center or auditorium, as well as its maintenance.

It's a pity that some ministers or leaders of the Gospel are fond of diverting such offerings to personal use. Such a ministry cannot experience any positive or remarkable growth.

Another thing the so-called ministers normally do is that, after using the church project offering for personal or wrong motive, they will begin to pray to God to send someone that can give huge money for the church building project to them. What a wrong prayer!

Don't forget that God is not interested in someone that wastes the kingdom resources. Check your ways, how are you investing or wasting God's money?

III. **Needy offering:** This is another powerful offering that helps the kingdom of God to move forward.

Don't forget that we are not equal in the house of God, we have both the rich and the poor and we must pay full attention to the needy; I mean the less-privileged. Some churches would say they don't have time for the needy. If you don't have time for them, what is the meaning or relevance of your Gospel on earth?

Our Lord Jesus took care of the needy during His earthly mission. What some ministers or churches could have used to meet some needs of the less-privileged in their midst, have been diverted to something else that can't benefit the needy in any way.

If the needy of your church or ministry should cry to God for being neglected and God answers their prayer, such a ministry will have a very serious problem. Please and please, pay attention to the needy in your church; let there be a needy offering and use it for them and not for something else.

Every church or ministry that cares for the needy, will enjoy the great mercy of God. In other words, if you need mercy; try to show mercy to others.

"Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. The

LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness.” Psalm 41: 1-3.

As you need help from God, so also do the needy in your church need your help. Don't neglect them.

- IV. **Special offering:** This offering is necessary once in a while and not every time. It also helps in promoting the work of God in the church.
- There was a time a church wanted to buy a keyboard; and special offerings were collected four times and the money was realized. But the presiding pastor of the church used the money for his own personal issue. The church was now wondering why the keyboard had still not been bought and the presiding pastor started telling funny lies about what happened to the money.

Ministers of the Gospel, stop diverting the special offerings taken in the church for something contrary. This offering is meant for the work of God and nothing else. Indulging in such an act will destroy your integrity. If you are doing this, amend your ways before it is too late.

Prophet Offering: The church executives need to understand that the prophet offering is for the man of God that He's using for the Gospel assignment.

“And he said unto him, Behold now, there is in this city a man of God, and he is an honorable man; all that he saith cometh surely to pass: now let us go thither; peradventure he can show us our way that we should go. Then said Saul to his servant, But, behold, if we go, what shall we bring the man? for the bread is spent in our vessels, and there is not a present to bring to the man of God: what have we? And the servant answered Saul again, and said, Behold, I have here at hand the fourth part of a shekel of silver: that will I give to the man of God, to tell us our way. (Beforetime in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, thus he spake, Come, and let us go to the seer: for he that is now called a Prophet was beforetime called a Seer. Then said Saul to his servant, Well said; come, let us go. So they went unto the city where the man of God was.” 1 Samuel 9:6-10

If God uses a minister for you; it is your responsibility to bless him with your substance. Whatever you are giving to the minister you are under his ministration is called a prophet offering.

“It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.” Romans 15:27

It's your responsibility to bless your minister with what you have weekly, monthly or quarterly, depending on your ability. And as you do this, God has a way of blessing you in return. You are not doing this to help the minister, but it is a sure way to attract the blessings and favour of God upon your life.

If you stop giving to the minister because he fails to praise you, God will raise other people that are godlier than you to bless him.

Whatever God lays in your heart to give to your pastor or minister should not be viewed from a negative angle. Just give and leave the rest to God. Obedience to this attracts mercy, favour and blessings of God.

Every good and godly intentions that generate offerings to the kingdom of God, bring progress to the church. It's a great mystery which many do not understand.

- **USE WHAT YOU HAVE**

Nothing is too small or big to give to God. In the first instance, God is the giver of every good thing and it's expected of you to return it back to God.

Another thing you need to understand is that, everyone is expected to give in the house of God. Don't ever say you don't have anything; but I want to tell you today that you have something you can give to promote the kingdom of God.

“And Moses spake unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, This is the thing which the LORD commanded, saying, Take ye from among you an offering unto the LORD: whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it, an offering of the LORD; gold, and silver, and brass, And blue, and purple, and

scarlet, and fine linen, and goats' hair, And rams' skins dyed red, and badgers' skins, and shittim wood, And oil for the light, and spices for anointing oil, and for the sweet incense, And onyx stones, and stones to be set for the ephod, and for the breastplate. Exodus 35:4-9

It's not necessary that you should bring money. You can give God your time. Imagine what God commanded the people of Israel to do for Him in the wilderness. Israelites were not in their house or country, but in the wilderness; and yet God demanded an offering from them.

There was a time we needed money to carry out a particular project in the church. Someone brought certain amount of money for the project, but others that didn't have money to give devoted their time and energy for the work. While another person collected the money and bought all the materials for the project; and also crafted certain designs needed for the job free of charge.

There was also an old woman who had no money to give for the project as well, but she brought some garri and groundnut for the workers doing the construction.

Everyone that gives to the work of God shall receive blessings. Make sure that whatever you are giving to God comes from a willing mind. Even God told Moses to tell the people of Israel to bring things for Him from their willing mind; and not as if they were being forced.

Some ministers of the Gospel are fond of collecting offerings from members of the church with powerful curses. Such is not biblical, but intimidation.

The Bible stipulates that giving must come from a willing mind and not by curses from any minister to force or create fear in the mind of anyone to pay. Ministers of the Gospel should stop operating outside the Bible. All our teachings and doctrines must be guided by the biblical injunctions. Ministers should also stop praising anyone that contributes an offering and neglecting people that do not. If it is time or material that anyone gives, provided it's from a willing mind, it will surely attract the blessing of God. But please, don't give God a bad offering. I mean whatever you are giving God, let it be a good seed and not poor or wretched one.

Can you imagine some people bringing ill-gotten money from fraud or dubious means to the house of God? Well, for your information, it's pastor that receives such money from you and not God. But any pastor that is spiritual will definitely know and reject such money or offering that is not clean. So always give your God a good and acceptable offering, so as to attract His blessing. The offering of Abel was acceptable unto God, while the offering of Cain was rejected. Why? Simply because Abel's offering was good while Cain's offering was bad.

“And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.” Genesis 4:3-7

Your offering to God will determine your worth before Him. Whatever a man sows, same shall he reaps. One thing many fail to understand is that, God respects someone that gives Him a good offering and disregards anyone that gives Him a bad offering.

Always check your offering and ask yourself; is this acceptable to God or not? A good heart will bring forth a good offering to God. This implies that, a bad or unwilling heart cannot bring a good offering to God. The condition of your heart will determine your offering to God. Remember, God says a willing mind and not a mind that is forced or compelled.

God will grant you grace to have the understanding of the state of the mind in Jesus' Mighty Name.

Everyone has one thing or other to give to the kingdom of God. Give what you have. If you are not faithful to God now that you are not rich, you cannot be faithful when you eventually become rich. God expects from everyone in the church to give in order to promote the work of God.

- **REWARDS OF WORKING FOR GOD**

Every work in the house of God will surely be rewarded either good or bad.

“For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.” Mathew 16:27

“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.” Revelations 22:12

The rewards of God to everyone working in His vineyard are two. Your reward on earth and another reward waiting for you in heaven.

If you do well while serving in the house of God, you shall be rewarded; and if doing the work of God as you like is your own habit, you shall be rewarded accordingly. Whatever you are doing in the house of God either good or bad, there is a record for everything in heaven. Please amend your ways today before it is too late.

Gehazi thought he could commit that evil without been rewarded. The reward came upon him immediately.

“But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: but, as the LORD liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him. So Gehazi followed after Naaman. And when Naaman saw him running after him, he lighted down from the chariot to meet him, and said, Is all well? And he said, All is well. My master hath sent me, saying, Behold, even now there be come to me from mount Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets: give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of garments.

And Naaman said, Be content, take two talents. And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and laid them upon two of his servants; and they bare them before him. And when he came to the tower, he took them from their hand, and bestowed them in the house: and

he let the men go, and they departed. But he went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him, Whence comest thou, Gehazi? And he said, Thy servant went no whither. And he said unto him, Went not mine heart with thee, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee? Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and oliveyards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants? The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.” 2 Kings 5:20-27

You can hide your evil plan from man, but not from God that knows and sees everything. The eyes of God behold everything both in heaven and on earth.

“The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.”
Proverbs 15:3

Whatever you are doing in the house of God, the owner of the church is seeing you; it’s better to change and repent from your evil ways today.

“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14

When my father was alive, he made himself available for God to be used. And he used all that he had to promote the work of God in every area of the ministry. No wonder we, his children, are enjoying the dividends of that today.

I don’t deserve the level that I am in the ministry today. It’s by the special grace of God that has made this possible, due to the good works my father did in the vineyard of God. Therefore, you will reap whatever you are doing right now in the house of God, either good or bad. But it is better you engage in good works in the house of God so that you can reap a good reward.

“Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:” 2 Timothy 4:14

A man called Alexander did evil in the ministry of Paul and he was cursed greatly. As I stated earlier, whatever a man sows, so shall he reap. Don't also forget Ananias and Sapphira in the Bible; a couple that worked against the progress of the Gospel in the book of Acts.

“But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. And it was about the space of three hours after, when his wife, not knowing what was done, came in. And Peter answered unto her, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? And she said, Yea, for so much. Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out.” Acts 5:1-9

Ananias and his wife thought they could deceive the Holy Spirit and go scot free without receiving the reward. But their reward came at once and the two of them died without mercy. Many have lost the fear of God and take delight in engaging in evil things in the vineyard of God. Don't forget that everyone shall give account of his or her stewardship unto God.

“So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.” Romans 14:12

Ministers of the Gospel shall give their account; so also shall members of the church give account unto God.

How are you handling the offering that is meant for God's work in your possession? Are you faithful to it or not? Remember, the heavenly record is recording everything till that day of judgment.

Check and amend your ways today with genuine repentance. God loves a sinner but hates the sin he or she is committing. If you handle the things of God that called you to the ministry wholeheartedly, He will reward you greatly both on earth and in heaven.

Learn from others that have gone ahead of us. Our father in the Lord, Apostle Ayodele Babalola carried out his own assignment diligently and faithfully when he was alive. He is dead, but we still talk of his good works today and till Christ comes back.

Let God records good things about you. The church belongs to God; it's neither any man nor pastor's property. Beware of whatever that belongs to God. You know that project offering is not yours and it belongs to God; then use it for that purpose and nothing else. God that rewards faithfulness will surely reward you.

"Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." I Thessalonians 5:24

God that sent you requires strict faithfulness from you. Please don't disappoint Him.

"Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." I Corinthians 4:2

Maybe you have not been handling the things of God faithfully well during the time of ignorance. You can repent today and be forgiven by God.

God loves you; be a faithful servant to God's assignment inside and outside. I pray that God will help you to be faithful in Jesus' Name.

A bad servant can repent and become a good one by accepting Jesus into his or her life. And by so doing, you shall be given a regenerated mind of God. Some servants were good before, but the wrong company they associated with, led them to wrong doings in the God's vineyard.

"Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." 1 Corinthians 15:33

The company you keep matters a lot to your life. If you are associating with an upright person, your life will be upright; but if you are moving with a wayward person, you will definitely be wayward. Examine your life and adjust your ways.

“So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.” Romans 14:12

Both the small and old servants shall give account of him or herself unto God. The day of reckoning is at hand. If you are a good servant, for example, you don't need to bribe your way to be taken to a higher level; but rather your diligence, good conduct and character will take you to the top. Be good to your master and every assignment committed to your hands. God will grant you the grace to be good in Jesus' Name.

No matter how bad or strict your master may be, provided you are good, he will be willing to give you a good appraisal.

CHAPTER 4

THE SECRET OF A SERVANT

The perception of many people about a servant is quite different from the Biblical interpretation.

Some people see a servant as a cursed person under a heavy yoke of servitude. But the Bible makes us to understand that being a servant is the beginning of aiming for a greater height of glory in life.

So then; who is a servant? A servant is someone who serves others or provides help in certain ways.

“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:” Philippians 2:6-7

Just imagine how Jesus Christ came to this world and left all His glory in heaven. He was born in the likeness of man and put on the garment of a servant.

It took me time to imagine how our Lord Jesus made Himself a servant in order to redeem mankind back to God. What a great assignment!

Let us consider the attributes of a servant:

- I. **Humility:** Everyone that cultivates the spirit of humility will surely excel in glory. I’ve never seen a true servant putting on the garment of pride but humility.
“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross”. Philippians 2:8
- II. **Faithfulness:** Every good servant possesses the spirit of faithfulness in everything he or she does.
“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”
I Corinthians 4:2
- III. **Diligence:** This is another attribute of a servant. He or she works conscientiously and never gets tired.
“But Jesus answered them, My Father worketh hitherto, and I work”.
John 5:17
- IV. **Genuine love to assignment:** A good servant will show genuine love towards the assignment committed to his or her hands.
- V. **Time conscious:** Every good servant keeps to time. They don’t have time to waste when it comes to fulfilling God’s assignment.

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;” Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

- VI. **Not selfish or self-centered:** Servant satisfies his or her master before him or herself. Christ became poor for us to become rich.

“For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.” 2 Corinthians 8:9

- VII. **Ready to take any risk for the assignment:** Servant takes a risk in order to meet the need of his or her mandate. Our Lord Jesus Christ took a lot of risks in order to save mankind.

“He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed”. Isaiah 53:3-5.

- VIII. **Possess the spirit of honour:** A good servant has an attribute of honour; and so he or she honours his or her master and others.

“Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;” Ephesians 6:5

- IX. **Always joyful:** A good servant under a good leader cultivates the heart of joy towards the master and the assignment. Joseph was full of joy in the house of Potiphar.

“Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice”. Philippians 4:4

- X. **Hopeful:** Another attribute of a good servant is that, he or she is hopeful of a better future and knows that a day is coming he or she will become a master also.

“But he knoweth the way that I take: when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.” Job 23:10.

We that are ministers of the Gospel are servants to the Almighty God; and it is expected of us to possess all these attributes.

But if there is any minister of the Gospel that lacks these attributes, he or she is not a good servant of God, but an agent of the devil.

“And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.” Exodus 33:11

“And Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of Moses, one of his young men, answered and said, My lord Moses, forbid them”. Numbers 11:28

Joshua was a good servant to Moses, his master and he had all the good attributes of a servant. No wonder, he became a great person during his time.

When Jesus Christ finished His assignment here on earth as a servant, He was highly exalted above all things both in heaven and on earth; because He carried out the assignment faithfully.

“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.” Philippians 2:9-12

Friend, are you a good servant in that office or assignment committed into your hands? People might not be seeing how you handle the assignment, but don't forget that what goes around comes around. Also, God the rewarder, will reward every work accordingly.

I want you to learn from this story: There were two brothers that were given a certain amount of money for a contract to build a mansion each. The first brother collected the money for the project and bought fake materials and built the house

anyhow; while the second brother bought good materials and built the house very well.

When they finished building, their master came back to assess how they both performed. And to their surprise he told them that each of them owned the mansion he built. Have we learnt any lesson from this? You shall reap whatever that you sow.

God loves you. Consider your ways and start being a good servant that God can be proud of at any time.

- **THE TEST OF GOD**

Before one can be promoted to the next level of glory in life, one must pass through one test or the other. A test can come from God or from man to man. Abraham went through the test of God. God told him to sacrifice Isaac, his one and only child unto Him. A child he and Sarah his wife had in their old age for that matter.

“And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you. And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together. And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the

lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son.

And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.” Genesis 22:1-14

And to the glory of God, Abraham did not fail the test of God. He took with him Isaac and was willing to sacrifice him unto God. This case of Abraham's test looks so surprising to so many people. How could someone sacrifice a child he has been praying to God to have? And after his prayer for a child was answered, God wanted the same child to be sacrificed unto Him. Why did God not demand for sheep, goat or any other animal for the sacrifice as was the practice, but Isaac? Of course, it was a great test.

The children of Israel also passed through many tests of God in the wilderness.

“All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers. And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these forty years in the wilderness, to humble thee, and to prove thee, to know what was in thine heart, whether thou wouldest keep his commandments, or no. And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know

that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live. Thy raiment waxed not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years. Thou shalt also consider in thine heart, that, as a man chasteneth his son, so the LORD thy God chasteneth thee. Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him.” Deuteronomy 8:1-6

It has been often said that, before you can be promoted to a higher level of glory, you must go through the test of God. What God did to the children of Israel in the wilderness was a great test to humble them and instill in their hearts not to forget Him, by the time they possessed the Promised land, where there was a flow of milk and honey and all other good things. And any servant that desires promotion from his or her master must also be tested. Joseph passed through a very difficult test in the house of Potiphar his master in Egypt.

“And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand; There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God? And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her. And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within. And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out. And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth, That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice: And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out. And she laid up his garment by her,

until his lord came home. And she spake unto him according to these words, saying, The Hebrew servant, which thou hast brought unto us, came in unto me to mock me: And it came to pass, as I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled out. And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled. And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.” Genesis 39:7-20

Consider a situation where everything was committed to the hands of a servant so much that he was delegated the power to do whatever he liked. But even at that, Joseph did not allow that to get into his head. In that passage, his master's wife told him to sleep with her, but he refused mindless of what could be the consequence of his action.

Many servants today cannot do what Joseph did. As a matter of fact, some will be planning to kill their master and claim all that belongs to him including the wife. But Joseph preferred to go to prison to committing sin against his master and God. No wonder, his promotion was great and unique. He became what no one had ever become in his time.

How have you fared in your own test as a servant? Either your master is there or not, how trustworthy are you? Don't forget that the master of Joseph was not around when his wife attempted to lure him to sleep with her; but yet, he did not fail his master or disappoint his God.

Many servants would have become a master but their bad or questionable character towards their master has relegated them.

When you talk of servants who failed their masters in the Bible, Gehazi was a good example.

“But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: but, as the LORD liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him. So Gehazi followed after Naaman. And when Naaman saw him running after him, he lighted down from the chariot to meet him,

and said, Is all well? And he said, All is well. My master hath sent me, saying, Behold, even now there be come to me from mount Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets: give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of garments. And Naaman said, Be content, take two talents. And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and laid them upon two of his servants; and they bare them before him. And when he came to the tower, he took them from their hand, and bestowed them in the house: and he let the men go, and they departed. But he went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him, Whence comest thou, Gehazi? And he said, Thy servant went no whither. And he said unto him, Went not mine heart with thee, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee? Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and oliveyards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants? The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.” 2

Kings 5:20-27

Gehazi thought he could do anything without his master knowing. But it was quite unfortunate for him, that the spirit of his master followed him. He was an unfaithful servant, who was the architect of the problem that befell him and his generation.

Just because of worldly things, many have lost their glory. After Prophet Elisha, Gehazi would have become the next prophet of his time. But look at the unprofitable benefit that made him destroy his future glory.

Check your life in that office; are you faithful to your boss or superior?

Can your faithfulness be put to test? If yes, will you pass or fail?

There was a cleaner that was tested in the office that he was working. He was a graduate but he took up the job because after graduating from the university, he was jobless for some time. So he decided to take any available job to keep body and soul together.

So in the office, this cleaner was tempted to engage in a deal that would obviously compromise the progress of the company. They promised to give him a huge amount of money if he complied. However, this man refused and told them he preferred to die a wretched man to getting rich and go to hell fire. He didn't know he was only being tested by the management. And so as he did not fail the test, he was immediately rewarded and promoted from his post as a cleaner to general manager!

I pray for you, you will not fail the test that will take you to attain higher glory in the Mighty Name of Jesus.

Expect the test of your stewardship. Even though you must have been praying to God to promote you; but don't forget that before your promotion, a test will surely come. Every good servant always passes the test of their master. You will not fail in Jesus' Name.

David had every opportunity to become everything in the palace of King Saul. The king tested him in many ways and he never failed any of the tests.

"And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants." I Samuel 18:5, 14-18.

David was a servant under the leadership of King Saul in Israel. But he behaved wisely in the palace and God was with him.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world also came as a servant and never failed or disappointed God while on earth. Satan tested Him in many ways but He overcame all the tests.

"Being forty days tempted of the devil. And in those days he did eat nothing: and when they were ended, he afterward hungered. And the devil said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it

be made bread. And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. And he brought him to Jerusalem, and set him on a pinnacle of the temple, and said unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down from hence: For it is written, He shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee: And in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone. And Jesus answering said unto him, It is said, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God. And when the devil had ended all the temptation, he departed from him for a season.”
Luke 4:2-13.

If our Lord Jesus could overcome all the tests or temptations of the devil, you will surely overcome yours in Jesus’ Mighty Name. Someone once said, ‘no cross, no crown.’ What this means is that, without a test, there will be no promotion, either from man or God. You will not fail the exam of life in Jesus’ Name. Every man has one question or the other to answer before achieving any goal in life. You will not miss yours in life in Jesus’ Name.

- **THE HEART OF A SERVANT**

The heart of a servant is very vital towards the assignment committed to his or her hands. A servant will either possess a good or bad heart or mind for his or her assignment.

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:” Philippians 2:5

Every good heart comes from God. The heart of man is prone to do good or evil. But whoever that surrenders his or her heart unto God will receive His

support. Anyone that wants to be good in life must have a contact with God through Christ. Accepting Jesus into your life will give you a regenerated heart or mind. It will make you a true child of God that can also reason like Him; and it will be very easy for you to do good.

Joseph believed God of his father and possessed a good mind towards his master and the assignment committed to his hands. It's not every servant that possesses a good heart towards their master and the assignment. Supposing Joseph lacked a good heart, he wouldn't have been able to do all that he did in the house of Potiphar.

Everything you are doing in the physical comes from your heart, because the heart of man is the center of wisdom or the workshop of reasoning. The thought in the heart motivates the physical action. You cannot compare the heart of Joseph to the heart of Gehazi, for instance, despite the fact that Gehazi was with a great prophet that was operating with the Word of God.

But the Word of God had no place in the heart of Gehazi. He was after the worldly things due to the bad mind he possessed. Don't be surprised seeing someone that has been with a great man of God and you cannot see the signs of God in his or her life. Because of his wrong mind, Gehazi failed himself and disappointed his master.

Joseph wasn't only a servant in the house of Potiphar, but he was outstanding and well behaved because of the good mind he had towards the assignment and his master. Imagine someone working under somebody and all he or she thinks in his or her mind is how to defraud the person and turn him or her to nothing. Such a servant is heartless and an agent of Satan. You will find a servant like this in almost every nook and cranny of the world. In government or even in the vineyard of God, you will see them there.

Before you can become a good servant, you must possess the heart of a good servant. A good servant is not written on the forehead, but on the heart of the servant. Before you can become a master, you have to start from the level of a servant and your conduct while a servant will determine how great you will become in life when you eventually become a master. Don't forget that what goes around comes around.

However, a bad servant can become a good servant by accepting Jesus into his or her life and be given a regenerated mind of God. Some servants were good before, but due to wrong company they kept, they were being influenced into wrong doings.

“Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.”

1 Corinthians 15:33

Also remember that your heart will determine your success in the assignment you are doing. The Scripture says; if the tree is good, the fruits will equally be good; but if the tree is bad, definitely the fruits will be bad. A good heart attracts blessing and breakthrough. Be good from the depth of your heart.

- **A TYRANT OR LEADER?**

There is no how we would talk about a servant that we would not mention the master to the servant. All masters are not equal. A master is either a tyrant or leader. A master that is a tyrant is a task master like King Pharaoh that knew not Joseph. He dealt with the children of Israel beyond control that God had to intervene.

Some servants become bad because of the way their master that is a tyrant maltreats them. Some masters, for instance, fail to give food to their servants on time. Some servants may eat breakfast, say by 4pm; when are such servants going to take lunch? That is if that will even be provided.

“Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph. And he said unto his people, Behold, the people of the children of Israel are more and mightier than we: Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest

they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land. Therefore they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens. And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses. But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew. And they were grieved because of the children of Israel. And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigor: And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar, and in brick, and in all manner of service in the field: all their service, wherein they made them serve, was with rigor.” Exodus 1:8-14

The people of Egypt made life difficult for the children of Israel. They were cruel or tyrannical masters over them. Some masters are not friendly to their servants and because the servants do not have Christ in their lives, they pay the masters back with wickedness. But a master that possesses the heart of God and good leadership, handles his servant as part of his family and therefore enjoys the service of the servant, who will want to be good and loyal in return.

Potiphar was a good master to Joseph. He handled Joseph with good hands and committed everything in his household to him and made him to be next to him in the house. It was the wife that influenced him and changed his mind against Joseph.

“And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand. And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field. And he left all that he had in Joseph's

hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favored.” Genesis 39:2-6

Joseph was good and also met a good leader that favoured him in all things. As a master, be a good leader not and not a tyrant.

Our Lord Jesus was good to His Disciples in all aspects. He taught them, prayed for them and cared for them in all ways.

“For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me. I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. And now come I to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they might have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.” John 17:8-17

All the thoughts of Jesus towards His Disciples were good.

“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.” Jeremiah 29:1

Any good leader that prays for his servant will surely enjoy the good side of the servant.

Masters or leaders at home or that office, are you a leader or a tyrant to your subordinates? Mind you, you will reap whatever you sow. Some servants could sacrifice their time or even life for the sake of a good leader.

You the general overseer in that ministry, who are you to the servants under you? Can they give a good report about you? Check your ways and make every necessary amendment.

Some good masters can help their servants achieve their dreams in life.

Don't forget that a servant will become a master one day.

Our current Vice President, Prof. Osinbajo was once a commissioner under the former governor of Lagos state, Governor Babatunde Fashola. But today, Babatunde Fashola is a minister under Prof. Osinbajo. What a great God!

Your servant of today, might be your future saviour; so be good to him or her.

- **REWARDS OF FAITHFULNESS**

Many people see faithfulness as foolishness. But then God demands faithfulness from every believer.

Some people think being unfaithful is a way of being clever or smart to enrich their pockets. They have forgotten that every unfaithfulness shall not go unpunished by God. With all the rights that Joseph had in the house of Potiphar, his master, he played his roles faithfully.

“And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field. And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And

Joseph was a goodly person, and well favored. And it came to pass after these things, that his master's wife cast her eyes upon Joseph; and she said, Lie with me. But he refused, and said unto his master's wife, Behold, my master wotteth not what is with me in the house, and he hath committed all that he hath to my hand;

There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God? And it came to pass, as she spake to Joseph day by day, that he hearkened not unto her, to lie by her, or to be with her.

And it came to pass about this time, that Joseph went into the house to do his business; and there was none of the men of the house there within. And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.” Genesis 39:4-12

Many today cannot do what Joseph did in the house of Potiphar. He was faithful in the presence of his master and even in his absence. Even when his faithfulness landed him in prison, he was still faithful to everyone to the extent that they made him a leader in the prison.

“And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison. But the LORD was with Joseph, and showed him mercy, and gave him favor in the sight of the keeper of the prison. And the keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it. The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper.” Genesis 39:20-23.

In spite of what he passed through, he never compromised his faithfulness. It was his faithfulness in the house of Potiphar that led him to prison; and that did not affect his conduct or character in any way.

What some people are getting in the office or their master's house has polluted their faithfulness. Joseph did not allow what he went through to move him. He maintained his faithfulness to the last. If you endure to the last, against all odds, you shall eat the fruits of your faithfulness.

“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”

I Corinthians 4:2.

Joseph was a servant in the house of Potiphar. From there, he became a prisoner over an offence he did not commit. But in the end, God rewarded his faithfulness and established him in the palace of Pharaoh as the second in command.

“And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath showed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art: Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck; And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I am Pharaoh, and without thee shall no man lift up his hand or foot in all the land of Egypt. And Pharaoh called Joseph's name Zaphnathpaaneah; and he gave him to wife Asenath the daughter of Potipherah priest of On. And Joseph went out over all the land of Egypt.”

Genesis 41:39-45.

Anyone that plays his or her lawful role faithfully before God and man, will always receive the best reward from God. Joseph was faithful in all things. Some are only faithful in the church but not in the office. While some are only faithful to someone they expect to do them a favour. Faithfulness is expected in all our ways.

Gehazi was not faithful to his master because of his desire for worldly things. And he got a reward of leprosy because of his unfaithfulness.

“But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: but, as the LORD liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him. So Gehazi followed after Naaman. And when Naaman saw him running after him, he lighted down from the chariot to meet him, and said, Is all well? And he said, All is well. My master hath sent me, saying, Behold, even now there be come to me from mount Ephraim two young men of the sons of the prophets: give them, I pray thee, a talent of silver, and two changes of garments.

And Naaman said, Be content, take two talents . And he urged him, and bound two talents of silver in two bags, with two changes of garments, and laid them upon two of his servants; and they bare them before him. And when he came to the tower, he took them from their hand, and bestowed them in the house: and he let the men go, and they departed. But he went in, and stood before his master. And Elisha said unto him, Whence comest thou, Gehazi? And he said, Thy servant went no whither. And he said unto him, Went not mine heart with thee, when the man turned again from his chariot to meet thee? Is it a time to receive money, and to receive garments, and oliveyards, and vineyards, and sheep, and oxen, and menservants, and maidservants? The leprosy therefore of Naaman shall cleave unto thee, and unto thy seed for ever. And he went out from his presence a leper as white as snow.” 2 Kings 5:20-27

Many have destroyed their faithfulness to their master because of covetousness.

Remember Joseph was a servant under Potiphar as Gehazi was also a servant under the leadership of Prophet Elisha. Joseph was faithful to his master, while Gehazi was unfaithful to his own master. Joseph received a great reward of faithfulness and became a great leader, while the unfaithfulness of Gehazi brought leprosy upon him and his generation.

The end result of faithfulness is greatness, while unfaithfulness leads to destruction. Faithfulness is required of every good servant.

I pray that the special grace to be ever faithful to God and our leaders shall come upon us in Jesus' Mighty Name. Amen

