

# Building the Altar of Fellowship

**An epistle to Christ's disciples on the subject of intimacy with the Lord,  
the key for a purpose-fulfilling walk with God**



**ThankGod Akeji**

**BUILDING THE ALTAR OF FELLOWSHIP**

ThankGodAkeji

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*All quotations, except otherwise indicated are taken from NKJV.*

**“The earth was created out of koinonia. It can only be sustained by koinonia!(Genesis 1:1; 26)**

**When the earth becomes full of the knowledge of the glory of God, so many things will happen in the town and countryside.”**

**But the earth will become filled with people who know about the glory of the LORD. This will be as the waters cover the sea. (Habakkuk 2:14)**

**Building of the altar of koinonia is the way!**

### What a Friend We Have in Jesus

*Joseph Scriven wrote his famous hymn in 1855 while he was in deep distress, yet would he not allow his troubles deter his love and affection for the Lord, but to build a deeper intimacy with Him unto whom he committed his soul, in the heat of life's unfairness. His troubles bought his intimacy with the Lord.*

What a friend we have in Jesus,  
All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry  
Everything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,  
Oh, what needless pain we bear,  
All because we do not carry  
Everything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?  
Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged—  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful,  
Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our every weakness;  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge—  
Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
Take it to the Lord in prayer!  
In His arms He'll take and shield thee,  
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Blessed Savior, Thou hast promised  
Thou wilt all our burdens bear;  
May we ever, Lord, be bringing  
All to Thee in earnest prayer.  
Soon in glory bright, unclouded,  
There will be no need for prayer—  
Rapture, praise, and endless worship  
Will be our sweet portion there.

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**DEDICATION**

This book is dedicated to God. To all young believers in Christ whose greatest delight lies in knowing the Lord God Almighty every day and night.

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

**M**y first appreciation is to my Father in Heaven, who owned this pregnancy, which has now been delivered successfully. He is ever at work in me, both to will and to do of his good pleasure, thanks so much Dear Father.

My beloved parent, Rev'd/Mrs. Sunday Akeji, in whose loving hands I'm growing up to know the Lord, and his love. They offered me the various Spiritual, academic, emotional, moral and financial supports I needed for this pregnancy which I've carried for years to be successfully delivered. I love you deeply. My wonderful siblings: Theophilus designed the cover page and also Precious. Both have been a peculiar set of siblings in my life. You will not go unrewarded for all your supports.

Mary Ojima Simon, you are an incomparable friend and sister to me, an irresistible gift to my life and my ministry. Thank you for taking out the time to edit and proofread the work, even with your tight schedules; you continued to pray long hours alongside, encouraging and supporting me the way you could, God will complete the works He has begun in your life and Ministry. I love you so much.

I wish to also sincerely appreciate all the Spiritual governors, and watchmen under whose tutelage I have been learning of Christ; Pastor Alex Oguh, Rev'dDr Malachi Ogakwu, Bro. David Alfa, Rev'dJide Bello, Prof. Olusegun, Rev'd Mike Noah and a host of others who have been making reasonable impacts in me. I've enjoyed both Spiritual and unspiritual supports from you, at the different times I encountered you in the course of my Holy pilgrimage here on earth. May the blessed hand and presence of the Sovereign Lord continue to abide with you and your ministries forever.

Sincerely, if am to mention all the people whose contributions gave me the strength to put this pregnancy to the bed of fulfillment, space will not permit, but Jesus, our bridegroom will remember both your individual and collective efforts such as has made the birthing of this book successful.

**FOREWORD**

It's obvious that deceptions are here in the Church too and Ananias and Saphira are difficult to know because most of our leaders are deaf and blind. For the gate of hell not to prevail against the Church, we all need sensitivity in the Spirit.

In a Church where the members are obedient to one another, the leaders' eyes and ears can serve many as a shepherd's does for the flock. That was why no Church member queried Peter for 'killing' Ananias and Saphira. As a result too, Peter's explanation of his vision was enough evidence that God led Him to Cornelius. It was obedience that made the others go along to Macedonia after Paul said that he saw a man in a dream calling them to that place. Didn't the Lord say that even the elect could be received in this end-time!

Because most of our leaders are blind, it is necessary for every believer to learn to hear God. That is why I recommend this book to you. I have known the author - he is like a son to me. His love for the Lord is contagious and I wish that all youths in Christ are like that. Then the revival we have been praying for would have fully come.

May your ears be opened as you read and put the things to practice. That is my prayer for every reader of this book.

Alex Oguh  
30th July, 2020

## PREFACE

**H**ave you ever heard of where somebody stepped out of a house he never entered? Before anyone can come out of a place through an exit, he must first enter in through the entrance. There must be entry for exit to be possible. No believer should go out for the Lord without first coming in to Him through Koinonia for basic and detailed instructions.

With much prayers along have this first letter been written to the Church, and to every individual believer of Christ. As a result, I counsel that you read this with a praying heart so as to really draw out the whole nutrients it contains, and to bring you where God intends it to bring you. Volume two is an epistle on revivals through intimacy with Christ.

The reason why a man and woman in love don't get wedded in marriage immediately at the first sight is because, true affection is built in the process of time. The two people in love must through qualitative and quantitative attention, with a good time together build depth of intimacy—knowing each other better. This cannot happen in just a day, that's why every believer should be taught to build an altar of deep intimacy with Christ, to enable him know the person he really believes. You don't just encounter a person today, and then begin to open up all your experiences of the past, and your secrets to Him. You have to keep closer relationship so as to build true trust in each other through intimacy, then the secret matters of each person's life may now follow without any fear. This means that, people are only disposed to sharing personal secret experiences once they've built a level of intimacy, than when they first met.

God also shares his eternal secrets, and the benefits of knowing Him with the man He has known in the process of time through regular encounters at the altar of Koinonia. Familiarity of facial description and sound energy is established on the altar of intimacy.

Every flock of sheep knows their master's voice, and will never follow a stranger's voice. Absence of the altar of Koinonia is why so many believers cannot really tell when God speaks, or when it's Satan through their human nature suggesting anything in their heart. You get use to God's voice due to constant discussion with Him on the altar of intimacy, so that once He speaks to you, in the public or in the midst of a disorganized moment when your heart is flooded with several thoughts and you're almost confused, your familiarity with his adorable voice is why you will not follow Satan's counsel coming through your carnal human nature.

As a result of the fall of man from the divine will, a system was designed by him for his suitability here on the earth. The earth is the Lord's and its fullness thereof (Psalm 24:1). Mother earth gives God great pleasure, but, the world system is not designed to help any follower of Christ live joyfully, because it is designed by man for his own pleasure. What is pleasure to the carnal man brings great displeasure unto God. Therefore, in its design, it created no platform to please the Lord; the world was not designed with any activity that brings joy to Christ, it's only full of wickedness. It does not support the believer in his search for God, because it seeks to have its own god within, which those who love the world must worship:

Money, fame, fashion etc. are what it has designed for Himself, and all these are not a Christian's pursuit, although he uses them. It therefore requires a radical and a violent (forceful) determination for a believer to keep seeking God in the face of all these, which are taken as gods for the people of this world—the sinners (Matt. 11:12).

Carefully taken, statistics will reveal how that basic foundational Christian education in the Church stops at the children Sunday school classes for so many people. Ask an average adult Christian about how many memory verses he can recite today, and it will amaze you that, ninety (90%) percent of his recitation will be from the past childhood memory verses he'd learnt, and nothing much was taken in all the adult years. Also, take time to ask how many believers have read through the entire Bible (from Genesis to Revelation at least once), and another big surprise will tingle your ears; you'll realise again that more than fifty percent of Christian folks have never read through their Bible, or to study to know for themselves what the central focus of each book is, and yet we complain about our pastors and preachers or children Sunday school teachers not doing their work. As a Christian parent, how much time do you give to God in prayers every day? If not reasonable, how then do you expect the children that God gave you to raise according to the word of God, to love God and take greater delight in the things of the Spirit, and how do you expect God's heritage in your care to understand and desire Koinonia with the Holy Spirit more than they desire any other thing such as food, home/foreign movies, comedy and all manner of things on the internet and social media, when you are with or away from them? Why should Christian parents and guardians allow their children into the mould of the word system? If you will not learn to settle down and disciple the children in your care, the world will help you do so, but is greatly disastrous. This is like a last trump call for believers to return to the Lord in Spirit and in Truth, and to build, rebuild and repair their altars of Koinonia (communion, intimacy, intercourse) with the Lord Jesus Christ, the bridegroom of the Church.

There is the urgent need for each one of us to now rededicate ourselves unto God, and give ourselves to seeking God's presence and love at the altars where Spiritual intimacy happen. I have used the New King James Version of the bible as main version, but other bible versions used are indicated where necessary.

ThankGodAkeji E.  
(July 2020)

### BRIEF AUTOBIOGRAPHY

It's about eight years now that I have been following Jesus Christ as a new creation man, every step I have taken within these past years was a tread upon the path of glory, through the necessary sufferings that follows those who travel this road with their cross, every day and night because of Christ. I encountered Christ and was baptised in the Holy Ghost as a teenager in my secondary school. When I was about finishing the college, by the Lord's help, I discovered that, I was just beginning to love the Lord with a deep sense of intimacy, I could not really understand or explain what was going on, but, I soon discovered that in my final year exams, I could not participate in the sinful act of examination malpractice with which others joyfully paid little or heavily for in every way it was named and practiced. I had decided to follow Jesus—my new life, although I didn't make up my O' level papers in one sitting but I soon cleared them all. My life was totally changed. I was not born into an unchurched home, but I was not following Jesus correctly, I never understood what following Jesus meant personally, even though I had previously been a regular Church attendee. Sin and sinful habits crushed me, I was on the path to destruction when my Lover - Jesus, opened my eyes to know Him, and helped me see why and how I must decide to stand, following Him all the remaining days of my life. I continued this way until I was done with college. As I continued seeking the Lord for the furtherance of my education in higher, I heard Him mention 'mountain' in my heart; it came basically twice, I tried to figure out what He meant, because I knew it was my First Love [the Lord] that was speaking. Eventually, I understood what He was saying to be a call for an altar of intimacy where I was, so that I could know Him better, although I had initially thought that the Lord was asking me to climb physical mountains for prayers which I began because that also was a physical description and step to where He was calling me. I soon began to know Him intimately and was gradually becoming familiar with his voice, which has been my guard and guide in most of the decisions I take, especially in my academics up to this time. I also found that through daily Koinonia with Him, my bad habits and selfish attitudes were dissipating; and now, I am a complete opposite of what I use to be. Glory!

## DEFINITION OF TERMS

These definitions are according to *'Merriam Webster's Dictionary'*

**Koinonia:** This is a Greek word meaning: fellowship, association, community, communion, joint participation, intercourse. It is used for fellowship, communion in the bible. We can therefore say, it means, "Christian fellowship or communion, with God or, more commonly, with other Christians."<sup>1</sup>

**Intimacy:** the state of being intimate. To be intimate is when closeness is marked by warm friendship developing through long association.

**Communion:** intimate fellowship or rapport; an act or instance of sharing.

**Intercourse:** connection or dealings between persons or groups; exchange especially of thoughts or feelings.

**Altar:** a usually raised structure or place on which sacrifices are offered or incense is burned in worship —often used figuratively to describe a thing given great or undue precedence or value especially at the cost of something else.

**Alter:** to make different without changing into something else.

**Revival:** renewed attention to or interest in something; a period of renewed religious interest; an often highly emotional evangelistic meeting or series of meetings

**Pruning:** to cut off or cut back parts of for better shape or more fruitful growth.

**Disciple:** one who accepts and assists in spreading the doctrines of another; a convinced adherent of a school or individual.

**Believer:** a person who believes in the truth or existence of something; an adherent of a particular religion; someone

**Discipleship:** Discipleship is teaching biblical precepts, while modeling and guiding others toward living righteously as followers of Jesus Christ; it is cyclical process where a disciplined believer grows up into also discipling others also<sup>2</sup>.

**Discipler:** A discipler is one who enters into a one-on-one relationship with a new believer from the class, in order to guide the new member through the *Daily in the Word* program and to provide a mature Christian friend for the purpose of mentoring<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup>*MySword mobile App*

<sup>2</sup>*www.allaboutfollowingjesus.org*

<sup>3</sup>*ministry127.com*

*I've used the words Intimacy, Fellowship, and Communion interchangeably because of their multiple and related meaning under the Greek word, "Koinonia".*

## CHAPTER ONE

### THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

**W**ho is the bride of Christ? The bride of Christ is the Church (Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:18). In relationship with the Church Christ is ever ready to have Koinonia with his bride, but He rarely finds her. The Greek term Koinonia in this context refers to fellowship, association, community, communion, joint participation, intercourse. It is used for fellowship, communion in the bible. We can therefore say, it means, "Christian fellowship or communion, with God or, more commonly, with other Christians."<sup>4</sup>

#### Where the church missed it

*So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified (Acts 20:32).*

Paul was departing from them, and would probably not be seen again, but he did not leave them without guide. He understood that there's a guide more perfect than he, such would he commend them to. It was in the ability and capacity of God and his word of grace (Christ) that Paul eventually committed the believers, so that by continually abiding in God and in the word of his grace, through personal koinonia (fellowship), they also might be built up into the matured standard in order for them all who mature in that way to qualify for receiving their own share of God's inheritance as real sons of God, among all other people who are sanctified.

Again that means, encounter with God and His word, abiding in God and in His word is able to bring continual sanctification to the soul of every person who stays in its care. This is true because, the new creation life is formed by God through His word, hence, one shall be sustained only by abiding in God and in the confines of His word (1 Peter 1:23; 1 John 3:9).

It occurs to me that the essence of their entrustment to God and to the word of His grace is due to the inherent energy within them, to build up an individual right up to the standard height and stature which qualifies them, for receiving the legal right, and access into their own inheritance through (Galatians 4:1, 2) sanctification. Hence, we can say that God's primary purpose for calling us into the place of koinonia with Him is for daily encounter with Himself. This will take place through the instrumentality of His word often revealed by His Spirit, so that on a daily basis, each believer might be conformed to the image of His dear Son, and changed

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<sup>4</sup>MySword mobile App

from glory to glory, even as they never cease from beholding God's very face through undistracted attention and gaze upon the word of God everyday (2 Corinthians 3:18).

The Greek work used for '*commend*' in that verse is, '*paratithemi*'. The word means, '*to place beside or near or set before*'. As used in this context, Paul tried to make it known to the believers that he was setting God and His word before them, or committing them into the full capacity of God and His word, for daily guide and guard as they journey with Him. The further application of that meaning is '*placing food on a table; to set before (one) in teaching; to set forth (from one's self), to explain*'. All this as applied by Paul suggests entrustment, placing the believers within the confines of their experiential knowledge of God through His word, that they may live and move and continue to have their being in both God and in his word (Acts 17:28). This is so, that even when the false teachers he had warned them about [in the earlier verses of chapter 17] come by, they might remain under the shadow of the Almighty (Psalm 91:1).

Still the English meaning of the word '*commend*' is, "to entrust for care or preservation; to recommend as worthy of confidence or notice."<sup>5</sup> Therefore, it was important that in his departure, no harm be caused behind him, so he offered them sure security for both their preservation and guidance. Paul committed them to the ability of God and his word, in order that they might always seek God, eat/feed from, and interact with them just as they can do with physical food.

This also implies that, as often as they woke up daily with the desire to eat their physical food set on the table, so also should they desire God and His word, because their spiritual nourishment and satisfaction depends on it. If food and water grows a living thing, then God and His word encountered through revelation by the Holy Spirit grows and develops the Church. This correctly accounts for the shallowness in the depth of knowledge of the son of God in many saints. Such encounter by God and His word is done in different ways, but none is as convicting as what happens during personal koinonia (alone with God). The worth of quality during fellowship with God is so deep, and it cannot be compared with whatever happens anywhere else publicly, however great it seems.

This brief epistle is to awaken the interest and desires of the believers in Christ, and to further equip the saints who are still living, and awaiting the return of Christ. As we all wait for Him to take us home in rapture, the call for the Church is to continue in abiding in His presence for instructions on how each of us must live our lives, and how to please God. Unless you, as a believer and follower of Christ settle down for more of the knowledge of God experientially, it might be difficult for any to fulfill God's desired purpose for revealing the light of salvation unto mankind. The Church of Christ should know this, that, the day and time will never come when one can say, 'I have known the Lord enough.' In fact, the day that happens with any man, such man has started dying! Knowing God is like seeking the end of a bottomless pit. The more intimate we become with Him, the more of Him we get to know, and realise we still need to

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<sup>5</sup>(Merriam-Webster's Dictionary)

keep on knowing Him. Paul, after all his experiences with the Lord, confessed that, *'all he wanted was to know Christ, and to experience the power of His resurrection, and partake in the fellowship of His sufferings (Phil. 3:10).'* The more your desire for God, the more He reveals Himself unto you experientially. The more you stay with Him, the more you increase in your knowledge about Him.

*Knowing God is like seeking the end of a bottomless pit*

Every sincere and undistracted Koinonia with the master will always birth a new revelation about the person of Christ. Your personal revelation of God is the determining factor to how much of Him you have known, or you have become. This means, the more you interact with Him, the more familiar you get with Him; how He speaks, sends, corrects, rebukes, blesses, etc. You cannot understand the attitudes of a man you don't spend quality time with just like husband-wife relationship. For you to understand each other you need to live together, talk together, correct each other, learn from each other and behave in such a way that each other will be pleased. Therefore, this forms the basis of our Koinonia with the Lord as our quality time and devotion is always needed. There is a great call for the Church to return to her Lord (husband) from the distractions of the day because He is waiting for his bride.

There is no time you spend kneeling before the Lord in the secret place that is ever wasted. Every moment you can remember you ever knelt down before the Lord, or that you approached Him with every humility, and ready to talk to Him, and listen to Him in a talk-and-listen relationship is never a waste. Life is measured by time, therefore, as often as you come before the Lord ~~for any Spiritual intercourse with Him (being your bridegroom)~~, you are only investing into you *Where communication stops, relationship also stops* accompanying blessings are what you receive. The entire songs that make up the book of Songs of Solomon are centered on the love of two fellows. These two fellows love each other so deeply, and are obsessed about each other, which clearly pictures what manner of affection, and what depth of intimacy exists between a believer and the Lord Jesus Christ every day.

In that adorable poetry of love and unfeigned affection, the lover (which signifies Christ) expressed his gracious interest for his beloved (the Church). As often as the bride described her feelings towards her lover, so also was her lover ever moved to credit her with his own complements. The woman would also always comprehend his love and at each time, moved for her ecstasies with complements, and her silky words were lubricates to her lover's desire for her, hence, enjoying the whole love process, while she was never left to starve of satisfaction. Their relationship shows clearly how satisfied each of them was with each other. The woman did her part perfectly, and the man also played his own roles excellently. It's obvious that the voice of the woman was louder and more compared to the man's; she expressed her sweet feelings much more than the man who led the intimacy, though they both contributed immensely (Songs of Solomon 1:1; 2:14)

In this, we can deduce that the Church has more to do in building up an altar for constant intimacy between her and Christ. And every believer that makes up the Church should also understand that, their personal intimacy with the Lord is what will keep them Spiritually alive, hence, the believers were commanded never to neglect the attitude of meeting together for deeper Spiritual communion alongside with Christ (Hebrews 10:25)

It is the believer that is expected to draw closer to the Lord in salvation, and then, God will also draw closer to Him in intimate relationship as friends. God is never far away, harnessing the benefits of his omnipresence is based on how established an individual's prayer and worship altar is laid. Building greater intimacy with the Lord is a daily routine for every born again person and those who fail to do this will never amount to anything reasonable in life. In the face of the Lord, this is regardless of other successes one could have attained over time.

## CHAPTER TWO

### THE ALTAR OF INTIMACY—A NECESSITY

**T**he message of grace, which is Christ is the central focus of the gospel (Col. 1:28). It is solely by Christ, the epitome of God's grace unto all mankind that God's inheritance of eternal life is realised (Titus 2:11). All who come to Him and abide in Him will receive this fullness of life, that is; are made complete by abiding in Christ, and in his word. They are made complete in all areas; be it Spiritual or physical. Continuity with Christ in an unbroken Spiritual relationship is essential for the daily and as well as in the maturing of the Spiritual life of a believer in Christ. The Spiritual inheritance received by all sons of God (John 1:12), is made manifest physically in their earthly existence in the course of time through the daily and momentary interconnection, which keeps them within the influence of their unbroken link with the Lord. This forms the bedrock of the altar of our intimacy with the Lord.

#### The seed of Koinonia

Unless a seed is planted on a good soil [continually connected] to its source of life [the nutrients and all the factors responsible for its germination, growth and development], it will remain stunted. This means that it will grow abnormally due to malnutrition or even die totally as a result of this factor. Our Lord brought a practical illustration of this matter through the parable of the sower, the seed and the good soil in Matt. 13:1-23.

It is only through daily and unceasing personal Holy Communion (Fellowship) that the key secrets of God are made known to any man. Your growth and development into the expected quality of Spiritual maturity is what guarantees your divine qualification for receiving your share of The Father's Spiritual inheritance, which can enable you manifest his potentials within you here on earth. This is directly proportional to the degree of inward Spiritual development that is produced in you as a result of your commitment to your own communion table (the altar of intimacy) with the Lord.

Jesus is always standing at the door of the heart of every believer, unforced, but ever-willing to come in once he's given the chance to come in (Rev. 3:20). And note this, that, when He comes into you at every opening, your dining with Him will not be one-sided, because He will come in and eat with you and you with Him. This implies that, while He stands at the door of your heart and knocks, He also carries along what substance He will eat with you during the communion.

At the Spiritual altar (table) with Jesus, the traffic is of a two-way category: it's where you speak to Him, He listens and also speaks back to you who if you are ready to also listen and obey his secret thoughts revealed to you.

#### The Fellowship in Koinonia

*Koinonia does not take place with a partner you have nothing in common*

Koinonia is possible only with a partner or more; no man can just be alone and in his right mind begin to engage Himself; well, it may be that one might set aside some time to sit and meditate all alone, but even that suggests partnership because, every meditation has a course, it has a *koinonos* (the unseen partner—the imagery created in the mind).

As believers, our fellowship is ever with The Father and with the bridegroom of the Church-- Jesus Christ (1 John 1:3). No unbeliever can have such an intimacy with God except he repents, and receives the right of Sonship (John 1:12, 13) *“But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in his name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of man, but of God.”* This is the main reason why only sons (those who believe in his Son Jesus Christ) have been set apart by the Lord to receive his inheritance.

In most African societies, and cultures, the norm is that, only a son receives a father’s inheritance, an outsider does not have such right. In like manner, those not born again and baptised into the body of Christ through the Holy Spirit—Matt. 28:19) have no right of access into the presence of The Father for any form of intimate relationship—(knowing of The Father’s secrets). Disciples go intimate with their masters so as to learn more and faster. The more you stay with your master, the more chances you get of becoming like Him under whom you learn, and it is by being exposed to Him always, ever at his disposal, and always getting acquainted with his schemes and secrets which are the secrets of his mastery (Matt. 10:24, 25). When we consider the world around us, especially in our little communities, any apprentice who is a truant may never graduate when others are to be freed to practice on their own. In a fashion design’s apprenticeship where they are all manner of learners who are under daily tutelage, you’ll agree with me that, the ones who pay more attention, who do not break the instructional guidelines for the learning process will always learn more qualitatively, and with greater speed. In fact, if there is one who sometimes sleeps in the home of their master, such will have the privilege of learning more widely than the others, and will soon begin to teach the others. The greatest secrets of any master, leader or teacher is made more manifest to his closest opened servant, follower or pupil. The closer a disciple draws to his discipler the more he looks like Him. The child who is always staying with his mother in the kitchen obviously gets to learn more cooking tactics and skills eventually and may even do better than the mother from whom he/she learnt. Becoming familiar with one’s parent’s voice is only possible when the voice of the parent is registered in his/her children’s heart overtime, due to continual encounter with the parent’s sound energy. Our Lord has a similar illustration regarding the sheep and the shepherd (John 10:1-6).

### **Familiarity through Koinonia**

At a particular point Jesus looked at his disciples and said He would no longer call them ‘servants’, but friends, since He already told them every secret of the kingdom which The Father had told Him because relationship develops in the process of time. Levels of intimacy are based on how much secrets are being kept closed or shared amongst the partners involved.

*“No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.”* (John 15:15).

There is no way a group of people who desire to be in a reasonable relationship or association will not seek to get familiar with each other in the process of time. Now, if even a worldly partnership will not survive without constant and unceasing union, and will barely achieve their common goals without it, how much more will a believer survive in a Spiritual world without a consistent Koinonia with the Lord Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit! The Spiritual gives birth to the physical; everything you see transpiring in the earth physically has a Spiritual genesis. When you take a fish from the river, you can as well expect its death soon. So also, the only way for a believer to remain alive in Christ is by abiding in Him through constant communion with the master—Jesus Christ. The way of the cross is designed that way. God seeks to keep every believer alive by sharing his burdens with their hearts. This is accomplished as the disciple comes for personal communion with the Lord through word encounter on the altar of Koinonia. A healthy believer is known by the amount of the Lord's burdens he bears, and how much he is able to manage it through time. He discharges the Lord's burdens in the place of prayer backed up with serious actions; because Spiritual burdens given by the Lord are as firewood is to a living fire. Every Spiritually-healthy disciple of the Lord Jesus is also known for carrying the burdens of others before God, in prayer rather than by discussing it with another man (Prov. 18:8; Prov. 20:19); this is why every New Testament believer is a living priest.

*A healthy believer is known by the amount of the Lord's burdens he bears, and how much he is able to manage each of them through time only to be discharged in the place of prayer; because Spiritual burdens given by the Lord are as firewood is to a living fire. Every Spiritually-healthy disciple of Jesus Christ is known for carrying the burdens of others before God in prayer rather than by discussing it with another man every believer is a living priest.*

Commonness is what brings a couple together. No couple can marry successfully if they lack compatibility of purpose—they can never travel far as one and fast except they have a united focus. Christ is the head (husband) of the Church; this is the basic reason why intimacy with Him must be a top priority. In our union with Him, we have all things in common with Christ by our faith in Him; hence, we should grow intimate with Him (Col. 2:8, 9).

No couple can marry successfully if they lack compatibility of purpose

In the various translations of the Greek noun "*Koinonia*," there is also the meaning '*intercourse*.' In a decent culture, it is adultery for the husband of Mrs. A. to have sexual relations with the wife of Mr. B., because they share nothing in common as long as marriage is concerned.

The Church receives its life and total sustenance from Christ. hence, they both can have Spiritual intercourse so as to allow the Church bear many fruits (children) who will last, and stand the test of time (John 15:7, 16). This secret not well taught is the reason why the Church of Christ is so unproductive, and so many new believers do not last long and stand the test of time when faced with certain circumstances that shakes every disciple. In fact, the strongest

Spiritual strength of a disciple is first from the inside, and it is only attained by deep and unceasing Koinonia with the Lord Jesus Christ in the secret place.

Apostle Paul in his first letter to the Corinthian Christians warns that a couple must not deny each other of sexual pleasures except by agreement for a short while, to sell out for intimacy with God, through prayers, and quickly resume for the usual sexual relations so as to never open the door of temptation for a partner who has weaker emotional setup.

*So do not deprive each other of sexual relations. The only exception to this rule would be the agreement of both husband and wife to refrain from sexual intimacy for a limited time, so they can give themselves more completely to prayer. Afterward they should come together again so that Satan won't be able to tempt them because of their lack of self-control. (1 Cor 7:5 NLT)*

So also, Spiritual intercourse in this context must never cease between the Church and Christ. If it is that expedient for a married couple to quickly bond back after a brief moment of separation for a reasonable purpose, then, staying apart from Christ--the head for a moment offers Satan a space, you can be sure that he'll take advantage of it. This is perhaps a cardinal reason why so many believers and Churches remain unproductive despite their prayer programmes day in day out. Every member of the body of Christ is expected to trim their own oil-carrying lamps like the five wise virgins who went in with the bridegroom at an unexpected hour (Matt. 25:1-13). Let none be lacking in divine wisdom, in keeping alive the fire on the altar of personal Holy Communion with the Lord Jesus Christ (Lev. 6:12, 13).

*And the fire on the altar shall be kept burning on it. And the priest shall burn wood on it every morning, and lay the burnt offering in order on it...a fire shall always be burning on the altar; it shall never go out. Lev. 6:12, 13*

Surely, crisis exists in any home (marriage) where sexual relationship is not sufficient; in fact, many of such marriages have split apart today due to unsettled issues rooted in sexual dissatisfaction by the one or both of the couple. Tell me, if a human marriage will hardly stand with a problem such as this mentioned above, how would the Spiritual and main relationship between Christ and his Church work out in the case where the second partner (the Church/individual believer) is not available when most needed?

In the current phase of the world system, whosoever does not take his job/work serious with enviable and unshared devotion and with a wholehearted commitment will be surely exited from the firm they work, especially the private firms. The world system understands that, if a worker really claims that he/she has in his mind the united interest and goal of the company he's employed in, such would give all required attention, like all others in the same partnership for the purpose of attaining their predetermined aims and objectives. In the same way must we not forget that the Church still lives within the world system; there is a change in phase, the Church will never succeed in her divine assignment with any form of shallowness in the Spiritual

capacity of its congregation. But with her current state of shallowness in Spiritual things, 'Ekklesia' (Church) may find it hard to conquer her enemies within and without.

Individual believers should awaken; build up a living altar for the unceasing Koinonia with Jesus Christ. It is the only way any believer can dig for true depths in Christ, and move away from the shallow site in terms of Spiritual knowledge and understanding of basic Spiritual truths. It is only in digging deeper daily, pressing to know more of God and his son Jesus Christ that we can all grow and develop, reaching to the fullness of the stature of Christ's mature state. In Ephesians 4:13-16 (NLT), Paul clearly discloses God's ultimate expectation of the height and Spiritual growth/development of his sons. There is an already laid down standard of Spiritual height and depth for the believers, Christ is our growth standard. It is until we all come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we will be said to have matured in the Lord, and measuring up to the full and complete standard of Christ. Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of doctrine/new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever, they sound like the truth; instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the Church. This measure of Spiritual attainment is achieved only by virtue of our devotion to personal Holy Communion (fellowship) with the Lord Jesus Christ. The altar must be erected. As much as the work of the five-fold ministry gifts keep operating in the Church, if individuals lack the kind of urgency found in the Berean believers, how they would go back on what they were taught for personal research, study and meditation, such a believer may fall easy prey of the wolves (false teachers) who come in sheep's clothing today. The Bereans would take their time to carefully examine Paul's revelations and teachings (Acts 17:11), before accepting to walk in its truth.

### **Our victory through Koinonia**

The Church has in times past lost battles to the devil and this is because of her proud refusal, reluctance to fight in the spirit on her knees. Instead many believers now prefer to fight with their mouth power, railing unwholesome and unholy statements at Satan and others who do them wrong; merely telling and talking about their situations or that of the Church, and ending it all, there. Fighting on the knees with all the tools of Spiritual warfare (2 Cor. 10:3, 4) such as the blood of Jesus, his death and resurrection, his cross and the Holy Spirit, made available for the Church is only done on the altar of intimacy because of the privilege of grace that granted it. It is not very easy to utilise each tool of the Spirit without coming in the clouds of his shadow-cover. *Hethat dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty* (Psalm 91:1).

No other altar on earth exists with an energy powerful enough to work against any believer who has a living altar of Koinonia with The Father, who is ever servicing his altar with the fresh sacrifice of the word in the early morning hours, or having a valuable time with Jesus (Psalm 88:13; 55:17; 59:16).

*My voice you shall hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning I will direct it to you, and I will look up. Psalm 5:3*

*Evening and morning and at noon I will pray, and cry aloud, and he shall hear my voice. Psalm 55:17*

The early morning hours enhances deep and quality quite time with the Lord. For the Israelites, God's command was for them to go out every morning before the sun rises, so as to pick up the manna that fell from the heavens alongside the morning dews, but as soon as the sun begins to rise, the volume of manna not picked will melt away, and those who could not carry as much as they needed will have to suffer for the day or share from those with an extra manna (Exod. 16:13, 14, 18). Spiritual freshness follows the freshness of the morning when a person wakes up with a spirit that is calm and relaxed. It is best to engage one's spirit with the Lord early enough before the commencement of the usual day's work, or before the plans slated for that day begins. The time when people begin to raise their voices outside in the streets and in the neighborhood and visitation can begin is not the best time for quite time anymore, because unavoidable distractions will surely come in. Therefore, it's advisable that believers should come to their altars of intimacy to meet the Lord, first, long before dawn or before bed rest, just as Christ did (Matt. 14:28; Mark 1:35). This is to also ensure clarity of mind, and a focused attention before the Lord. The day's instructions are also given, and well comprehended best at this time. Personal devotions at early hours should be introduced to every Christian child early enough, so that it would become part of their lives, and as they grow up, they will not depart from it (Prov. 22:6). Any parent can be sure of a successful future for a child who is brought up in this way.

### CHAPTER THREE EVERY BELIEVER—AN ETERNAL ALTAR FOR THE LORD

**A**nother very cardinal issue is that, in our New Testament times every believer is both the altar and the sacrifice. This implies that, God is really passionate about our whole being—mind, body and soul brought before Him for absolute communion and intimacy (Koinonia), for He is a jealous God (Exod. 20:5).

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. Rom. 12:1*

*Then he taught, saying to them, “Is it not written, “My house shall be called a house of prayer for all nations...?” Mark 11:17*

*Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? 1 Cor. 3:17*

*Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 1 Cor. 6:19*

This shows us clearly that the altar of intimacy is not really limited to some physical structure built for the exercise. But the depth of understanding we should have concerning this subject matter is simply that, God’s own abode of Koinonia here on earth is the mind, body and soul of every believer. *Every disciple of Jesus Christ is a walking temple*, and every righteous living man is God’s dwelling place when He visits the earth. This further implies that, whenever a believer goes into his secret chambers to be with the Master, he’s only taking physical the act of spiritual intercourse with the Lord Jesus Christ. As long as a believer lives, he ceases not to commune with the maker, it’s an unceasing and endless fellowship, a never-ending fellowship with the Lord Himself, that He might find his children always ready for every good work.

*Every disciple of Jesus Christ is a walking temple, and every living man is God’s dwelling place when He comes visiting on earth.*

*He made my words as sharp as a sword. With his own hand he protected me. He made me like an arrow, sharp and ready for use. Isaiah 49:2 (GNB)*

The Koinonia between Christ and his disciples is an eternal affair; it is to be in observance every second of the day. This is a secret purpose of God behind the continuity He commanded the Israelites to maintain in the Old Testament times.

*This shall be a statute forever for you... Lev. 16:29*

God intends that as much as any believer remains in Him, he should remain in Him forever, and that it is the only way for a disciple to live a fruitful life in the Lord’s vineyard, everyday.

The height of impact you can make in your generation is directly proportional to the height of impact made upon your life by God through the divine encounter you have on the altar of intimacy with Him. The quality of Christian life (depth of maturity) you carry is determined by the quality of time-sacrifice you lay aside to be with the Lord in the secret place. Spiritual batons are released upon any man for the salvation and establishment of the kingdom of God for the nations and kingdoms as they find faithful attendees to the secret council of the heavenly congregation. This is because great secrets of the kingdoms on earth are also found in God's secret place, only those whom He finds in his chambers groaning for nations and kingdoms through intercessions on the altar of intimacy would God release the secret access key for their eternal salvation and deliverance from sin and the powers of darkness (Jer. 23:18, 22)

### **It shall be a Living Altar**

Just as every altar is kept alive with fresh blood sacrifice as was practiced in the Old Testament, the altar of Koinonia is kept alive with fresh sacrificial elements such as the coolest periods of the day, undivided attention, and inclusion of word study and all kinds of prayers.

*No demonic altar can work against a man with an altar of Koinonia, who is always found by God there. Those who have an altar of Koinonia cannot be altered by Satan in the journey of life. God alters our selfish plans when we meet with Him on the altar of intimacy for our good, and for his glory.*

Demonic altars have no power of influence over a man whose altar is daily covered with freshness, through daily intake of the word of God and with much unceasing prayers. When any man dwells in the secret place of the Most High, he dwells under the shadow of the Almighty altogether; the Lord shall be like a wall of fire around such a man. Demons understand that those with an altar of intimacy are not vulnerable, they are ever receiving help even for other people, and no harm can be allowed to touch them (1 Pet. 3:13), they are cautious when dealing with people like that, because they are ever before the Lord receiving grace to help in times of need (Heb. 4:16). All God's friends who were successful in their walk with Him as we see in the scripture were fond of raising altars in the name of the Lord. At every level, and in all that happens these men would find one way or the other to raise an altar unto the Lord. Our patriarch Abraham, Isaac and Jacob were fond of the same attitude. Noah came out of the ark and the first thing was to raise an altar of sacrifice unto the Lord, and God was pleased with the smell of the offering, He vowed with a rainbow never to destroy the earth again with water no matter what happens. Abraham would always raise an altar. For the Israelites, the Lord even described what kind of altar they must raise for sacrifice unto Him, and with the description of how it must be built (Gen. 8:20; 22:9; Exod. 17:15, 24:4).

The devil cannot alter the destiny of a man with an altar kept alive with fire. Only a man with communion altar can alter Satan's decrees, and be used by the Lord to alter any altar erected by the wicked ones, speaking against the purpose of God in the life of any believer, unbeliever or even of the nations.

## CHAPTER FOUR

## THE COMMAND TO GO INDOORS--JESUS IN FOCUS

*And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For the love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. Matt. 6:5, 6*

**E**very believer is summoned by the Lord to come in under shut doors alone with The Father who sees in the secret but rewards openly. It is a clarion call to all disciples of Jesus, an indisputable demand for all to abide in his presence so as to draw the adequate amount of Spiritual energy for their Spiritual walk with God, and every work God gives them to do.

There was once a woman who was a widow of a prophet, she came over to Elijah and explained how her two sons were about to be seized for slavery in payment of the debt her husband owed his creditor before he died. When she sought the man of God over this, his response to her was to go and borrow empty vessels from the neighborhood as much as she could, so that she could fill up the vessels with the little amount of oil she had in her house. She went in obedience and did as she was told, miraculously, she kept pouring the little jar of oil into the empty but larger containers until they were all filled up, the cruise of oil ceased flowing out. This is recorded in the book of 2 Kings 4:1-7. When the vessels were filled up she went and told the man of God all what had happened, then he commanded her to go and sell the oil in order to pay up the debt and also live on the rest. But the initial instruction given to her is our main concern here for now. When she brought her complaint, Elijah gave her some instructions that were the reasons why she multiplied in the grace of abundance, and since sustenance and increase is what we all seek in our Christian faith, we shall consider the instructions briefly.

a. *So Elisha said to her, "What shall I do for you? Tell me, what do you have in the house? And she said. "Your maidservant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil."*

*"Your maidservant has nothing in the house but a jar of oil."* This is exactly what so many believers keep saying and for this reason they have refused to expand their capacities. When Moses complained he could not go back to Egypt to rescue the Israelites, God asked him of what was in his hands, it would be what God would use to do many mighty miracles and manifest his power amongst the people, he succumbed later on (Exod. 4:1-5). Today I hear many people complain of how they lack enough time for anything like *'alone with God.'* The erection of the altar of intimacy is not for preachers alone, but for all who have received the privilege of sonship into the kingdom of God by believing in Jesus Christ.

God gives all men the approximate twenty-four hours out of which some have spent large percentages of it staying at the feet of the Lord, either in the early hours of each day, or their noon times and recess periods at work, yet many others at night. Mary, the sister of Martha (Luke 10:38-42) was greatly loved by Christ, and her action was preferred above that of her sister. This is because, she chose to sit at the Lord's feet when He visited, yet Martha was so concerned about preparing some food for the others. As important as the issue of food and every other necessity of life may appear to be, sitting before the Lord, to learn of Him, and asking Him questions for answers, [which is what happens when we meditate on the word of the Lord] is more preferred to the Lord than every other matter of social concern to mankind.

When you are deeply in love with someone, there's no sacrifice that you cannot be moved to make just to satisfy that person or even your own self. For God loved the world so much that He gave up his one and only son for the salvation of fallen mankind (John 3:16). Love is usually expressed by giving of something that is most valuable at times. This means, if you claim true love for the Lord, then you've got to prove it by offering Him yourself at the altar of intimacy for unceasing communion, The Father longs to see you there. Do not think that you are the one who really wants to have more of Him, because God has truly offered us all of Himself—Jesus Christ it's now left for us to give our all unto Him; our time, our focus, our attention and regard for Him in all that we must do as a result of our living here on the earth.

### **Remove every distraction**

The woman said she had nothing else to trade with except her little oil which was of a little significance at that time for what she needed help over. God's help unto her was for her to obey the man of God in the command to use the little she had inside to get what she needed. Life is measured by time. The life you have is the greatest asset God has given you, and with it, you can surely make it in life.

*Life is measured by time.*

She had life, and time as well, and she had small oil, she also had a humble and obedient heart--that was what God's word found to trade with, and her life after then received a complete turn-around. Even today, every man has what God will use to bring complete change into his/her situation. The solution to every problem is usually not kept far away from the problem itself, or from the source of the problem itself.

This also explains that your neighbours contribute to the quality of Koinonia you enjoy with the Lord. If you really desire to have an undistracted period of Spiritual fellowship with the Lord, then through love and patience you would have to settle every matter whose rising may distract what you think you are doing in that secret chamber. Do your best to attend to every matter that concerns you and that might prompt anyone who live around you and likely get to disturb your communion eventually; (the married folks would understand this more practically). Jesus is a clear example of someone whose passion for the secret place would always make Him find a way to excuse Himself from relating with his neighbours or even his disciples when He wants to commune with The Father.

b. *Then he said, "Go, borrow vessels from everywhere, from all your neighbours—empty vessels; do not gather just a few. Then go into your house with your sons and shut the door behind you. Pour olive oil from your flask into the jars, setting the jars aside as they are filled." So she went from him and shut the door behind her and her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured it out.*

To borrow vessels from the neighbours here is to buy their time off, by adopting that which keeps them from distracting you at the time of your attendance to the altar of intimacy. Do all you must to keep neighbour's distractions away so that you can really get impacted from the Lord's altar as you come before Him. Prepare for a meeting with the Lord that wouldn't suffer break of divine link.

*"...Then go into your house with your sons and shut the door behind you."* Following the example of our Lord and leader Jesus Christ in his teachings and practical ways of having fellowship with The Father and getting results out of it, this woman was instructed to go into her house and do the pouring into the empty vessels under bar and lock. This instruction further caution of how much a disciple must put in place to cut every form of distraction away. Whenever a disciple goes up to the altar of intimacy, it is a step into the place where he drinks of the Holy fires from the very presence of the Lord Almighty, and all who give their best to Him receive the best quality of his endowments each moment. Every moment we must go before Him into the secret place, either in the room, on the physical mountain top, in a guest room, or any place found suitable, absolute aloneness should be ensured jealously.

It is not advisable to put on your mobile device, or keep it close by without switching on to flight mode during Koinonia, that is in cases where you must make use of the softcopy Bible. Try your best to cut all link-breakers away; there are peculiar distractions to different individuals ranging from the chosen venue and social factors per time. For some who have the capacity, it is not out of place to have a separate room dedicated or specially built up for the purpose of Koinonia. The affair deserves such careful preparation, the quest for quality aloneness is unbeatable, and the matter must not be taken with levity. Spend physical value to get eternal value!

*Spend physical value to get eternal value!*

In all his teachings about prayers unto The Father, Jesus often revealed how such act must be carried out in an atmosphere of unshared serenity, an atmosphere that influences and enhances the birthing of new heights in the depth of Spiritual intimacy with a deeper and wider knowing of God. He fostered the ideas of: *Not praying like the Pharisees and hypocrites who make open show of their prayer attitude, and how a disciple should go indoors and shut the door behind Him before praying unto The Father in the secret (Matt. 6:5-8), this, however, does not counter public prayer meetings at all; when it must be practiced.* We didn't find any account in the gospels that tells us of how Christ locked Himself up in the room to pray, hence physical locks and bars is not really his concern here, but that an attitude that makes open show of one's prayer life and visit to the altar of intimacy must be properly checked to ensure the

absence of hypocrisy. According to the writers of the gospels books, the prayer place of Jesus Christ was often the mountain/hill, or a solitary place.

*Now in the morning, having risen a long while before daylight, He went out and departed to a solitary place; and there He prayed. Mark 1:35*

*And in the daytime He was teaching, but at night He went out and stayed on the mountain called Olivet. Luke 21:37*

*And when He had sent the multitudes away, He went up on the mountain by Himself to pray. Now when evening came, He was alone there. Matthew 14:23*

*And when you pray, you shall not be like the hypocrites. For they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the corners of the streets, that they may be seen by men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But you, when you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. Matthew 6:5, 6*

The above scriptures are a little part from many verses that describes Jesus' prayer life, or his attitude to the altar of intimacy with The Father. Although He is God, made visible for man to feel, see and touch (Col. 1:15); yet being a son who was living on the earth in the midst of the world system, Jesus could never have succeeded staying all to Himself and claiming He is God in human flesh; He saw it, He understood the necessity of attending the heavenly council on a daily basis, in the morning, noon and at night. He was not too busy to hibernate in order to be with The Father because of ministerial demands. I see and hear about how zeal pushes some believers who are active in ministry that they become so preoccupied with the work of God and begin to lose Spiritual strength because of lack of commitment to the altar of Koinonia for refilling. Every true worker in God's vineyard should know that every Spiritual work done for God leads to loss of Spiritual virtue, and it calls for immediate refilling as often as it is possible. Even Jesus testified to this fact, which means, there is no automatic anointing for anyone doing the work of God regardless of your height of anointing or operation in grace, as often as you minister Christ to people, either by praying, preaching, evangelizing, teaching, prophesying, writing, singing etc., previously imparted Spiritual virtues are lost in the process, and requires refilling each time, otherwise, you might eventually become too porous for sin and vulnerable satanic manipulations; you might even starve to death Spiritually. It takes energy to create energy. This explains why many workers in God's vineyard become more susceptible to Spiritual fall, or dryness immediately after any powerful ministration, because after every ministerial delivery, much Spiritual energy is lost, and the best thing to do each moment any one ministers Christ (the word of God) is to keep in mind the need to return to the altar of fellowship to report, and for the refilling of lost virtues. If Jesus did not receive his empowerment once for all, then no disciple should think it's so.

*But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me." Luke 8:46*

Every believer is therefore expected to be with the Lord long before dawn; in the noon time and even at night to overcome some unavoidable distractions and defeat. There's nothing wrong with personal all-night prayer [vigils], just as we read about Jesus.

*Now it came to pass in those days that He went out to the mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. (Luke 6:12)*

Depending on the impression of the Spirit upon Him, He did not refuse it, but spent his time all nights with God in some cases until the matter at hand was handled with The Father. He must have spent his nights praying for others in most cases. Jesus lived for others; He fasted for others, prayed for others and stayed to do the work of a priest with the Father over the people He came to save.

*But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me." Luke 8:46*

### **No pregnancy without Intercourse**

He has shown us by several prayer examples how a believer and disciple of his would never make it in a world like this without the altar of one-on-one fellowship with God.

Every family and Christian home should awaken and begin this course, this which the Church has kicked out for many years. Several personal and joint revivals have been aborted in the past because the altar upon which the Spiritual pregnancy ought to be birthed was littered with lazy bones, lukewarm and cold hearts with no fires. The head of our pilgrimage--Jesus Christ left the river after his baptism and went off to the wilderness all alone as the Spirit led Him. This is a call for us all to arise from our sleep and slumber and begin to go in, so as to be with Christ for Spiritual intercourse. No married woman becomes pregnant unless she has consummated her love with her husband through sexual intercourse. In the same way, there's no way for any disciple to carry the pregnancy of divine burdens for the souls and salvation of other people if he/she doesn't go into the chambers of the Church's bridegroom (Jesus Christ), who's ever willing and waiting for Koinonia with the wise virgins. A healthy believer carries Spiritual burdens for the salvation of the souls of men every time you see them, and this is the beauty of the Christian faith, it is the privilege of priesthood on behalf of others who will also come in. Jesus has clarified his followers on the primary purpose for chosen them, it is first for intimacy, and then for outdoor ministry, since no one can go out of a room he's not first entered.

*Jesus has clarified his followers on the primary purpose for chosen them, it is first for intimacy, and then for outdoor ministry, since no one can go out of a room he's not first entered.*

There is no reasonable couple in their right senses who would claim they love themselves so much, and because they are legally married bring their mattress out of the bedroom to the streets for sexual intercourse so everybody can see them, if they do, they'd have to be taken to

the psychiatric hospital for immediate attention. Likewise, you don't expect yourself to have any sweet communion with the Lord Jesus Christ when you are never coming inside to dine with Him. See, in the presence of the Lord are pleasures forevermore.

### **Koinonia, a Priestly role**

*You also, as living stones, are being built up a Spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up Spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:5*

*But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, his own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 1 Peter 2:9 (emphasis added by me).*

*And has made us kings and priests to his God and Father... Rev. 1:6*

*And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on earth. Rev. 5:10*

The role of the Levitical priests in the Old Testament continued until Jesus the main High Priest appeared. The system of the Law which began with Moses was for it to serve as a school master, like a guard and guide, keeping them on the right track, that they go not wild like the other heathen nations; God's desire for allowing the Law was for Him to have a race acceptable in his sight so that He might bring a Holy thing out of a Holy people, because, no unholy thing can produce a Holy thing. Therefore, as the role of the Levitical high priest was to be a mediator, continually mediating on behalf of the people till he died and another taking over, so also must every believer following Christ maintain the role of the royal priesthood that Peter disclosed to the believers. Being a priest is a serious responsibility.

*Every believer is a priest. A priest is one authorized to perform the sacred rites of a religion especially as a mandatory agent between humans and God.*

Every believer is a priest. A priest is one authorized to perform the sacred rites of a religion especially as a mandatory agent between humans and God (*Merriam-Webster's Dictionary*). If this is actually whom Jesus has shown us to be, then we may agree that we've been operating below heaven's expectation, and limiting the operation of the power of God through our lives as his disciples here on earth. The Lord Jesus Christ recreated us in Himself for the role of a priest like Himself. He's ever mediating on our behalf before The Father, and He has made us priests also here on earth to take up the *reports of our priesthood* before The Father. He keeps us here as his ambassadors, and we must be functional. The role of a priest like ours is to remain in the presence of The Father, forever giving Him attention at every meeting on the altar of fellowship, bringing the word of the people before Christ, and vice versa. We are all debtors, having been made into priests whose reign is on earth, in place of Christ. Christ Himself is the one in us carrying out this priestly function/operations (Phil. 2:13). We are supposed to meet with the Lord moment by moment, presenting ourselves unto Him for deeper intimacy daily, which provides us the opportunity of telling Him about others' situations

after offering Him the sweet sacrifice of our own lives, our time, undistracted and undivided attention (Rom. 12:1).

*The responsibility of a priest is deep communion and fellowship daily*

Let the infants be taught the roles of royal priests, teenagers and youths too, and the adults and the aged must not be left out at all, because the Christian life is not complete without the role of the mediator.

*Therefore, I exhort first of all that supplication, prayers, intercessions. And giving of thanks be made for all men. 1 Tim. 2:1*

It was in Paul's first epistle to Timothy that he reminded him of this responsibility. This, being an exhortation describes how urgent and strong the matter was in the very heart of Paul. It is a major role of every true disciple of Christ, to stand in the gap for all other men, including believers and non-believers everywhere, in all levels of social status.

**CHAPTER FIVE**  
**TOP SECRETS OF THE KINGDOM ARE RECEIVED DURING KOINONIA**

*And he said, “To you it has been given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God, but to the rest it is given in parables...” Luke 8:10*

**G**od’s top secrets are disclosed to lovers of his secret places rather than to mere admirers of his secrets and those who are regular attendees. The Father is more pleased to unveil the secrets of the heavenly kingdom unto them who take delight in being at the Lord’s altar unceasingly. The Lord opens up spiritual portals to them, where He can reveal kingdom secrets to the disciples who constantly stay in His presence and loves Him. Just as married couples are never ashamed of each other’s nakedness (Gen. 2:25), so also the Lord Almighty is never ashamed of those who would not be ashamed of coming before Him for personal Koinonia against all forms of distractions. In fact, the reason Abraham and all who followed his faith are termed the friends of God is simply because of God’s secret thoughts revealed to them when others are ignorant of the same issue. If you are a regular visitor before the Lord, He will also come regularly to your heart, even as He is pleased to bring upon his disciple’s heart every current kingdom update about his move here on earth, either in the life of other people or in the condition of the society and nations, and of other kingdoms on earth. This explains why some believers operate in the word of knowledge when they least expect it—they being aware that they are not gifted with the ability to foretell. There is usually a spontaneous disclosure of the deepest realities about God kept hidden from a mere Church attendee, but for a devoted disciple and believer who never leaves his altar of intimacy, (Deut. 29:29; Luke 8:10) nothing is hidden from such and all that The Father must do here on earth in an area around them, such secrets are made available to them. Check out what the LORD recorded about Abraham:

*And the LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham [My friend and servant] what I am going to do...?” Gen 18:17, 18 AMPLIFIED*

And Jesus also said unto his disciples:

*You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you. John 15:14, 15*

*I do not call you servants (slaves) any longer, for the servant does not know what his master is doing (working out). But I have called you My friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from My Father. [I have revealed to you everything that I have learned from Him.] Verse 15 (AMPLIFIED)*

In clearer terms, Jesus has made us see from God’s perspective, that those who are put in the plans of The Father, by hearing from Christ the thoughts of God are regarded as friends of God here on earth. So, God may not have Favorites (Gal. 2:6b), but we’re certain He has close

friends here on earth. Any man can also have God as friend if he positions Himself at the altar of intimacy for undistracted fellowship every day, and if such makes his body and mind available as the Lord's temple for Him to carry out all that He so intends to. James in his epistle to the believers [which were scattered everywhere] also adds to this:

*Draw close to God and He will draw close to you...James 4:8*

If you make God your Favorite, He will make you a friend to whom He can disclose many secrets about the kingdom of heaven, and about his will in the lives of men. It is an aberration for an acclaimed child of God to know nothing more and be shown nothing more about the happenings in his environment when same is hidden from the unbelievers. God designs a believer's fellowship with Him to be such that He can make known every forthcoming event, so that they might be intercession ahead to curtail any impending destruction on earth. We know this to be the Lord's culture; that He reveals unto these servants any forthcoming event or predetermined occurrence, either by the kingdom of darkness for him to stand against it vehemently in faith, or of things in God's very kingdom which He wants to carry out on earth (Deut. 29:29). God reveals unto us all necessary secrets because of his love for man, He includes man in his thought since man is in partnership with Him—a relationship He created to be from the beginning of the creation of man. Aberration of this explains why you may not be having Spiritual perceptions about your own life talk more of the life of others and the society you find yourself. God places believers everywhere they are so that they can seek Him, and serve as his priests wherever they find themselves (Acts 17:26, 27).

God's greatest secrets are made open at the altar of intimacy. The grace to help in times of need can only be received this way. Remember that there is a privilege which God has placed before his sons, so that as they come before Him through the blood of his son Jesus Christ, they might access the whole of his grace preserved for his believers.

*Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Heb. 4:16*

Every master knows where he has put much of his investments of grace, and he's confident to send anyone he has sat upon over a period of time for Spiritual incubation. Physical incubation of new born babies delivered before nine months is done in an enclosed incubator, continually under the influence of heat for warmth. Spiritual incubation of the souls of all who are new creations in Christ is done in the warming presence of the Lord Almighty, under Spiritual cover, under his eyes (Psalm 32:8). Because of your growth and development in the knowledge of Christ, God neither sleeps nor slumbers, you are his thoughts, and your coming into the secret place is ever a pleasure to Him, He honours it; that is why the prayer of the saints are collected in a golden censer and incense is poured upon it (Rev. 8:3,4). The dialogue that takes place between a disciple and God on the altar of Koinonia is an honorable thing unto the Lord God, and He receives your groans and sighs as humble sense of admiration from a loving child responding to his Father's love for Him.

Koinonia can happen a lot in any atmosphere that supports it, be it under closed doors or in the open space, but for what it is called, the saint makes no open show the sweet fellowship taking place on his inside in the realms of the Spirit. Moments of deep worship and adorations has potential of creating an atmosphere supportive of Koinonia. This explains why every praise/worship leader in Church meetings and believers' gatherings sought to live in holiness of life forever, and prayed earnestly to ascend within his own spirit to the very loving throne of the Lord, before ever trying to take the lead and taking others up in the process. When such an atmosphere is being created, some disciples having been caught up in the clouds of the visiting presence, [as a response] begin to exhale groans and sighs received and perceived as sweetness before The Father when translated unto Him by the Holy Spirit who helps such a spontaneity to take place. In a situation like this, The Father's heart is won, and taken completely; with such a moment kept alive throughout the service, the attendees can actually receive the Spiritual blessings (Eph. 1:3) available for believers in the heavenly realms, awaiting an atmosphere so right for their release upon the prepared hearts and spirits of those connected in the Spirit to the flowing waters of God's grace; the blessings released at such moments is a like a river which flows and swirls (like an open-ended pipe) for the purifying of the Church as is the custom of the Spirit, and can only be punctured for a drink by those whose hearts remain connected without distractions.

The Shulamite's Lover made clear assertions after she spoke, asking from Him:

Come then, my love; my darling, come with me. The winter rains have stopped; in the countryside the flowers are in bloom. *(all the hindrances to their making of love and elopement have been controlled)*

This is the time for singing; the song of doves is heard in the fields. Figs are beginning to ripen; the air is fragrant with blossoming vines *(he describes how ready the environmental factors and elements now permits their love-making together).*

Come then, my love; my darling, come with me. You are like a dove that hides in the crevice of a rock *(this tells how the believer appears in the eyes of The Father, as He sees [him](#) through his Son Jesus Christ)*

Let me see your lovely face and hear your enchanting voice *(Christ's desire to have his church in Koinonia is endless, the sounds you make due to your love for [Him](#) is a food he delights in eating everyday).*

Catch the foxes, the little foxes, before they ruin our vineyard in bloom *(here he cautions his bride against all little distractions that could break up their Spiritual link during Koinonia).*

Song of Solomon 2:10b-15 (GNT)

**(All emphases added)**

There is no time you spend alone with the Lord at the Secret altar of Koinonia that is a waste. The Lord knows how to translate each one of them into an unforgettable moment in the lives of his children. This scripture is only an extract that describes what really happens between a

believer and the Lord Jesus Christ, what love affection that exists between them on a daily basis, and how every disciple must maintain such an atmosphere each time he/she goes into hiding out with the Lord all alone (elopement for deepest divine impartations). The believers' voice is sweet to The Father's ears; it brings to his heart great rejoicing. Whenever you arrive at the altar of Koinonia, keep knowing this that, The Father awaits your sighs, groans, cries, smiles, laughs, and all a little child will do with his father at home. This is because our relationship with God is a father-son relationship, which keeps us in an ever-refreshing attitude of praise and glorious adoration as result to the end. The confession of Christ over a beloved disciple whose greatest delight is to be in The Father's presence and for a communion with Jesus is overwhelming. You can actually take the entire Songs of Solomon and sing it unto the Lord, reading out unto him the responses of the Shulamite woman, and reading unto yourself inwardly with deep meaning through meditations the written affections of the male lover, one that I love so much is found in Song of Solomon 4:9. It reads:

*You have captured my heart, my treasure, my bride. You hold it hostage with one glance of your eyes, with a single jewel of your necklace. (NLT)*

*The look in your eyes, my sweetheart and bride, and the necklace you are wearing have stolen my heart. Your love delights me, my sweetheart and bride. Your love is better than wine; **your perfume more fragrant than any spice**. The taste of honey is on your lips, my darling; your tongue is milk and honey for me. Your clothing has all the fragrance of Lebanon. Song of Solomon 4:9-11 (GNB) (emphasis added).*

When a man begins to eulogise his woman this way, it tells how much they get along together, how affectionate and romantic their relationship has been. The lover in this text, who is saying all these about his woman must have been enchanted with her beauties and sweetness, he could not keep the taste of his woman in closure any longer, hence, voicing out her praises. This is a human description of how much a believer is valued before Christ, because, "...the two shall become one..." (Mark 10:8), and now, the Church is one with Christ. Therefore, just as He would love Himself, so also would He love every believer—his bride

This is often used to describe Christ's love for the Church. Now if you can, get yourself to a quiet place, and imagine Jesus speaking to you with such words just because you came visiting as usual to the altar of intimacy, a deeper Koinonia; it's such a deep affair with humanly indescribable feelings of sweetness, this is what Jesus Christ, the King of kings enjoys about you.

*Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who trusts Him! Psalm 34:8*

Christ is satisfied at the look of a Holy disciple coming before his presence. Every reasonable man is proud of his wife's beauty and is moved on seeing her; how much more Christ, who loved the world so much that He gave up his own life in order for the world to have life, how

much more his disciples who live in response to the sacrificial love He shows them, and as a result of the access created for them through the manifested love sacrifice—his death!

### **God remembers his assets**

Again ‘every master knows where he has put much of his investments of grace, and he is confident enough to send forth anyone he has sat upon.’ God does not make the mistake of sending on errand untrained hands. This reason is essential to why God does not accord very special tasks to just anybody who claim to believe, or is found in Church, because He looks at the heart, not just the physical actions. He never forgets whom He has released grace upon. He remembers the face that always comes visiting at their altar of Koinonia for deeper intimacy daily; and He knows who would not fail Him, *such are they whom He sends*. God knows that a believer who does not have a living altar of Koinonia is unreliable, and such could become proud in the phase of every little success in Spiritual exploits, and results from some dealings. But the disciple who is ever on the altar of intimacy crying out to God in love and enjoying fellowship with The Father will not be proud at the emergence of any success, because he is always aware of how such success came about for Him--[it is the mystery of the secret place], the Lord’s glory will surely and always be manifested for the sake of such a humble disciple, yet God denies the proud in heart of any honour or glory so as to keep him away from destruction (James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5).

**CHAPTER SIX**  
**REBUILDING OF THE BROKEN ALTAR**  
**(Ezra 3:1-13)**

**E**zra chapter 3:1-7 talks about rebuilding of the broken altar. The significance of altar for individual believers and the Church cannot be said to be over emphasized, because of its ancient origin, the divine mysteries and spiritual blessings attached to it. It's to the extent that as soon as the Jews returned from exile in Babylon in 537 B.C., several years before Christ was born, as soon as they were settled at about the seventh month from their return, they all gathered as one people and they rebuilt the altar of the God of Israel, to offer burnt offerings on it, day and night, and *on a daily basis* (Ezra 3:1-3).

As they began to offer their offerings, they also kept the rules for the daily burnt offerings by number according to the rule as each day required. Believers must understand the spiritual effect of raising an altar for the worship of God. In the Old Testament times the altar was built for burnt offerings and other sacrifices.

Every day breaks with a rule guiding the offering that must follow it. On the Lord's altar of koinonia, faithfulness to it must be applied. Every new day has a requirement of sacrifice attached to it. This is because, God has a work for every believer daily, what amount of time is given to Him should be depended on what issues He has to discuss with an attendee. Moses stayed forty days and nights on the mountain receiving the rules that guided the people of God, and he had to be there for so long a time, because any other number of days lesser than that to God may not be enough for those bulky commandments to be documented with all its details, and with good comprehension.

*Clarity of divine instruction also becomes reason which determines how long one must stay before the Lord.*

**Purpose of altar**

Under the Old Testament, the Jews were expected to give all their offerings and perform all their sacrifices in one place chosen for the purpose; their altar was meant to receive offerings and several other sacrifices requested by God (Ezra 3:4). But under the New Covenant sealed by the blood of Jesus, the altar becomes spiritual and almost invisible (John 4:23-25), built for the offering of our lives as God's sacrifices that is yet living but all for Him (Romans 12:1).

Even before the temple's foundation was laid, they had already rebuilt the broken altar and started sacrificing unto God. Before congregational fellowship, individual believers should form the habit of fellowshiping with the Lord on their own, day and night, every day.

The personal fellowship altar is one of the first and most important teaching that should be given to, and lesson learnt by every convert to the Christian faith. This is done to help them really become familiar with the ways and whole counsel of God whom they pledge allegiance to. If Paul had not gone into Arabia as he disclosed (Galatians 1:15-19), before returning to mingle

with other believers, many of the revelations Christ gave him would never have been received. But because he had laid the foundation of building a personal intimacy with his 'new' Lord early enough, it helped him become a pillar in the early Church; his writings were little expressions of the much he learnt by divine revelation from Christ personally, as he fellowshiped with Jesus in Arabia for about three years.

Once anybody decides to follow Jesus and his ways, the first thing to do is simply teach the person, and help him/her establish a standing altar of personal fellowship with the Lord. It is this kind of personal fellowship that births deep intimacy, producing the best quality believers and a sustainable revival (John 15:16).

### **Koinonia is significant for deep personal convictions**

The believers who mature with the strongest convictions are those with well built, established, immovable and consistent altar of personal fellowship with the Lord. The best explanation to why there are loose and lukewarm believers crowding the Church today is 'lack of personal altar of koinonia'. Those who are regular to their personal communion altars with the Christ live with the strongest convictions in the faith, and such can stand the test of time, and remain in faith even in the face of severe trials and temptations such as are common to all believers.

*The believers who mature with the strongest convictions are those with well built, established, immovable and consistent altar of personal fellowship with the Lord*

The challenges of being a believer and follower of Christ in a society as cruel as ours today will persist until Christ's return, but His faithful ones will experience victory daily. Every new day reveals the depth of wickedness the world has signed into. This, consequently, poses great danger upon any man or woman, young and old who profess Christ, but who are living with too little amount and quality of personal convictions about faith in Christ, due to small and an inconsistent personal fellowship with the God-head.

Through much trials shall we enter into heaven (Acts 14:22), but the inner strength to endure all necessary hardships and persecutions, to overcome all the trials and temptations of the enemy [who's always aiming his wicked darts at us for a fall] comes when each believer rises to build up, rebuild and maintain their personal altar of fellowship.

In these last days, and in this coming revival, this is just one major role of all believers, a primary responsibility for all who must make it to the end successfully (Joshua 1:8b), and who shall be used of God as a revival move. It is the maintenance of **'the altar of revival', and 'the altar of the revived ones.'**

This altar provides the connection with God through which He can continue to make known to us just what to do in every situation, whether good or bad, major or minor decision; or any matter of our hearts, in the family, concerning the Church, our marriage and in our local/international communities. This is the way that believers shall demonstrate the ancient wisdom of God in all of their affairs, where the unbelievers are struggling for direction due to the spiritual darkness that overwhelms all who do not submit to Christ's Lordship (Ephesians

3:9-12). But those who follow Him shall continue to walk in the authority and spiritual power of Christ day after day(Matthew 28:18-20).The peace of God is reward for those who seek God, who pray instead of worrying about anything at all (Philippians 4:6, 7), be it a minor or major as men may see it.

### **Mystery of Abram's slain (Genesis 15:1-21)**

The Lord was to make an eternal covenant with Abram, but He could not seal it except with blood and fire. When He asked Abram to bring Him a heifer of three years old, a turtledove and a young pigeon, He asked Abram to cut them in half, and lay each half over--against the other half, except the birds. But when the prey birds came down on the remains Abram drove them away. In the later verses of the same chapter, it is recorded that as the sun set and it was becoming dark, God passed a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch between the pieces, by this He entered into a covenant with Abram and his descendants. At first, when there was no fire, prey birds came upon the slain and cut pieces laid by their halves, because no fire was upon them. Although He spoke to Abram when the smoking fire pot and flaming torch had not passed, but, the covenant was sealed and concluded only when the heat was introduced.

In the Old Testament, no sacrifice was ever offered and accepted without fire come upon it. Every sacrifice makes sense to God and fulfills God's requirements when fire is introduced to it. Also, in the New Testament, no reasonable sacrifices are without fire. The fire here is symbolic for painful and sorrowful moments that result from one's walk with God through word encounters. When any believer stumbles upon God's word at the altar of fellowship, obedience to such word of God may sometimes bring about painful experiences which will of course lead to the eternal glory prepared for him. Jesus Christ could only enter into his glory by suffering for man's sake on the cross. What he went through can be regarded as fire—he went through God's fires, his blood was poured, his life was taken away and given to his followers, to those who believe and accept him. It was this hot, sorrowful and bitter experience of His that makes believers have a sweet and inviting aroma before God.

*A man with God's fires is the man with God's manifest glory*

Paul in Romans 12:1 admonished the members of the Roman Church to present themselves unto God as living sacrifices, which is acceptable unto God.

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. Romans 12:1*

He was relating to them that Christians must be living sacrifices for the Lord, carrying His fires always in holiness, they must go through the experiences common to all who follow Christ (Luke 9:23) so that they can be well-refined for God's use, and for the completion of His eternal purpose for them on earth.

For Abram's sacrifice, the passing fire was the identification seal of God for his acceptance of Abram's slain sacrifice, without heavens fire, God does not do any great work with any man's life.

*Without heavens fire, God does not do any great work with any man's life*

Unless you have encountered God's fire of divine disciplinary dealings (Lamentation 3:26-33--READ IT), you cannot be a carrier of divine fires for your generation, who would be carrying God's glory everywhere. A man with God's fires is the man with God's manifest glory.

### **Mystery of the burning bush**

As soon as Moses saw the bush that was on fire and burning but not consumed by its flames, he was caught in deep thought and amazement. Attracted, he drew closer to see the anomaly clearly, and then God called out to him from there.

When many unbelievers do not hear God's voice, calling for them to repent it is because many who now believe are not on fire, burning daily [with the holy flames of righteousness and unselfish love], yet never burning out.

God was making Moses to see what manner of man He uses, a kind which Moses had become. He allowed Moses pass through his fires for forty (40) years in Midian, and because Moses was not consumed in all he went through in a strange and unfamiliar land, he qualified for God's use eventually. This is because, while he was yet in Egypt (also symbolic for a life of sin), he was uncircumcised at heart, untrained spiritually, was totally unfit and unready for God's use in the pursuit of heaven's decree to Abram several years earlier—about four hundred and thirty (430) years. Since God had told Abram it would be four hundred (400) years before the exodus would take place for his people, we can presume liberally that Moses could have been a reason for the extra thirty (30) years. If God had found Moses ready thirty (30) years earlier, Israel would have been set free prior to the time he was found prepared. They would not have undergone the additional rigors of those years from their ruthless Egyptian slave drivers. God was using the burning bush as representation of what had taken place in the life of Moses; a bush that was on live fires, yet not burning out of sight despite prolonged burning, and which attracted Moses eventually. The purpose of the burning bush was to attract Moses' attention.

We know that meat does not draw much attention from passersby except it is placed on fire to be roasted. The inviting aroma of any animal oozes when it is exposed to strong heat. In the same way, only when God sentences His child to the heat of divine disciplinary dealings, through daily encounter with His word on the altar of koinonia shall the sweet-inviting aroma of Christ's life evolve, drawing other individuals to Christ for their salvation.

In these last revivals the Church is entering into, God desperately seeks lives who will be under His hot tutelage, bearing the yoke of divine discipline, because it is this set of people that it can be said of, that, they are denying themselves, taking up their cross and following Jesus daily (Mark 8:34). God will send the presence of the Holy Spirit into them, He will be a fire within them, they will bear the fires of the cross--*the resurrection life of Christ everywhere the Lord is pleased to send them to*. When the life of Christ is lived by them daily, and manifesting everywhere they go, they shall be blessed and accompanied with the glory of God. He will glorify Himself--His life in them; and by this, the knowledge/awareness of the glory of God shall cover every sphere and environment in which the Lord sends them (Habakkuk 2:14). These people will be burning with this life of the cross practically, and shall never burn out of

flames. To sustain the very fire which is ignited by God Himself and to keep it ever-burning, they must add maximum fuel and firewood to keep it alive forever. On a daily basis, they must renew and deepen their personal intimacy with Jesus through their private fellowship with Him, void of all forms of distractions. This can be done every time of the day, anywhere they find themselves, but in an environment that fully support and can accommodate the course, because fellowship with God must be a deliberate and intentional affair, since it is the beginning of every serious walk with God.

*Fellowship with God must be a deliberate and intentional affair... it is the beginning of every serious walk with God*

They engage the Lord Jesus [on a daily basis through the Holy Spirit] in a private koinonia (alone with God); in this they study His word (the Bible) extensively (Joshua 1:8), with deep meditations, coupled with a prayerful heart alongside, and most times with clearly written summaries of the Spirit's explanations of the scripture and His personal word to each believer on what was made clearer to them by Christ Himself. This they do without ceasing before they can have success in all, especially what the Lord gives them to do. This Christ does, so that their personal convictions of His whole personality can become stronger and firmer within them, even as the world (the earth) enters a moment of gross and deeper darkness (Isaiah 60:2). This will happen, but, it will be that the light and knowledge of the Lord's glory might become clearer and spread wider. And since darkness invites environmental silence while people sleep, the voice of light--the life of Christ shall speak out with much loudness, clarity and understanding; hence, people shall become more aware of the gross darkness they live, and the light of the gospel which has come to prevail, to dispel the people's spiritual darkness and bringing them eternal salvation from sin and death, offering them the water of the Spirit to drink (John 7:37-39) as they embrace it.

## CHAPTER SEVEN

### ALTAR OF INTIMACY—THE FIRST VENUE FOR THE RELEASE OF REVIVAL FIRES

*There's no pregnancy without intimacy between two partners. And the secrets for the revival of unrevived nations and kingdoms are given in the secret place (altar of koinonia).*

**Y**es! The place of divine intimacy is the first registered venue for the outpour of revival fires upon any disciple who wants to set his society ablaze for the Lord. In fact, the spiritual intercourse, for the greatest divine impregnation for the delivery of salvation to the lost souls is first orchestrated at the private chambers of a disciple with the Lord Jesus Christ before further inducements in collective revival meetings. The pressure for child birth is increased with greater intensity and holy heat when a disciple is alone with the Lord. It is the intensity with which Christ encounters any believer from the secret place that keeps him up alive forever, and that determines the speed and height that such a disciple will go and grow with the Lord. This is the secret of all the servants of God unto whom God's hand is revealed the more. There is none of such in that category who sees men more than they see and behold the splendour of the glory of God's awesome presence on a daily basis. While you take out time to go on a long trip vacation, these men vacate their mortal functions, and suspend their eyes from beholding other men in order to stay longer with the Lord; Enoch was a man like that. He was united with the Lord in righteousness, so that God took him away from the corrupt company of other men (Gen. 5:24). We see this all over the scripture. All the great patriarchs who truly walked with the Lord in the scriptures were known more than other people, because God is a universal employer and takes pride in show-casing those on his list, who are faithful incomers to his council meetings holding spiritually in his secret place. He made known Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Moses, Joshua, Deborah, Samuel, David, all the prophets, the apostles and disciples of Jesus Christ who gave up all to identify with him and many others still counting. All these among the rest were figures whom the Church agrees to have indeed walked with the Lord in their days. And even for all those of later revivals that stormed the different parts of the world, at different times of the age and centuries, and also in the various locations of their exploits, one thing recorded to be common among them all was their unshared devotion to the prayer altars. Some of them would spend from one to ten hours and more than that with God on a daily basis with consistency. The young revivalist 'John Nelson Hyde' who was found with a brain tumor in the midst of his usual fire-fanned prayers died in his mid-forties. A host of them were put in record (*sparing us further details now*).

**This is to mean that, any one whose greatest desire is to become a vessel and end up as a useful vessel in the Lord's hands, and who would that the Lord sends him forth to the gates of hell in order to call out his children who are being lost, such an individual must be ready to see less of men and more of God on a daily basis.** This is also achievable for a government worker. **Determination is the mother of all successes.** Daniel determined not be defiled with

the king's food (Daniel 1:7, 8) and he made it through because he determined to take such a risk for the sake and glory of the Lord's name.

No one who speaks for the Lord dares to do so before the Lord ever speaks. It is an abomination for any preacher to speak the word of a man and claim to his listeners that he spoke for the Lord as He commanded him to.

*I did not send these prophets, yet they have run with their message; I did not speak to them, yet they have prophesied. But if they had stood in my counsel, they would have proclaimed my words to my people and would have turned them from their evil deeds. Jer. 23:21, 22 (NIV)*

The authority of the Sovereign Lord that sparks up the fires of revival of holiness is enclosed within the *word-per-moment* which He gives unto any messenger. Operating in the powers of the Holy Spirit is a result of one's encounters from the fellowship altar with the Lord. Until the Lord sends you with a message, if you go for revival move, you'll just crash, or that the fire you brew will stay no longer than the first wind of troubles would quench it. In the Lord's word is the power that begins the sustainable fire of revival for our times, everywhere we find ourselves. The Almighty does not act on the words of any man, save his own. He performs the statement and requirements of any word He has spoken, but opposes the claims of any liar who stands to speak for the Him when He has not yet spoken.

*But if they had stood in my counsel, they would have proclaimed my words to my people and would have turned them from their evil deeds (Jer. 23:22 NIV).* I see this as the major reason why the increasing number of churches and self-called ministers of the gospel of Christ cannot bring an end to the highly increasing rate of both spiritual and physical decadence we experience in our present days. Most of them have not the word of God running within them daily. The word of God is that which carries the potential fire required to begin a genuine revival fire and keeping it alive also, but these men do not have it, so they continue to lie in order to keep their deceived followers. This way, the proceeds of the Church keeps going into the wrong hands forever. But even at that the Lord declares liberally that if these people who lie and have run the Lord's course without a message from Him, who keeps hitting the rock of repulsion from the very hearts of those they intend to bring the Lord's transformative work to, He says, if they would be found in his counsel standing with the humble heart, and ready to receive his message--his secret thought, they could do exploits for His name and glory also, because the Lord really wants all men to become his prophets, yes, that's his desire, and reason why Jesus Christ His Son had to come and die. The same is rendered by good-news translation as:

*"If they had known my secret thoughts, then they could have proclaimed my message to my people and could have made them give up the evil lives they live and the wicked things they do."*

**It means that the counsel of the Lord [as put by New Kings Version and some other versions] which brings his power into the midst of his people for deliverance, from their evil and**

**wicked ways, is also the revealing of the Lord's secret thoughts to the members of the heavenly council;** and all the issues of God's creation about the affairs of the earth and the coming to be of God's very kingdom everywhere on the earth surface is discussed in detail there. It also means that the firsthand decision of the Lord concerning any man, nation or people is first handled there. With this development we are discovering about the ancient path to The Father's will, anyone who names the Lord's name and yet remains far from this very position of the spiritual system of God as it had been from the time of creation and would remain so forever, such will never be able to attain the full expectation of God for them in the call he's given them, and the fulfillment of the purpose of God found manifest in Christ Jesus. This is an ancient pathway in which everyone who must touch the peak of the anointing made available for them cannot neglect, or trivialize. Those who took with levity this major matter in the mind of God soon crashed in the midst of the temptations they could have easily overcome.

Revival will not tarry or be cut short if believers continue to abide in the word of God they encounter while at the altar of Koinonia. It is quite an unfortunate and pitiable situation the Church has found herself. Believers have become so preoccupied with all manner of activities of which most possess religious likeness, appearing like God's focus, yet it displeases the Lord against the people's assumptions when He sees how much attention is put upon some of those religious-looking activities and how they get his children so engaged that they have little or no time for him personally anymore. When we allow our denominational doctrines and activities peculiar to our local assembly meetings occupy us at the expense of personal fellowship (revival) altars, we fail the Lord. Koinonia was a major thing God sought at creation, shown by how He on a daily basis came down in the cool of the day to meet with Adam and Eve for fellowship (Gen. 3:8).

*Divine impregnation takes place on the altar of divine intimacy. Disciples with such fervency are carriers of divine pregnancy. They may be single physically but assured of many spiritual children eventually.*

The Church today has less or little strength put up for the increase of God's kingdom in the midst of ordinary men. When we divide our focus, our strength to pursue, to overtake and to recover also splits apart, making us too weak to achieve the common goals of the kingdom of God.

It is God's desire to see the Church expanding and increasing her circle of spiritual and physical influence daily within the society she exists. Expansion is not more effective within a particular denomination than within a whole society. Spiritual weakness is a retarding effect of a fireless altar of intimacy, regular attendance to it keeps its fires alive. Indeed, personal and joint revivals assumes when the fires of the believers' altar of fellowship is kept burning (alive) due to daily addition of the spiritual fuel substances, such as deep study and meditation of the word of God and undistracted prayer/praise sacrifices (Psalm 107:22; 116:17; Psalm 51:17), leading to the brokenness that births genuine revival. As long as the activities required to keep the altar of fellowship alive daily is continued, the fires of personal revival and of joint revivals will be kept alive, ever-increasing and ever affecting.

A major factor hindering both the personal and cooperate revivals (awakening) of the Church of Christ, which has also been treated in times past by many writers and itinerant preachers is that of a personal altar of Koinonia (communion and fellowship) with the Lord.

*Show me a man who loads his spiritual fire place with the required amount and quality of fuelsubstances, and I will show you a revivalist. Such a man should never be taken for granted, because he is as unpredictable as the wind that causes their personal revival. They are like pregnant disciples, and a timed bomb waiting to explode.*

Show me a believer who spends at least an hour with the master--Jesus Christ, all alone, undistracted Day and Night, day after day, and I will tell you that a revival is in motion in a man. Show me a disciple who takes no physical breakfast meal without first observing his quiet time (alone) with God without distraction in the earliest hours of every morning. And show me a man who does not sleep without communing with God, after a day spent within the confines of the Spirit's influence, and I'll show you that **revival is a person**. Show me a local assembly whose congregation is trained to spend quality hours with God daily, both children and adults inclusive, and I will show you the restored generation of a kingdom of priests, seeking the face of the Lord, who live their lives within the context of the apostolic culture--a culture of the scripture, producing believers whose daily delights (Psalm 1:1) are rooted in their personal and daily affairs with the Holy Spirit.

In the time of the earliest believers who gave almost all their time to studying together as one people, the spontaneous spread of the gospel's life [which is Christ's life] was the outcome, and the fame of Christ and his life kept spreading everywhere (Acts 2:42) as sweet aroma. So many miraculous signs and wonders were performed by the apostles. These men spent all their time with Jesus, everyday for a period of three years and some months before He was taken up into heaven for the Holy Spirit to come.

How can anyone expect the promised miracles, signs and wonders to flow as intended by Christ today when there is no quality time input committed to seeking the face of the Lord earnestly before ever launching out with the intention to manifest God's power! This is the weakness of the Church today. The Church has not been producing people who are taking the kingdom of heaven through violence with their fervency in the secret place, but enough of this! The Lord Jesus Christ never planned to create a people who are prayer-seekers and/or prayer contractors. His desire is for a Church that resembles Him, living for the sake of others with the mindset of a Saviour (Obad. 1:21), living daily as the Holy Spirit leads them (Rom. 8:14; Gal. 5:16), doing and saying only that which is seen and heard of The Father as revealed by the Holy Spirit to them. Rather, we now operate in the power of sounds and mastered grammars from the influence of learnt orations. The early Church would rather operate in the power of the Holy Spirit and in the fear of the Lord's presence working mightily in their midst (1 Thessalonians 1:5).

The early disciples carried out their supernatural activities effortlessly as a result of the moments they spent with Christ before ever coming out to carry out the works they did. *These ordinary disciples became moving revivals everywhere they went.* Philip went down to Samaria and the region was evangelized because a revived believer of Christ Jesus visited, this is the kind of result that should be heard about us as disciples of Jesus Christ. Spreading the aura of the life of Christ's life should become the essential part of our lives everywhere we go, but we must know this that the possibility is available only as we get soaked in the waters of the Spirit ever-flowing from the very heart of the Lord himself unto his disciples.

*All who believe in Jesus are designed with capacities powerful enough for them to turn around a whole nation and the society they live in (Jeremiah 1:9, 10). The presence of believers of Christ in the society in which Christ placed them is not so much felt like it used to be in the times past because, the church stopped existing as a training ground, for training of believers who agree to follow Christ radically, and by so affecting their societies for the glory of the name of the Lord.*

God honoured all they spoke and did, with His presence manifesting in their midst everyday even as they moved from one place to the other in search of lost souls. Whenever any believer honours the Lord by attending the private communion altars, God honours the believer with His very presence. So, God did for them, honouring ordinary men because they had honoured him and spent their long hours staying before him (Acts 4:13), and spending time learning of the doctrines of the apostles—and the doctrine is Jesus Christ himself. In their days, they recorded a mighty move of God through the Holy Spirit; it is a great honour for God when He continues to see His sons come to him for grace to help in times of need (Heb. 4:16), however, He was also very ready to deny the proud of the blessings of His presence.

*It is pride to refuse to come so as to meet with the Lord at the altar of Koinonia; it shows that you are okay with what's up around you, and that you know it all and can do it all. But trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on what you think you know (Prov. 3:5).*

And if God resists the proud, He gives grace to the humble who takes so much delight in engaging The Father's presence in all they do. Seeking and acknowledging the Lord in all you do is an honour unto Him (Prov. 3:5). It is respect to God when a disciple engages Him during Koinonia, and at the same time a disrespect to His personality when anybody claim Him as Father, yet be reluctant with building an altar of fellowship for a daily interactive session with Him, about his '**Kingdom come**' in the midst of men. Why this is so is because, the decision to remain in His presence and the bid to become God's living altar eventually reveals that one really needs God, and cannot do without Him. It is an abomination for a born-again child of God to live through a whole day (24 hours) without getting to spend at least an hour with the Lord all alone, without any distraction. Every child of God takes in God's presence as often as He takes in the breath of life. The Psalmist says:

You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever. Psalm 16:11

You have endowed him with eternal blessings. You have given him the joy of being in your presence. Psalm 21:6

You hide them in the shelter of your presence, safe from those who conspire against them. You shelter them in your presence, far from accusing tongues. Psalm 31:20

...you have brought me into your presence forever. Psalm 41:12

Do not banish me from your presence, and don't take your Holy Spirit from me. Psalm 51:11

These and many other psalms tells of the joys and beauties of living in the very presence of the Lord, thus showing how expedient and irresistible it is for every believer to always come into the presence of The Father, into undistracted Koinonia all alone, and to also live in the full consciousness of God's divine presence, even while in the midst of other men.

*It is an abomination for a born-again child of God to live through a whole day (24 hours) without getting to spend at least an hour with the Lord all alone, without any distraction*

## CHAPTER EIGHT

## STUDYING AND MEDITATING ON THE WORD OF GOD ON THE ALTAR OF FELLOWSHIP

*Josh.1.8 - This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. –*

*Josh.1.8 - Study this Book of the Law continually. Meditate on it day and night so you may be sure to obey all that is written in it. Only then will you succeed. NLT*

Unlike many have interpreted and seen this scripture as, it does not just teach believers to study, meditate and obey its commands simultaneously, but that an essential purpose underlying the command to study/meditate the ‘word/Law/principle/instruction/doctrine/do's and don'ts’ of God is for us be able to obey it. The act of continually reading/studying/and meditating on the word of God is in order that there might be quality and quantity of spiritual life and energy established enough in the believer to support his desire to do as the word of God says.

This is what we've been looking into all along and it's significant to note that the depth of encounter embedded in the cursory look-out into the word of God cannot be done in an unset environment and atmosphere. There must be a suitable atmosphere, an environment created and well prepared for the purpose.

What's your level of commitment to the word of God, your Father? How much time do you spend alone on the word of God daily, and what becomes of your life eventually after encounter with the word? These and many other questions are what many acclaimed believers of Christ would not be justified over if they were to sincerely answer in truth. The Bible records about Ezra, a scholar of the Law.

*For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the LORD, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel. –NIV*

*For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the LORD, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances in Israel. –NKJV*

*Ezra had committed himself to studying the Revelation of GOD, to living it, and to teaching Israel to live its truths and ways. Ezra.7.10 - MESSAGE BIBLE*

I decided to use three versions to bring out clarity and the affirmation in the text.

Ezra devoted himself, prepared his heart; committed himself to studying and seeking the revealed Law of God for his people, to doing/observing/living it, and to also teach them unto the people of God. This is just a combined paraphrase of the verse as is rendered by the three

versions used above. In Ezra's devotion to the studying and seeking of the principles of God, we find a preparation of heart which also entails the preparation of the locations of his study, by carefully organizing the place he used, making it a learning environment. In the devotion of Ezra, we also find commitment to the Lord. His heart was given to the learning responsibility, and he was soon found a surviving scholar of the Pentateuch in the whole of Israel, God honoured him for his diligence. He became a religious leader in his days, full of respect and honour from the people of Israel because God respects those who respect his Laws. He was able to teach them only because he had been taught by the Lord.

There is no way any man would want to do careful study and search of this divine revelation, carrying out deep qualitative and quantitative analysis of every revealed reality encountered with an unprepared heart and a discouraging environment. The location and time of this heavenly communion must be well planned for, for an effective and enduring result.

### **Relevance is possible only by building an altar of koinonia**

Another very critical issue is the big question:

*Are you needed in the land of men? Do you think men need your existence?*

Your relevance is what people seek. You're not needed on earth if you don't have what to offer mankind. The 8 billion people on earth comprises of people who have different loads of care, who are on a daily basis seeking whom to get needed help from. Your living on earth is useful only when there's something useful you are doing for at least a sample of the entire human race. A man of value is the man who carries what others need, and who's on a daily basis playing out his own part in the release of the potential ability he's endowed with from his secret place.

You carry the tag of eternal relevance when you have built an altar of Koinonia with the Lord. When a useless looking folk delivers himself unto the Lord by raising a spiritual table for him, such a man would in no time rise from zero to hero in the land of men.

Reasonable men seek the essential function of reasonable men. Reasonability is bought on the altar of Koinonia. Give a little child tutelage on how to maintain the routine and culture of regularly attending his private communion altar with the Lord and you've successfully offered that child scholarship into the population of successful men.

In Joshua 1:8, the secret for success and prosperity is clearly stated.

*This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success(Josh.1.8).  
(Emphasis added)*

See, it takes a man who has received divine mandate from the altar of fellowship to bring hopeful meaning and eternal relevance to the life and existence of another man. No natural man has the spiritual potency powerful enough to do so, because it takes a spiritual man with

the nature of the new birth in Christ to bring true spiritual help to another man. Every genuine divine mandate is rooted in the word of God. As any believer encounters the word of God in his quiet times, he's given divine mandate alongside. That means those who do not get to develop themselves over what God has given them cannot work without all necessary details in their hands. The mandate for the salvation of others is given and received in the secret meeting with God, and all basic details are never communicated in the public meetings, but in the secret; God's eternal truths are spoken to his followers' hearing as often as they come before Him at the spiritual table prepared for the purpose. God's generals are never made in the public, they are prepared in obscurity.

A lot of people have suffered from diverse challenges ranging from sin, diseases and poverty or other frustrating and emotionally devastating situations, for such, encountering the word that births their deliverance is better done as a resulting effect from the altar of Koinonia. What takes place there is not completely explainable, because, it's on the altar of intimacy that lives are repaired and broken hearts mended. The word for divine increase in spiritual understanding and knowledge is received with more accuracy in the course of our holy fraternity with the master. Healing virtues are activated there and the Holy Spirit is able to bring and work out everything in you, or in other's lives during this Holy intercourse with the King of the earth.

## CHAPTER NINE UNDERSTANDING GOD'S LOVE ON THE ALTAR OF INTIMACY

*Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. Rom .5:5*

Understanding the fullness of the love of God is a function the Holy Spirit has been given to perform in the heart of every believer. He gets more chance to do this job in a disciple's heart as often as He finds his heart ready and settled to be taught of Christ. This is what God communicates to his sons when they meet with Him with all their hearts.

For a believer, the level of height and depth of spiritual knowledge and the clarity of its understanding received is based upon how much of his heart is found ready and prepared for the course in the school of the Spirit. That means, your spiritual status is first measured by how much revelation of Christ you've received through personal Koinonia with the revealer of God's formative realities—The Holy Spirit.

How you live your life and relate with other people as a believer depends on the quantity and intensity of the love of God in Christ that's been shone in your heart, this reflects in your actions and speech every time you encounter other people, whether Christians or non-Christians. Your religious lifestyle is the manifestation of your understanding of God's revealed love and your level of knowledge of His love for you and for other humans. This responsibility of the Spirit takes better shape within any believer as he/she continues to abide on the altar of Koinonia. Whenever you see someone who claims to belong to Jesus but who's still living anyhow he feels like, talking to people around just as natural as every unbeliever will do, and such person can lie against another person just to satisfy his own selfish desires, then, you can tell of a hypocritical believer and self-acclaimed follower of Christ. If you really love Jesus, you will long to see Him glorified in your heart through your personal Communion with Him in the secret place, and your good character formed there, manifesting in all you do.

You are always delighted at the presence of someone you love so passionately. You can't tell me you love Jesus Christ but hate to attend the council of the sons of God—the altar of Koinonia. The love you cannot show physically by giving of your most precious asset in life, which is time, is not worthy of being rewarded with God's jealous presence at all. For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only jewel, his only Son to become the only, one for all propitiation for mankind. So, in straightforward terms, **the role of the Holy Spirit is bringing God's love by divine revelation upon the heart of a disciple**, and this continues as often as He finds the disciple. Regular attendees to the altar of Koinonia, who really respond to God's love shone in their hearts, tend to love others more, not minding their differences with the individual. But unless the nature of Christ's love is made known to any believer such cannot live in love. **Every encounter with the Holy Spirit in the secret place births a new dimension of divine love in them for others' souls.** This explains why some preachers are loving and patient, still others callous and stone-hearted. Most folks who live with a soft and gentle spirit today have been broken by the Holy Spirit due to frequent attendance to His presence. But some

others' attitude show how much they just rejoice at the gifting and powerful manifestations of the Spirit, but have no understanding of how to love; how Jesus loved was never described to them because they lack an altar of Koinonia where Christ's love is made to shine in their heart, so that, understanding it's form and dimension, they may be able to also love other men in obedience to God.

Check yourself out very carefully and sincerely, if you find out that you easily develop hate for unbelievers because of their ill attitude displayed, instead of seeking for a way to help them out through love, you just discuss their bad and ungodly attitude between you and others, or maybe you just find them irritating when they snob you in your attempt to minister the gospel to them, then you might be said to be deficient of the unction of divine love that is released upon believers when they attend their altar of Koinonia; you might be lacking the revival fires that follow a true child of God, you are cold with mere passion without the holy love for lost souls.

*The gospel carries on its wings the love and passion for reaching out to others.*

If your heart is silent and partly cold towards the spiritually dead condition of unbelievers, then, you need to know that you have no existing altar of Koinonia, or your altar of intimacy is torn down due to long time visit to it, and today, you must wake up from your slumber; you have to arise now, start rebuilding your torn down altar of Koinonia. If you don't have any, then you must make up your mind right now to begin the building of it today. Because, your life as a Christian is fired up from there, and the true internal spiritual energy you need to continue in Christ and in His divine will is given, refreshed and increased there.

Furthermore, as much importance as you attach to attending meetings where God's honoured servants manifest the reward of their secret meetings with God, you must, give more attention to your personal altar of Koinonia with the Lord Jesus Christ. If an idol worshipper would live with his personal shrine behind or beside his house, and would go for spiritual consultation and empowerment every now and then, how much more should the true sons of God believing in and following Jesus do! Let's all erect a spiritual altar of personal Communion with the Lord. It is not a physical mould of blocks and wood, but a deliberate and intentional preparation of time and space for you to engage the Lord through his Spirit in studying and meditating on the word of God so that they might be enough intake and availability of the word in you to be able to obey God, easily led by the Holy Spirit, who speaks all God's mind from the written word (Bible). As you spend time with him in and out of season like this, you will become more like Christ whose life you keep reading with increasing knowledge and understanding and obeying by the help of the Holy Spirit. The believer's life is made up of the word (1 Peter 1:23-25), and it's expected to be sustained by the word of God. As often as we encounter the word necessary for every step and level, so we continue to be transformed by it into the image of Christ (3 Corinthians 3:18)

## CHAPTER TEN

### WHAT TAKES PLACE ON THE ALTAR OF INTIMACY

**M**oses was given to meeting with the Lord on the top of the mountain, he even received his call while grazing Jethro's flock at the backsides of the mountain of Sinai. When God sent him to go, He commanded Moses, that, His children were to come and worship Him by this mountain. Moses obeyed reluctantly. When he brought the Israelites back from Egypt, from their land of slavery, he climbed up the mountain to report their arrival unto the LORD. He could have done it on the plains, but being the priest, they could see, being the one whom the LORD used to bring their deliverance from slavery, it was important for him to bring back report unto the One who sent him. This is exactly what is required of every serious disciple of Jesus Christ, because, all believers are ministers of the Lord, each given the collective and specific tasks of reconciling other men back unto God. The privilege of priesthood and spiritual leadership is offered to all believers of Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 5:17, 18). Moses was changed, having spent forty years in the land of Midian under discipleship-relationship with Jethro, who also became Moses' in-law. And after that, as he usually did, he browsed the mountain side where the Jethro's flock of sheep grazed, he found a bush on fire which was not consumed by the flames of the fires, and he turned around to see it, but God called out to him, and right there he was commissioned to go (Exod. 3:1-22).

The years he spent in the home of Jethro were more like the days of his own Koinonia with the man who taught him further the ways of God. Moses eventually got to familiarize with the principles and mode of worship of the God of Israel by learning under Jethro, he was successful.

Now he was qualified to bring others into the same fellowship he had been learning about for forty (40) years. As a result of his years with Jethro, and the encounter he had at Sinai, he met God, his life was changed completely, he was anointed, he was given the mandate to one of the most powerful kings as at then in order to rescue the Israelites, and he was successful. He brought them out of Egypt, and camped them at the foot of Mount Sinai. After Moses brought them to the Mountain foot, he climbed up the mountain to meet with the Lord for the next forty days. With the Lord there, he was given a write up of the commandments that should guide the people; the Laws God gave him were His secret thoughts which should make the people look different in their attitude from every other nation, necessarily, because of how long they've been enslaved in a land where the people worshipped idols and other dead gods, and practiced disgusting things. The Israelites had seen all that, but God wanted to carve out a people for Himself in them, so He gave them his rules to guide their lives as His chosen people. Once, Moses climbed up the mountain, and due to the long time he spent there, the people began to sin. The laws he received from the Lord, he broke down because of his annoyance against the people's sinful deeds (Exod. 32). Again Moses went up for another forty days, he remained in the presence of the Lord, beholding all the glories and awesomeness of the Almighty God, such that on his returning to the people, Moses glowed like an angel, he had to veil up so that the people could approach and listen to him. The various activities that took

place on the mountain were all written out for us, but the effects of his encounter with the Lord face to face was disclosed a bit for us to read.

In his first visit to God on the mountain for fellowship, God sent him to get the people ready for Him to speak with them in a public meeting with Him, which he did. On the third day, the LORD spoke, but that did not continue for so long because they feared they'd be consumed on hearing the Lord speak to them, with the thunder and loud blast of ram's horn, and as they saw the flashes of lightening, and the smoke billowing from the mountain, they stood in a distance, trembling with fear, therefore, they begged Moses to go and hear what God has for them, and they would obey it. (Exod. 19, 20)

All the remaining details of the LORD's commandment and instructions about their relationship with each other, with foreigners, with the neighboring heathen nations, and with the LORD Himself could not be disclosed publicly, those details were reserved for the man who accessed the altar of Koinonia at that time, only Moses had intimate relationship with the Lord then, later on, God asked for Aaron, Joshua and some few others including Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel to move closer, they climbed the mountain with Moses. There they saw the God of Israel. Under his feet there seemed to be a surface of brilliant blue lapis lazuli, as it was like the very heavens in its clarity (Exod. 24:9, 10). In that council meeting, God disclosed His terms of the covenant which He had kept for over 400 years, with every detail of it.

Moses, in the course of the second visit to receive the second copy of the commandments he broke, remained with the LORD forty days and forty nights. In all that time he ate no bread and drank no water. And the LORD wrote the terms of the covenant—the Ten Commandments—on the stone tablets. When Moses came down from Mount Sinai carrying the two stone tablets inscribed with the terms of the covenant, he wasn't aware that his face had become radiant because he had spoken to the LORD (Exod. 34:27-35). He went alone in his second visit to the top of the mountain, having spent forty days and nights there without any carnal distraction, he came down with the glory of the heavens radiating all over his face, he shone like an angel. Unlike in the first visit where Moses was made to rush down to meet with and stop the people from sinning against God, he didn't concentrate, or stay long enough to convey the radiance of the LORD as it happened in the second fellowship (Exod. 24:15-18). This, perhaps happened because Moses' heart and focus remained with the LORD for those days.

*The lessons we draw from this scriptural events are enormous. Just to check a few:*

1. Moses reported to the Lord when he brought the Israelites back from Egypt successfully to the mountain where God said they would worship Him. Every minister of God should learn to report back to God who sends him after every ministerial delivery, and none should feel too occupied to do so, because the sender of the message is greater than both the messenger and the recipient(s) of the message. Jesus would not feel too busy to report back after each day's ministry.
2. God's secret thoughts and details of every matter/assignment or mandate He gives to us is disclosed only in the secret place. God's secret place is our altar of intimacy with Him, the

details of every mandate are too treasures to be disclosed in the public meetings. Refusal to climb up to him accounts for the reason why a lot of ministers do not last as the Lord really desired of them. When you do not spend some more time with the Lord as seen in the Old Testament, you're most likely to make mistakes and fail God eventually, because, the Lord is never tied to a single method when operating. We see Jesus heal similar diseases using different methods, and we read of how God asked David to fight the same battle with the same enemies, using another method in the second attack, which brought them the victory(2 Samuel 5:17-25). Whenever any man refuses to seek God for details of an assignment, ministry, or a given mandate, making mistakes is very likely, and it is termed pride before the Lord. No man knows what is in the heart of the Lord, hence, we must avail ourselves before Him for deeper revelation and clarity of our purpose, so as to be spared of errors, and working on another man's portion in the work of the gospel. Let's not forget that, the various tasks of the members of the body of Christ may appear to be interwoven, similar, or related, but just as no two parts of the human body performs same purpose at the same time, so also no two individuals in the Lord's vineyard are given the same kind of task to do together at an exact time, therefore, a definite communication of the divine will is very essential.

*Whenever any man refuses to seek God for details of an assignment, ministry, or mandate, making mistakes is very likely, and it is termed pride before the Lord.*

This is the reason for the various erroneous teachings that springs up in the body of Christ. So many unbiblical and unnecessary religious doctrines have taken over basic Church doctrines, of Christ, on the premise of proud refusal to attend the council of heavenly ambassadors on earth, in the secret place of the Most High. There will surely be a uniting of the knowledge of Christ if all believers humbly learn about the mysteries of the secret place, and respond to it, promptly. This accounts greatly for why Paul had to commend the Believers and elders of the Church in Ephesus, as he prepared to depart.

3. Moses was not carried away by familiarity, either of his wife or two sons, or even of Joshua, his assistant. Until God asked Moses to bring into the secret place any other person alongside, Moses won't dare it. Repeatedly, the LORD kept on warning Moses, that he must ensure no other person comes even close to, or touch the mountain, and none should come up to see Him—the LORD, else that person or animal must be put to death. Why should God, who is a loving Father give such a caution to His children whom He waited for so long for love's sake, be ready to have any intruding distraction killed? With other reasons attached to it is because of the level of sacredness, which commands the best of God to appear at the altar of intimacy of any believer. It's viewed as such an important meeting with the Lord Himself, and that's why HE would never take for granted any trespasser. Today, when we have our Koinonia with The Father, He also regards any form of distraction and breakers of spiritual link as abomination and His enemy. The Lord—Jesus Christ is against any third party, intruding his Holy [and spiritual] intercourse with His bride—the believer. It is His honour to have His time all alone with each of us, with all distractions put to death; these may include physical, emotional, academic, financial, social etc.

4. As the Israelites prepared to meet with the Lord, they were not to touch any unclean thing, not to even arouse or share sexual feelings with any other, because, meeting with the Lord in this capacity and height demands the entirety of the disciples' being.

As much as any believer can, all feelings of love and affection should not be stained and/or shared between God and any other living factor uncontrollably. (For the married, in a case where a second party is demanding sexual satisfaction, consideration has to come in, because God does not answer the prayer of a person whose spouse is embittered for the reason of being with the Lord, perform your role adequately and satisfactorily before going in to be with the Lord at his chamber for Communion). Jesus taught that, anyone who has something against anybody and remembers it while about to offer a gift unto the Lord should first leave the gifts at the altar, go and settle with the adversary before the gift can be acceptable to the Lord.

*Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift.*

*Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. Matthew 5:23-25*

5. Another cardinal lesson we will pick out is found in Exod. 24:15-18

*So Moses arose with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up to the mountain of God. And he said to the elders, "Wait here for us until we come back to you. Indeed, Aaron and Hur are with you. If any man has a difficulty, let him go to them."*

*Then Moses went up into the mountain, and a cloud covered the mountain.*

*Now the glory of the LORD rested on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days. And on the seventh day He called to Moses out of the midst of the cloud.*

*The sight of the glory of the LORD was like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel.*

*So Moses went into the midst of the cloud and went up into the mountain. And Moses was on the mountain forty days and forty nights. Exod.24: 13-18*

### **Waiting until He shows up**

Several believers who have learnt to climb up the mountains for Koinonia with the master have not so learnt this secret. It takes mature patience to receive anything from the Lord. The deeper you go in with the Lord in intimacy, the longer it seems to have Him speak sometimes, it is therefore important for every saint who really desires the best of God to learn to be patient with God if you must have that which you come to Him for, or to really have His attention always at the altar of Koinonia. This does not suggest that God is incapacitated in dealing with several of his children at the same time, but that, He is never in a hurry.

*God is never in a hurry"*

Moses whom He'd always communed with as soon as He saw him, Moses whose presence was a delight to God, climbed up the mountain, and the cloud covered it. And the glory of the LORD settled down on Mount Sinai as usual, and the cloud covered it for six days, yet it was on the seventh day that the LORD called out to Moses from inside the cloud. For six days, the LORD who called Moses to climb up the mountain to receive the tablets of stone with the instructions to be taught unto the people didn't bother to talk to Moses immediately until the seventh day, and then He spoke. But Moses being the meekest man God judged him to be remained there faithfully, because, God had spoken to have him come up, but had not spoken to have him go back, down the mountain, so he remained there, completely disposed unto the Lord, and ready to pass through everything until his caller says, "Hello." May we find such an enablement for long term endurance, until the Lord speaks about an issue we submit to him, before we take any step.

### **It is the altar of his glory**

Whenever a believer goes before the Lord, he lives with a spiritual blessing. The amount of grace with which a person operates is determined by how much of our time we commit unto the Lord in the secret place. The level of operations of the Spirit with any man depends on the quantity and quantity of the person's whole being found by God, and available for fellowship. When you see how much of God's mighty presence is at operation in a believer's life and ministry evidently, get closer, and you'll discover how selfless such a person makes himself available to God. For as many who desire that the LORD might use them for his glorious exploits, know this, that, He responds to the wishes of a heart of prayer, found daily before Him groaning, and ever given unto obedience to the Lord's will and purpose.

*Whenever a believer goes before the Lord, he lives with a spiritual blessing.*

It's The Father's desire to manifest His presence on earth through our lives and as we relate with Him, He also strongly desires to reveal his eternal glory upon us every day and everywhere, yet we do not come to Him in ourselves to be used for the purpose when He seeks us. When I see many believers, and especially young people calling out to the Lord to be used of Him, yet He still seeks whom He can really find with a life readily available for His use, and until now, He keeps asking, whom shall I send? May you and I be found ready! God is not moved by our loud wishes accompanied with fastings and loud cries to be seen by Him, He's rather moved by hearts that so cries out with ready speeches, so intense, it moves the heart and hand of God towards their position.

This kind of people receive the reward of God's glorious presence manifest all around them every day, and one could easily describe the form and dimension of God's ultimate presence ever working around them everywhere they go. For some, their physical appearances on the television and in crusade grounds have birthed mighty moves of God. In our days, more of it is bound to occur. Where the voice of a disciple resound God's already declared counsel. Still in our days, for honours given God by appearing at the altars of Koinonia, and abiding there for as long as he requires, a glorious aura of an indelible and tangible expression of his evident presence and powers is what will be when a disciple comes to serve God's purpose; they'll be

healings, deliverance of souls from Satan's power, the grip of sin and wickedness will be broken, and the transformation of people whose lives seemed hopeless and was given up for will take place, **many souls shall be won to God's kingdom everywhere because somebody has been marked up as a Moving Revival, due to faithful, regular, punctual, and consistent attendance to God's presence for Koinonia, and he stayed until the Lord was through with him for that moment.**

Moses went up the mountain the first time, but rushed down, and was without any form of radiance due to incomplete fellowship with the Lord and the distraction he did not take care of before going away to have fellowship with the Lord. But on his second visit, Moses returned from his holy altars with heaven's glory shining all around him, the same and more happens today in this era of the new covenant. Every category of believers, whether young or old has the right by believing in Jesus Christ and coming to The Father through Faith, and God's glory will be made manifest upon all benevolently (2 Corinthians 3:6-11).

*But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Cor. 3:18*

It is, "...we all, with unveiled face..."

### **Transformation from glory to glory**

The transformation of every believer's life into the image of Christ from glory to glory is achieved through this act. But we all, with unveiled face must continue to behold the glory of the Lord. **This is possible first as we come to the Lord by faith in the secret place, then, by engaging the Holy Spirit in our undistracted reading and studying, and meditating on the word and principles of God, praying along the direction of the Holy Spirit per time, building up our most holy faith, praying in the Spirit (in understanding and in tongues, with the Spirit leading) (Jude 1:3), basing our thoughts and complete undivided attention on the kingdom and the will of God upon the earth (Matt. 6:9, 10; Col. 3:1-3).**

With this, we can carefully figure out why some who claim to be born again followers of Christ still operate like every natural unbeliever in the way they speak and live, and in their daily dealings with other men. **One can claim to be a believer and for thirty years of being a member of a local Church assembly, giving offerings and tithes, and participating in every religious activity, or meeting every denominational demands, and yet never have a change of heart and attitude, because, the faith confession many are disciplined with is a corrupt practice if not balanced with the knowledge of seeking God's help over their old life's attitudes which they still find operating in their lives.**

*Therefore, as often as a believer goes before the Lord at the altar of intimacy, so quick and speedily would the believer be transformed by the renewing of his mind through the word of God encountered there*

The believer's spirit is made alive and perfected immediately at their confession of faith in Jesus Christ, but the soul remains with the sense of the old life, and will still be operating like a natural man unless it is shown the way of the new creation life correctly. This is the first thing that God engages every believer for, when they begin to draw closer to him. God begins to unite their heart and focus with the Christ's, making sure they are beginning to see their true nature, and its difference with the new creation life in Him. Unless this is established, the disciple may never become anything like Christ. God who wants every believer to look just like Christ (Phil. 2:5), is ready to make open the various revelations that will alter the past knowledge and understanding of the self-life which was in operation in the disciple. This will then be helping him to pray aright for divine alignment with the Lord's will and purpose for the rebirth. Therefore, as often as a believer goes before the Lord at the altar of fellowship, so quick and speedily would the believer be transformed by the renewing of his mind through the word of God he/she encounters.

### **Koinonia—the first purpose of Christ for calling any man**

Being God's purpose for mankind from the beginning, He ceased not to keep working, until it was achieved. Jesus pointed out very clearly to his disciples:

*And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, -- KJV*

*Then he selected twelve of them to be his regular companions, calling them apostles. He sent them out to preach, -- NLT*

*He settled on twelve, and designated them apostles. The plan was that they would be with him, and he would send them out to proclaim the Word –Mark.3:14MESSAGE BIBLE  
(Emphases added)*

*Two purposes for calling and ordaining his disciples have been unveiled here in this verse.*

1. And He ordained twelve, that they should be with him...KJV  
 -Then He selected twelve of them to be his regular companions...NLT  
 -He settled on twelve, and designated them apostles. The plan was that they would be with him... MESSAGE
2. ...and that He might send them forth to preach. KJV  
 -...He sent them out to preach. NLT  
 -...and He would send them out to proclaim the Word. MESSAGE

According to this verse, we discover that Christ's primary reason for calling out any person from following after the worldly system, and following Him is for such person to learn to stay with Jesus. Staying at his feet like Mary (Luke 10:39), the sister of Martha, and learning of God's ways about life generally is what Jesus regards as better choice, a cogent reason for calling us

out of the world. **Until we stay with Him, with all our affections submitted at his feet, and our appetite for this temporary world with its fading beauty is translated into passionate desires and delights for Him, shown by our attendance to the altar of intimacy with Him, the purpose of God behind it will never be realised.** We must become like Jesus, changed daily from one level of glory to another level of glory, but this is better achieved through our continual visit to His presence for word encounter. When we're changed, then the anointing for ministry comes upon us, and then Christ himself ordains us to further carry out the assignment which The Father sent him to start, for us to continue and finish it (John 9:4).

Divine ordination normally follows faithfulness in attending God's presence, and as often as anyone can be found before the altar of intimacy, so also would the anointing of the Spirit for divine exploit(s) be released upon the believer. Age has little to do here, that means, if you can introduce your little baby to the delights of the altars of intimacy with the Holy Spirit, greater things will accompany that child from childhood, and by the time such child is of age, you can't predict how many enemy giants he will pull down, or how many enemies he will cast from the lives of people. With an altar of Koinonia with the Holy Spirit, anybody can become a useful vessel in God's hands.

If you do not see the power and presence of the Lord doing mightily around and with your life, despite your wishes, you're not changed into the firebrand you really hoped of becoming in the Lord's hands, arise and build your own altar of Koinonia with the Lord. By the time you begin with an hour, to two, three, and four and five, like that, consistently, and humbly, not necessarily making a show of it, you will be revived within a month, because God does not hide himself from those who seek him with all their heart.

*With an altar of Koinonia with the Holy Spirit, anybody can become a useful vessel in God's hands.*

Your mandate and its details are more communicated to you when you're often found worshipping on your altars of Koinonia.

In Matthew 5:2, Jesus beheld the trooping multitude, but He was careful not to be so carried away with the joys of being a well sought after preacher, and He wouldn't explain the teachings of the eternal secrets to those who were not committed to Him, He climbed the mountain, and His disciples climbed also to meet Him. To the multitude who do not build an altar of intimacy, the secret of God's kingdom come in form of parables, but to the disciple of Christ, it comes clearly.

*And seeing the multitudes, He went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.*

*Then He opened His mouth and taught them... Matt.5.1-2*

The top secrets of God's kingdom are only disclosed to those who are identified as regular members of God's secret places.

## The altar of intimacy—the pruning industry

*"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without me you can do nothing. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be my disciples. John 15:1-8*

Farmers understand the wisdom behind the pruning of a tree, or a plant. When any tree that's planted for a purpose tends to develop some overgrowth, it is trimmed. Whenever its growth becomes abnormal they prune it to achieve a uniform growth rate with the others. In crop production some primary reasons for pruning are enumerated below. We are staging this to enable clearer understanding of what happens to every believer during the spiritual pruning process that take place during koinonia.

- Pruning is very vital for tree crops. When tree crops develop excessive branches, sometimes these branches prevent sunlight and air from reaching the middle and ground portions of the tree thereby impeding the proper growth of the tree. When these excess branches are pruned or cut off, then sunlight and air can get to all parts of the tree and make the tree to grow very well.
- Pruning promotes fruiting of trees. Pruning can be very important for fruit trees because it enables them to produce more fruits. Fruit trees that do not get pruning on a regular basis do not produce as many fruits as those that are properly and regularly pruned.
- Pruning also helps in making sure that there is a balanced distribution of fruits on fruit-bearing trees.
- Pruning ensures the longevity of plants. Plants that undergo proper and frequent pruning enjoy more longevity than those that do not.
- Pruning plants regularly ensures that all diseased and damaged parts of the plant are gotten rid of to ensure the smooth growth of the plant. If diseased or damaged parts of a plant are not removed quickly, the disease can spread and take over all the parts of the plant.
- Pruning will ensure that the plants remain healthy because pruning helps in controlling diseases and pests attacking the plants.
- Pruning improves the appearance and beauty of the plant.
- When plants are pruned on a regular basis, the plants tend to maintain their natural shape all the time.
- Pruning is very helpful during plant transplanting – especially during the transplanting of tree plants.

- Pruning also improves sanitation and keeps your environment safer. For example, hedges around your house that do not regularly undergo pruning can harbor harmful animals such as snakes, scorpions etc. Bad people can also hide in such unpruned plants to perpetrate their evil deeds. Also, pruning trees along pedestrian paths and road that have excess branches is very essential. Doing this can prevent the branches of these trees accidentally breaking and falling down during a storm and causing harm to pedestrians. (*hosbeg.com*)

Sometime in a believer's spiritual journey, they may seem to appear a form of growth that's unwanted. Some of the results that occur from not pruning a plant occur in the lives of a believer, who has no altar of fellowship. This includes sudden change from godly ways to natural ways after the old nature, and this consequently saps away the spiritual energy necessary for proper development into a useful vessel in God's hands. God finds opportunities to cut out of the life of any believer every attitude protruding from the indwelling self-life. Through contact with his word, the old life is shaken off balance, and the wrong attitude will be exposed, and still through His word, the self-life attitude exposed will be pruned, so that there might be nothing to compete for the spiritual nutrients that are required to nurture His new creation life in a disciple into maturity. And this takes place at the altar of Koinonia. The farther a believer goes away from the Lord's secret place, the longer it'll take for such a believer to arrive at God's expected spiritual height for him/her, then the spiritual inheritance meant for such here on earth will be delayed or hindered (Gal. 4:1) until such disciple realises his deficiency due to spiritual truancy.

From the same text, we discover that, a branch will always bear fruits as it's ever connected to its own source.

*"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. John.15.5*

Jesus already makes it clear that, without Him, no disciple of His can achieve anything, only those who continue to abide in Him will bear many fruits. After pruning process, a tree or a branch connected to its source is expected to produce many fruits to the delight of its owner. We are all branches in Christ. As long as any believer remains connected through constant communion with Christ, such believer must bear the desired fruit, and there's no out of season for such. Every communing believer shall be like a tree planted by the river of waters, he shall bring forth his fruits in his right season (Psalm 1:3).

And the fruits of such will consist of the best quality fruits.

*Once a believer is ever connected, he'll be ever-bearing. And the fruits of such will consist of the best quality fruits.*

**Koinonia—place of receiving all requests**

*What spiritual effect you supply your church or your society is a result of how much you are connected to your spiritual power supply.*

The Lord knows them that are His. Many believers do not receive what they ask of the Lord because of their partial contact with Him. As long as an electric circuit has a break, you can expect that it will deliver only partial electric voltage; this is due to the partial contact that might be occurring within the circuit. A well connected set of electrical appliances will resultantly produce a full electrified effect.

All that a believer who is given to unceasing fellowship with the Lord asks from the Lord is granted unto him. This is because, he understands The Father, when he's saying "yes", or "wait" about any matter brought before Him.

The amount of personal prayer requests which God attends to, for an individual, has connection to how intimate a believer is to the Lord. Apart from sin, and sinful lifestyle which distances The Father from paying attention to the request of anybody (Isa. 59:1), **another limiting factor is level of intimacy**. This is why some believe that God listens to and hearkens to the prayers of their Pastor or General Overseer more than theirs, such that, until their Pastor prays with them over a matter, they might not have Faith in their own prayers with the Lord.

This means our individual confidence and faith in the ability of The Father is tantamount to what depth of fellowship keeps us with The Father. Truly, those who are always with God in the Spirit, tend to operate deeper, and go wider in spiritual exploits. **How far God can take you in life also depends on how much of your being He has fellowshiped with;** this is what will determine how much confidence a believer exercises in his spiritual operations.

*You confidence in the Lord's ability is directly proportional to the degree of frequency in your attendance to the altar of intimacy.*

You can determine how far you want God to use you; because, how great He uses you is an essential expression of how much of your being He knows through your frequent Koinonia with Him. Because, only God can determine what measure of assignment He can commit to you, or where He can confidently send you to in the whole wide world, and you'll fight his battles and still live, or what height He could lift you in life while you are carrying His name higher and higher, and yet you won't become proud of His lifting of your life, for His own name's sake. But the truth is that, God will never have anything valuable to do with any man who places little or no value to the altars of intimacy with Him, He gives no honourable assignment to such a fellow. **Buy God's honour with the currency of constant attendance to your spiritual altar of fellowship with Him.**

*"Ho! Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters; and you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price. Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, And let your soul delight itself in abundance. Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you-- The sure mercies of David. Indeed I have given him as a witness to the people, A leader and commander for the people. Surely you shall call a nation you do not know, And nations who do not know you shall run to you, Because of the LORD your God, And the Holy One of Israel; For He has glorified you." Seek the LORD while He may be found, Call upon Him while He is near. Isa.55:1-6*

The privilege of this course is not what can really be paid for by any man, yet respect for the blood of Jesus is enough payment to have unlimited access to all the portals of the heavenly quarters.

*God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 1 Cor. 1:9*

My friend, the privilege of fellowship with The Father has been created by Jesus Christ—the Son of God. Anyone who must enjoy it and all its benefits can do so, simply by acknowledging the sacrifice of Jesus through the death He died on the Cross of Calvary.

Until you have done so, you can't expect anything like fellowship with Him, because, He is the only way to God—The Father, and fellowship is meant for people who are fellows, who have some common traits.

Call upon Him right now, and ask Him to forgive your past ways and release upon you the spiritual blessings meant for the saints and the benefits of fellowship with Him.

God bless you as you do so. Amen.

### 90-DAYS BIBLE READING PLAN

**T**he bible can be read through using several divisions but, in this booklet we shall look into three sub-categories namely:

Canonically: This plan prepares its texts in such a way as a reader can go straight through the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

2. Chronologically: Readings are compiled according to recent historical research, taking into account the order in which the recorded events actually occurred.
3. Historically: Ordering is based upon research regarding the order in which the books were authored.
4. Old Testament (OT) and New Testament (NT) mixed: This takes you through the bible with the various books evenly divided according to the time of reading.
5. Old Testament alone
6. New Testament alone

The best method chosen depends on individual decision as to what one really want to achieve at a particular time, but most importantly, as the Holy Spirit directs.

#### **Other things to do while reading**

The Bible is not a story book, or a textbook for intending poets, it must be read with diligence and deep concentration for its spiritual and wholesome benefits. Every reader or student of the bible is counseled to practice and adopt the following attitudes when looking into the scriptures.

1. Be intentional about it
2. Be disciplined in the course
3. Be courageous
4. Write down your commentaries. This is as each book, chapter or verse opens up for you. I personally became more familiar with how the Holy Spirit explains the bible through this means of reading, meditating and writing down comments and, my own summaries. These are the truths that will form the bedrock of your own personal spiritual foundation, because, with the Holy Spirit working with you through the reading process, you will learn of God's mysteries personally, and be grounded in them, as disciple, and with your heart and your mind ever opened to receive from the Lord and believing that all he teaches you is the correct, your spiritual growth is sure, having been laid on a foundation of truth and faith, without which no man shall see the Lord (Hebrews 11:6)
5. Get a new notebook, ranging from 40 leaves to the hard cover note books (depending on your financial strength at the moment, since you can always buy new exercise books to continue when one finishes.) all the books on which your comments were written down should be numbered and documented together; you may even bind them together using any means available for you, and that works best for you.
6. Whenever it's time for you to do your studies of scriptures, keep yourself away from all the domestic distractions at your sight and your reach away from you; this include: your mobile phones, television, and all things that satisfy your lustful and carnal appetite.

7. You can select a quiet place where no one can disturb you; ensure you have carried out all that you're required to do before settling down to avoid unnecessary disturbances, as we've been considering.

Below is a 90-day bible reading plan, suitable for every age group, or social class. Anyone who can adopt this will be able to go through the entire bible at least four times in a single year. It takes discipline and self-discipline plus self-denial to do this. Parents can engage their children in this, while they keep watch over them to ensure that the reading course is successfully completed within the time range. It is to be taken everyday for maximum result.

This is only an extract from my book on a wide guide to effective reading and study of the bible. If you keep contact, you will have access to it, anytime, and anywhere. It is also in PDF, and can be forwarded to you, at any point in time, if you're interested. Our goal is the fulfillment of the biblical prophesies that the knowledge of the glory of the Lord shall cover the earth as the water covers the sea (Hab. 2:14), and we're in this business together with the Lord, the owner of the farm where we work.

<b>CATEGORY: CANONICAL READING PLAN - 90 DAYS</b>	
<b>1.</b>	Genesis 1-15
<b>2.</b>	Genesis 16-26
<b>3.</b>	Genesis 27-37
<b>4.</b>	Genesis 38-47
<b>5.</b>	Genesis 48-50, Exodus 1-9
<b>6.</b>	Exodus 10-21
<b>7.</b>	Exodus 22-32
<b>8.</b>	Exodus 33-40, Leviticus 1-4
<b>9.</b>	Leviticus 1-15
<b>10.</b>	Leviticus 16-25
<b>11.</b>	Leviticus 26, numbers 1-6
<b>12.</b>	Numbers 7-15
<b>13.</b>	Numbers 16-25
<b>14.</b>	Numbers 26-34
<b>15.</b>	Numbers 35-36, Deuteronomy 1-7
<b>16.</b>	Deuteronomy 8-20
<b>17.</b>	Deuteronomy 21-31
<b>18.</b>	Deuteronomy 32-34, Joshua 1-11
<b>19.</b>	Joshua 12-24
<b>20.</b>	Judges 1-9
<b>21.</b>	Judges 10-21
<b>22.</b>	Ruth 1-4, 1 Samuel 1-12
<b>23.</b>	1 Samuel 13-24

<b>24.</b>	1 Samuel 25-31, 2 Samuel 1-7
<b>25.</b>	2 Samuel 8-21
<b>26.</b>	2 Samuel 22-24, 1 Kings 1-7
<b>27.</b>	1 Kings 8-17
<b>28.</b>	1 Kings 18-22, 2 Kings 1-5
<b>29.</b>	2 Kings 6-17
<b>30.</b>	2 Kings 18-25, 1 Chronicles 1-2
<b>31.</b>	1 Chronicles 3-11
<b>32.</b>	1 Chronicles 12-24
<b>33.</b>	1 Chronicles 29, 2 Chronicles 1-8
<b>34.</b>	2 Chronicles 9-24
<b>35.</b>	2 Chronicles 28-36
<b>36.</b>	Ezra 1-10, Nehemiah 2-3
<b>37.</b>	Nehemiah 4-11
<b>38.</b>	Nehemiah 12-13, Esther 1-10, Job 1-4
<b>39.</b>	Job 5-16
<b>40.</b>	Job 17-31
<b>41.</b>	Job 32-42
<b>42.</b>	Psalms 1-25
<b>43.</b>	Psalms 26-45
<b>44.</b>	Psalms 46-69
<b>45.</b>	Psalms 70-85
<b>46.</b>	Psalms 86-105
<b>47.</b>	Psalms 106-119
<b>48.</b>	Psalms 120-145
<b>49.</b>	Psalms 146-150, Proverbs 1-9
<b>50.</b>	Proverbs 10-21
<b>51.</b>	Proverbs 22-31
<b>52.</b>	Ecclesiastes 1-12, Song of Solomon 1-8
<b>53.</b>	Isaiah 1-17
<b>54.</b>	Isaiah 18-35
<b>55.</b>	Isaiah 36-53
<b>56.</b>	Isaiah 54-65, Jeremiah 1-3
<b>57.</b>	Jeremiah 4-17
<b>58.</b>	Jeremiah 18-31
<b>59.</b>	Jeremiah 32-45
<b>60.</b>	Jeremiah 46-52, Lamentations 1-2
<b>61.</b>	Lamentations 3-5, Ezekiel 1-12
<b>62.</b>	Ezekiel 13-22
<b>63.</b>	Ezekiel 23-33
<b>64.</b>	Ezekiel 34-45

<b>65.</b>	Ezekiel 46-48, Daniel 1-9
<b>66.</b>	Daniel 10-12, Hosea 1-14, Joel 1-3
<b>67.</b>	Amos 1-9, Obadiah 1, Jonah 1-4, Micah 1-7
<b>68.</b>	Nahum 1-3, Habakkuk 1-3, Zephaniah 1-3, Haggai 1-2, Zechariah 1-7
<b>69.</b>	Zechariah 8-14, Malachi 1-4, Matthew 1-6
<b>70.</b>	Matthew 7-14
<b>71.</b>	Matthew 15-23
<b>72.</b>	Matthew 24-28, Mark 1-3
<b>73.</b>	Mark 4-11
<b>74.</b>	Mark 12-16, Luke 1
<b>75.</b>	Luke 2-9
<b>76.</b>	Luke 10-18
<b>77.</b>	Luke 19-24, John 1-2
<b>78.</b>	John 3-10
<b>79.</b>	John 11-21
<b>80.</b>	Acts 1-10
<b>81.</b>	Acts 11-20
<b>82.</b>	Acts 21-28, Romans 1-3
<b>83.</b>	Romans 4-16
<b>84.</b>	1 Corinthians 1-14
<b>85.</b>	1 Corinthians 15-16, 2 Corinthians 1-13
<b>86.</b>	Galatians 1-6, Ephesians 1-6, Philippians 1-3
<b>87.</b>	Philippians 4, Colossians 1-4, 1 Thessalonians 1-5, 2 Thessalonians 1-3, 1 Timothy 1-6, 2 Timothy 1
<b>88.</b>	2 Timothy 2-4, Titus 1-3, Philemon 1, Hebrews 1-13, James 1-4
<b>89.</b>	James 5, 1 Peter 1-5, 2 Peter 1-3, 1 John 1-5, 2 John 1, 3 John 1, Jude 1, Revelation 1-4
<b>90.</b>	Revelation 5-22

# Building the Altar of Fellowship

**“So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among those who are sanctified”,**

**Acts 20:32**

**God does not glorify Himself in a man He does not know through daily fellowship. Trust is earned over time through daily koinonia. John 7:3-6; 15:15, 16**

**It is an aberration for a child of God to live a whole day without fellowship with God alone for at least an hour. Matthew 26:38-44**

## About the book

Jesus has clarified his followers on the primary purpose for chosen them, it is first for fellowship, and then for outdoor ministry, since no one can go out of a room he's not first entered.

The call for closer intimacy with the Lord is the central focus of this book. **BUILDING THE ALTAR OF FELLOWSHIP** briefly encapsulates basic biblical principles, and the quest for how to know the Lord, intimately. Any sincere disciple of Christ Jesus who desires to grow a purpose-fulfilling Christian life can see through God's eyes by reading this epistle in a single sitting on ways to go about it.