

TAKE CHARGE

Chapter One

Possess your gate

The promise was given unto Abraham by God. God told Abraham,

“I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies.” Gen. 22:17.

He said it and he did it. The offspring being referred to here most likely fits Jesus Christ and his followers. God was not referring to a single person. Christ died and multiplied greatly upon the whole earth. There are over two billion Christian adherents across the globe. Everyone who lives in union with Christ daily by the Spirit, who have been cleansed by his blood, and received the life of Christ within them is the true seed of Abraham. The covenant of power and ability to take over the major control ‘buttons’ of the world lies in their hands. But because, many believers are after some other affairs of the civilian life (2 Tim. 2:3), they treat with levity the call of God for them to impact their immediate environments and the society with the fear and knowledge of God. Hence the wide spread of ungodliness. As long as Christians continue to be worldly, and prefer to live a life of pleasure at the expense of fulfilling the purpose of God, for which he’s multiplying Abraham’s seed, darkness will continue to increase. But God who is all-wise will ride on the thickening darkness and make the light of the life of Christ to shine brighter.

A gate is the legal entrance into, and the exit of an enclosed environment. The world system is made up several divisions and each divided sector has a gate, and also serves as a gate into the society and into the hearts of men. Every gathering of people in the society is seen by God as a gate. Jesus in his command to obey the Great Commission (Matt 8:18-20) said that, his disciples should go into all the world and make disciples of

all the *nations*. The Greek word translated as *all the nations* is the word *panta ta ethne*, which have to do with people groups, divided according to certain common factors of relevant consideration. According to Dr. Jim Slack, of Global Evangelism and Church growth Consultant with the International Mission Board, '*ta ethne*' are ethno-linguistic people groups that are defined by a stable, historically developed community of people with a territory, economic life, distinctive culture and language in common. In my understanding of the Great Commission, believers are sent out into the world. That is, where human beings are found who have no knowledge of the one true God, and how he wants them to worship him; people who do not worship God. It is important to note that missions exist because worship of God does not yet happen in a place. Every group on earth is a gate that provides access to people. Every organized set of people is also a unique gate to people's lives. We should go everywhere men are found.

Gates to possess

We should seek to possess the gates of Education, Politics, The ICT World, Entertainment Industry, Music and Art Industries, The Fashion World, The Social Media, Security, Science and Technology, Agricultural Economy, Trade And Commerce, the Finance Sector, Transportation, Marital Institutions, Health Sectors, Culture and Tradition, Medicine and Philosophy, Artistry, authors and Publishers, etc.

When Christians pray, they should also watch out for wisdom on how to be in control of these gates, physically and practically. When the sons of Belial are in charge, they would easily enact policies that affect Christian worship in the society. Take for instance, Daniel, Shedrach, Meshach, and Abednego, Esther, Mordecai, Nehemiah, King Cyrus of Babylon (who some believe to the son of Queen Esther, the Jew.), Joseph etc. These people ruled in foreign nations, they made God proud.

God actually wanted the religion of the Jews, and His laws to get to the other nations of the world then. By allowing these Jews to have major controls in the lands of their

captivity, it was God's plan to also send them there in order to introduce himself to such alien nations, and he succeeded. Those nations eventually saw the glory of the God of Israel; the knowledge of his glory was marvelously revealed as a result of their leadership and religious lifestyles and practices. They had the privilege of leading, they made God known indeed. If they were not in charge in one way or the other, it would have been a bit difficult for them to open up the gates of the lands that they controlled.

In the New Testament, precisely Acts 6, if not for God's mercy and grace, the devil would have crept into the fellowship of the brethren unawares, but the apostles were sensitive, they quickly suggested means to place men full of the Holy Spirit in charge of food distribution. Also in Acts 26, 27, Paul was sent to Rome. God planned it so, that Paul might have the opportunity to speak to the gate keeper of the city (the political leaders), and the elders of the Christian church there were ministered to.

In the course of Joshua's commissioning, God disclosed to him what would be the dimension of the land he was giving them. God mentioned, that their territory would be from the wilderness and Lebanon, as far as the great river - Euphrates. And *all the land of the Hittites* (Josh. 1:4 *paraphrased*). The Hittites were enemies of the Jews. Yet, it pleased God to give the Jews practical right to fully conquer, possess and take control of their gates, and of their city.

I believe that physically, Christians must not be the number one on the list before they can exert reasonable influence and make impacts for God where they are. Already God has promised that, Abraham's descendants would always be the head and not the tail wherever they went. **"The LORD your God will make you the leader among the nations and not a follower..."** (Deut. 28:18). It is clear, God's plan is to have us lead in everything. It is an aberration for an ungodly person, whose mind is not being renewed daily by the word of God to always be in control of affairs when they are Christians they, such is the case of some nations today. The side effects are very obvious. It shows

that the believers there are displaying irresponsibility, until they can arise, first in the Spirit and take over through unexcused spiritual warfare.

Therefore, by virtue of God's promises, Abraham's true descendants who are the believers in Christ today are the heads of every territory they set their feet. **"Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you..."** (Josh. 1:3). We should never allow unbelievers to dictate ungodly policies for us, so as not to even think of compromising or not.

Take your stand:

Whenever a correct and strong standing believer of Jesus Christ enters a place, God's primary expectation is that such a person takes his stand as a true son of the heavenly Father, **spiritually first**. Spend a good time in the secret place of prayers, possibly fasting before God, let him show you, and tell you what he'll have you do there. Daniel, after he had proven himself to be outstanding was thought of being put in charge of the other governors, because his works clearly showed that an excellent Spirit was upon him (Dan. 6:1-3). His secret was deep-heart intimating personal prayer fellowship and fasting.

You are wired to take over:

God wires every believer in such a way that they can take full possession of the place they set the sole of their foot for Christ. Possess the place you are today, through your effective, selfless prayers of intercession for the people and for the territory itself (i.e. the land). Radically render ineffective the principalities and powers operating there before your arrival, corrupt their works. Always bear this in mind that *"The earth is the LORD'S and its fullness thereof, the world and those who dwell therein"* (Psalm 24:1). Command the gates and the former gatekeepers of the place you are to lift their heads. Order the ancient doors to be lifted up, so that God – the king of glory can come in and establish his kingdom there through you, via activities in that place (Psalm 24:7). *Until God's glory*

is revealed, you have not possessed the gates. You have the backup of the Almighty God and his angels with you. Arise! Subdue the territories that ungodly men rule today!

Possess the gates with your resources; use your money and other physical or non-physical values to make friends (Luke 16:9a), as we see in the teaching of Jesus. Establish non-toxic relationships and strike connections of gainful partnership that can provide you with access into the hearts of men. This course requires a complete selfless involvement in order to deliver the best of God's expectations.

Act wisely:

Deal with wisdom, and work with excellence in view all you venture into. Resolve to stand out, then even when your unbelieving superiors and contemporaries judge you by your added values and excellent performances, they would consider putting you in control of other things. It is a gradual process though.

Be Consistent in your good works:

As a Christian, you have a purpose for being wherever you are today. Work hard to add values there, even when it seems no one cares. Your consistency will enhance its manifestation, if you do not get discouraged, you will soon hit the nail on the head. It will eventually make you indispensable, and even when they have to relieve some staff of their duties, you're most likely not going to be entrenched. Adding extra value you were not paid for is like 'giving a gift' to a rich person. The principle is that *your gift will make a way for you* (Prov. 18:6). The bible teaches that no one will harm you if you are willing to do good (1 Pet. 3:13).

Serve men like you're serving God himself:

Serve your human leaders as if you were doing it for God (Col. 3:23), you'll be sowing a viable seed and casting your bread upon waters (Eccl. 11:1). Seed time and harvest never ceases (Gen. 8:22), and after many days you will still find your bread. A Christian

who lives this way has in view the mindset of possessing his gate for the Lord to come there; he is preparing grounds and making the road plain and straight (Isa. 40:3) like John the Baptist for God's visit to that environment.

Take care of your personal relationship (Josh. 1:7-8):

Never forget that your own personal relationship with God remains the ground for all these. Seek deeper intimacy with the Holy Spirit, so that like Joseph, the leaders will soon discover that, they are making better gains since you started working with them. You are God's temple there. Show them what stuff that the God who now fills you is made of. Practice the word of God as the principles of God's kingdom that bring about good success.

Man your gate. Let there be positive physical changes because you are in that environment. As you devote quality time to pray effectively and consistently daily, also study, let them find you praying during recess if possible, [not to show]. Practically seek opportunity to share the gospel with individuals there with all the wisdom God gives you, and you'll remain in control. In fact, God might soon place you at the top of affairs so as to make your excellent light shine farther (Matt. 5:14-16).

Chapter Two

Behold, darkness shall cover the earth

For **behold**, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples...Isaiah 60:2a
(emphasis added)

Though darkness covers the earth, and thick clouds, the peoples...NAB (emphasis added)

For behold, **the darkness** shall cover the earth, and darkness the people...NKJV
(emphasis added)

Darkness is the absence of light. From the bible, darkness refers to activities outside of the light and life of Jesus Christ. Every action or word that cannot be traced to Jesus Christ is generated by the kingdom of darkness - the domain of Satan, and expressed through the self life. Darkness also refers to any evil done in the world, which happens as a result of satanic manipulations through the human nature. Whenever one obeys the dictates of the flesh (which is the sinful nature), such a person sins against God, and has practiced evil actions of darkness. Evil is any activity done by one against himself, a neighbor, or God. Whatever is done which inflicts pain, or cause harm to one's self, to another person, and brings God displeasure is evil. It is activity of darkness.

The Psalmist wrote: "behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me." Psalm 51:5. It is obvious, the entire world groans and gropes in darkness up till now, except where the light of Christ has come. And God, speaking through his Prophet reveals that darkness actually abides on the earth, it covers the earth and the people living on it. We see the manifestations of the activities of darkness every day, and everywhere. The darkness referred to here is not the physical darkness that appears at nightfall because the earth has rotated, the bible speaks of a darkness that reigns with a spiritual origin.

In the beginning God shows his dislike of such darkness by commanding light to shine, to remove it (Gen. 1:3).

The darkness is visible. Its origin is the fall of man in Genesis 3, and its consequences leaves the earth with its scar. Man is at loggerheads with serpents, women conceive pleurably but deliver their babies in pains, and human beings must now suffer and struggle to have food placed on their tables. Although in Christ, God's grace has appeared and lightened up all these, but, the effect of the fall is everywhere: The killings, genocides, human trafficking, cheating and robbery, bribery and corruption, the strict and dogmatic adherence to Laws of a religion before one can be accepted by God, or a deity, immoralities, occultism, uncontrolled love of money, lust of the eyes/flesh and the pride of life for which many people become enemies of God. Ritual killings and commission of abominable acts just to get some spiritual powers, or attain some positions and statuses in the society, in the political offices and high ranking positions. Some people vows allegiance to the deity of their religion to kill other human beings who would not serve their own deity, I mean, these doesn't make any sense, God made all men, and gives every human being the equal right for survival upon his resources. Those ladies in brothels and prostitute houses engage in sexual intercourse with all manner of mates, because they must get money to eat and clothe. Several millions of children are forced to become orphans against their will because one tragedy or the other separated them from their parents.

In education, the teaching standard have been completely bastardized. Unless a student does extra studies at home, he cannot pass the SSCE, O or A level exams, because the curriculum does not cover the examination questions, and/or the tutors lazy about, only working to get the pay and just give the students some peanut assignment to keep them busy, even though the home work might not do them any much good, or really prepare them for success in an external examination.

In our society and even some Christian homes today, a student who can still set out time to study hard and prepare for examinations is seen is a fool, over-serious and

wasting his time. Because the questions and answers to the examination being prepared for can be easily accessed before the day of exam, and can be obtained for a valuable price. The fall in the standard of education is so high. Even the godly are getting discouraged. It seems hard work is now an evil venture. When a student is caught cheating, nothing serious is done to punish him, this a fall in standard and a manifestation of darkness in our society. Our children in the basic and primary schools are kept in the classroom and school environment for about eight hours daily. Their minds are exposed to the secular education, and even the parents are being caught away from them for such a long time, yet, many of them grow up into something else. They become irresponsible, thieves, liars, gossips, immoral/loving immoral things. They hear corrupting stuffs, 7 to 8 hours daily for five days of the week. Christian parents cannot boast of spending two solid hours with their children in a whole week, how can one expect them to grow up on a firm foundation that may never be shaken and destroyed by the dirty, ungodly vices they are mostly exposed to at childhood.

How won't they become hooligans on the drum set and piano or fornicating church workers tomorrow, when their teachers from the most important days and years of their lives were folks whose delights had no link with the holy word of God. When your child is exposed to a prostitute or a cult member as class teacher, a thief or a cheat by lifestyle, how else can you explain that he went with you to the church every day, and yet became useless to God and to the society? You sit at home or somewhere else and your children's destinies are being re-shaped by Satan's agents against God's original and intended plan. Wake up!

Christians must arise and take control of every gate that gives access to our children. Don't just sit out there as a parent, insensitive to the life of the home lesson teacher you employ to teach and train your kid(s). If you are not careful, you might end up employing a home tutor who is deeply being swallowed up by the rivers of pornography and masturbation, gay, lesbianism or incest or some dirty, ungodly lifestyles and unwholesome words etc. Before you know it your child is caught in the

net also. It is not written on the face. There is darkness in the earth. There is thick darkness upon the peoples of the earth, whether young or old; male or female, darkness is upon the people who have not entered into the light and received the life of Christ.

Education which is supposed to be the foundation of a society's growth and development has been greatly watered; it is being destroyed (Psalm 11:3), and even the righteous will not have any remedy someday, except to scatter the foundation and rebuild another one.

There's so much evil in every nook and cranny of our society today, and every doer seems to have a self-developed excuse, and explanation for their evil activities. God have mercy! Paul in writing to the Roman believers said, "God's anger is revealed from heaven against all the sin and evil of the people whose evil ways prevent the truth from being known.

God punishes them, because what can be known about God is plain to them, for God himself made it plain.

Ever since God created the world, his invisible and his divine nature, have been clearly seen; they are perceived in the things that God has made. So those people have no excuse at all!

They know God, but they do not give him the honor that belongs to him, nor do they thank him. Instead, their thoughts have become complete nonsense, and their empty minds are filled with darkness.

They say they are wise, but they fools; instead of worshiping the immortal God, they worship images made to look like mortals or birds or animals or reptiles.

And so God has given those people over to do the filthy things their hearts desire, and they do shameful things with each other. They exchange the truth about God for a lie; they worship and serve what God has created instead of the Creator himself, who is to be praised forever! Amen.

Because they/ do this, God has given them over to shameful passions. Even the women pervert the natural use of their sex by unnatural acts. In the same way the men give up natural sexual relations with women and burn with passion for each other. Men do shameful things with each other, and as a result they bring upon themselves the punishment they deserve for their wrongdoing.

Because those people refuse to keep in mind the true knowledge about God, he has given them over to corrupted minds, so that they do the things that they should not do. They are filled with all kinds of wickedness, evil, greed, and vice; they are full of jealousy, murder, fighting, deceit, and malice. They gossip and speak evil of one another; they are hateful to God, insolent, proud, and boastful; they think of more ways to do evil; they disobey their parents; they have no conscience; they show no kindness or pity for others. They know that God's law says that people who live in this way deserve death. Yet, not only do they continue to do these very things, but they even approve of others who do them." Romans 1:18-32 GNB.

Both the Old and New Testament sections of the holy bible testifies clearly that there is spiritual darkness in the earth. The spiritual death that came upon human beings after Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit in Genesis changed the original programming of God and his intention for the earth. The way out is the introduction of light, found in the life of Jesus Christ.

Any man who is not in Christ is in darkness; he is dead spiritually. The spiritual forces of the dark world ruled by Satan and his demons usually manipulate the life and destiny, and the activities of such individuals. That is why it seems wickedness is on the increase. Only when one truly turns to the saving grace and power of Jesus Christ by believing in the gospel (Rom. 1:16; 10:8-14) would the person be transferred from the reach of and manipulation of Satan and his demons (Col.1:13).

In this world, as long as there is still someone who does not believe in the person and finished works of Jesus Christ, darkness will pervade the activities of mortals, by taking

advantage of their vulnerability, i.e. living outside of Christ. Hence, Christians should spread everywhere man is found. Focus on shining forth Christ's life. Let Jesus Christ be known through your daily living amongst other men. Let people receive him. As a Christian labour hard to spread the testimonies of God's love and the good deeds of the Almighty for sending Jesus Christ.

Christians should enter into and actively participate in morally accepted world affairs that brings people together, and continually publish the deeds of God, the work of salvation and the victory over Satan, sin and self, which he has wrought by Christ's sufferings and death. It is a laborious task, but he has made available all that are needed to exert the victory. The Holy Spirit is with us, the word is there, and the earth and people living in it are the Lord's.

Politics:

The making of many political leaders in the nations today accredit much of its success to several inhumane activities that are easily traceable to falsehood, deceit and lies. When political game is played by people with unchanged, un-renewed hearts, one may do well not to expect a mango fruit from an orange tree naturally; they will play the game the way they choose to, based on how their minds are masterminded by Satan; manipulated by the demonic activities ruling in the heavenly places over the earth sphere. These principalities and powers work in conjunction with the corrupt state of the human nature, they rule men's lives and influence their daily activities through the lusts of their eyes, the lusts of their flesh and the pride of life lurking within all people outside of Christ. In this way, one is not able to please God anymore even if he wants to. Paul wrote the Galatians, "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh." (5:16).

In his epistle to the Romans, he said, "Those who live as their human nature tells them to, have their minds controlled by what human nature wants. Those who live as the Spirit tells them, have their minds controlled by what the Spirit wants. To be controlled

by the human nature results in death; to be controlled by the Spirit results in life and peace. And so people become enemies of God when they are controlled by the human nature; for they do not obey God's law, and in fact they cannot obey it. Those who obey their human nature cannot please God." (8:5-8 GNB). Unfortunately, what drives many people into politicking is generated by the lusts of the flesh. It makes them to resolve that it would be a do or die affair; they win or their opponent(s) ought to die so they can win easily. They perform rituals, kills innocent lives, slander their running mates, spread true or false scandals just to blackmail their opponents. All forms of secret evils and wickedness are perpetrated by unchristian candidates, this in turn fuels so much evil everywhere.

The Christians therefore should not fold their hands and watch Satan drain the testimonies that befits the blood of Jesus Christ that was shed, let believers go into the politics of the nations under the leading of the Holy Spirit, and shine as light. The church is the custodian of kingdom truth. If the church refuses to participate in the society's leadership roles then the unbelievers will hijack it and will plant ungodly and unbelieving rules and regulations and policies that fight the will of God for the world. It is because the church has not been acting proactively that, even in a country or a state with Christians having the larger population, non-Christians tend to rule over the Christians, over most national and public affairs, but with what? It can only be with the things which their human nature suggests to them. Corrupt human wisdom and ungodly ideas can be easily chipped, even into every other institution and the constitution guiding the operations of the land. Look, Jesus commands his disciples to go everywhere and make more disciples. The church need to make disciples among politicians as well. But somehow, it easier said that a politician can have more contact with another politician, hence disciples must possess the gate of politics for the Lord. This time, not for selfish or worldly glory and purpose, but that the knowledge of the glory of the Lord might cover the sea, and every knee should bow, and tongues confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord. The psalmist says, "Declare his glory among the nations,

his marvelous works among all the peoples! Psalm 96:2". *Politics is in the world, let's get involved with godly principles at our fingertips.* If righteous men are in leadership, righteousness have better chances

to be planted. This shall be discussed in detail in later chapter.

Information Communication Technology (ICT):

The computer world is another gate that darkness seem to have covered more of. It seems that the most dedicated software programmers, online networkers and telecommunication engineers are not the committed Christians. And based on the most trending internet ads and online contents, one may be tempted to conclude that the Christians in the ICT are not really deliberate; they have no Great Commission Vision in view. Most of them do use their knowledge for personal gains and to satisfy their selfish interests. It is expected of unbelievers in this part of the world (the ICT) to create, develop and promote ungodly contents, because it pays them more, makes it easier for them to get financially rewarded, and to have much online followers. Human beings are corrupt, except those who have the fear of God, and desirably seek spiritual things from the World Wide Web. But so many internet users and social media content developers, researchers and consumers tend to interact with this platform, just to satisfy their curiosities, even when the results promote evil and ungodliness in the society. There is a large quantity of ungodly contents on the internet and the social media platforms, and of course the gospel is also being widely spread through it also. But up to this time, the rate of secular and worldly keywords being searched for are higher than the core gospel keywords in comparison, this provides legal ground for darkness to rule the internet, and since social media users are on the increase daily, the darkness meets new users daily as well, in their millions.

Several forms of internet (Cyber) crimes exist today. Cybercrime is the use of computer devices as instrument to further illegal ends. Some affect the internet itself, other users

of the internet, the government etc. This is darkness too, it springs from the heart of corrupt people. Some forms are:

- Phishing, it is using fake email messages to get personal information from some internet user;
- Misusing personal information (known as identity theft);
- Hacking, it is shutting down or misusing websites or computer networks for personal gains;
- Spreading hate and inciting terrorism; distributing child/adult pornography;
- Grooming, it is making sexual advances to minors etc.

Entertainment industry:

Entertainment industry can be seen in many ways though. Someone defined it as that industry where a performer or performers present a performance to the public or to group of persons which performance is aimed at recreation, education, of information, whether for financial gain or not... it include performance in the following sector: film, television, theatre, music, advertising, broadcasting and modelling etc. One can say that the rationale behind the establishment of the movie industry is good and morally healthy for the society, but let's be true to ourselves, is that purpose to a large extent being satisfied? It is relatively not satisfied. We have a base for saying this.

Darkness is when light is not ruling. The bible says in him was life and the life was the light of men (John 1:4). As long as the movie industry continues to produce movies using people whose hearts, the fires of the Lord's love and holiness has not affected, and the word of God cleansed, they'll always be media contents from this industry that portrays ungodliness (darkness). People make up the ideas that are acted, and who are these people? There are majorly the Churched, if Churched, the Undevoted religionists who attend services to mark names, give their donations, be recognized and who tries to fulfill all righteousness, without ever having a life-changing encounter with Jesus

Christ. It is not that there are no true believers in the movie industries, but they are too few.

Most of them entertain with the aim of satisfying the cravings and lustful desires of the populace, they cannot do so unless they compromise the truth of God's word, of moralities and bend the word of God to suit and justify their actions.

When people produce entertainment skits according to the flesh, which only satisfies the desires of the public, they indirectly fuel darkness in the world. And because what men see affect them more than just what they hear, its impacts and influences are tremendous.

One of the major reasons people sign up with the entertainment industry is to make money, and have fame and express themselves, not GOD, and not that God's Spirit led them. If God's Spirit did not lead them there, obviously their flesh did, and judging by the impacts of this industry upon the society, it means many of the people in this industry are not led by the Spirit of God, because they are not promoting God, and that means many there are not the children of God spiritually. Consequently, the new creation Christians are needed to involve themselves in the entertainment industry.

The minds of the public is well studied. Flesh knows what satisfies it. The fallen man will do anything in its power to get the pleasure it seeks. The movie and entertainment industry will go every mile to deliver contents that please the eye, and the public consumers will pay anything to acquire it, but the result has always been, "behold, thick darkness covers the people." The more people engage in these naturally satisfying exercises the more evil and wickedness spread in our society instead of the knowledge of the glory of the Lord. When money is put forward, as the reason for an action or activity, then, evil is lurking, because the love of money is the root of all evil.

The media content found in most irreligious movies, music, documentaries on cultures and traditions, the fashion world etc. are morally degrading. What they promote is not in partial or full fulfillment of the rationale behind the emergence of the entertainment

industry, generally. Through several home movies and music, sex-rated movies are broadcast without impunity, no checks. Premarital and extramarital Sexual relationships are being sold to the public as a fairly good thing, instead being condemned. Several youths and teenagers in Christian homes have become hypocrites, and learnt how to go pretend to love safer TV shows, until their parents and guardians have gone to bed, then they switch to cable channels that satisfies their quest for sexual sights. A lot of Christians are not free from the dirtiness on the internet, through YouTube and other social media platforms. Erotic pictures sell so fast, because there are being created and highly demanded. Pornographic movies and video clips are widely spread across the internet and websites, several advertisements and pop-ups bring these images and/or video clips to one even they are not asked for. Satan has so much taken over the media contents of entertainment industry and the church must become deliberate.

The church must fill everywhere with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, just as the waters cover the sea. It is difficult to explain how a movie ends with captions such as 'To God be the glory' when it just finished showing immoral acts that concludes that, sex before marriage is acceptable, that unmarried mates indulging in serious romance and petting is publicly or privately acceptable? When a movie, music or a media presentation shows the public how to have sex, then the society is up for the worst, because, uncaring and undiscerning viewers will like to practice it illegally, and follow the human wisdom of their confused media counselors.

The entertainment industry should not fuel sin, but darkness has sold faster through this platform. The consumers of their content are in thick darkness; their minds have been completely bought, stained, darkened and blinded by the evil god of this world. The Christians have to arise and fill everywhere and subdue it (Gen. 1:28).

Apart from the unregulated immoral media contents found on many entertainment sites, idolatry is also another monster that the entertainment sells to the world, because its major users and engineers are not God-driven. Found among the African and Asian

continents especially, the practice of idol worship among some people groups around the world is being publicized as if it is correct thing. Some in their bid to practice their culture and tradition sell out idolatry as an acceptable form of worship to God, a thing to be emulated. How does Entertainments that feature the goodness and existence of gods and goddesses promote good learning and godliness? How does the practice of witchcraft and sorcery, black and white magic benefit mankind and promote godliness when they are shown to be helpful by media presentations and dramatic performances? No way!

Music industry:

The music industry is another gate of that project evil. Any music that hides the truth about Jesus Christ, but promotes sensual feelings, Satan's ideas, and the declining status of the sinful nature is a promoter of darkness. They can be identified through their lyrics (the wordings). When the true knowledge of God is communicated through a song, God is glorified and the knowledge of God spreads further across the earth also. According to Paul, the weapons of the church are not carnal, but with it, Christians destroy disdainful arguments and worldly opinions that are raised against the knowledge of God, through music. Christians should produce godly music inspired by the Holy Spirit himself, to counter their evil ideas of Satan selling across the world through sounds and rhythmic words.

Fashion world:

As an extension of entertainment industry, fashion has translated over the years. Darkness also exists in this division of the world. When modesty in physical appearance is seen 'not civilized', then, we are in a war with darkness over what is put on to cover nakedness. Animals like dogs and goats don't need to wear man's kind of clothing since their hairs and skins form cover for them, and they have no sense of shame in exposing their sexual organs and delicate parts. But God honored man. Every sensitive part should be well covered. Today, people of the world are proud to dress in

a way that the public can address them as being seductive, attractive etc. Deliberately making dresses, purchasing outfits, and putting on wears that expose various parts and organs of the body, such that nature and culture teaches the society to cover is sin. The Holy Spirit will not ask one to appear in the public in immoral and seductive manner physically. Any kind of fashion style and beauty make-ups that the society, nature and the culture of the bible condemns should be kept away. Whatever kind of outfit and make-up that can make the average member of the community fall into sin, or that enhances immoral thoughts should not be used. But, If people still appear seductively and almost half naked on our streets, then there is thick darkness over the peoples.

Social media:

The aim of social media is to enhance socialization in the world through the audiovisuals and Information and Communication Technology (ICT). But when the system encourages disobedience to basic truths of the word and will of God, then darkness reign on earth, and in the people.

Other major sectors where darkness and Satan has pitched his tenth includes: Security and Armed force, Science and Technology, Agricultural economy, Marital institutions, Trade and Commerce, Transportation, Health, Philosophy etc.

Chapter Three

But the LORD will rise upon you

“For behold, darkness shall cover the earth and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you and his glory will be seen upon you.” Isaiah 60:2-3

I have put the two verse together to make the context clearer. The determined counsel of the Lord in deciding to arise upon Israel is for a purpose, it is that the glory of the Lord might be seen upon Israel. The coming of God’s Spirit upon any Christian is the guarantee that such a person will be a carrier of God’s glory here, on earth wherever he/she goes.

As soon as the Holy Spirit descended upon the first disciples of Jesus Christ in Acts chapter two, God’s glory came alongside and it overshadowed them in Jerusalem. The upper room, being the venue where he first landed immediately became a reference point in the entire city of Jerusalem, during the Feast of Pentecost.

Truly, your life will also become a major reference point, attracting and drawing people, if the Lord will arise upon you by pouring his Holy Spirit upon you in great measures.

God arose upon Israel at the coming of Jesus of Jesus Christ. When anyone turns to the Lord in faith and humility, he is made to behold as in a mirror the glory of the Father, shining in the face of Jesus Christ. The person will begin to be transformed into the same images of Christ, day by day. The glory of God is shown upon the person who has received the Lord and his message, sealed by the Holy Spirit’s baptism, and set apart to show forth the glory of the person inside, wherever he may be.

If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation (2 Cor. 5:17). God arising upon Israel was to produce the One who bore the light that should dispel the darkness of the earth and the thick darkness that covers the people. The appearing of Jesus Christ was to set Israel apart; God revealed his light to the peoples of the earth through Israel. If any man therefore comes to receive Christ’s life, he has received the light of God too, God’s glory

has risen upon such a person; God is ready to make such a person a sign of his presence wherever he goes.

“...and his glory will be seen upon you.” The glory of God which will be seen upon whosoever God has risen upon is the glory that can draw sinners to God. It is the glory that makes one with so many disadvantages and weaknesses to appear like one that has become very privileged and looking strong before other men, so that he becomes so attractive, his appearance drawing every other man to God.

When God arises upon a man, he first of all repairs the broken relationship between him and such a man. He arises to remove the sin, barriers and hindrances that keep a man far away from the possessing the right of sonship, which gives him access to the secrets of God – the Father. “The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will show them his covenant.” Psalm 25:14 KJV. When God arises upon a man, he gives the person access to meet with him whenever the individual desires. This is possible because Jesus has already created the way for that (Heb. 4:16), believing him is allowing God the right to arise upon one. In this way, God can concentrate on making and preparing the man to be used as his vessel and battle axe. The purpose of his rising upon a any man is that he might be glorified, his word exalted and honored, in and upon the man. The donkey upon which Jesus sat as he went into Jerusalem for the triumphant entry brought him glory, the donkey too was not left off the glory (Matt. 21:1-9). She was glorified since she was the one carrying the King of Glory. For all who carried God’s word, his power, his presence and anointing everywhere in their generation, the glory of God was seen upon them.

The glory brought them fame, wealth, opportunities, new relationships, political powers, great respect and honor in the society as well. Peter would have died as an ordinary fisherman like every other, had Jesus not risen upon him. Jesus arose upon Peter, he carried his glory from Jerusalem to other places on earth, in the company of the other disciples. He could have died a poor fisherman, and no one would have ever known him, or reckoned with his name today (Matt. 4:18-22). Paul was so learned, and

like other Pharisees, he was a devout Jew. Had Christ not risen on him, he would not have carried God's word and his glory all through the Gentile nations then. These men were glorified by God himself because they carried Jesus Christ - God's light about. They healed the sick, exorcised demons from their victims, they brought dead people back to life, and did many other mighty and glorious things by the power of the Lord.

God does not waste heavenly resources, even though they are inexhaustible. That is why Jesus again had to return to call Peter and the others to order (John 21), when they left the commission that brings glory to fish for selfish gains in order to keep them away from distractions; for them doing what brings God glory was their destiny, it is same with whoever is in Christ, and has been baptized by the Holy Spirit. Having been sat upon by Jesus Christ for three years plus, God had marked Peter and the others to become revealers of his ancient and new glories. He could not allow Peter's life end up as a waste, after all the periods of teachings and cleansing by the word. Any man whom God's Spirit has not come upon cannot reveal the Shekinah Glory of God to other men, such is wasting the natural resources of God over his life. Several billions of people today are not revealers of God's glory because, they still grope about in the thick darkness which sin and disobedience brings.

If you have received the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon your life, whether you are male or female, young or old, single or married, you are a debtor to your generation. What will you do with the Holy Ghost that resides within you, and how much will you let him have his way in you? the fulfillment of the prophecy that, "The knowledge of the glory of the LORD shall cover the earth as the water cover the sea" is hanging upon the shoulders of today's Christians. David was called from the bush, when he was anointed, God's presence came upon him by his Spirit, it was a call for service; he became a different man (1 Sam. 16:13). Samson was born a Nazarene, he was to carry God about and deliver the Hebrews from the Philistines. In the prayers of Jesus Christ in John 17, he prayed God for his disciples whom he had sat upon, that God might dedicate them to himself, and sanctify them by the Word of truth (17:17). They all became different

people because a divine person - Jesus Christ had sat upon their lives for three years plus. When they defended themselves before the Jewish authorities, they were so bold, and their speeches could not be refuted, because they had being with Jesus Christ (Acts 4:13).

In the midst of the darkness ruling over the earth, God still wants to rise upon anyone who is ready and available, to purge them of sin, to prepare their lives for his glory, to help them mature, and to get them set for his use, as carriers of his presence and power, into the cities and nations of the world victoriously. This is so that the darkness that has eaten deep into the fabrics of everything on earth, causing all forms of spiritual blindness to its inhabitants might be swallowed up by the revelation of the glory of God, which radiates brightly in the life of Jesus, and operates in the life of every Christian.

When you preach Christ, Satan's bond of wickedness and slavery is broken. When you pray correctly, it has great deliverance effects. And when you engage in radical evangelism and follow up with the discipling of believers where you are, the prevailing thick darkness ruling over the peoples will gradually loose its bonds on them. In Isaiah's Prophecy about Jesus, he said, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the suffering and afflicted. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted, to announce liberty to captives, and to open the eyes of the blind. He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of God's favour to them has come (Psalm 102:13), and the day of his wrath to their enemies. To all who mourn in Israel he will give: beauty for ashes; joy instead of mourning; praise instead of heaviness..." (Isaiah 61:1-3 TLB). These exploits, when wrought by Christians shall cause the glory of the Lord to be seen on earth, and the knowledge of his glory shall gradually cover every nook and cranny of the earth, because he arises on all who believes in him.

By virtue of the glorious light of God which rises upon us, we are greatly empowered to expose darkness, wherever we are. When we direct our light, through the Word, prayer and our lifestyle we disgrace Satan, following the first and ultimate darkness at the across; we continually disarm him over people's destinies. We shatter

Satanic/witchcraft manipulations and their activities over the nations and the people. We release the people they have captured and, confidently pronounce freedom to the regions, lands and nations where Satan now rules. **For where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (2 Cor. 3:17).**

As a war horse rejoices on hearing battle cries so we are rejoice greatly, determined and confident we advance into the spiritually dark regions of the earth, where thick darkness now rules over the people. These areas refer to places where Satan has held the spirits and minds of the people in captivity. We go in there with the Lord's mandate to set the captives of the free without excuse.

Can you direct this to yourself with all boldness, like I have done:

"The glory of the Lord has risen upon, it is around me like a shield; it has created a protective hedge and is like a wall of fire surrounding me. Listen to me, you nations that dwell close to me, and give attention, you peoples from afar. The LORD called me from the womb, from the body of my mother he named me. He made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow; in his quiver he hid me away. And he said to me, "You are my servant "THANKGOD (*kindly fix your own name*)', in whom I will be glorified." I go into the jungles of darkness, and I am completely unreachable and untouchable."

Arrows shot from the place of darkness does not reach me, because I am strongly hedged about (Zech. 2:5), heavily shielded by and within the glorious unapproachable light of God Almighty, which nothing from darkness can overcome (John 1:5). I am hidden with Christ in God, and my real life is in heaven with Him (Col. 3:3). I shall not be overpowered by darkness. I live in and within God in light unapproachable and inextinguishable (1 Tim. 6:16). Demons react at the sight of my light, and God's glory is ever seen upon me, they are cast out with a command from Christ through me (Matt. 17:18a).

Chapter Four

Therefore, Arise, Shine

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
Isaiah 60:1

We have together established that darkness actually exists, everywhere, it is even in some churches. Now we return to the main introduction of that prophecy and the instructions following it.

God helps us to know that darkness is actually found everywhere, but we are not to fold our hands and watch it remain. The church is expected to do something about it. The command therefore is for us to Arise, to shine, because our light has come. Jesus, the light of the world has come, so that those who believe in him should not remain in darkness (John 12:46). Darkness in us has been dispelled by virtue of Christ's appearing on the scene for us. If we have been lighted up spiritually by receiving his life into us, it is now expected of us to rise up, and lighten up the regions covered with darkness, and bring its people out of Satan's power. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1:4-5).

As new creation people, we, unlike our heavenly Father should not remain complacent with the existence of darkness. He is light and in him there is no darkness at all (1 John 1:5). In the beginning, when God created the universe, the earth was formless and desolate. The raging ocean that covered everything was engulfed in total darkness, and the Spirit of God was moving over the water. The God commanded, "Let there be light" and light appeared. God was please with what he sae. Then he separated the light from the darkness (Gen. 1:1-4 GNB).

God - our Father saw darkness, he expressed his displeasure for it with whatever brought about it, but instead allowing it to remain so, he did something. He immediately addressed the situation. He commanded a counter force into existence,

and when light came up, the darkness that has been ruling had no option, it evaporated, the thing pleased God. The, he made a clear division between the two forces. It is the duty of Christians to address spiritual darkness wherever they go, because it is in their power to do so. The power is the right of sonship given them by Christ Jesus. The power is the word of God.

By the operations of the Holy Spirit moving in you, you can quench darkness wherever you go. It is God who is at work in every Spirit filled christian, making him willing and empowering him with the zeal and ability to remove darkness by (Philip. 2:13) introducing the light of God, found in the very life of Christ. The light that destroys Satan's darkness is in the life of Christ. When he laid it down on the cross, he swallowed up the whole power that Satan acquired through man's disobedience. He laid it down, but resurrected with as the life that everyone can receive by simply believing and accepting it. It is called the resurrection life. It is incorruptible, and inaccessible to even the devil himself, it is the eternal life, and cannot be destroyed. Although it can be lost if one should continue in sin, even after receiving it. It cannot be destroyed, it can only be forfeited (Heb. 6:4-6). When by the Spirit of God a christian lives by the power of God in this world, and fully applying the very principles of God's kingdom, revealed in Christ Jesus, darkness dares not stand against it. It is not possible for a good radiant light to enter darkness and the darkness will complain or murmur, and refusing to go. Light is a non-negotiable force that never begs to expose things hidden in darkness. It is its nature to break all existing protocols once it is introduced. It must compel darkness to flee; it must reveal secrets, and things kept hidden under the cover of darkness, it will expose them all without excuse. You are that light, and you don't need any excuse to shine, you don't have to beg anybody before you manifest your true nature by exposing sin and evil activities wherever you find yourself, in the wisdom of God.

Jesus in the cause of delivering the sermon on the mount, gave his disciples a profound command, he said, "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand and it gives light to

all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matt. 5:14-16. He educated them about their true identity as his disciples, just as the angel revealed to timid Gideon that he was a mighty man of Valour in God's sight (Judg. 6:12), according to how God designed him. He told them that, as far as the heavens and earth are concerned, they - his disciples, whom he has sat upon are the lights for the world, because he had sat upon them for a length of time.

Isaiah in his prophecy said, "visible darkness covers the earth, and thick darkness the peoples" (60:2), and now Jesus says to you, "you are the light for the world...Let your light shine before others..." He also said, "A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. People do not light their lamps and put in under a basket or bowl, but upon a stand. and it gives light to all in the house." Every child of God is the world's light, God is counting on you to drive darkness away from your surrounding. This darkness is first spiritual in nature. Every spiritual activity that results in all forms of ungodly practices is darkness in God's sight. Jesus taught his disciples that, "A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden, and people do not put light in a lamp and cover it... (paraphrased)." Jesus is God's light that has risen upon us with relation to Isaiah's Prophecy. We are not suppose to hide him. We are not to be afraid or ashamed of making known his truths, and his word which reveals his will. We are to place him high, highly exalted in al our activities, by acknowledging him in all we do (Pro. 3:5). We are to boldly make his life and principles the standards for our everyday life, so that others who still dwell in darkness would even see the difference clearly.

Jesus warns us against being ashamed of his gospel (Rom. 1:16). We should proudly live and preach his lifestyle daily. Believers should be intentional about practicing the act of doing good, not to be praised by man, but that God will be glorified. One of the major good works is what we read of Jesus in Acts 10:38, "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing and healing all who were oppressed of the devil, for God was with him." Our Lord did not cover his

light; the divine nature at work in him was fully put to work in his days as man. Today, we too have received the complete package of spiritual life (Col. 2:9-10), such as made Jesus to do all he did in his humanity, God expects us to place this life on a stand, by the wisdom his Spirit gives per time, that men might behold Christ clearly in us and turn to him, seeing his glory in our lives. Each of the moments you walked by the Spirit, you were indirectly putting Christ's life which is now your light upon a stand, he will be drawing the attention of other people towards you gradually, till they are completely won to him. Don't worry how. As you live correctly according to the word of God daily, Jesus will point men to behold his life in you, and some of them will unconsciously pattern their own lives and lifestyle after your own, Watch yourself carefully (1 Tim. 4:16).

Arise, shine for your light has come. He means, come out bold and plain, let Christ's life shine through your attitudes, let his light shine out in you. Through all that you do, his life and will, his principles and opinions should be visibly witnessed to the people around you, so that they might glorify God in you, and get drawn to the life, by the glory it produces, which they should see and acknowledge it to be God's.

As Married

As a married person, shine Christ's life to your spouse; allow Jesus to be one relating with your in you. Consciously give way to all the principles of Christ's life to invade your marriage, and your home will be like Christ and his bride the church (Eph. 5:21-33).

As Student/Teacher

As a student, let the excellent Spirit of Christ always shine in you. He is not a cheat, you should expose and disgrace the evil of examination malpractice, by studying well to pass excellently, or fail gallantly. Refuse to accept any so called help at the odd hour that is against the law of any examination. Kindly speak and live against it; make your stand known publicly if need be, prefer to be insulted and persecuted by the others who

support that. Do not join them in such a work of darkness. God hates cheating (Jer. 17:11; Pro. 11:1). Do not be ashamed of the gospel of Christ. It is the power of God to save those who would eventually believe that you are doing the right thing that pleases God. Insist on standing upholding righteousness, God will be glorified,

As a Christian teacher, do your best to cover the national syllabus of the students, so as to reduce the possibility of needing external helps at the odd hour, it is dangerous to their future, the church, their spiritual lives, and the future of the nation/country they belong to. Discourage examination malpractice, do not be an agent, or be moved by the little amount you will be given.

Establish fellowship for the students where you can have the opportunity to teach them the fear of the Lord early enough, to pray continually. possible everyday at an acceptable time and place, to courage in the word of the Lord and be obedient to the word of the Lord as well. Help them to grow in the knowledge of the Lord practically, and encourage them to spread the light and the fire fearlessly.

As Security Agent, a Salary Earner, a Business Owner

"Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, "Teacher, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Collect no more than you are authorized to do."

"Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what shall we do?" And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages." John 3:12-14

God wants you to be satisfied with what you are being given. Remember that you are actually heaven's own ambassador there as a security man, whether in the military, or police force etc. Don't join the others to extort money from people, create false case, in order to have some grounds to ask for money to carry out arrest or bail someone. Stand against collecting the money of people travelling on the highways, it is an ungodly act, because that is not the way the law you agreed with states that you will be paid

monthly, on the contrary, there is an organized system for your payment. Discourage others from doing it, and as a child of God, show them Christ even at that. Being the Christ they can see in uniform like them, help them to see the correct version of Jesus Christ in your relationship with them, and in your faithfulness in to your job.

God whom you represent on earth in the armed force is able to provide for all your needs, even though you are not paid your salary fully, or at the expected time, or it's been months you have not been paid (Matt. 6:25-34) Don't forget that you are first God's creature, and if you will agree to live daily according to the words he speaks to you day by day, you will get all your needs met (Deut. 8:4). Serve the government like you are serving God through that security work, preach Christ there, you don't have to travel away to any other mission field, or resign to be pastor on the pulpit, except of course the Lord has clearly instructed you so.

God is in charge of the welfare of his sons and daughters, he provides for the survival of all his living creatures, it is his responsibility, even though they have to find it where he keeps it. "Blessed is the person who trusts in the LORD, making the LORD his trust. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its root by a stream. He won't fear when the heat comes, and his leaves will be green. In a year of drought he won't be concerned, nor will he stop producing fruit." Jeremiah 17:7-8 ISV. Even though it appears your business is failing, or that you are not making expected profits, please, do not cut corners in the office. There is no shortcut to the top for believers.

You are in that business or trade to bring God glory, Therefore be mindful of showing forth the wrong things about Christ, so that you do not mislead those he has sent to follow him correctly by watching your own lifestyle. Even when it gets tougher, keep praying and trusting. Seek inner strength to overcome the trail of hard times, he might only be needing you to help another brother or sister in the body with a weaker faith to see how to endure in times of difficulty, it will pass away. And instead of shame, you will have a double honour.

As a marketer, do not sell substandard or expired products, and prayerfully expose the evil act. Expired products are dangerous and could threaten the lives of consumers, be it edible or non-edible stuffs. The Christian life is purposed at revealing the falsehood that darkness covers in the society, so that godliness and uprightness can be upheld everywhere, for the glory of the Lord to be seen in the whole earth.

As a Politician

Politics has sent many believers outside of the life and boundaries set by Christ, That every other politician must do some evils, compromise some godly standards to attain a prestigious height and level in their professions does not make it right for also to do same, always remember this that, you have been sent by Christ into the all the world to make disciples. Your assignment in politics is to make disciples for Christ out the politicians, trust him to succeed through you. Remain firm like a rod in Zion, refuse to bend the standards of Christ to please yourself or someone else. You don't have to collect or give bribes to achieve a carnal aim. Always ask yourself, what would Jesus do? When you do what he would do in the presence of such temptation, you'll be shining his life, and very soon, his light will engulf the political world through you, if you remain firm, his life and the gospel will eventually gain its respect for your faithfulness to it.

As a political leader, you don't also have to eat your own share of any money illegally realized. You don't consume beyond your official pays and allowances. If it comes outside of your supposed portion, wait to receive command from on God on how best to reject it and he will refuse his glory in you. Avoid eating the share of the public. They voted you in, do not dishonour their trust in you, and above all, God's trust in your Christian life "And he said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.'" John 3:14b.

When as a believer and follower of Christ you become a political leader in the society, people should rejoice at your coming in, and still prefer you continue. Let them have

Christ rule their land as a political leader in you, how blessed, favoured and glorious would it be. Uphold righteousness everywhere. Plant and build sustainable structures of righteousness that cannot be removed, even by an ungodly successor. Let certain policies that you will establish in your years in office, be firmly planted into the heart of the citizens and the little children as well, that any attempt by an ungodly successor to eliminate it, will give rise to an unstoppable protest by the citizens against the alteration, a protest that threatens his life and position as well. You are in Christ, because,

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been delivered into the hands of the Lord, Master, Head and Husband of the church. Jesus now owns total control of the entire universe, and his reign has no end. But the Christians must take their positions on this battlefield - the earth, against what evils Satan has caused already, to eliminate and lift up the banner of God's glorious victory over Satan's works from the beginning."

wherever you are right now, regardless of the level of hostility and resistance against the truth of Jesus Christ, radically sacrifice to labour much more in the place of prayers, to subdue the spiritual dimensions of any environment first, significantly. God owns all the victories. It may be a new working place for you, an academic/educational center, or a residential center, being a child of God, you are expected to be in charge, you are suppose to be in complete control of that environment. Let the sands, the airways and the atmosphere of that territory bear witness that someone born of God, anointed in the Holy Ghost, and ablaze by the fires of the Spirit all over him lives, or has arisen to take up his rightful position. But remember, in your shining, Christ must be at the center.

Moses lifted up on the tree, the molded image of the bronze serpent in the wilderness (Numb. 21:9), so that all the victims of the serpent's bite may look up to it and live. A city that is set upon a hill is obviously visible to all who look up to it. Light is put up on a stand in order to lighted up everyone and everything in the house. Lift Jesus Christ up. Use every God-given, Spirit-inspired wisdom to put Christ on a high stand, so that his light may be clearly seen in your daily life's activities. This is so that his life may be

accepted by all upon whom his light shines, and that the radiance of his glory may dispel darkness, and deliver the peoples from every thick darkness, through the love of Christ.

Every christian is under divine obligation to shine, it is command. As long as Christ dwells and lives in you, your light has come, you are in the light, and your lighting effect has to show it.

If you find yourself in an environment upheld by the powers of darkness with witchcraft and demonic activities taking place, you are needed and called to arise, and engage the powers of Christ, his name, his blood and his finished works. Direct them against the power of darkness. Anywhere on earth where the light of the gospel has not yet entered and God's kingdom established, such a place is still being ruled by principalities and powers in high places, and demonic activities still reign there. The dwellers in such environment still encounter difficulties seeing the light, and this is because the god of this world has blinded them (2 Cor. 4:4). They walk in sin and stumble against God's word and will, but know not what it is that they stumble over. The spirits of such men are still imprisoned in the kingdom of Satan and by virtue of the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon your life, you are empowered to go in and liberate them (Isa. 61:1-7).

We are not fighting against flesh and blood here, but against principalities and powers in Satan's kingdom (2 Cor. 10:3-5).

As a Christian, you are not maximizing your full spiritual potential yet until you engage the heavenly forces and spiritual resources of God against Satan's activities in the earth, and over its people, remembering that the earth is the Lord's, your heavenly Father owns it, Satan should not always have the upper hand.

Chapter Five

Some people who arose and shined

Joshua, son of Nun (Read Joshua 1:1-9)

God's command for Joshua was for him to arise, in the strength and courage of the Lord, and lead the whole Israelites to take possession of the lands God promised their ancestors to give them, but which their enemies took possession of. Now, Joshua had to engage the forces of heaven, and also map out battle strategies with which he and the people would take over the land. Pagans now lived on the lands, and paganism had taken over - the land became filthy and covered with deep spiritual darkness. The battles for it required heaven's support. When they approached Jericho to fight and take it over, "...Joshua lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, "No;" but I am the commander of the army of the LORD, now I have come..." (Josh. 5:13-15).

When God's command came to Joshua, God's light came also, and he had to arise and fight for the cities taken over by enemies. There are many situations around people's lives that it takes a true, determined, bold and selfless christian to fight in order to establish God's will. Many churches, nations, and regions of the world, still dwell under the power of Satan, and are being controlled by Satan's manipulative schemes. The church, therefore must arise, to take over. Disciples should in God's wisdom and holy boldness speak out the truth in every matter; they should always stand out wherever they are found. Disciples of Christ should expose and disgrace hidden works of the flesh happening even in the church, and everywhere else, when possible. You, as God's light in the world cannot exist where darkness was prevailing, if the darkness abides still, it is because in fear you refuse to make your true identity known. The cowards or fearful will burn in hell (Rev. 21:8).

The truth is that, **wherever a disciple of Christ is brought, becomes a center for ministry.** It is that God's light might shine there to expose and disgrace, and dispel darkness, however long it has ruled in such and environment.

If as a christian you tread your feet on an unholy ground, heaven is counting on you to cooperate with the Holy Spirit, so as to establish God's kingdom and will there. The will of God is found in a land where righteousness reigns obviously. Wherever the fruits of the Holy Spirit is not produced, darkness is surely in operation. Where there is no unconditional love (agape), love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control... (Gal. 5:22-23), darkness or the works of the flesh are still prevalent there.

Darkness still reigns wherever people live their lives according to the dictates of the human nature (otherwise known as lower nature, sinful nature, Adamic nature, unfruitful nature, the old man etc.). But when you follow your own wrong inclinations, your lives will produce these evil results: impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, idolatry, spiritism (that is encouraging the activities of demons), hatred and fighting, jealousy and anger, constant effort to get the best for yourself, complaints and criticisms, the teaching that everyone else is wrong except those in your own little group - and there will be wrong doctrine, envy, murder, drunkenness, wild parties, and all that sort of thing. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the kingdom of God. (Gal. 5:19-21 TLB). The bible also warns the believers of Christ to get rid of all bitterness, passion, and anger. No more shouting or insults, no more hateful feelings of any sort. Instead, be kind and tender-hearted to one another, and forgive one another, as God has forgiven you through Christ (GNB).

Do you think there is a place where these kind of lifestyles are still being practiced? That is where darkness thrives. You and I must do something about it. Those who continue to live this way until they sleep in death, or Christ comes will not see the kingdom of God. As they live here on earth, they live as spiritually dead corpses

walking around, and on the streets. Though they may be going to church, but these manner of lifestyles spelt out will keep them away from seeing God.

Arise in much Spirit-inspired, soul crushing prayers and groaning. Arise in radical church planting movement, radical evangelism and unstoppable disciple-making responsibility. Arise in living by the power of God's Spirit, bearing only the fruit of the Spirit in love. Arise in witnessing this life wherever you find yourself, talk about it, express it and pray others into it. Darkness and death is found wherever people live according to the passions and lustful desires of their human nature, which is according to their natural ways of thinking.

Deborah, the wife of Lapidoth

In her song, Deborah reveals how she arose with zeal for the Lord. "...In the days of Shamgar, the son of Anath, in the days of Jael, the highways were abandoned, and travellers kept to the byways. The villagers ceased in Israel: They ceased to be until I arose: I Deborah, arose as a mother in Israel. When the gods were chosen, then war was in the gates. Was shield or spear to be seen among forty thousand in Israel? My heart goes out to the commanders of Israel who offered themselves willingly among the people. Bless the LORD.

...Awake, awake, Deborah! Awake, Barak, break out in a song! Arise, Barak, lead your captives, O son of Abinoam..." Judges 5:6-9.

The reasons for Deborah's rising were clearly stated:

The highways were abandoned, travelers kept to the byways, for several reasons, possibly because of bandits and kidnappers, ritualists, illegal road tax-masters, or some tragic operations of the kingdom of darkness;

the villagers ceased in Israel, for different reasons also. Possibly because of hunger and famine, some endemics, poverty, plagues, bandit attacks, and attacks from enemy neighbors, war and diseases, no payment of salaries etc.;

the gods were chosen instead of Jehovah God. The Israelites had no revelation of God, the Lord's presence was kept far from them because they sinned against God (Judges 4:1); revival seemed far away from the people of God and spiritual worship unto God was seen as foreign; the people worshipped the god of the world, and their hearts clung to the carnal passions of their hearts;

war was at the gates of the city. Their enemies came to destroy them, since they had abandoned the ways of the Lord God of heaven, and followed after the gods of their heart, the spiritual hedge around them, was broken, and God allowed their enemies to break out against them;

the commanders of Israel's army had zeal to fight against the enemies at the gates but there were no war instruments of shield or spear among the forty thousand in Israel. They were completely vulnerable to destruction.

These reasons among others stirred the passions of this married woman, and she arose to defend the course of God over Israel, and preserve his people. Look around you today, do you see some of the reasons for Deborah's rising? What will you do? Deborah's rising against the darkness of her days, which prevailed against Israel gave many others the courage to arise for the Lord's name and glory.

The people who did not arise with her were cursed, "Curse Meroz says the angel of the LORD, curse its inhabitants thoroughly, because they did not come to the help of the LORD against the mighty." (Judg. 5:25). Every disciple of Jesus Christ is expected to watch and pray.

Take action, stop tale bearing

Watch out for the happenings and events around you, and respond in prayers alongside. Rather than spreading the news of bad events happening in the society (Prov. 11:13), but with a faithful spirit, hibernate into the place of prayers and fight on your knees, seeking wisdom and grace from God on what he would have you do, if need be.

Every battle against evil is to be fought with spiritual equipments, and publicly exposed by the command of the Spirit when he chooses; it must be concluded on the knees before one stands out to proclaim it publicly. Instead of holding discussions about the bad things taking place, like Deborah, tell it to God, learn from him what physical action is best to carry out concerning it. People like Deborah don't spend time bearing tales of events about, they use such times to pray about it until the will of God is established.

Deborah by herself testified that heavenly forces of God fought on their side when she arose with the others, "From heaven the stars fought against Sisera" (verse 20). The stars here could mean, some angels of war, or members of the heavenly hosts, such as it happened when Joshua prepared the people to fight against and bring Jericho down (Josh. 5:13-15), or maybe some elements in space where commanded to help the Israelites. Likewise, the heavenly forces of war arises to fight the battles of God's children against Satan and sin, when the forces of the earth [which is comprised of believers and disciples of Christ] enters into the battle field. Deborah's rising was both against spiritual darkness and its resultant evils manifesting here on earth. Every evil you see happening in the society today is organized by the spiritual forces of darkness, they mastermind and manipulate the hearts of people, especially when they find a ground of sin in any environment or person's life.

David, the son of Jesse

Goliath came out with the army of the Philistines, cursing God and defying the name of Israel's God. Other Israelite armies and the king - Saul were afraid, so afraid they could not produce one bold soldier to fight the Philistine of Gath, and bring him down. David came. He arose from the bush, and entered the battle ground, although in obedience to his father's instructions to deliver food to his brothers, who were believed to be engaged in fierce battle with the Philistines (1 Sam. 17:17-18). As David tried to enquire about the reward that anyone who kills Goliath would be given, Eliab, his eldest brother saw him

and rebuked him (v.28). And David said, "Is there not a cause?" v.29. By this statement, David showed them that his questioning was an expression of holy anger. He was asking for a reason, that is, to know why Goliath was allowed to defy God, he asked to know about the king's reward, perhaps to inspire him to arise into action, against all odds. David arose eventually. There is a cause for your rising up to set Christ's life in you as the light of the world. The reason is 'to silent the Goliaths, the giants of this world. They manifest in every knowledge of God. Arise and shine against every human philosophy, wisdom, school of thoughts, ideologies, ungodly doctrines etc. that raises themselves against the knowledge of the God of heaven, and of his Son Jesus Christ.

We arise against the giants of witchcraft manipulations at work in the church of God, influencing the activities of believers who are not watchful, who give Satan a foothold; a reason to have something in them [unlike Jesus in John 14:30]. But Jesus would that Satan, the accuser finds nothing in any disciple of his.

Gideon

Though the least in his family line. he rose up over the night, following God's command, divine revelation of his spiritual might, divine ordination and spiritual appointment. He destroyed the idol - Baal, and its altar.

Josiah

He arose in his early 20s, after learning about God and knowing his will, Josiah set out to establish the will of God in Judah. He used his position as the king to shutdown idol worship in the land, thereby removing spiritual darkness. He purified the land.

Elijah

As a prophet of God Almighty, who spoke for God, Elijah ended the worship of Baal, which was brought up by Israel's corrupt king Ahab and his wife. Jezebel. Fearless man that he was, he confronted the king for his evil activities in the land of Israel, in the midst of God's people. He destroyed Baal, its prophets and ended the worship of it.

Esther

Esther took up the responsibility of fighting for the deliverance of the Jews in Babylon from the genocide arranged by Haman, through her political position as queen. She risked her life. She was ready to be pronounced dead, but because, a policy was made against her, and the people she belonged to, she set out to end such activity of the kingdom of darkness. After the fast, she set out to see the king, against the policy of Babylon. She lived, the Jews lived, and their enemy - Haman died in their place, with many other people who dared to fight the Jews.

Jesus, the son of Mary

Now when he heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew into Galilee. And leaving Nazareth he went and lived in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphthali, so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphthali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles - the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned. (Matthew 4:12-15)

The arrival of Jesus into the region submerged in Spiritual darkness, with people dwelling in the shadow of death, was the entrance of spiritual light and the expulsion of the shadow of death. He testified that, "I have come into the world as light, so that everyone who believed in me should not remain in darkness." (John 12:46 GNB). Jesus never entered into any region and Satan remained lord there. As Lord of lords, his coming into any society or environment is the arrival of God's Lordship over such a region. Now that he lives in our hearts by faith, through his word and the Holy Spirit, our arrival into any region on earth ends spiritual darkness/blindness there, and dispels the shadow of eternal and spiritual death (John 1:1-2). In Christ dwells light, and there is no darkness in him at all. But we must arise.

In his humanity, nobody died where Jesus was. In the same way, no death, darkness, be it spiritual or otherwise survives where the Spirit of the Lord is. It is as good as he is there physically. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (2 Cor. 3:17). Every disciple is the Temple of God, Christ dwells in him by his Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19; 2 Cor. 6:16). The major reason Christ leads any of his disciples to a place ruled by the works of flesh and the activities of darkness is to train their hands for spiritual warfare, for them to be able to build enough capacity to shine in all kinds of deeds of darkness, with the life of Christ which is the light of men (John 1:2). So that no darkness is powerful enough to overcome the radiance of God's light shining through us. The nature of Christ is ever repulsive to ungodliness. He is personally at war against those who pride themselves in the works of the flesh. We are to stand out by all means. When we refuse to compromise, then our light will be seen brightly.

The Disciples of Jesus

After being empowered by the Holy Spirit, they went everywhere preaching the good news of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, according to his command to them (Matt. 28:18-20). They changed people's belief system, affected their mindsets positively and delivered many from their various spiritual imprisonments, because they preached the gospel, and its light engulfed the Roman Empire. They were nicknamed, "People who have turned the world upside down." (Acts 17:6), when indeed they were actually turning the world downside up.

Mary Slessor

A woman like Mary Mitchel Slessor left the comforts of her Scottish homeland and came to Okoyong in Calabar, Nigeria. By the power of God's Spirit she brought to end the killing of twin children and their mothers.

She was a Scottish missionary born in Aberdeen in 1848. Her father was a shoemaker and a heavy alcoholic, but her mother was a deeply religious woman. She frequently campaigned against injustices against women in Okoyong when she arrived in 1888. By

the power of God's love and the Holy Spirit, she brought permanent change to that region of the world, from Satanic bondage through the gospel. Mary Slessor lived for a long time among the Efik people in Calabar in present day Nigeria. There she successfully fought against the killing of twins in infancy. Witchcraft and superstitions were prevalent in Nigeria when she arrived there because traditional society had been torn apart by the slave trade. Human sacrifice routinely followed the death of a village dignitary, and the ritual murders of twins was viewed by her with particular abhorrence.

She arose, introduced God's love, saved the people from the deep Satanic bondage, she made many lived happy lives with their loved ones much longer, and light dimmed across that whole town. It was a notable up-rise of God's saving light shining in a Christian. She was never married for obvious reasons, instead laid her life down for Christ's sake, raising several adopted children as hers (Isa. 54:1-3). She died at her post in 1915.

Chapter Six

You have the resources

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places." Eph. 1:3

(Jesus is full of grace and truth, heavenly resources – Holy Ghost, power of heaven and earth, angels, the word of the gospel, the right of sonship, high position in God [seated in heavenly places], finances, the right to possess the world, the glory of God, God's royalty, position of priests, the name of Jesus),

A. THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE

The church is headed by the personality who is universally made to be the right way to get to heaven - Jesus Christ (Col. 1:18). He is the way to receive true spiritual power that saves. He is the way from the kingdom of Satan, and the way to accessing all the treasures of God, kept for the saints.

He is the way to knowing the truth about God Almighty. He is the true definition of God's exact nature and person (Col. 1:15). He is in possession of the truth about God's design for life here on earth; and the life he lived in the physical - in his humanity is the correct definition of the kind of life God ordains man to live here on earth. He is the true dimension of love. In his entire life as man, he lived in obedience to the will of the Father, such that all who follow him are following after the true expectations of God for humanity, they will make it to heaven. His life was the best expression of the life of God, and the true definition of a spiritual person. His teachings are the truth about life, they conquer all forms of philosophies, ideologies, thoughts and inventions of man etc. The things he did are the things to be done, because he lived in obedience to the Holy Spirit, and the ones he never did are not the truth. Any other thing supposed to the truth apart from him is false, and anything greater than him does not exist, because he created the earth and he never created anything that is more than himself.

Jesus is the truth about politics, the truth about marriage, the truth about all activities that holds here on earth. His teachings and the entire scripture holds the truth about how all things should be done.

Every ministry to be fulfilled in Christ aims at the restoration of spiritual life to mankind, because spiritual death came into existence when Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit - they died (Gen. 2:17). The death that happened brought a total separation between God and human beings (Rom. 3:23). What God promised afterwards was the recovery of this lost life (Rom. 6:23), and the restoration of the lost spiritual relationship that existed between God and man (2 Cor. 5:17-20), hence, the arrival of Immanuel, which means, 'God with man' (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:23).

Life is the first and most important factor and spiritual blessing which heaven has released to the earth. It is the basic foundation to all that God has called any man to accomplish, without which the fulfillment of any heavenly mandate on earth will either fail completely, or end up producing the wrong result. The bible says, in him was life and the life was the light of men (John 1:4). Ministry unto the Lord is the transfer of this life of Christ to other men, since the presence of the life is the ground for the light of God in them, which keeps them away from all darkness. Paul, in his epistle to the Colossians testifies that, disciples of Christ should guard against being overcome and held captive by self life characterized by philosophies and empty deceits, which are according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to the Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority (Col. 2:8-10). If you have received the life of Christ, by believing in your heart and making the required confessions (Rom. 10:9-17), then he now lives in your heart spiritually.

Thus it written, "The first man became a living being", the last Adam became a life-giving spirit." The first man was from the earth, a man of dust, the second man is from heaven. As was the first man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of

the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven. (1 Cor. 15:45, 47-49). And Jesus is the second Adam, who is the life-giving spirit, because he gives eternal life to those who believe him (John 3:16). Therefore, when someone embraces Christ's life, he receives the same nature of life; consequently, every disciple of Christ is a life-giving spirit. No man can give what he does not have. If you have it, you can, so you should give it. Life has now been given unto us so that we can also give it to others, thereby giving them the light they need to be freed from the power of darkness.

Peter also wrote to educate the believers by teaching that, "...you have been born again [that is, reborn from above - spiritually transformed, renewed, and set apart for his purpose] not of seed which is perishable and immortal, that is, through the living and everlasting word of God...and this is the word [the good news of salvation] which was preached to you. (1 Pet. 2:23 Amplified Version). The seed that produced you is Christ's own very life. You possess the living seed of Christ, you are a viable branch in Christ, the fruits you should bear must look like your source - Jesus himself in every way. He chose and appointed you to bear much fruit that has an abiding quality (John 15:16); they should live forever. Your life here on earth is the same as the very life of Christ who lives in you (1 John 4:17).

This tree - Christ of which you are a branch does not have any link with the kingdom of darkness, or entangled with the affairs of the world; by implication, the world is crucified to this life, and vice versa. This life bears only the fruit of the Spirit, which is, love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control...(Gal. 5:22-23). This life abhors all the activities that the natural man desires, and lusts after. God chose us in Christ, before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him, in love. Following this truth, Paul reminds the disciples thus, "As children copy their fathers you, as God's children, are to copy him...as for sexual immorality in all its forms, and the itch to get your hands on what belongs to other people - don't even talk about such things; they are not fit subjects for Christians to talk about. The key-note of your conversation should not be nastiness or silliness or

flippancy, but a sense of all that we own to God. For of this much you can be certain: that neither the immoral nor the dirty-minded nor the covetous man [which latter is, in effect, worshiping a false god] has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Don't let anyone fool you on this point, however plausible his argument. It is these very things which bring down the wrath of God upon the disobedient. Have nothing to do with men like that - once you "darkness" but now you "light". Live then as children of the light. The light produces in men quite the opposite of sins like these - everything that is wholesome and good and true. Let your lives be living proofs of the things which please God. Steer clear of the activities of darkness; let your lives show by contrast how dreary and futile these things are. [You know the sort of things I mean - to detail their secret doings is really too shameful]. For light is capable of "showing up" everything for what it really is. It is even possible [after all, it happened to you!] for light to turn the thing it shines upon into light also. Thus God speaks through the scriptures: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light." Eph. 5:1-20 PHILLIPS.

Truly, the life in you is therefore the first guarantee, that when you arise and shine wherever you are, the glory of the knowledge of God will spread and permeate like sweet perfume, to the people, and Satan's grip over them will break away. You are a life-giving spirit, because Jesus Christ lives, and moves and has his being in you everyday. It is as you deny yourself daily, taking up your cross and following everyday, simultaneously that the light of this his life will shed upon the earth and its people. By relating with you in through business partnership, political functions, social relations, in academics, and as they engage you or you engage them in conversation, the light of the life within you will be shed upon their hearts as they behold you. As you give them godly counsels from the wealth of the Spirit's wisdom in you, as you show them a kind of love they don't deserve, they are changed. As you forgive their terrible wrongs, and as you seek terms of peace, even when it's clear you in the right, the difference between light and darkness dawns of them. As you respond with humility and patience, even

when you are cheated of your right and they behold the manner with which you approached the situation, the light of that life which produced such manner of approach will again be shed upon their hearts. As you refuse to compromise the standards of God's word, even when your right is infringed upon, you were not paid accurately, and you rejected bribes and any ungodly offers, you preach the good news, and Christ's life will become clearer to them. Your outstanding performances wherever you are becomes a major reference, drawing the attention of many to your life, of course the light will shine on them. As you relate with your spouse and children at home, in the neighborhood, with the life of Christ being lived, their darkness will become clearer to them, because the difference will become obvious, since you relate at home with the principles of the kingdom of God. If no responsibility given to you suffers loss (Dan. 6:1-3), instead brings gain, your life will preach Christ to them. And generally, as you conduct all your affairs in the light, not hiding anything from anybody, they will be afraid of you (Deut. 28:10); they won't be bold to carry out any activity of darkness near your, because their evils will get exposed soon. When this continues, you are sure to take full control of the lives and activities of the people living in your environment, or your colleagues, wherever. Become more deliberate.

If when they gossip you do not join them, or you don't join them to slander (speak evil of anyone), spread rumors, backbite, and blaspheme deities; if you do not lie or use abusive and filthy words, but rather speak words that communicate the grace and love of God, his life will be correctly represented, and the light will radiate there. If you order your words carefully, and always give a gentle answer to whoever addresses you kindly or in anger, then the knowledge of Christ's person will be communicated to their hearts, the Holy Spirit can easily make reference to your previous action, and use it as the means to show them the life, and consequently, its light will expose the darkness they live in.

If you're insulted, attacked, or your property and person abused, yet put your hopes in God, and never fight back, take revenge or threaten anyone, they will see the crucified

Christ, again live out his usual character in you. Its love, patience, goodness and humility will draw men unto salvation, because, the light will always shine in darkness, and darkness shall not overcome its radiance and force.

B. THE WORD

In the beginning, darkness covered the created sea, but God called forth light by speaking the word; the world was made by the spoken word of God (John 1:1-5). The word of God to man is a collection of eternal promises, blessings, prophecies, warnings, wisdom, secrets, revelations etc. His Word is a collection of his nature, broadly described with the pen of the Spirit to mankind.

The word of God is as honourable as God himself. It contains much power and ability as God himself; his word is as perfect as Him; as potent as Him, and as eternal as Him. All of God's excellent greatness is contained in His Word. The Word clearly shows his immutability, omnipotence, Omniscience, Omnipresence, transcendence and immanence.

His Word is the rod of faith. Faith is created by his word. His word is the substance which faith hangs upon to produce result for anyone who receives and believes it (Rom. 10:17).

God's Word is as holy as him; as justified as Him, and as unchanging as him. The word of God in the bible is a collection of his abilities and nature, stated out for the consumption of the whole human race and all who desire to know him, they are dependable; his word is the true revelation of him, and of his will for man to follow.

Jesus is the Word of God who became a human being and lived among men several years ago (John 1:1-5). Being a word that became human, he lived as the perfect man God calls all men to be. He had no fault (Heb. 4:15; 1 John 3:5; 1 Pet. 2:22). We read the scriptures today as bible, but the scriptures and the whole bible was a human in the the days of the twelve disciples, the word was seen walking on the streets with ordinary

men, and he revealed to men what obedience to God means by the life he was seen to have lived daily (1 John 1:1) by others.

In Jesus Christ, all of the promises of God have been fulfilled (2 Cor. 1:20). His appearing on the scene is the guarantee that everything God promised man, from the days of Adam, to Noah, to Abraham, and through all the prophets of the Old Testaments shall come to pass, and of course, some have happened and the others will take place eventually. He is God's seal to the fulfillment of whatever is written in the scriptures for God's people. Awesome! Because he has come, and has died, we have complete assurance that the entire scriptures and the blessings declared by God for those who believe in him and in them will eventually come to pass.

The word of God is the sword which the Spirit has given unto the believers and disciples of Christ, by which all the battles waged against the establishment of the kingdom of God here on earth would be conquered (Eph. 6:17). The word of God is to be meditated upon in the day and at nights, so that the complete package of the salvation works can be accessed and enjoyed (Josh. 1:8). It should be treasured in the heart, and placed above every other thing - mere intellectualism, philosophies, human logic, thoughts, concepts and every other knowledge/argument or thing that raises itself against the knowledge of God's word (2 Cor. 10:8). The word of God should be taken as God has said, its infallibility is tested, trusted and dependable it should be completely believed, and taken for one's life. It is alive and powerful enough of creating, by it God created the heavens and the earth, and all that lives in them. It has power to create permanent changes to situations of life, wherever it is used. being alive and energetic, it can bring God's desire change to an environment, to the mortal body, to the Spirit and to the soul of man. It created life, and brings healing. It brings to establishment the will of the Lord, wherever it is correctly applied.

God commands that His word should never be forgotten; it should be treasured at heart by all. The children should be taught, it should be repeated to everyone's hearing at home, outside the home, when one is resting, and when one is working. It should be

placed on the arms and worn on the foreheads as reminder, not as 'talisman'. It should be placed for the view of the public on the doorposts, and on the gates of the buildings. By application, it should be acknowledged at the beginning and used as the foundation of everything we desire to go into, and we should hold unto its realities as the truth of our lives forever (Deut. 6:6-9). We should so treasure it that, we can give up every other thing so as to read, meditate, study and apply it to our lives, we should also give up other things to be able to teach it (Ezra 7:10). Jesus, at his ascension commanded his disciples to make disciples of all nations by teaching them to obey all he had taught them (Matt. 28:19). The apostles, in obedience to Christ's command choose to give up serving tables in order to devote themselves to prayers and the ministry of the word (Acts 6:4). And Paul also charged Timothy to preach the word, to be instant, in and out of season (2 Tim. 4:2). Peter also charged the Christians to be ready to give an answer to everyone, when they are called to testified about the hope they profess, and this is possible, only by the word of God (1 Pet. 3:15). Jesus refuted Satan's temptations by his knowledge of the scriptures, he taught it and lived all his earthly life by it, only. He determined to fulfill the prophecies spoken about him, and to obey certain orders, even just to fulfill all righteousness. Luke, the physician testified to all Jesus did and taught (Luke 1:1). And in all of Paul's defenses of the truth, he never strayed from the scriptures, since the New Testament did was not yet written then. By his vast knowledge of the scriptures, he was able to quench the power of darkness that ruled the hearts of his listeners each time. God's friendship with Abraham made him disclose deep secrets to him. He knew Abraham to be a man that would command his children to obey the ways of the Lord that he - Abraham was given (Gen. 18:19).

The word of God spells out very clearly, the destiny of the righteous and the wicked (Psalm 1). The wisdom of God for life on earth is written out in the scriptures for all to meditate and increase wisdom and learning (Prov. 1:1-6). All the wisdom and insights needed to overthrow darkness in every part of the world is already put down in the scriptures, when we give ourselves to studying it, we shall also lay hold on this godly

wisdom. The battle for the nations can be well conquered when the wisdom of God written out for us is learnt, treasured, remembered and correctly applied at the right time, to the right situation. The word of God reveals how God reconciles people with himself (Col. 1:19-20; 2 Cor. 5:18), and how salvation work is done and how its blessings can be fully embraced. The word of God reveals the secrets of how every kind of evil has been swallowed up by the finished works of Christ (1 John 3:8), and also how a believer can walk in that victory (Eph. 6:10-20). The word shows how conquered our foe, Satan has become; how harmless and unequipped he has become towards true believers and all who ever accept the ways of the Lord "...But God has now brought you to life with Christ. God forgave us all our sins; he canceled the unfavorable record of our debts with its binding rules and did away with it completely by nailing it to the cross. And on that cross Christ free himself from the power of the spiritual rulers and authorities; he made a public spectacle of them by leading them as captives in his victory procession" (Col. 2:13-15 GNB).

The word of the God is the direct messenger of God; it goes ahead of God into every battle and situations of life. Jesus, being the word of God made flesh, has come ahead of God's planned Day of Judgment. Before God does anything he sends forth his word. The Sovereign LORD never does anything without revealing his plan to his servants, the prophets (Amos 3:7 GNB). His word conveys the message of his heart and his will for every circumstance, whether personal or collective.

The Word of God is a major supply provided to all who would establish the will and influence of God's kingdom, everywhere on earth; it reveals the will of God fully. When you act upon what the Word of God says, you are obedient to God, you will have his answer, his backup, his full support and his presence, because, God's presence is found where his word is. A good practical knowledge of the Word of God means a good knowledge of God's person. A balanced knowledge of the Word of God is the guarantee for a battle that will be eventually conquered. Shine with the Word of God!

C. THE FINISHED WORKS

Christ's finished works is how he brought about our salvation from darkness by providing the means through which our sins are forgiven, without the need for any human efforts and labours in obtaining it, but to be received by faith as a free gift of God's grace to mankind (Eph. 2:8-9).

Christ's finished works is that he was born physically; he lived on earth and revealed God to us (John 17:6, 26). The purpose of his birth was for him to grow up and become the sacrificial object for the forgiveness of the sin which the human race had committed against God when Adam and Eve sinned (Gen. 3). Because all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23), and God's eternal judgment and punishment was hanging upon humanity (Rom. 6:23) like it is on the devil (John 16:11).

Christ's finished works is that Jesus died on the cross, and by that became the substitute for you and me. He was the one who represented us in serving God's eternal punishment for our disobedience through the agonies, sufferings and shameful death he went through (Phil. 2:5-8). He did all these on our behalf; it was for us that he actually went through all. "We are ruled by the love of Christ, now that we recognize that *one man died for everyone, which means that they all share in his death*. He died for all, so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but only for him who died and was raised to life for their sake." (2 Cor. 5:14-15).

In *Christ's finished works*, we know that ...the one who indulges in a sinful life is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. But "*The reason the Son of God was revealed was to undo and destroy the works of the devil*" (1 John 3:8). Jesus completely bruised the head of the serpent as God declared in the beginning after the fall (Gen. 3:15), and it is the judgment against Satan (John 16:11).

Christ's finished works is that you don't have to do anything to save yourself from sin, self, Satan, the world, and death, *except* to acknowledge and believe in what Christ has done to be the work meant for the eternal salvation of human beings, and you inclusive

(Eph. 2:8; John 6:29). And for you to live daily, denying self, taking up your cross daily and following the Lord Jesus.

Christ's finished works is that you have been healed from diseases; you carry the fulfillment of all God's promises of health, wealth, success, greatness in all you do, and eternal salvation (2 Cor. 1:20; Isa. 53:5).

Christ's finished works is that till eternity, ...you are God's chosen treasure – priests who are kings, a spiritual “nation” set apart as God's devoted ones. He called you out of darkness to experience his marvelous light, and now he claims you as his very own. He did this so that you would broadcast his glorious wonders throughout the world (1 Pet. 2:9 TPT).

Christ's finished works is that you will live forever like God the Father because by believing in Jesus and in all he has done, you receive the seed of God, you are born of God (1 John 3:9; 1 Pet. 1:23); you are his son like Jesus (1 John 1:12), and you will inherit God's inheritance along with Jesus (Rom. 8:17).

As you arise to let your light so shine before men, do it with earnest confidence. It is God who is shining in you for the word to receive deliverance from darkness. Be confident in this that Jesus has finished all the works needed for all men to be freed from sin, and from the power of the Satan, “For God has revealed his grace for the salvation of all people” (Tit. 2:11 GNB). Therefore, you are not going on your own, and you are not the one that has sent yourself; Jesus did send and command you to shine. The foundation of all that you will ever do is this truth, that, Jesus Christ has concluded the works that you should have done. Even delivering people from sin is according to this finished works (Tit. 2:12). Hang upon it. Salvation process has been completed, but it must be received by faith, and that is where the labour of believers come in.

D. THE BLOOD

The blood of Jesus Christ that has been shed is a continual fuel; it keeps God reminded that all sinners can still receive the gift of forgiveness every day, if at all they will open

up their hearts and seek it. The bible reveals that the life of a thing is in the blood, “For the life of the body is in the its blood. I have given you the blood on the altar to purify you, making you right with the LORD. It is in the blood, given in exchange for a life, that makes purification possible” (Lev. 17:11 NLT). Under the Old Covenant, even God’s promises to cover the sins of his people, and to purify them from ritual uncleanness had to be sealed by the blood of some selected animals, but even this did not bring about perfect cleansing, their sins still existed. But God would forgive them by covering their uncleanness from his face, so that they would still be able to come and worship before his presence. “...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness” (Heb. 9:22). And Jesus entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God purify our consciences from dead works to serve the living God (Heb. 9:12-14).

Up till now, and until Jesus comes again in glory to save those who are waiting for him, sinners can still receive perfect forgiveness and cleansing from their sins, however terrible it may be. Murderers can be saved; ritualists can be delivered and cleansed from the guilt of the innocent blood they might have shed in the past; those who practice sorcery or magic can be saved from the darkness they find themselves; people who have been caught in the bondage of witchcraft, either deliberately or ignorantly can be forgiven if they come to Jesus, and the power of Satan over them will be completely destroyed. By virtue of the blood of Christ that has already shed once and for all (Heb. 9:12), the ultimate price to purchase every man back to God is fully paid. Those in the net of Satan, indulging in one sin or the other, romancing about with the works of darkness, and obeying the lustful desires of their sinful nature can be delivered. The full price for the expulsion of demons has been settled. Sex workers (known as ‘ashawos’ in Nigeria), who have sex with every kind of person just to be given a token for bread, the

price for the freedom from this terrible kind of life which Satan has put the victims of it, has been paid, fully, they can now be bailed from his prison of spiritual darkness and death (2 Cor. 4:4). As God's light here on earth, who is arising, go with this divine supply – the blood of Jesus Christ. Now that his blood was shed, and he died, that is the required price for their salvation of the whole human race, it's grace (Tit. 2:11). This is the greatest price God required to set every man free from the prison of sin human beings entered, from the day Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Now, you and I must not let the provision waste away just like that. It has power to save and to cleanse.

Christ is waiting patiently

“Christ, however, offered one sacrifice for sins, an offering that is effective forever, **and then he sat down at the right side of God forever. There he now waits until God puts his enemies as a footstool under his feet.** With one sacrifice, then, has made perfect forever those who are purified from sin” (Heb. 10:12-14 GNB **emphasis added**).

The LORD says, “It was my will that he should suffer; his death was a sacrifice to bring forgiveness. **And so he will see his descendants; and through him my purpose will succeed. After a life of suffering, he will again have joy; he will know that he did not suffer in vain.** My devoted servant, with whom I am pleased,” (Isa. 53:10-11 GNB **emphasis added**).

The Almighty God has concluded that Jesus will see the result of his blood which he has shed for the salvation of the nations. He will see his descendants, and God's ultimate will from the foundations of the earth will come to pass, (...thy will be done earth). God's will is that the earth will be occupied by human beings, who are in the exact image and likeness of God (Gen. 1:26-26), who will take full control over the things he has created (Gen. 1:28). Those who are called according to his purpose will have all these which God has done through Christ, working together for them. The bible says, those whom God had already chosen he also set apart to become like his Son, so that the

Son would be the first among many believers. All those whom God purifies by the blood of Jesus Christ have one common destiny – to become like Jesus, this was his plan from the very beginning, and his purpose for creating mankind in his image. So that they might subdue the earth, and live together with other creatures in the knowledge and wisdom of the Lord.

In God's design, Jesus is suppose to have joy again after laying down his life; he is suppose to know that he did not suffer in vain, and his blood was not shed for nothing, when he sees his descendants. When seed is sown in the soil, it dies, comes alive produces many of its kind later. This is what must happen, Jesus, like a seed was planted into the soil of the earth as sacrificial for produce many other lives who are in the exact image and likeness of his person.

The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool." (Psalm 110:1)

The writer of Hebrews quoted from this Psalm, showing that Christ is patiently waiting to see how his blood shed on man's behalf will win for him the victory of the souls of the human race. God Almighty told him that, having paid the price for the salvation and total freedom of human beings from Satan, with your blood, just relax at my right hand, I will engage in war against your enemies [sin, self, the wicked forces of darkness, demons, principalities and powers in the high places, on earth, in the waters, and in the world below]. God, by himself entered into the battle ground by himself, determined and resolved to put all of Christ's enemies under his footstool. This he has done. He is still involved in it, to actualize the purpose of the blood upon those who call upon his name every day.

"The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies." Psalm 110:2

The scepter is symbol of royal power as some versions put it. Because Christ shed his blood, God vowed to extend his royal powers and authority from Zion, which is a

symbol of the Church of God, people who have been redeemed from sin and Satan. The believers shall rule on Christ's behalf, everywhere on earth, because they, through obedience to the message of salvation, have received restoration of the life which was lost due to disobedience. Christ is destined to extend salvation to the whole earth, wherever man is found, and wherever darkness is reigning; his royal power from the church is destined to subdue it. Because he shed his blood, the government of heaven and earth is now put upon his shoulder...Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end (Isa. 9:6b, 7a).

His kingdom is designed and equipped to keep expanding, until all the earth comes under his influence practically. This is reason why the church still exists on earth.

He is commanded to rule in the midst of his enemies. God would not just kill his enemies, but has commanded him to exercise his political power spiritual against all that oppose him. He is to rule over demonic powers, principalities and power everywhere, because he is the Lord of lords. He has gained this power and right over them as God's firstborn, and he has been given unto the church as her head. It is by him that the church of God must take complete control over the earth, and bring everything on/in it into obedience to God's word and will. God will also place Christians in the areas covered by darkness so that they may let Christ rule in them, and bring the light of his eternal life to manifestation, to his glory and praise.

Therefore, where principalities and powers, demons and wickedness abide, that is where Christ's light is expected to be directed; where sin reigns is where a righteous person is needed. Where spiritual death exists, is where eternal life and the divine nature is required. Where there is war is where peacemakers are needed (Matt. 5:9). Where there is no light of Christ, there Jesus must be introduced and his life planted.

“On the day you fight your enemies, your people will volunteer. Like the dew of the early morning your young men will come to you on the sacred hills.” (Psalm 110:3 GNB)

There is a day when Christ fights his enemies. The day is now. It began from the period his blood atoned for man's sinfulness. God expects young believers everywhere to rise up in their youths, and join Christ in his battle for the redemption of the souls of several who are still lost, and without the hope of salvation.

Jesus gave up his life when his blood was shed in death as the sacrificial offering for the sake of human being, so that human being, having the judgment of God hanging upon them because of sin (Rom. 3:23; 6:23) can receive God's forgiveness, when they believe in what Christ did at Calvary.

E. THE NAME

We have the name with the greatest effect when used

"He always had the nature of God, but he did not think that by force he should try to remain equal with God. Instead of this, of his own free will he gave up all he had, and took the nature of a servant. He became like a human being and appeared in human likeness. He was humble and walked the path of obedience all the way to death - his death on the cross.

For this **reason God raised him to the highest place above and gave him the name that is greater than any other name.** And so, in honour of the name of Jesus all beings in heaven, on earth, and in the world below will fall on their knees, and will all will proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Philip. 2:5-11 GNB **emphasis added**)

The name referred to here is the name, 'Jesus Christ.' The power and potency of the name of Jesus is so great because he earned it; his sacrifice earned him such a title. His name is not just a mere nomenclature, it is his spiritual title, and it defines his spiritual authority and states his divine position in the Godhead. J.C. Ryle explains that, the name of Jesus means "Saviour", just the bible puts it. It is the same name as Joshua in the Old Testament. And it is given to our Lord because "He saves His people from their sins," (Matt. 1:21). The rulers of this world have often called themselves great,

conquerors, bold, magnificent, and the like. The Son of God is content to call Himself Savior. Christ, which is usually attached to Jesus, sometimes seem like a surname to some. Christ means anointed, according to Easton's Bible Dictionary. Anointed is the Greek word for the Hebrew "Messiah," which is Jesus' official title. In the New Testament, this title is linked with Jesus 514 times.

As stated above, Jesus means savior. This is his role. He saves his people from the guilt of sin, by cleansing them in His own atoning blood. He saves them from the dominion of sin by putting in their hearts the sanctifying Spirit. He saves them from the presence of sin, when He takes them out of this world to rest with Him. He will save them from all the consequences of sin, when He shall give them a glorious body at the last day.¹ Because of the spiritual function of that name, in honour of the name of Jesus all beings in heaven, on earth, and in the world below will fall on their knees, and will all will proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Anyone who arises to shed Christ's light in the darkness of the earth must carry the name of Jesus in his/her heart, and never let it go out of their mouth. Everything must be done in the name of Jesus, when this happens, his power and his eternal authority is also invoked. There is power in the name of Jesus Christ, use it. Its potency cannot be overemphasized, it cannot be exhausted, it will not finish. The more you use it the more you experience its ability to save. By God's design, when Jesus' name is called upon anywhere Satan's work is taking place, the powers of darkness must bow in submission, because it is the name of their Lord. It is like this:

One approaches a governor or a local government chairman for a favor, once he references the name of the National President or the Prime Minister of their nation as his referee, the favor is granted immediately, in honour of that name.

So it is with the name of Jesus. Being Lord, having laid down his life, and shed his blood to pay for man's soul, He received the right of overall Lordship on heaven and

¹ J. C. Ryle, Jesus, July 2010, at Christianity.com

earth. In Matthew's gospel, Jesus revealed this secret to his disciples: And Jesus came and said to them, "**All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.** Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20 (**emphasis added**). By implication, all authority, power and right required to bring the whole universe under control and subjection to the will of God is given to Jesus. The authority which God has given Jesus over the principalities, spiritual lords, demons, sin, sickness, and every form of darkness is: unconditional (his blood satisfies every condition needed to earn it), unlimited, supreme, fixed, unmodified, conclusive, final, unchangeable, unquestionable and a complete one. Jesus shares no portion with Satan; on the contrary, when he died and his blood was shed, he ripped Satan of all the rights he had over man from the day man fell from his glorious position.

When you step into any society or environment where darkness rules, in the name of the Lord Jesus, you are destined to triumph - that is the destiny of such battles, VICTORY! You only need to learn from the Holy Spirit on how best to use it, and get the full result at the end.

God answers through that name

"I am telling you the truth: those who believe in me will do what I do - yes, they do even greater things, because I am going to the Father. **And I will do whatever you ask for in my name,** so that the Father's glory will be shown through the Son. **If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.**" (John 14:12-14 GNB **emphasis added**)

Since Jesus has received right to execute the will of the Lord on earth, God answers every request sent to heaven through the name of his Son, Jesus, it is to the glory of the name of God, the Father. When you ask God to do anything in prayers, and you come through the name of Jesus, he honors his word, the authority Jesus has. He grants the request of those who come to him through Jesus. When you come to God through Jesus,

he remembers the blood, and shows mercy continually. He desires to always glorify himself in the Son, so he grants requests submitted before him. And if a prayer is made in the name of Jesus, then it has to be in the will of Jesus, and of course, of the Father also before it can be granted. Therefore, be sure that, that which you ask the Father or the Son for is presented in the Holy Scriptures as his will. Note the repeated emphasis, **“...And I will do whatever you ask for in my name, so that the Father’s glory will be shown through the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.”**

We are made to know here, that, those who believe in Jesus will do what He did – yes, they will do even greater things, and He said, **because I am going to the Father.** If it is by going to the Father that we can do what he did, and even greater works, then we rejoice and thank God, because Jesus is seated with God, the Father in the heavenly places. He ascended after resurrection, he went and he sent the Holy Spirit to us, who is the spiritual presence of Jesus Christ, and God the Father, living with the believers, and at work on earth in the hearts of men.

God answers you when you pray his will [found in his word], every day, every time and every where.

Those who call upon the Lord’s name will be freed

“And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, even among the survivors whom the LORD calls.” Joel 2:32 NIV

The will of the Lord is for all to be saved. Clearly stated here is that, everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. Be reassured that, even as you step into darkness to shine as light, God is ready to always save the receivers of the word you bring, when they are convinced and call out to the Jesus, the Lord. Be careful not to write anyone off, despite how deep his sin may be. No sinner can be too sinful to be forgiven, and that is why it is called, Grace. **“...the grace of God that has appeared in Christ is for the salvation of the whole human race”** (Tit. 2:11). All sinners have a share

in Christ's saving grace. Every terrible sinner is the one who needs the message of God's saving grace more, let them know about, and remind them that is a free gift. It only requires their faith and acceptance of it.

Do your best to emphasize the name of Jesus unto the unsaved; that is what works. It is the provision for salvation from Satan and his works of unrighteousness, and they must know it; they must that their salvation hangs upon that name. Teach them to call upon him every day, this way, they will also learn that, being saved by him when they called, it means he is always very near to them (Rom. 10:8), and by saving them, they have automatically entered into a covenant relationship with him. And this relationship is sealed by blood, the blood of Jesus which washes away their sins. Teach them to continue fueling this relationship, by continually calling upon him in faith. Teach them to know that when they call upon Jesus daily, they are remembering him by heart, and acknowledging that he is indeed their Lord, forever.

However deep someone or a people group might have been involved in the activities and works of darkness, they have a share in Christ, they can be saved, as long as they have given up the breath of life in them physically, go in this knowledge.

The name of Jesus Christ is a treasure, hence, God's warning against the misuse of it. Over the years, a lot of people have testified to how they have been helped hanging unto that name; its power to deliver from Satan's scheme(s) and the works of darkness. You also have a testimony awaiting exploration. The name of the Lord is a strong tower. The righteous runs into it and is saved (prov. 18:10).

Chapter Seven

Other Spiritual resources

F. HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus ascended into the heavens after his resurrection in order to ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit upon the earth, he is to help the disciples in the work of living a fruitful and victorious Christian life, spreading the Gospel with ease and result, with signs and wonders following (Luke 24:48-49). He came to the earth fifty days after the Jewish Passover, and has not left since then. He was also promised from the Old Testament, by him, the New Covenant sealed by the blood of Jesus becomes possible; the believers will have the laws of God planted in their hearts, even though they are not taught by man, because, the Holy Spirit given them at conversion serves as the teacher (Jer. 31:33; Heb. 10:15). When a believer becomes born again, he is sealed by the Holy Spirit of God, to show that he has actually become a child of God (Eph. 1:13-14).

Immediately after Isaiah proclaimed the "Arise, shine..." command in Chapter 60, the next information in Chapter 61 was that, "The Spirit of the LORD God is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to..." Every rising of a child of God is based on the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon the standing Christian.

His roles and responsibilities in the Christians are numerous. Some are:

He is your helper (John 14:26). He is Omnipresent, always present to help you in the task Christ has assigned you to.

He is your teacher. He teaches you everything you need to know... (John 14:26), and what you ought to say (1 John 2:27).

He is your counselor from God, always ready to give you the advice you need, as you arise to cause darkness and evil and evil to cease. He will help you understand what is best to do per time (Isaiah 9:6). The roles of Christ in his humanity are the roles of Christ in his Spiritual state.

He is your comforter (John 14:23).

He reveals the mind of God (1 Cor. 2:10-11).

He reveals the truth about God (John 14:17).

He is your reminder (John 14:26).

He opens the eyes of sinners and convicts them of sin (John 16:7-8), that they might repent.

He is your power (Acts 1:8)

He is the anointing upon and within you (Isaiah 61:1)

He cleanses and renews your heart by the word (John 6:63; Eph. 4:18).

He brings about the liberty you seek in your life, and in other people's life (2 Cor. 3:17).

He is your strengthener (Rom. 8:26-27).

He bears fruits in you that shows that God lives in you actively, daily (Gal. 5:22-23)

As you relate very closely with him, he empowers you to deny yourself daily, he shows you how correctly to take your cross daily, and how faithful you should follow Jesus Christ, in all things (Luke 9:23).

He is Jesus in you [spiritual]; his presence in you shows that Jesus Christ is with you (Matt. 28:20).

He takes what Christ says, and tells it to you (John 16:13).

He intercedes before God on your behalf, with groans too deep for human words to express (Rom. 8:26-27; Heb. 7:25).

He directs your path, and enables you to obey God's word. He helps you to know and to follow the right path in every situation, so that God will be glorified (Psalm 32:8-9)

God works in you through the Holy Spirit, making you willing and able to do only what pleases him (Philip. 2:13).

He empowers you to live above the desires and dictates of the human [sinful] nature, so that all you do can be the will of God, that God might be praised (Gal. 5:15; Tit. 2:12).

He encourages, and helps to keep you going every day, so that you can concentrate on the work God has placed in your hands, and so that you can continually live in obedience to God's commands. He reminds us of God's word when we are faced with trials and temptations to compromise God's standard in order to have our own way.

The Holy Spirit gives you inspiration for whatsoever. He gives you wisdom, increases your knowledge, expands your understanding (Eph. 1:15-19).

He helps you to worship God correctly by your daily lifestyle, through your words and your actions (John 4:23-24).

He informs you of what is going to happen, teaches you what you need to do, and guides you into victory (Psalm 32:8-9).

He executes God's commands and brings his will to pass on the earth, using physical and spiritual subjects [i.e. man, nature, angels etc.] (Gen. 1:2).

He helps us seek the kingdom of God and his righteousness first (Matt. 6:33). He teaches us to know what the kingdom of God entails, how to bring its reign on earth, what God's righteousness means, and how to know and do just what is right. He also helps you to enforce the right way that things should be done for God to be glorified.

When the Holy Spirit comes to live within a believer, he brings some gifts alongside. By these gifts, he enables believers to become productive in the church, among the brethren and outside. Every true disciple has a spiritual gift, a service/ministry, and ability or some forms of assignment which God specially empowers them to carry out, so that the church can grow uniformly. Spiritually gifts depend on the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:8-10).

He gives divine inspiration for: Music, Drama, Writing, Sciences, Arts, and Wealth creation schemes etc. (2 Sam. 23:1-2; Dan. 1:17-20).

The Holy Spirit brings believers into a form of spiritual connection across the globe. He unites transformed hearts in prayers, and plans to take over a particular territory or nation. Then he stirs some to pray, some to go, and some to give towards the take-over of such a territory. He asks a particular believer to pray for another believer, a church local assembly, a city, or for a situation happening or that is about to take place.

He is the way that helps believers to be custodians of kingdom resources, such as wealth, or properties. He also guides their hearts like a watercourse on how to administer available resources. He tells us how much to give as offering in church. He reveals what God wants to accomplish with the salary collected by believers. He puts thoughts of someone or some people into the heart of a transformed and connected believer, and helps such to carry out a particular assignment over them.

God has given him to every born again church Christian. The Holy Spirit is a major divine supply, a resource for the church to shine in the world without hindrance. You need to allow him to use the various parts of your body; Christ has bought it all (Rom. 12:2). When instructs and you do otherwise, he's grieved. He cannot be seen, but his works can be seen. Through him, you can know God greatly and do valiantly (Dan. 11:32). By him, you can operate in the gift of the word of knowledge, accurately knowing just what God wants you to do, at a particular point in time.

He gives divine wisdom to one about the assignment of shining God's light somewhere. He guides on the best way to go about it, what to do, what to work with, how best to pray, where to start with, what to do, what not to do, the boundary and all that concerns a particular kingdom project here on earth. He never does or leads one to do outside of Christ's word and lifestyle. Jesus always did what he saw the Father did. In the same way, the Holy Spirit helps a believer to see with the eyes of the Spirit what the Jesus is doing and helps him to do it also. He shows believers how to talk and

attract God's backup. He shows believers when to talk, and when not to say anything. He is in charge of the entire life of a believer.

Although the transformed Christian folks still think, the difference is that their thoughts are inspired by the Holy Spirit, and is usually in accordance with the word of God – the Word of God is the judge, it ascertains the authenticity and purity of any believer's thought. He helps believers to think what is pleasing to God, and worthy of praise (Philip. 4:8).

He is the Spirit of Truth. All he ever leads one to do is the truth of God's will, keeping us from all forms of errors (John 14:17).

Since the church of God is been called to take full charge and absolute control over the nations, the Holy Spirit is the closest person of the Godhead to relate with now. When Jesus charged the church to go out everywhere man is found on earth and make them his disciples, he notified them of his continual presence every day and every night (Matt. 28:18-20)

It is not possible to shine and leave behind remarkable signs on earth outside the active works of the Holy Spirit; it is him that actually does the work in you.

He empowers you so that you can engage in the different forms of spiritual exercises that make you prepared enough to attack and defend for the course of the kingdom, where required. He draws your attention to the dealings of the Lord that equips and furnishes you further. The Holy Spirit reminds you to pray, and also empowers you to pray for long and short hours. He strengthens you to fast and wait upon the Lord for renewal of spiritual strength daily. He fills you with his presence more and more, so that your appearance in person, like Christ, will be the appearance of the God himself; you'll become a walking temple. He empowers you to fellowship with the other believers, to pray, to worship, to fast, to meditate and teach you about his gifts – the most effective way to channel them. The Holy Spirit helps you to pray in the Spirit, with known and unknown languages, like the early believers in Acts 4:23-31, who after

praying this way were again empowered by the Holy Spirit to continue preaching the gospel with all boldness. Signs and wonders followed them. They trampled on snakes and scorpions, and many people came to Christ this way.

The Holy Spirit helps you in living a righteous and acceptable life before God, here on earth continually; bearing God's kind of fruits and operating in the power of God against Satanic principalities and powers, and against all the arrows of the enemy.

He teaches us to fight the Lord's battles, and fills us with courage to take full possession of the earth. He clothes us with strength and boldness, the confidence to arise and dispossess the gates of the enemies; and take full charge of every place the enemy once ruled in unrighteousness. He uses us to restore what has been lost, to rebuild what has been destroyed, to shatter ungodly policies and laws that make God's glory to remain covered. He uses us to wrought great things that bring out the radiance of the glory of the Lord, everywhere people are, where true light seems to be hidden or covered by wicked men in the society.

The Holy Spirit in obedience to Christ makes us take decisions that plant us in environments where heaven needs us to shine most. In obedience to him, we apply for studies where he chooses; we seek job opportunities in firms where he would use us the most. The Holy Spirit helps us to serve people, not for the financial and material attractions involved, but primarily to establish legal and official grounds, which becomes divine opportunities and platforms to serve the individuals there with the message of the gospel freely.

The Holy Spirit helps us to know what exactly to do, and how well to do it. In our bid to shine, He is ever around us to take the lead. We must deliberately acknowledge him each time. Before starting, while on it and even after it (Prov. 3:5). His job is to help each believer discern what is expected of him/her. He knows what spiritual facility is needed to thresh down a particular kind of mountain; he knows what weapon will be best used against a particular enemy each time. Listening to him before ever moving or

stopping is the key. Joshua could not finish conquering and dividing the land before he became old physically and almost impotent in the remaining task. It is the Holy Spirit that executes divine instructions in us. He is to be allowed the lead, so that all the land might be fully occupied in time, and that all the enemies still surviving might be completely put where they belong – either as the slaves or driven out. Otherwise they might become a thorn in our eyes again. The victory must be complete. Every position of leadership requires a righteous man. Every place unbelievers exist needs a light there; a Christian who is well armed with the ammunition of the Holy Spirit is needed there. God commanded the Israelites saying “Occupy the land and settle in it because I am giving it you”

He ensures that at every level of progress, all the fruits he bears are well cultivated, and present in abundance in every believer.

G. THE ANGELS

Angels are heavenly beings, who are often invisible to the human eye (Col. 1:16). They do appear sometimes in human form (Gen. 18:2) and sometimes they appear in their true form (as powerful spirits beings). They made and prepared to deliver heavenly messages to people on earth, and fight spiritual forces. The Angels of God are often engaged in fierce battles against the fallen angels of Satan (Lucifer, one time angel).

These fallen angels once lived in the heavenly kingdom of the Father, but they abandoned Heaven when they chose to follow Satan instead of God (Jude 1:6). They seek to destroy, cause division, and wage war against the souls of human beings on earth (Eph. 6:12). They now exist and operate as demonic and wicked principalities and powers, ruling the atmosphere and virtually every place outside of heaven, where God lived. They find their ways into unguarded human beings and possess them, causing them to live outside of the will and word of God, in order to displease God. They manipulate human beings and use them to carry out their intended schemes; terrible and wicked actions against other people, and God. They find their ways into people

who are not walking according to leading of the Holy Spirit of God (Rom. 8:14); and when people live in accordance to their human nature, they attract the presence of demons - the fallen angels, because their activities are inclined to the works of the flesh [which is the human nature]. They are dirty spirits and live with people who are dirty, or involve in activities that are not holy.

But most importantly, on the other hand is the group of holy angels, who are servants of our God. The bible reveals this about them:

And concerning the angels He says, "Who makes his angels winds and his ministering servants flames of fire [to do his bidding]." Heb. 1:7.

Also in verse 14, the writer reveals in form of a question:

Are not all the angels ministering spirits sent out [by God] to serve [accompany, protect] those who will inherit salvation? [Of course they are!] Heb. 1:14 Amplified

These verses do not actually relate to human ministers of God on earth or preachers as some interprets literally. The opening word of verse 7 in every correct English translation begins by introducing God's word about who angels are to him. That means angels are made with a wind-like nature, and also as flames of fire. They live, move, have their beings and carry out their spiritual operations with this nature. They perhaps travel as invisible and quick as wind, they cannot be hindered by opaque objects and can never be arrested or held hostage by a physical system. They can enter a place completely unnoticed, and help believers perform invisible and spiritual operations. They can appear at scenes in form of human beings and do God's will, for the salvation of believers and the church in general. They can also involve in physical combat by taking the form of human beings (Jacob wrestling with God - Gen. 32:24-31; the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah - Gen. 19; comforting Hagar - Gen. 16; Samson's birth prophecy - Judg. 13:11 etc.). Angels are designed by God with the ability to multitask, take forms suitable to enable the fulfill God's agenda in the spiritual world, and also in the non-spiritual world.

They obey God's word

Bless the LORD, O you his angels, you mighty ones who do his word, obeying the voice of his word! Psalm 103:20. Did you see that? They ascribe blessings, glory and strength (29:1-2) unto God when they do his word; when they carry out God's word, they honour him. It doesn't matter who commands them, they just obey commands, only if it is the voice of God coming through his word. This, by divine implication means that, the only code of command which God's angels react or respond to is the word of God. In obedience to God, our Father, and for the honour of his word made flesh – Jesus Christ, angels see every divine command as an assignment. They have been sent to minister to the church; every believer that uses the word to call to angels for service will have them run in obedience.

“For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone. You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and serpent you will trample underfoot.” Psalm 91:11

Then I said, ‘What are these, my lord?’ The angel who talked with me said to me, ‘I will show you what they are.’ Zech. 1:9-11

“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.” Matt. 18:10

Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, “Get up quickly.” And the chains fell off his hands. And the angel said to him, “Dress yourself and put on your sandals.” And he did so. And he said to him, “Wrap your cloak around you and follow me.” Acts 12:6-8

The revelation of Jesus of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, Rev. 1:1

H. YOUR RIGHT

But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, John 1:12. As many as recognize their personal need for God, who have been convinced by the Holy Spirit, these ones are the children of God. In the death of Jesus, they have the right to claim God, Almighty as their Father, like Jesus. And they also receive the right to receive their own share of the inheritance of God, which he committed to Jesus Christ. Because he paid the price for man's soul, he received the full right to grant them the same as himself. "So now Jesus and the ones he makes holy have the same Father. That is why Jesus is not ashamed to call them his brothers and sisters." (Hebrews 2:11 NLT)

Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. Gal. 3:7. The faith spoken of here is one's absolute belief in God through Jesus Christ, and receiving forgiveness of sins by believing in him. As a christian, you now have Jehovah as Father. If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your[a] life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Col. 3:1-4.

God wants you to live on earth, wherever you may be with this same consciousness. Live as a honourable child of God in all you do, with all humility following every step you take, knowing well that you represent him physically by your words and actions. As Paul wrote the Colossian Christians, "Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of

grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone." Colossians 4:5-6.

1. As a bride

It is time the Church of God used her right as Christ's bride, and also as the sons and daughters of God. Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. Eph. 5:25-27

For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. 2 Cor. 11:2

For your Maker is your husband... Isa. 54:5

And also,

For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body. "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. Eph. 5:29-32.

Jesus did not hate himself, and the church is his body, which he so much nourishes and cherishes. He left the Father in heaven and came to the earth to create the ground for him to become one with the church. And after laying down his life in death for the church to receive life, he extended his power to rule the earth, and right of lordship against darkness to the church (Matt. 28:18-20). The bible says, his kingdom and peace-making assignment will continue, increasingly (Isa. 9:6). He is to rule power in the midst of his enemies (Satan and his demons, sin and self) through the church. This implies that the church has all the power to take charge of the entire earth, and subdue it for God's glory; and of course that is his plan and wisdom. The church must

recognize this and awaken to the task of filling everywhere with his knowledge, power and glory.

Consider Paul's prayer below:

I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. **Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else**—not only in this world but also in the world to come. **God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church.** And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself. (Eph. 1:19-21 NLT, **emphasis added**)

2. As sons and daughters

This is to every individual Christian in the church. You are to arise by faith in the word of God, believing in the things he has spoken concerning the church, the great inheritance of honour and wealth, the authority and power he has made available through Christ's finished works. Let every believer prayerfully seek where to pray God's kingdom and righteousness into existence. And let each one, by faith seek God's ultimate presence and kingdom in their current locations, official positions and using our honoured statuses in the society to life high the banner of Zion, by way of life and words. Like a son or daughter of the president of a nation, or the prime minister of a country, use your spiritual rights. Like your heavenly Father, consciously begin to command into existence the things that should be which are not yet manifesting. If you have been doing so, teach others to do so, increase your faith and expectation, stay positive, and believe God that the very things he hears you say are the ones he'll do (Num. 14:28).

Decide to commit yourself to deep Spirit-inspired prayers with all your heart. Every child of God is a member of the heavenly council, because we are seated with Christ in

God (Eph. 2:6) in the place of the highest authority. To command the earth and its people to know and worship the Lord Almighty only, and believe his Son, Jesus. From that exalted position in Christ above, everything you say according the word of God will come to pass over any land, people or nation. But who will release his whole life truly as God's living sacrifice (Rom. 12:2) to be used to reveal God's glory in this dimension? When God finds a man, he descends upon the earth, and enters into the battle himself. The captain of Heaven's hosts came down for the sake of the Jews, in obedience, because Joshua chose to obey God and take over the land of Jericho (Josh. 5:14). It was a hard decision. He and the army Israel laid their lives down and went in the strength of the Lord. You are a child of God. Use that right to pray God's righteousness, to preach the kingdom of God, and to prepare a highway for the Lord to come into the earth with his power.

3. Royal Priests

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 1 Pet. 2:9

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Rev. 1:5-6

Kings do not hide evil, they expose it so that none of their subjects will suffer it. They are not partial, treating some well, and others bad; they are considerate and judge everyone equally. They and their subjects are obedient to the 'rule of law' governing the land.

Every believer and follower of Jesus Christ is a son to the King of the world, God Almighty. God, our heavenly Father is the King of kings and the Lord of lords (1 Tim. 6:15; Rev. 19:11-15). All nations and their kings must bow to him (Psalm 72:11). The same position of the Sovereign is credited to our Firstborn - Jesus Christ.

The bible says: They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for **he is Lord of lords and King of kings**, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful." Rev. 17:14 (**emphasis added**).

Whoever believes Jesus Christ and received has received the right to be called God's son or his daughter (John 1:12), in their spiritual existence and also physically. All his followers are royalties. They belong to his royal lineage. They are princes and potential kings, they will reign with Christ forever, in power (Rev. 20:6).

In our spiritual state/existence, we are a people with royal descent, we are also made holy priests to serve God, the King of kings. The dual spiritual status we possess shows the depth of right and the dimension of God's power, his authority in all its fullness, his grace and favour which are available for us, in us through Christ. It is not for mere show, or just meant for some spiritual title-ship and ego, it is our empowerment to fight. We fight darkness in the light of this knowledge. We, as holy priests, like Christ, now mediate through fervent and ceaseless intercessions, on behalf of the remaining of Christ's sheep who have not been saved by believing yet (John 14:16).

God, our Father is the King, ruling the heavenlies through Christ, whom he made Lord and King, with authority over the heavens, and over all the principalities and powers, the demons and lords in the heavenly places. The earth, however, is a colony to the heavenly kingdom. By extension of authority, God, the Father is at work in each of the saints in Christ (Philip. 2:13), He's making them to willingly volunteer their entire lives to do His will (Psalm 110:1-2). God is using those of his sons who have been cleansed by Christ's blood to fight sin and the works of darkness; he is actively at work on the

surface of the earth and beneath as promised, making Christ's enemies his footstool. The saints are the rods of Christ's Strength, sent out as heavens ambassadors to the whole earth, out of Zion (the Church) to execute God's justice in and over the nations. He empowers them all, with his great strength and might, in all righteousness. They do this valiantly as they daily resolve and remain resolute to continually seek the establishment of the kingdom of God, and the righteousness of it wherever they go (Matt. 6:33).

We are spiritual priests over God's heavenly Temple, we serving Him worship, and bring him the prayers of the nations, which are their desire for the message of salvation in Jesus Christ. This we do through fervent selfless prayers of intercessions, which the Holy Spirit makes through us. We are made priests with royal rights, so that we can boldly stand in the gap like Christ stands before God making intercessions for us by his Spirit. We position ourselves to continually remind our Father about the need for the souls of those living in darkness to receive the salvation, as he, in his mercy has helped us to receive, by grace through our faith.

In a liberal government, the sons and daughters of any national leader should have the full right to their father, who is the king, the president or Queen, as the case may be. It is family first, before other outdoor responsibilities. even so, we are informed to come boldly before the throne of grace to receive to help us in time of need (Heb. 4:16).

I. ECONOMIC POWER

Some specific characters of the Bible give insight into different facets and the use of wealth such as: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; Joseph and his brothers; Lot, Job, Boaz, Abigail and Nabal, King David, Solomon, Hezekiah, Zacchaeus and Matthew; Joseph of Arimathea, the Roman Centurions, Lydia, Dorcas, Barnabas and Philemon.

About their economic power, God told the descendants of Abraham that they he is their only source of wealth: Deuteronomy 8:18 (*all emphasis added*):

Remember the LORD your God is **the one who gives you power to do these things**. He does this because **he wants to keep the agreement that he made with your ancestors, as he is doing today!** ESV

But remember the LORD your God is **the one who makes you wealthy**. **He's confirming the promise** which he swore to your ancestors. **It's still in effect today**. GOD'S WORD

You must remember the LORD your God, for he is **the one who gives ability to get wealth**; if you do this he will confirm his covenant that he made by oath to your ancestors, even as he has to this day. NET

But remember the LORD your God, because **he is the one who gives you the ability to produce wealth, in order to confirm his covenant** that he promised by an oath to your ancestors, as is the case today. ISV

Remember that it is the LORD your **God** who **gives you the power to become rich**. He does this because he is still faithful today to the covenant that he made with your ancestors. GNB.

Wealth is a blessing of God, if it comes through genuine work and diligent labor of one's hands. Wealth is refers a large amount of money, valuable things or possession which a person or an organization or a society has.

Financial wealth is a blessing from the Lord, who is the source of all things. The earth is the Lord and all of its fullness (Psalm 24:1). The scripture gives a catalogue of God's people whom he made wealthy, and who used their wealth for different reasons, for God's glory.

Today, the body of Christ is expected to be the wealthiest organization that exists here on earth. And the purpose of the wealth of the church is for the establishment and the expansion of the kingdom of God here on earth. The church, being the bride of Christ is the second signatory to God's economic allocation to the earth. The church is to be in full control of the wealth of the Father. I am not saying the unbeliever cannot be rich,

because God has blessed Abraham's Ishmael also (Gen. 17:20). All the wealth and the rest of his possessions was passed unto Isaac (Gen. 25:5). The possession included all the physical and non-physical values of wealth which he had been promised: the protection, the provision, the covenant of increase on all sides etc.

The new creation man was put in the garden with all he'd ever need in life. He only needed to cultivate the garden in order to explore the things kept there for him by God. The church containing the new creation people have the full right of access to the treasures of heaven kept for them wherever they are, whether at home or away from home. Joseph in Egypt explored the wealth of the nations from Egypt. Believers have the blessings of God to enjoy the luxury of the Fathers economic status, whether in their home country or in a foreign land. In Isaiah 60, which is one of our anchor chapters in this book, Isaiah prophesied some outstanding resolutions of heaven for the person, the people, the group or the society that arises to shine with the light of Christ's life,

Let us read it again together:

Arise, Jerusalem, and shine like the sun; the glory of the LORD is shining on you!
Other nations will be covered by darkness, but on you the light of the LORD will shine; The brightness of his presence will be with you.

Nations will be drawn to your light, And kings to the dawning of your new day.
Look around you and see what is happening: Your people are gathering to come home! Your sons will come from far away; Your daughters will be carried like children. You will see this and be filled with joy; You will tremble with excitement.

The **wealth** of the nations will be brought to you; **From across the sea their riches** will come. Great caravans of camels will come, from Midian and Ephah. They will come from Sheba, **bringing gold and incense**. People will tell the good news of what the LORD has done! **All the sheep** of Kedar and Nebaioth Will be brought to you as sacrifices and offered on the altar to please the LORD. The LORD will make

his **Temple more glorious than ever**. What are **these ships** that skim along like clouds, like doves returning home? They are ships coming from distant lands, Bringing God's people home. **They bring with them silver and gold**. To honor the name of the LORD, the holy God of Israel, who has made all nations honor his people.

The LORD says to Jerusalem, “Foreigners will rebuild your walls, and **their kings** will serve you.

In my anger I punished you, but now I will show you my favor and mercy.
Day and night your gates will be open, So that the kings of the nations
May bring you their wealth. But nations that do not serve you will be completely destroyed.

“The wood of the pine, the juniper, and the cypress, the finest wood from the forests of Lebanon, will be brought to rebuild you, Jerusalem, to make my Temple beautiful, to make my city glorious.

The descendants of those who oppressed you will come and bow low to show their respect. All who once despised you will worship at your feet. They will call you ‘The City of the LORD,’ ‘Zion, the City of Israel's Holy God.’ “You will no longer be forsaken and hated, a city deserted and desolate. **I will make you great** and beautiful, A place of joy forever and ever.

Nations and kings will care for you as a mother nurses her child. You will know that I, the LORD, have saved you, that the mighty God of Israel sets you free.

“I will bring you gold instead of bronze, Silver and bronze instead of iron and wood, and iron instead of stone. Your rulers will no longer oppress you; I will make them rule with justice and peace. Isaiah 60:1-17 GNT

If you follow the long reading carefully you'll realize with me that what God actually offers those who arise is not just financial power, in fact it is one of the last things. God

offers them the free provision of what is called 'kingdom economy'. It is comprised of all the other resources of God that were fully available for Jesus Christ, and with which the brethren of the early church turned their world upside down, [as their contemporaries claimed].

The wealth of the kingdom of God available for everyone who arises is not sourced from their immediate environment only. It is a common wealth, a grace of deposited in the church from place to place for the benefit of all. Those in other nations have access to the wealth kept in one other nation when the need arises, and because it is the kingdom of God in heaven responsibly providing for the church on earth, the command can be given for the church in overseas to bring their abundance to the church in another land. The church in United State of America can be instructed to support the church in Zimbabwe, and the church in Ghana may be instructed to attend the needs of the church in India, when the call is given.

In Paul's first letter to church in Corinth to put together some provision for the church in Judea he quipped: Now, concerning what you wrote about the money to be raised to help God's people in Judea. You must do what I told the churches in Galatia to do. Every Sunday each of you must put aside some money, in proportion to what you have earned, and save it up, so that there will be no need to collect money when I come. After I come, I shall give letters of introduction to those you have approved, and send them to take your gift to Jerusalem. 1 Cor. 16:1-3 GNT

And even for the Church in Jerusalem, he also wrote the Corinthian believers. Jerusalem, which happens to be like a headquarter for the early Christian church, at a time also needed to be supported:

Paul wrote,

"I really don't need to write to you about this ministry of giving for the believers in Jerusalem. For I know how eager you are to help, and I have been boasting to the churches in Macedonia that you in Greece were ready to send an offering a year ago. In

fact, it was your enthusiasm that stirred up many of the Macedonian believers to begin giving...And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others...For God is the one who provides seed for the farmer and then bread to eat. In the same way, he will provide and increase your resources and then produce a great harvest of generosity in you...Yes, you will be enriched in every way so that you can always be generous. And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God. 12So two good things will result from this ministry of giving – the needs of the believers in Jerusalem will be met, and they will joyfully express their thanks to God. 2 Cor. 9:1-3, 8, 10-12 NLT

1. God is responsible for your welfare

And in the thirty-seventh year of the exile of Jehoiachin king of Judah, in the twelfth month, on the twenty-fifth day of the month, Evil-merodach king of Babylon, in the year that he began to reign, graciously freed Jehoiachin king of Judah and brought him out of prison. And he spoke kindly to him and gave him a seat above the seats of the kings who were with him in Babylon. So Jehoiachin put off his prison garments. And every day of his life he dined regularly at the king's table, and for his allowance, a regular allowance was given him by the king, according to his daily needs, until the day of his death, as long as he lived. Jeremiah 52:31-34 (ESV).

The ministerial maxim is still correct: "whoever He calls, He equips." If truly Jesus called one into His Kingdom business, naturally such a person would not be stranded or suffer. Elder John long ago recognised God's mind about His workers, as he said, "Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers," (3 John 1: 2). One truly called and equipped by the Master cannot, therefore, misbehave on the mission field. Therefore, ministers called by Jesus should be rest assured that things pertaining to their welfare would be taken care of.

All those who arise do not do so on their own. No soldier goes to war on his own. Anyone who arises for the sake of the kingdom of God, has the hosts of heaven, and the

economy of the headquarter of Christ's church is their right to work with. God's treasurers are found wherever the work of his hands is visible. Do soldiers pay their own salaries?... (1 Cor. 9:7 CEV). Their salaries and the needs are met by the suppliers of heaven's resources; God pays from his inexhaustible bank in the heavens. And he said to them, "When I sent you out with no moneybag or knapsack or sandals, did you lack anything?" They said, "Nothing." (Luke 22:35). Jesus had to help his disciples to also believe that when they arise and go forth for the sake of the kingdom of God and God's righteousness, God takes charge of all their immediate needs, they only need to learn how to practically acknowledge God when they have any need (Pro. 3:5-6). The work of God done in God's way never lacks resources. And if the assignment is the will of God, it is also God's full responsibility to handle the bills covered. He uses different means to take care of the bills.

Therefore, when you arise because you want to stand for righteousness, when money or other resources is required, inquire of the Lord and wait for him patiently, everything must be by faith from beginning to the end, so that man would never be able to take the glory meant for the master.

2. Unlimited Economic Power and treasures

One may not easily take over a land you have no input or stake in their economy. It is quite hard to find any great man in the entire scripture who reigned in power, whose life brought glory to God's holy name and word, that had no part in the economic strength of the land they dwelt in. If any believer must possess the gates of the nations, such must trust God, and drop all dogmas and unfavourable resolutions against wealth (both in money and properties), and be involved in the economic system of their nation, or the land in which they live. Prayers and preaching well done will have a great and mighty impact on people's lives in the church, but to actually exert a lasting and greater impact within the church, and also have it extend outside, the economic system which provides the possibility for engaging others outside the church must be engaged. The church should be involved in the civic and moral activities of the society that brings the

people together. Money is good, the love [which is actually a lust] for it is the root of all evils. But you can have so much of it and never love it.

As long as the church does not get involved with all the components of a society's economic structure, Satan will still have a ground to cover. If the political system is left to the control of sinners, then men who walk in darkness and live for themselves, according to their lustful desires, and who please Satan by living this way, such men will take up the power of political leadership. And as often as this happens, then we can be sure of the fulfilment of the scripture that says, "I have seen slaves on horses, and princes walking on the ground like slaves." Eccl. 10:7.

God has empowered and called the New Creation human beings (Born again Christians), and mandated them to be in control of the whole as a fulfilment and establishment of the covenant (agreement) he made with our ancestors, to give them economic power over the world (Psalm 2:6-9; Deut. 8:18). The blessing pronounced in Genesis 1:28 upon mankind, asking him to be fruitful, and multiply and subdue the earth (bring it under control - GNB), was made to him before the fall for that perfect condition happened. But now, in union with Christ Jesus, we have been born again with a new creation life, like in the beginning, and the second Adam - Jesus Christ, is even a life-giving Spirit. Therefore, God's word which never changes remains intact. It is a command to cultivate (to dress, to tend, to work) the garden, so as to make it abide continually in all freshness. Now, whether by the sweat of man's labours or by cultivating the earth, a person in Christ is restored to the place of perfection. Work should be done to bring forth the best from the earth. No preacher should appear to spiritual, or Christian too indoctrinated, or a local church, too conservative to accept that even Jesus Christ used money and other valuable resources for the expansion of his ministry. God raised men and several women to respond to his physical personal and ministerial needs, whenever there arose a need. Even his disciples were being fully supplied for. Money answers to everything on earth.

3. God's Economic Power

God is powerfully wealthy. He has placed all things that generate money and wealth in the earth for whosoever can cultivate the earth. He has made us kings and priests, he has chosen us as his own peculiar people to show forth the excellencies of his wealth, here on earth (1 Pet. 2:9). Not by trying to make public show of it or proving a point, but with all humility allowing our light to shine via the good works we do with it (Matt. 5:16). Our Father is glorified when we bear healthy fruits by using the wealth he has given us. He is glad when believers explore the earth, and increase in wealth legitimately. He gives the church great economic power so that we can subdue the earth. If all things are left to the hands of the ungodly, the earth will be destroyed by the power of sin and the influence of darkness will be felt everywhere. But we are the salts on earth today to preserve it from every such destruction and also the light in it today to keep it away from the power which darkness can exert on all that is good in God's sight. But added to this natural laws of prosperity are God's blessings, specifically made to Abraham's seed – the believers and followers of Jesus Christ.

Here the righteous boasting of our Father, "...every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills." Psalm 50:10

God's economic worth is invaluable; it cannot be quantified. Truly, the wealth of the church is greater than the governments property of any nation. The earth is the LORD's and the fullness thereof. Psalm 24:1.

Everything on earth still belongs to our Father, even though some people have the right to guard it with their rights of ownership, all such ownership right is temporal, because our Father owns the universe. The heart of every human king is in God's hands, he can direct it wherever he chooses to (Prov. 21:1).

"As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill." I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession. Psalm 2:6-8 ESV. The Lord himself revealed this to the Psalmist. That to hose whom he has become

a Father, they have received the right like Christ, to ask and he will give them whatever and wherever they ask to take possession of. What great measure of economic capacity existing in our Father, and which we have received the full right of asking for whatever dimension or scope we can trust him to subdue in righteousness.

We just have to subdue. Asking for a nation, or the whole earth for a gift from its ultimate owner is asking for the production and economic power of such a location. Unless we take full control of the nations and the earth, how shall we ever be able to or have the grounds to smash down what is wrongly existing, and take rule over the nations? The power of influence over any particular geographical area of the earth surface, name it, is enclosed in the ability to have a stake in the economic strength of such area, by God's wisdom.

If the church is seeking to rule and bring revival everywhere, and cause the knowledge of God's glory to spread everywhere, then we must harness God's power (ability) to create wealth, which is actively at work in us. This is not some sort of arrogant cry, or so called 'prosperity preaching', but the truth of our divine ordination.

4. Economic Power over Various Sectors

We should not put our hearts in the riches of the earth, or give ourselves to it, because it is meant to be used in subduing earth, to spread the message of the gospel through every means and wisdom that answers to money and physical wealth. When our wealth increase, unlike the rich fool in Luke 12:13-21, who choose to sit back for selfish consumption, after receiving much harvest and increase from his labours. He died that night.

The wisdom is, increase your treasures in heaven by committing to kingdom expansion. Invest into people's lives and welfare when the opportunity comes, you'd be storing up your treasures in heaven. Contribute to the vision of youths and offer scholarships according to your capacity. Cast your wealth into the future of many other people, let them know God has sent you to show them the light, the life and love of Jesus Christ,

through your wealth. When the primary needs of people are met, their hearts just get softened and opened easily. This can be done by the individual Christians or even taken up by a denomination, a local assembly or a group of believers whom God has made custodians of kingdom wealth. You may not be financially wealthy, but you have a degree of wealth, that in some other things, you might be equipped enough to touch lives. Remember, "...those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness [**with their wealth**], like the stars forever and ever." (Dan. 12:3 **emphasis added to paraphrase**).

When God increases your wealth of valuables or your financial power expands, there is a reason attached to it. Ask God to relate it with you. No man owns anything on earth, all things belong to the Lord, he gives it to his disciples to go and subdue the earth with it (Matt. 28:18-20). You don't have to increase your earthly possessions because God increases your wealth, instead seek his kingdom and righteousness with it upon the earth. Some people just increase their fleet of cars unnecessarily, some continues to change their wardrobe and furniture too often, even when there may be no need to do so.

Remember, we shall all account for every misuse of our Father's resources. This is serious because, we are his Ambassadors here on earth, he's sent us into every place on the earth where man is found so that he and the knowledge of his glory can be made known, everywhere on earth. You are on earth at the expense of the finished works of Jesus Christ; the kingdom of God is the holder of your life and resources, you will have to represent it well.

If you become wealthy, or your local assembly becomes wealthy because of the geographical area, or by virtue of the business ventures engaged in, remember that it is God who has given you the power to become wealthy (Deut. 8:18). Your right over the wealth in your custody is subject to the directions and the leading of the Holy Spirit in your heart (Psalm 32:8; Rom. 8:14).

Do not oppress people with it, rather use it to spread the message of the good news about the freedom which Christ brought to the earth. Apply this to every sector you are able to lay your hand upon. “Don’t keep hoarding for yourselves earthly treasures that can be stolen by thieves. Material wealth eventually rusts, decays, and loses its value. (Matt. 6:19 TPT).

By sponsoring godly music, video, movies, and adverts on electronic screen in the public, a lot can be done. By owning major advertisement platforms, billboards etc. on the streets, at street corners, and wherever is possible, we can advocate God’s righteousness. If we own large format prints and electronic 3D-screens we can market Christ’s message for free (Isa. 55), both in the day and in the night times. God’s word can also be posted everywhere we establish the right. For instance, if the church or believers put resources together and provide solar powered street lights for free, we have the right to paste bible verses religious quotes on them, backed up with much prayers. Waste containers provided by the body of Christ for the public brings both believers and unbelievers together. It can become a center for truth, in many ways.

Taking full control of the earth for Jesus Christ is very possible and easy, but we must drop selfishness out of it.

5. Go everywhere

Aim at impacting the worlds, aim at influencing them with heaven’s economic strength at our disposal. If we feel the media is filled with several ungodly contents which fuels sin and all manner of evil, then alongside preaching and praying, the church should own the most patronized magazine company which fuels light and righteousness in the land. The church should be in control of the air waves through Radio and Television content; in control all the kinds of Media platforms inclusive.

The agricultural sector of the nation should be taken control of also. Joseph in Egypt extended his excellent life to the Egyptians. With God’s wisdom he preserved food for the then world, people were kept alive. Let the church not neglect food security, as

people depend on it for survival. Christians should venture into purchasing landed property when the opportunity comes before them, and utilize it for food production. The church should engage in both subsistence and commercial agriculture. All areas should be explored in agriculture. If it is our control, we will know how to regulate the price of things for the good of humanity, people's heart will be glad, and God will be happy. The unbelievers have no conscience. They take advantage of Christian festive seasons to hike the price of food stuffs, they do what they can to get too large gains. Let us invest in large scale animal production, food production and processing, food storage and engage science and technology in all our agricultural activities. Let us grow food enough to support missionaries and full time gospel workers, orphans, the less privileged and regulate food price by our, so that the average man can have just enough to live on, with quality. Plant commercial trees, engage in importation and forestry management.

Believers at this point need to do away with any form of myopic thinking. Let us think great, because it takes a man who see far to go far. Abraham saw beyond where he stood after Lot left him. The gospel is not in the four-walls of the church, it is on the streets. Whatever must be done to get it out should be done. Money cannot and should never be a hindrance to the furtherance of the gospel for God's kingdom to be established wherever man is found.

The oil and gas sector of the economy is a multibillion organization. We should not live that out also for the unbelievers. Those who have a stake in this industry should believe God to lay hold on keys for the wealth placed in this area.

God has blessed the earth with different mineral resources across the globe, anyone can benefit from it. The Lord has place huge economic wealth in the waters, the rocks, the soil and everywhere. Believers should know that, it is a showing forth of God's marvelous works for them to explore and be in control of these sectors of the world.

In this way, the financial proceeds can be used to further the spread of the gospel to the ends of the earth. Not every believer may have these opportunities, but those who have them should know that they are only custodians and treasurers for the Lord's church.

These untapped resources exist for the sake of the church. They are kept on earth so that the church can interact with them, and become economically empowered to take over, to make friends with unrighteous mammon, and by one way or the other get to meet the basic needs of others who are unreached, so as to get them saved by the gospel's provision.

i. Science and Technology

The world of Science and Technology should be controlled by the church, otherwise too many manipulations will continue to happen. Virtually everything is being technologically represented. The church should have computer engineers and scientists, they should be empowered and encouraged to seek heaven's vision about what to do to bring the light of Christ to the streets. Christians in the science world should be diligent and not cut corners.

ii. Education

I believe that believers have the most intelligent scholars in the world. We must not pile up paper only, let the paper and various onsite and offsite certification of studies speak. Believers should not cut corners to make an achievement. If we need people who are enlightened, there are numerous. They should prayerfully seek God's wisdom on what to do to establish God's purpose and kingdom everywhere on earth. The schools owned by Christians and church organizations should operate with excellence and the power of the Holy Spirit. Such that the government will have no option than to seek competent hands from the church over top decision making positions in the educational industry. The church should set the unbeatable standard in education.

Educational centers owned and controlled by the church should put a stop to every form of immoral activity in the educational sector, such as: impersonation, examination malpractice, bribery and corruption of the system.

iii. Politics

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder...Of the increase of his government and peace, there will be no end...Isa. 9:6

I don't know how this sounds to you, but, I see that, the government of nations is to be in the hands of Christ through us, his representatives. We are meant to extend Christ's leadership from the church down to the society, governed by the secular system. Because, according to Psalm 110:1-2, Christ is to rule in the midst of his enemies (i.e. those who do not serve him). The Father is to send the rod of Christ's strength out of Zion, this implies an extension of his royal power and authority from the spiritual host (the church connected to the heavenly government), to the world through political seats. The church, is therefore the mediator between the kingdom of heaven and the earth.

The church can unanimously put head together and sponsor a good, Spirit-filled, God-fearing Christian in political offices. The church has the economic power to own a political party, so that when time for leadership comes, only a name is prayerfully announced and the votes of God's people will bring in leader who will lead in righteousness.

Why it seems all the nations of the world with well-established political sectors reveal the failure of the church to produce a leader is because of the wrong perspective which some Christians enter the political sector with. Many of the are not made to know to know they are only representing Christ his church wherever they may be. It is evil for a believer to aspire any form of public office for some selfish or personal reasons, we have only one purpose for being everywhere: **That the light of Christ's kingdom and will may shine everywhere.**

In a blog post, Kenneth Copeland highlighted some reasons why the church should have money:

1. To fund kingdom work. To go into all the world and preach the gospel requires money.
2. To provide well for your own household. That's your job, not your family's or the government. God has called you to work to provide for yourself. Cultivate your garden. Use what he has given you wisely and productively.
3. To subdue the earth. to have dominion on the earth, we should be controlling most of the resources.

For the church to manifest God's Kingdom Economy, other things to take note of are:

1. God is our sole source (Philip. 4:19)
2. Business is the only system that creates wealth (Luke 19:13; Eccl. 11:1-4)
3. All business requires a work (Prov. 14:23)
4. Business is our promised land and proving ground (Gen. 22:1)
5. Wealth transfers are always work-related (Prov. 13:22)
6. Christian must reclaim their territory
7. Wealth transfers are everyday events (psalm 1:3)
8. Possession of the land is not optional (Gen. 1:28)

iv. We have the Keys of the Kingdom, for opening doors everywhere

Chapter Eight

Let there be light

It was the Lord himself who first gave this ultimate command in the beginning:

In the beginning, when God created the universe, the earth was formless and desolate... everything was engulfed in total darkness, and the Spirit of God was moving over the water. Then God commanded, "**Let there be light**" – and light appeared. God was pleased with what he saw. Then he separated the light from the darkness, (Gen 1:1-5 GNT **emphasis added**)

Where there is no light, there certainly will be darkness. Light is the only thing that pushes darkness away, and therefore, Jesus says we should shine as the light of the world (Matt. 5:14-16), because by receiving his own life, we have the light of God in us (John 1:4). He is the light of the world (John 8:12), this means, all who receive his life also becomes the light of the world. It is not them actually, but him who is actually the light in them He will shine forth through them everywhere, as often as he receives the chance to permeate their minds through the word of God, and manifest God's glory through his lifestyle, guided by the Word in any believer. If the gospel is preached is hidden, it is hidden only to them who are being lost, they do not believe, because their minds have been kept in the dark by the evil god of this world. He keeps them from seeing the light shining on them, the light that comes from the Good News about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God. For it is not ourselves that we preach, we preach Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. The God who said, "Out of darkness the light shall shine!" is the same God who made his light shine in our hearts, to bring us the knowledge of God's glory shining in the face of Christ. Yet we who have this spiritual treasures are like common clay pots, in order to show that the supreme power belongs to God, not to us. 2 Cor. 4:3-7 GNT.

Now if the problem is that darkness rules the world through the blinded minds of the people, then, we must resolve to preach Christ, the source of the Light only. Through

his God made all things; nothing in all creation was made without him. The Word was the source of life, and this life brought light to people (John 1:3-4 GNB).

The Lord commands the Israelites that he would make them greater than other nations of the world if they would obey his commandments to them (Deut.28:1). The commandment here is the code of Law which they received through Moses. **The same code of Law was what Jesus Christ came into to world to fulfill in himself, by fully obeying all that the Law demands - he shed his blood for redemption to take place for humanity.** In the Old Testament, sacrifices were acceptable when the right prescriptions for divine acceptability was fully fulfilled. Almost everything was sanctified by blood before God can be pleased to identify himself. But then, Jesus came on the scene, released himself to put to death, so that, the spiritual destiny of men could be determined, that those who believe might be saved. But shedding his blood, he ended the demands for continual shedding of animal's blood, thereby ending the old covenant. And at the same time, by his shedding his blood voluntarily because of the need, he was sealing the new covenant which was prophesied and promised from the Old Testament. That the Laws will no longer be written codes with punishment attached to breaking every single Law, which also amounted to breaking the whole Law except atonement was made.

Isaiah prophesied that,

"And a Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who turn from transgression," declares the Lord. "And as for me, this is my covenant with them," says the Lord: "My Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouth of your offspring, or out of the mouth of your children's offspring," says the Lord, "from this time forth and forevermore." (Isa 59:20-21 **ESV emphasis added**)

And Prophet Jeremiah also prophesied that,

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when **I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt**, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. (Jer. 31:31-33 ESV **emphasis added**)

In the same way, Jesus told his disciples about the sealing of the new covenant:

And likewise the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup that is poured out for you is the **new covenant in my blood**. (Luke 22:20-21 ESV **emphasis added**)

With all these and other related verses, one can establish that the Laws of God are written in the heart of all believer, in whom abides the life of Christ. When Christ is allowed to exhibit his righteous character through each individual believer, the light of God will overshadow the mind of the person, and the glory of the Lord Most High will reflect through the individual's lifestyle. This way, the knowledge of the glory of the knowledge will cover the earth, the light of God will prevail in every nook and cranny of the world system. So that darkness in the world might be exposed in all its disguise.

And you know what, Jesus said, "

"Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose." Matt 5:17
NLT

The Ministry of the Cross, the power of self-denial, and actively following through, in obedience to the word of God is the way to shine correctly and overcome darkness. The light that shines and darkness cannot overcome is the life of that man which has been crucified with Christ, in whom now lives the new life of Jesus Christ. Paul confessed, I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me.

And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. Gal 2:20-21 ESV. Until it is not you controlling your day to day activities, your response to the activities of life, and your relationship to men, until it is him actually at work in you making you willing and able to do of his good will; until it is him living through you and having his way through your mortal body, and until you are living your life by the power of resurrection, you might never be able to overcome the dimmest darkness in the world.

Those who will shine in this world with God's powerful light are men and women in whom there is no darkness at all. They are people who no longer have no life to live by and for themselves. They are those people whose self-will, wants and desires are subject to the will of the Christ living in them; they are those who live only according to the power and leading of the Holy Spirit in all they do (Rom. 8:14). Because the ways of the Holy Spirit are never in conflict or opposed to the ways of the Father.

Living the crucified life, like in the past shall again remain the way by which Christians in this generation will be able to actually spread their lights wherever they may be. By living this way, your life is controlled by the will of the Spirit, "Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking, for whoever has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, so as to **live for the rest of the time in the flesh no longer for human passions but for the will of God.** (1 Peter 4:1-3" emphasis added).

A man who lives his daily setting aside his own wants and passions, adjusting his life to completely align with Christ's will is the one through whom God's radiant, soul impacting, life-transforming, and society-changing light will break through without hindrance or being overcome.

Insist on the truth only, no bending or compromise

It is certain that a man living under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, whose will and passion is surrendered to God will not compromise his faith and God's standard to

please men, even in tight situations, though it may be hurting, but for the sake of that through which God would be praised and glorified, they would simply obey.

Shine too brightly to be intimidated to say the false and alter the truth. Stand upon the truth of the word of God in every matter, even though you may be hated or killed. Light is light, its identity remains light.

Believe in the strength and in the grace of God upon your life not to bend the word of God so that it can suit your immoral life, which is controlled and influenced by worldly passions, your uncontrolled cravings for mundane things, your admiring of worldly lifestyle and the luxury of the life of filth (sin).

The Lord shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. Ps 110:2 KJV. Those whom God will send out of the body of Christ (the church) into the world, to bring changes are those who do not easily get changed by the reigning orders of the day. They are rod-like in the daily operations. They are unbendable; nothing flashy that is of the earth can entice them into manipulating the scriptures to say what they crave for; they are completely submissive to the way of the truth. No amount of money or gift you give them will cause them to trample the foot underground. They cannot be bribed to shift grounds for any form of evil to display, on the contrary, they stand their grounds as the light and they insist on shining forth with God's will over a matter, even if they must lose their lives for the sake, because they had died already; and their living is only to do that for which they might be hated or killed, but such as bring glory and praise to the name of the Almighty God.

Gone are those days when Christians play the cowards. Too many wrongs have been done because of their fear of losing their jobs. This time, no salary or gift will be too attractive to sell the birthright of the church for anymore. Every gift aside from God's free gift of eternal life, which is Jesus Christ is a temporal gift, it not heavenly, it is surely corruptible. Every gift which has its origin from the earth has no single eternal purpose in it, only what is found in Christ does, we must be careful. The devil is a

professional finisher. He can finish a log of wood and make it appear like gold, but we are not ignorant of his devices and his schemes.

As you decide to let there be light, insist on the prevalence on the righteousness wherever you enter. It your duty as an ambassador of Christ here on earth to host God's presence wherever you are, or that you step into. As Isaiah said, "For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch. Isa 62:1. Don't forget the opening statement of this chapter, that:

It was the Lord himself who first gave this ultimate command in the beginning:

In the beginning, when God created the universe, the earth was formless and desolate... everything was engulfed in total darkness, and the Spirit of God was moving over the water. Then God commanded, "**Let there be light**" – and light appeared. God was pleased with what he saw. Then he separated the light from the darkness, (Gen 1:1-5 GNT **emphasis added**)

Light was meant to be in existence from the beginning. Sin came into the sin and darkness came into power, because Satan was empowered through man's disobedience. Today, the earth is again in a formless and desolate state because of sin. Formless in God's sight because what abides up till now is not actually the original design of God, but of Man, Satan and Sin. But just our Father addressed the darkness, as his sons, begotten through our faith in the finished works of Jesus Christ, let's all arise and command again that, "**Let there be light**". Let the light appear through our lives. Let the light be separated from the darkness, how? Not by being taken out of the world, but remaining in this world, let's operate within the world system with the life, laws, principles, wisdom and strategies of the kingdom of God which we belong. It releases the power of the light that overcomes the darkness operating within the world system which enslaves the inhabitants of the earth that live outside of Christ. Wherever the life of Christ, represented by the principles of God's kingdom is brought, the righteousness

of God manifests, his grace comes upon men, his wisdom is unfolded, and the message of redemption is made clear.

Let there be light everywhere:

1. In the government of the nation
2. In the political sector
3. In the academic/educational sector
4. In the media and entertainment industry
5. In the music industry
6. In the executive, legislature and judiciary of the government
7. In the fashion world
8. In the building and construction industry
9. In the health sector
10. In the security departments
11. In the agricultural sectors
12. In the banking and finance departments
13. In the manufacturing companies
14. In the transportation companies
15. In the sector controlling the oil and gas, and every other mineral resources
16. In the socio-economic and infrastructural ministries
17. In the traditional sectors
18. In the world of science and technology
19. In every office and among the staff of every organization
20. Let there be light the commercial sector of the nations
21. Let there be clear distinction between God and Satan; Angels and demons, Miracle and magic, the Spirit-filled and practitioners of witchcraft
22. Let there be clear distinction between the leading of the Holy Spirit and the activities of the human nature
23. Let every man be true to himself and to God

24. Let there be light in the church – in the various denominations and places where God Christ's presence is absent, that the owner of the church be not kept outside anymore
25. Let there be light in the various bible schools across the globe – let Christ be at the center of all teachings and curriculum.
26. Let there be distinction between schools of thoughts, human philosophies, high sounding nonsense and Christ.
27. Let there be light in the market places
28. Let there be light with entrepreneurs and all those who are self-employed, who do one menial job or the other.

Desire it, work at it, pray about it vehemently, live it, preach it, stand on it. It is your life as a Christian, shamelessly stand alone on what is truth. God is your backup.

LET THERE BE LIGHT IN THE NATIONS!

Chapter Nine

Shine without excuse

(You are under God's command, fear no man, have confidence)

"You are the light that shines for the world to see. You are like a city built on a hill that cannot be hidden. People don't hide a lamp under a bowl. They put it on a lamp stand. Then the light shines for everyone in the house. In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven. Matt 5:14-16 ERV

The command to shine is for all believers who have received the new creation life. That is why you are deeply involved in this. People love what is good, and so Jesus went about doing good to men, and good without any condition attached to it. He commands us to let our light shine before men that they see our good works and glorify God, who is continually and actively at work in us.

You are now under divine command to make the life of Jesus manifest through you for all good. Do not fear anybody; do it with all courage and confidence.

“In him was life, and the life was the light of men. **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**” (John 1:4-5 **emphasis added**)

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, **so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.** (Matt 5:14-16 **emphasis added**)

The life of Jesus, the new creation life, which is also the resurrection life at work in the mortal body of every born again Christian is the life to be proud of, its origin is God himself, it cannot be duplicated; its original lives in all true believers. In the same way, its light is unlimited; it has a superlative energy capacity. It has an amazing penetration force, it is unstoppable, and it is faster than anything the earth knows, because even the greatest inferences of science and technology cannot explain how Christ's life brings light into a dead community, where all hope was lost. Man's inventions can enlighten a physically dark environment and create a lit ambience wherever, while the hearts of the people living within and around the beauty of it still remains in total darkness of sin and death. Satan will still be in control of the spirits of such people, as long as they have not received the life of Christ into themselves.

The nature of the light

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” ESV

The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness; the darkness couldn't put it out. MSG

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it. NLT

His life is the light that shines through the darkness-and the darkness can never extinguish it. TLB

The light keeps shining in the dark, and darkness has never put it out. CEV

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not defeated it. ERV

And the Light shines on in the darkness, for the darkness has never overpowered it [put it out or absorbed it or appropriated it, and is unreceptive to it]. AMP

When Jesus appeared on the scene humanly, he lived according to the will of the Father. His life was well admired everywhere and by everybody, He was a light in the darkness, he went about doing all the good that God had prepared him to do. Even when he was faced with all manner of oppositions, Jesus would not be stopped. He condemned sin and wrongs, and he rebuked sinners privately and also publicly. He confronted his enemies and the enemies of the gospel, he stood his ground and would not compromise. Jesus would not seek any permission before obeying the Holy Spirit, because he was really resolute and determined to obey God, even when it could lead to his death; his radical approach towards opposing forces of Satan, men and nature is what his followers should arm themselves with, as they seek to carry out divine exploits everywhere in the name of the Lord. He shone so brightly he could never be discouraged or depressed as not to work again.

Jesus healed the sick without permission, he cast demons out without begging, in fact they begged him themselves, he fed the hungry without any hindrance, he raised the dead several times, many were restored by his love and grace. His compassion moved him to do all these and others. His zeal for the house of God, and for the will of the Lord to be done could not be quenched by anyone, he was too determined, absorbed

and established in the resolve to fulfill God's agenda over his life, he could not be stopped. When he obeys God, the light that expels every darkness is reflected without the darkness has not overcome it." When Jesus shined his light in the world, the darkness couldn't put it out, the darkness could never extinguish it, darkness could never put his light out, the darkness could not defeat him, the darkness never overpowered it [put it out or absorbed it or appropriated it, and is unreceptive to it].

As a Christian, whether you are a student, a staff in an organization, a leader or a follower, a parent or a non-parent, married or unmarried person, a pastor or a member etc. shine right where you are without fear or excuse.

Shine with love for God and everyone else (Philip 2:2),

Be aglow with patience in all you do as you go out and come in, and as you relate with all manner of people. Make it a duty under God's command to allow the Holy Spirit help you bear the fruit of patience, do your best to cultivate it in all that you do;

As Paul said, "**We prove ourselves by our purity, our understanding, our patience, our kindness, by the Holy Spirit within us, and by our sincere love.** We faithfully preach the truth. God's power is working in us. We use the weapons of righteousness in the right hand for attack and the left hand for defense." 2 Cor. 6:6-7 NLT **emphasis added.**

God wants us to behave like Jesus before all men in all we do or say. There is no law against that kind of life; either human law or God's law does support the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Gal 5:22-26. God's Spirit makes us loving, happy, peaceful, patient, kind, good, faithful, gentle, and self-controlled. There is no law against behaving in any of these ways. And because we belong to Christ Jesus, we have killed our selfish feelings and desires. God's Spirit has given us life, and so we should follow the Spirit. But let us not be proud or make others jealous by claiming that we are better than they are in anything at all.

Shine with good deeds, people's hearts are opened to you when you do good to them, while you have the power to do so. Jesus always met the felt needs of people first, it is a

divine wisdom in order to gain access to their hearts willingly and be able to help them with the message of the gospel. By the anointing, he went about doing good. When the need was spiritual he met it, and when it was physical, he also met it, and all was as the Father led him to do it.

Shine with prayers of intercessions day and night as God gives you the ability to. You have to deliberate to do this, because the design of the activities of the world system would not let you have any time called 'free' for intercessions. Pray fervently with wisdom, disturbing no one because you are obeying God. Intercede for all manner of groups of people and situations as the Lord's Spirit gives you wisdom to do. Change the atmosphere of the physical environment where you live, do it spiritually by praying, make it impossible for the principalities and powers residing in such geographical area to operate. They are responsible for the different levels and dimensions of moral decadence in the society and they put people in all manner of slavery. The bible admonishes us to pray without ceasing.

With a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. 2
Tim 1:3

Pray without ceasing. 1 Thess. 5:17

The life of Christ is the acceptable way of living which God has put in place the salvation of all mankind. God knew what he was doing from the very beginning. He decided from the outset to shape the lives of those who love him along the same lines as the life of his Son. The Son stands first in the line of humanity he restored. We see the original and intended shape of our lives there in him. Rom. 8:29 MSG. Every believer therefore should resolve to always allow Jesus to express his life inside of them, this is possible as they focus on being obedient to the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:14). Shine everywhere you go with the life of Jesus Christ, let men see it, let people come to know about it, let his life reflect in your day to day activities. As you interact within your home, in your neighborhood, in your work place, on transit with other passengers.

If you are a student, maximize your days as a student. Use every opportunity you have to witness about Christ unto others. If you are a lecturer, or that you work in an environment where several people come and go, or that you meet with the same people every day, witness the life in you unto them, showing them love, and seeking ways to make their lives better, as the Holy Spirit commands. Jesus went about on the streets doing so much good to men. It is never best for the church to retire into out beautiful church buildings and nice structures, while the some remain poor on the streets in need of hope from a saviour.

Shine the life of Christ towards the people you invite to your house for menial jobs. Don't allow your gate man live with and serve you and still go to hell on the last day. Everyone who has contact with you as a child of God needs the same light from the life you now have, and heaven counts on you to bring them to the knowledge of God's word. As you go out and come in, let the life of Jesus be practically manifested through your interactions with the people and the things of the earth. This is the reason God gave man a body, even though he made him to be a spirit being, like himself.

Don't hide your light

"You are the light that shines for the world to see. You are like a city built on a hill that cannot be hidden. People don't hide a lamp under a bowl. They put it on a lamp stand. Then the light shines for everyone in the house. In the same way, you should be a light for other people. Live so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven. Matt 5:14-16 ERV

Following the teachings of Jesus Christ himself to his disciples, we are responsible for lighting the world, wherever darkness is found. A city built on the hill can be seen by everyone who looks up. In the same way, every true Christian is light, a light that is capable of being placed where all eyes can see it. God is proud of his life in you. Wherever the Holy Spirit asks you to be, it is for this purpose, that God's light may come in and over the people there. You need a platform. But know this that wherever

you are right now is the platform for you at this time, do not wait to be called out to preach on the pulpit, to an organised congregation. The light is supposed to shine for everyone in the house where you are. When you let Christ express himself in you, those around you will definitely feel the impact of his light shining out in you. Why you must ensure that you engage in good works daily is that, you need to **...Live so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven.** God is jealous of his praises, because he actually deserves it, even for the great work of salvation which he did through Jesus Christ. Peter revealed that, we are a chosen race, a priesthood of kingly lineage, a holy nation, a people belonging specially to God...it is amplified further, "...a dedicated nation, [God's] own purchased, special people, that you may set forth the wonderful deeds and display the virtues and perfections of Him Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 Peter 2:9.

What manner of life abides in every Christian makes God proud of his Son Jesus Christ. Through this life, He wants believers to set forth his wonderful deeds, and display the virtues and perfections of God who called them out of darkness into His own marvelous light. This can only be achieved when you no longer handle the driver's seat of the life he has given you all by yourself.

Let go and Let God

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it.

Then he told them what they could expect for themselves: "**Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat – I am.** Don't run from suffering; embrace it. Follow me and I'll show you how. Self-help is no help at all. Self-sacrifice is the way, my way, to finding yourself, your true self. (Luke 9:23-25 MSG **emphasis added**)

Do you intend to shine like a star for Christ here, in this world, then you have to let go of the ruder, the wheel, the steering that controls your own life, and allow yourself be led by the will of God deliberately. Then he said to all, "Anyone who wants to follow me must put aside his own desires and conveniences and carry his cross with him every day and keep close to me! Whoever loses his life for my sake will save it, but whoever insists on keeping his life will lose it; and what profit is there in gaining the whole world when it means forfeiting one's self? Luke 9:23-25 TLB. Whatsoever pain or sorrow that may cost you is just a little one compared to the joy that yourself denial will bring unto Jesus, because he would have enough liberty to reveal himself through all that you'd ever do, wherever you find yourself.

Chapter Ten

If I perish I perish

"Take the risk involved, have faith and be determined."

"And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated—of whom the world was not worthy— wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth." Heb 11:32-38

No successful business venture thrives without certain risks, in fact, risk is one of the main factors required for any serious exercise and task to be executed; it is part of life here on earth. Most of the greatest people we have read and heard about today became great by taking courage and embracing the risk, the pains that stood with their drives for greatness. Many of them, like some of us today also had fears, but turned their fears into a form of energy required to enable them pursue their life goals effectively. There is pain in being selfless and being sacrificial in whatever one does. Both religious and irreligious people understand this reality that, nothing really goes for nothing in this material world in which we live in. Hence, make up your mind that as you choose this path, to take control of the space on earth where God brings you, as you determine that the kingdom of God will be established and will spread across the nations of the world by your hands, under God's mighty power, you will have to put away things that create fears within people, and choose to embrace the risks involved in that which you are up for, God being your strength. And never forget that the Spirit God has put in every of his child does not make them afraid (2 Tim. 1:7).

Several individuals have passed through this difficult path, many are going through it currently, and many will yet drink from the bitter cups associated with advocating for the truth. So many Christians and non Christians have been exterminated from existence because of their stand for what they believe is the truth. For the Christians our hope remains in Christ Jesus. "The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself." 2 Tim 2:11-13. He died because of the realities of man's salvation, to provide the payment necessary and adequate for the complete deliverance and healing of human beings from Satan, the disease of sin and its consequence - death. Darkness hates light and sin hates righteousness. Satan hates Christ and all that are named after him. Know that as you make up your mind to shine so brightly as to expose the works of darkness wherever you go, the devil himself who is the arch enemy of God's light

will fight you tooth and nail. He will do everything in his power to trick you, discourage you, scare you, block your path, manipulate your mind and of the people around you, he will instigate lies against you just to get rid of you, but stand firm in Christ with the sword of the Spirit and the shield of faith and with all other weapons that have been given to the saints for fighting the battles of the Christian life as seen in Ephesians 6:16-18.

Jesus

It was almost time for him to face the purpose for his birth as man here on earth, Jesus went to a certain place to pray, asking the Father that it were possible the bitter cup - of death he was about to drink should pass over him, of course that was possible, but then it would have left all mankind without any other choice but to be destroyed for their sins. he took the risk of still facing the cruelty of Roman Soldiers, he died a shameful and undeserved death, because humanity needed to be at peace with God. He did not live to see his gray hair as a man, yet died fulfilled. For Jesus, he resolved that, if his perishing in such undeserved suffering and death would bring God the satisfaction he requires for sacrifice that would free mankind from sin, Satan and the whole effects of sin, he would embrace. His life perished at youth because he had a worthy course to spend it for. Nobody in obedience to God really perishes at death, they only invested their lives for the best. Jesus obeyed God till death (Philip. 2:8), and his death satisfied God's desire, it provided God the best and adequate tool to bruise the head of the Evil One forever. Even though the many of the people he perished for would reject and curse his name, his still agreed to make enough deposit for spiritual and the spiritual safety their lives, here on earth and also in eternity. We did not deserve his love and sacrificial death yet he died for us.

Esther

Do you know Esther determined that if need be, she should be imprisoned, scourged, punished brutally or killed so that her Jewish family would live? In a strange land, on

behalf of other people, she said, "If I perish, I perish!" The Good News Bible puts it as, "...even though it is against the law. If I must die for doing it, I will die!" (Esther 4:16) yet she lived eventually. If your heart receives courage by the Spirit of God to set things right as seen with Esther, or to stand for what is truth as did Jesus Christ, while on earth, prepare for war against the enemies of God on this side of the planet. Satan and his agents, whether humans possessed by his demons or otherwise, will seek your termination in order for them to carry out their evil schemes. Haman, the king's most trusted ally conspired the destruction of God's people because Mordecai, one of them in obedience to God, and with determination to act as Jew would not give God's honour to a man (Esther 3:4). The plan for the execution was made, the stage was set, but God made the evil plans leak out, and it got to Esther's hearing. After persuasion she decided to lay down her own life; she risked seeing the king at the wrong hour because God's people needed to survive in the land of their captivity.

God never tolerates evil coming upon his people, even when they incur it on themselves. When you see evil looming on a child of God, a people group, or a nation, you can also trust God to be used by him for the deliverance of the people. When God sees worthy souls who would spend their lives for others to live, he responds. It could be by praying and interceding for the target, it could be engaging in special fasting session until their deliverance comes, it could be standing in the gap spiritually before God on their behalf as Jesus Christ does, or even physically as seen with here with Esther. God discloses it when evil is schemed against his will towards his loved ones. He discloses it so it can be annulled. He concealed the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah to Abraham in order for him to at least intercede, hence the deliverance of Nephew Lot, his and his household.

Daniel would not even eat and drink any pleasurable thing for twenty-one days because he was concentrating in intercession for the complete deliverance of the Jews from Babylon, according to the prophecy (Daniel 9). Daniel with his friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in defense of the laws of God choose to perish in the fires

rather than disobey God by bowing down in worship to a man-made God. They were threatened with death, but they choose to die so that God's word might not be broken, and his name dishonoured before pagans (Daniel 3). Whenever God's people decides to stand up for the right course that justice be done, it always breed hatred from Satan, which is manifested in human beings as persecution. But since standing for the right course is the destiny of believers and followers of Christ, come what may, we choose to remain firm, unbending like a rod, immovable from the truth and forever uncompromising. We, in obedience to Christ's words choose not to fear man for what they can do to the body, but never the soul.

When in any generation God decides to move in power, he seeks out for men and women, young and old people through whom he can move across the nations, because they have released themselves unto him completely.

Jesus has promised that those who lose their lives for his name's sake will find it (Luke 9:24), they will live with him forever. Our knowledge of this promise kept in view would help us arise to make significant marks in our days, in the nations of the world. We can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" Heb. 13:6

In the scriptures, A good number of people perished for standing for the right course, but like it's stated in pages above, they only invested their lives, they never really perished. Some got theirs back immediately, yet others really had to be sent to heaven ahead of the other believers through physical death.

Paul lived his life with all readiness to be with the Lord in heaven above, and also ready to remain alive for the Lord.

Gideon was nicknamed Jerubaal because he arose over the night and destroyed the altar of Baal - the dead god in Israel, because it was a place where God's name was profaned and dishonoured. He had heaven's backup. Which satanic structure and system will you destroy for the honour of God's name? Gideon, like every other man was

complacent until he got a revelation of what to do so, then in obedience to God's word, he arose and down went Baal. Also, their enemies of seven years - the Midianite, who usually stole away their farm products and wrecked their lands were totally terminated from such evil (Judges 6:25 - 8). You a need a revelation to know what exactly dishonours God in the land where you live, and also in the nations of the world.

Samson, though had lived in carelessness, lacked self control and self-discipline, but died bringing a great destruction upon the Philistines who oppressed the Israelites (Judges 16:28-31).

Deborah broke every limitation. She was a the wife of Lapidoth, a prophet and served as Israel's judge too. She went out with Barak the commander of Israel's army to war, by her effort, sanity returned to the land. She would not allow any form of fear because she was a woman (Judges 4).

Philip, the evangelist went out, in obedience to God to where Paul (known as Saul then) was, and prayed for him to see again. He knew Paul was the major persecutor of Christians, yet because God told him to go, took his life in his hands and went. God was glorified.

Stephen, the deacon died in the hand an angry mob while defending the truth of the scriptures, and boldly declaring in the public that Jesus who was killed was Christ, the Son of God, and the Messiah, whom the scriptures spoke about. He was bearing witness to this truth when he was stoned and killed. The power of his witness cut them in the heart, but their response was a negative reaction (Acts 7:54-60). He died for it, yet he made a major mark in the history of Christianity. His demise was the beginning of events that brought Paul's conversion nearer, until he was caught by Christ for the same reason he pioneered Stephen's death, and led a team of persecutors of the believers (Acts 8). Paul later became a major arrow head whom Christ used for the spread of the gospel, and of Christianity in its earliest days.

Paul, the Apostle after being converted spent the rest of his life spreading the aroma of God's offer of life (2 Cor. 11:16-33). Jesus Christ categorically pre-informed him of how much he would suffer for spreading the gospel in his life time. He lost his own life socially, as he could not even get a house wife to raise biological children. He gave up his entire life for the sake of the gospel. Several times he also persecuted, beaten, went hungry, suffered shipwreck, hunted like a criminal etc (Acts 24-28).

“And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated—of whom the world was not worthy— wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.” Heb 11:32-38

Chapter Eleven

Who should arise?

Children/Teenagers/Youths:

There are several examples both in the scriptures and in our contemporary world, of many young people who heard the call to take charge of the environment where they live, because things were going wrong. Joshua, the helper of Moses knew God's hand was mighty upon him, he began to follow Moses, he learnt a lot about leadership over God's people. When the twelve spies were sent out to spy Canaan, Joshua alongside Caleb brought back good report, that they could take over the land, and it happened with them two. When Moses was to die, God asked him to anoint and appoint Joshua in His place (Deut. 31:1-8). By his leadership the Israelites conquered nations and took over the lands God promised them, but which were taken over by enemies.

Gideon was another young boy who arose early enough and he destroyed the altar of Baal so righteousness could be restored. By the command of the Lord he saved the Jews from the hands of the Midianites (Judg. 6:7). he was the least important of his father (enough reason for low self-esteem to crush him), and their family line was at the backsides, considered the weakest (Judg. 6:15), but that did not discourage him.

Ruth was a young lady, who later became the great grandmother of Jesus. She could have remained in Moab and died as a pagan. But she stuck to Naomi (Ruth 1:16-18, 4:13, 22), the Jewish woman and her entrance into Israel brought about the fulfillment of God's promises.

David arose as a young man. He killed Goliath, even as a teenager (1 Sam. 17:50). He did many mighty things, wrote psalms that silenced the evil one. His fear of God made God establish an eternal covenant with him (2 Sam. 7:16). His reign as Israel's king brought righteousness to the land. He began to reign as king. Even when he was hated by Saul, yet wouldn't allow discouragement to set in. He conquered!

Another young figure was **Josiah**. Josiah was only eight years old when he became king. He reigned thirty-one years in Jerusalem. His was a good reign, as he carefully followed the good example of his ancestor King David. For when he was sixteen years old, in the eighth year of his reign, he began to search for the God of his ancestor David; and four

years later he began to clean up Judah and Jerusalem, destroying the heathen altars and the shame-idols on the hills. He went out personally to watch as the altars of Baal were knocked apart, the obelisks above the altars chopped down, and the shame-idols ground into dust and scattered over the graves of those who had sacrificed to them. Then he burned the bones of the heathen priests upon their own altars, feeling that this action would clear the people of Judah and Jerusalem from the guilt of their sin of idol-worship.

Then he went to the cities of Manasseh, Ephraim, and Simeon, even to distant Naphtali, and did the same thing there. He broke down the heathen altars, ground to powder the shame-idols, and chopped down the obelisks. He did this everywhere throughout the whole land of Israel before returning to Jerusalem.

During the eighteenth year of his reign, after he had purged the land and cleaned up the situation at the Temple, he appointed Shaphan (son of Azaliah) and Maaseiah, governor of Jerusalem, and Joah (son of Joahaz), the city treasurer, to repair the Temple.
2 Chron 34:1-8 TLB

Men/Women/Widows/Orphans/Virgins:

Noah, even when the people of his days chose to live in sin and evil stood for the Lord, he found grace with God when He decided to destroy the earth with the flood. In his old age Noah heard God, built the ark for 120 years. He moved his family into it and the waters came. His obedience to God brought salvation to his own family. Although he preached to his towns men for about 120 years, yet he was taken for a joker, they mocked, not until the waters destroyed the earth. He was a good father, he must have raised his children well for them not to mock him like every other person did. They must have obeyed and helped him in building the ark which later became a safe haven for them during the flood (Gen. 6:9-12, 7:24).

Deborah was a married woman, she had many responsibilities as a wife. She also a prophet. She pioneered Israel's deliverance. When the activities of Israel's enemies

made village life impossible, journeying became dreadful and all manner of evil went on, the people lived in fear daily, Deborah arose as a mother in Israel. Gender does not stop anyone from establishing the plans and purpose of God over a life or a land (Judg. 4:4, 5:1-9). If you are being moved by God's word, marriage and family life should not stop you.

Anna was an aged widow of about eighty-four. She lived with her husband for just seven years. She dedicated the remaining part of her life to seeking the will of the Lord to come into fulfillment upon Israel and the earth. Her prayers really moved God's hand. Her devoted life of prayers and fastings night and day added to the reason Christ was born when he it happened. Age does not stop any man from doing mighty things (Luke 2:36-38). Being a widow or a widower does not affect, if one is to resolve to do whatsoever God says should be done.

The **daughters of Zelophehad** stood against nepotism. One day a petition was presented by the daughters of Zelophehad – Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. Their father, Zelophehad, was a descendant of Hephher son of Gilead, son of Makir, son of Manasseh, son of Joseph. These women stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the tribal leaders, and the entire community at the entrance of the Tabernacle. "Our father died in the wilderness," they said. "He was not among Korah's followers, who rebelled against the Lord; he died because of his own sin. But he had no sons. Why should the name of our father disappear from his clan just because he had no sons? Give us property along with the rest of our relatives."

So Moses brought their case before the Lord. And the Lord replied to Moses, "The claim of the daughters of Zelophehad is legitimate. You must give them a grant of land along with their father's relatives. Assign them the property that would have been given to their father.

"And give the following instructions to the people of Israel: If a man dies and has no son, then give his inheritance to his daughters. And if he has no daughter either,

transfer his inheritance to his brothers. If he has no brothers, give his inheritance to his father's brothers. But if his father has no brothers, give his inheritance to the nearest relative in his clan. This is a legal requirement for the people of Israel, just as the Lord commanded Moses." Num. 27:1-11 NIV

Philip's four virgin daughters were prophets. When we went on to Caesarea and stayed at the home of Philip the Evangelist, one of the first seven deacons. He had four unmarried daughters who had the gift of prophecy. Acts 21:8-9 TLB. Unlike in our days, not being married was not an excuse for these ladies to remain cold or pursuing some other mundane things that had no eternal value in God's sight. Even though you have your money-making business or are employed, or maybe you're still a student, God wants you to make a unique mark in your world of influence. Arise from your comfort young lady. God's light shining on in your heart must be placed on the lamp-stand for those you live with to be delivered from darkness. Begin to seek God's wisdom on what to do from now.

Literate/illiterates:

In this new life one's nationality or race or education or social position is unimportant; such things mean nothing. Whether a person has Christ is what matters, and he is equally available to all. Col 3:11 TLB

Formal education has its role here and informal education also has its own role too. That you are well educated formally should be able to create a path for your uprising as a Christian. Use your academics to influence your world for Christ the best way you. He enabled you to be educated for the purpose of shutting down the different satanic schemes stealing away God's prized jewels (children in Satan's net). Seek his wisdom on what to do.

Paul in Acts 22:3 shows he was a great academic. He used his wealth of knowledge to refute the empty arguments of Jewish leaders who spoke against Christ and the gospel (Gal. 1:16-24).

Peter and some other of the apostles were not so much educated formally. Peter was a peasant/commercial fisherman. But by attaching himself to Christ Jesus he became a voice. If he had died a fisherman like every other, nobody would mention about him today. Even the Jewish leaders were astounded at the dimension of spiritual knowledge they dished out when they arrested the apostles. Peter preached on the day of Pentecost and about 3,000 people were won to Christ. Such power of influence is also made available for whoever would release his/her heart and entire to be maximumly used by Christ (Col. 3:11; Acts 4:13).

Pastor/member:

Gone are those days when all work loads and spiritual activities would be set upon the shepherd of the church alone. Some pastors ended up dying at a very young age because they were overloaded. God's grace for impacts is available for as many as know him (Dan. 11:32), and operate under his grace (Tit. 2:11). the truth is God is the one working in the pastor and also in every other member of a church congregation who is genuinely born again. Since the pastor was not saved by another Christ or filled by another Holy Spirit from somewhere, we have all received drink from the same Spirit of God. He has anointed us all to rule over the nations. Every Christian is a king and priest to serve God. Exploit is possible for every believer who has faith, and who knows God (I.e. has eternal life in him). Stephen, even Philip served tables yet were so full of the power of God (Acts 6:5). The former refuted the Jews vehemently, he got killed gloriously (Acts 7:54-60), the latter was an evangelist with four virgin daughters who prophesied (Acts 21:8-9).

Whether you are employed or not, doing a white collar job, or not, it does not matter with God. In these lasts as God promised through Joel's prophecy, he has opened up the fountains of his Spirit and power for those who are thirsty to come and have a drink, to their satisfaction, until it is pouring out of them. Today, even a gate man can be full of the Spirit of God, and gifted with the power to heal the sick. God is at work using

common men, who have no formal training for pulpit ministry to heal the sick, raise the dead, and to cause the spreading of the knowledge of the word of God, wherever they find themselves, be it within the church walls or outside of the walls of the church.

Today, God is set to glorify himself through the life of market women and traders who will yield themselves for his use. He needs them; he wants to pass through them into the marketplaces to show them the righteous way of doing business and getting results with little efforts. He wants to use them to show the heathen that they don't have to use false scales and methods to judge their increase and wealth. He would pass through his sons and daughters in the market environment to teach the sinners that their deceitful ways of doing business is hated and seen as an abomination unto God. This way the light of Christ will overshadow darkness in the economy of the nations. God is now, like ever before concerned about everyone in the world, how he can use Christians to reach out to people everywhere, and get them to Jesus before the judgement day.

He has chosen and appointed you. Are you ready? Will you go? For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. Philip. 2:13 NIV