



# By Faith, Acquire Life

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*Turning the hopeless situations of life around*

***Bankole Olusina***

## **By Faith, Acquire Life**

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*And it will come about that every living creature which swarms in every place where the river goes will live. And there will be very many fish, for these waters go there, and the others become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes.*

*Ezek. 47:9*

## CHAPTER 1

### Introduction

I want to start this book by differentiating between the Bible terms 'walking by faith' and 'living by faith,' two popular expressions among the people of God, the church of Christ, today.

#### To Walk By Faith

*“for we walk by faith, not by sight.” (2 Cor 5:7)*

To walk by faith means to judge the things of life by your knowledge of God. It means, as can be inferred from the reference above, that what you are waiting for, what you believe will happen to you, is not deduced from the physical things that you can see but by what the Lord has revealed in His word, the scriptures. It means that you are not moved by what you see, what you hear or what you feel in your body; but rather you are moved primarily by the word of God.

To walk by faith is what the believer is called to do. A believer's life is to reflect the fact that he knows something that the unbeliever does not know. As an example, when the Lord Jesus was talking about the sign of the end of the age, He showed an important difference between the way His believers and the world would react to things that would happen. Each person would react according to the information they have.

*“And there will be signs in sun and moon and stars, and upon the earth dismay among nations, in perplexity at the roaring of the sea and the waves, men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the powers of the heavens will be shaken...But when these things begin to take place, straighten up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” (Luke 21:25-28)*

As for the world, all they have is the sight of their eyes and the hearing of their ears, and so have no other choice than to be afraid; but the believer has the privilege of the words of Jesus and accepting it would make him react with joy in the face of apparent imminent calamity. He would rejoice because for him it would be the sign of good things to come. He would in effect be walking by faith.

To the person walking by faith, the word of God is concrete evidence. It was what made Abraham accept a new name even though his wife had not yet conceived. It was the reason why he laughed for joy when the God who he had served finally gave him a date for the birth of Isaac.

### To Live By Faith

*“Behold, as for the proud one, His soul is not right within him; but the righteous will live by his faith.” (Hab. 2:4)*

When we read about living by faith from the Bible, it is talking about a different concept from when it is speaking of walking by faith. The concept of living by faith is better appreciated if the quote above is rearranged and rendered this way:

But the righteous will acquire life by his faith.

To live by faith means to receive life as a result of receiving the instructions of God by faith. It means to overcome death. Life is the creative force of good which the Lord uses to make our existence productive and make things work properly.

I always find it easier to make people see the meaning of life by looking at the opposite, death, first. It appears that people are more conversant with the force of death.

Death is that spiritual force that makes things go wrong in life. Death does not just mean to finally cease breathing and so die; it is more of the force that came as a result of sin which cripples the original intention of fruitfulness for things in life. As an example, when a marriage breaks down, it is a manifestation of death.

It is death that makes the womb unfruitful.

It is the reason why people sow without reaping.

It makes a child dull in learning.

It makes a man unfruitful in his business.

It brings all forms of sicknesses to the body.

It corrupts the working of the intellect.

The corrupt societies and the failed economies we see these days are all the effects of death.

*“Cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it...Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field; by the sweat of your face you shall eat bread...” (Gen 3:17-19)*

That is what death does. It is a spiritual force that, simply stated, makes life hard.

Now, life is the exact opposite of death. It is that thing which God breathed into Adam which made him a living soul.

To live by faith means to have the force of life manifested in your life so that death, in whichever form it manifests, is overcome. It means when they say a man should die, he lives. A doctor diagnosed that he has an incurable and aggressive type of cancer and should die within a year, but the man gets absolutely well and is still jumping up and down 20 years later; that man has acquired life.

When God injects life into your situation, the predictions of scientists and financial specialists will go unfulfilled. The scientist may have discovered that you have a gene that gives a heart condition which kills before the age of 40; or the accountant has calculated that your business will most certainly go bankrupt. Now these people are not wicked people; they have spoken according to their learning, and have only interpreted the facts displayed before them. Yet, when the life of God is released into you and into your situation they are confounded.

*“I, the LORD, am the maker of all things, stretching out the heavens by Myself, and spreading out the earth all alone, causing the omens of boasters to fail, making fools out of diviners, causing wise men to draw back, and turning their knowledge into foolishness.” (Isa. 44:24-25)*

Everything they predicted refuses to happen. All you experience now is health, long life and prosperity. That is the effect of life. This life is acquired by faith, and experiencing the power of that life is what is meant by living by faith.

### The Connection

This is the connection between walking by faith and living by faith. The person who walks by faith will tap into the power of God as a consequence his walk and so acquire the life – he will live by his faith.

To walk by faith is a decision you make concerning your walk with God while living by faith is the blessing that God gives which makes you overcome the negative forces in this world. You become a victor and not a victim.



## CHAPTER 2

### **Death and Life**

We must understand that spiritual things are real and that there are generally two kinds of forces in the air (Now, when I say 'air' I refer to the spiritual realm that is above and around us). There are the forces of death, and those of life. In anything we do, we are either connecting with life or we are connecting to death.

*"...I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants." (Deut. 30:19)*

The plan and desire of God is that we connect with life and so overcome the forces of death.

Of a truth death has reigned for a long time over many people. This was what Paul was explaining in Romans chapter 5. If you study the whole of that chapter you will understand that death was introduced by sin and spreads by sin. It is because of death that there are all kinds of diseases. It is because of death that people have lost hope in life. Outbreaks of plagues, wars, famines and natural disasters are all manifestations of death.

The effects of death are the things that we have felt so much that made some people think that Satan is a kind of God-appointed ruler over the whole world. It is true that the Devil has the power of death and the whole world indeed lies under the power of the Wicked One, however this power is because they sinned and continue to sin. The power of the devil is the curse that sin brings.

In verse 14 of that Romans 5, Paul explained that a point came in which there was an interruption of the reign of death.

*"Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam." (Rom. 5:14)*

Now, Moses represented an interruption of the reign of death because he brought the laws of God by which those who obeyed might acquire life. Life always overcomes death. Those who obeyed the laws under the Old Covenant were partakers of the life of God.

*“So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life...” (Deut 30:19-20)*

See, every time there is sin, death reigns, and every time there is righteousness, life takes over. For the children of Israel, the Law was their own righteousness, as Moses testified,

*“And it will be righteousness for us if we are careful to observe all this commandment before the LORD our God, just as He commanded us.” (Deut 6:25)*

For this reason, every time they stayed in obedience to the laws of Moses, life was manifested. Their women and cattle did not miscarry, and their land produced abundance of grain and fruit. They never lost any war; peace was theirs for the taking. In short, in all they did, they prospered.

Now for the Child of God, the believer in Christ Jesus, faith in Jesus is the righteousness that produces life. It is in that that the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith. Obedience to the faith of Christ Jesus immunizes you to the forces of death; the connection you had by sin to the death in the air has been broken.

## CHAPTER 3

### **The Forgiveness of Sin**

I need to explain something about the forgiveness of sin.

Sin is a state of the heart which is rebellious to the law of God; it is disobedience to the order of God in life. If God wants a thing done in a particular way, any other way by which people do it, no matter their good intentions, is the way of sin. Sin is to hold a different opinion from what God has said.

Sin is more than just an act, though it produces acts; rather it is a spiritual state that the heart is in. However, the power of sin in the heart is released whenever an act of sin is committed or a word is spoken. The act of sin is like a connecting cable to the power of death which is present in the air, just like a new house needs metal cable connections to the power lines to get power. Every act of sin, in a like manner, brings the power of death into the person's life.

Now, the scriptures testify that all have sinned and as a consequence fall short of God's glory. It means therefore that everyone who thus have sinned falls under the power of death. That is actually how Satan gets his power.

The problem really with sin is the force of death it introduces into the lives of people. I have been asked before about the importance of a past life. The answer is that the past is important because it is not really past but rather has an abiding effect on the future; that is unless something drastic is done about it. What you did yesterday releases a force into your life which persists though the act itself appears to be past. That is how blessings and curses work; they are spiritual forces of life and death respectively, and they affect the life and prosperity of people.

Sin has power, and I pray that young men and women will have the spiritual sense to understand that what they are doing in their youth does not just end there; rather, it sends its effects into their future. What you will become when you are 50, 60 and 70 is decided by what you did as a teenager and as a young man and woman in your 20's.

Many young men have wasted their abilities to prosper; they have scattered it everywhere. They left it at scenes of break-ins, girlfriends' beds, cult houses and all kinds of places of iniquity. When they were doing those things, Satan's deputies, who they called their friends, told them they were cool, but they only lied to them.

People's futures and destinies are like jars of a spiritual substance; it can be wasted in the days of youth. It is unfortunate that many people do not realize that that jar is what God hands to them in what is called youth. They pour it away and when the future comes, they have no power to overcome the adversities of life; they lack the power to succeed, and they lack the power to believe!

Sin is very powerful; it kills. It was the reason why Saul did not endure as the first king of Israel (1 Chron 10:13); it killed the whole household of Eli who was the high priest of God. These are Biblical examples but as a matter of fact the principle still works today. There are many men who have wrecked their inner abilities to succeed because of adultery. It is amazing that these things also pass on to their children. They do not realize it but many have placed their children at great disadvantages in life because of adultery. You may leave a lot of money for them physically but their spiritual abilities to prosper have been erased by sin. There are materially successful crooks today who do not know that they have sold off the inheritance of their children. Their money becomes a curse to those children.

I heard a story once of a particularly gifted young man who died suddenly and accidentally. When a young woman heard the story, she remarked that she knew he was not going to live long. Why? He loved to take advantage of young women and even rapes them.

See, sin has power and it steals, kills and destroys.

I have explained all the above so that we can understand the impact of the forgiveness of sin.

The forgiveness of sin does not just mean that God will not remember again or use it against a person; no, it means more than that. It means the power of death generated by that sin has been cancelled. To forgive sin is not just a question of God's memory about the issue or His change of attitude towards

the sinner; it is rather an active process of repairing the spiritual breach created by the sin. It costs a lot of spiritual energy.

Where sin brings death, the forgiveness of sin means that the power of death will be overcome by the force of life.

This is the power of the blood of Jesus. It represents the life of the Christ and is the spiritual currency with which payment is made for the forgiveness of sin. The blood and life of Jesus is the spiritual power by which God forgives sin.

*“For this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins.” (Matt. 26:28)*

Because of the shed blood of Jesus, a man's future that was crippled by his past sins becomes released for prosperity. The man that would have died young because of the sins of his ancestors, which he tapped into by his own acts, will now live to a ripe old age. People whose sins made it impossible for them to come to God with petitions and get any answer will now not only get answers for themselves but will get for others also — they have become intercessors before God.

This is what the gospel is about that a lot of people do not understand. Repentance from sin and faith in Jesus is not just about going to church and feeling holy; it is an actual help from God for your life. God is saying where you would have died you will now live. He is offering people a literal chance for another life. It is a total cleansing of the effects of the past sins of people so that they may have a full life in Jesus, serving the will of God for their lives.

I need to add that when even a Christian sins, the power of unrighteousness is released into his or her life, but there is still forgiveness for them by the power of the blood of Jesus. That forgiveness is contacted by the confession of sin from a truly repentant heart.

## CHAPTER 4

### **Spiritual Courts**

One of the things that we all must know is that life is controlled by things happening in the realm of the spirit. Personal success, national development, scientific advancements, marital bliss and, in fact, any thing in life; these are all physical expressions of the things that are going on in the realm of the spirit. What we see on the earth are the final products of all kinds of equations and arrangements that have been concluded in the spirit realm.

Spiritual things work like a law court; there is the accused, the accuser and the advocate. All these are present before God who is the Judge of all.

Nothing can happen on the earth that is not sanctioned from the courts of God. I do not mean that our God, the Judge, delights in everything happening or that they all happen according to His predetermined will or pleasure, no; but without His sanction nothing can happen, good or bad. That is His duty as the judge. What He does is to take the arguments before Him and the evidences accompanying the arguments and use them to make decisions. The decisions have little to do with His personal desires.

The accused is a person or group of persons (like a nation) on this earth; the accuser is Satan and his agents; while the advocates are Jesus Christ (our Advocate with the Father, 1 John 2:1) and brethren who show mercy, also known as intercessors. Angels and Evil Spirits are essentially enforcers of judgments, good and evil, respectively.

*“Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to accuse him.” (Zech. 3:1-2)*

When a person is blessed, what is happening is that the weight of evidence or pleading before the judgment throne of God is in his favour. On the contrary, a cursed person has so many handwritings or depositions against him, so much that the forces of evil have much activity permitted against him. A word of blessing is actually a word of petition on the person's behalf before the throne of God, while a word of cursing is the opposite.

Now, this is the reason why the Bible says a curse without a valid cause cannot have any effect (Prov 26:2). There must be a credible reason for an argument

or plea before the court to be admissible. The weight of the pleading before the judgement throne is determined by the evidence upon which it is based. Also, this is why not just anybody can bless you and pray effectively for you; they must be people who you have a natural connection with or an emotional attachment to. Of particular note are the people that you have helped; that person in need that is helped by you has a strong word before the throne when he or she blesses you.

*“The blessing of the one ready to perish came upon me, and I made the widow’s heart sing for joy.” (Job 29:13)*

Also, there are those that have been appointed according to the rules of this creation to speak effectively concerning your case. Of special note are people in authority over you, like your parents and, like I mentioned earlier, those who you are emotionally attached to. They have what the lawyers call a *locus standi* in your case; most other people are often little more than meddling interlopers (according to lawyers).

Another point I must bring out is that trials are always going on. Until we pass away from this earth, voices of accusations and intercessions will continue to go forth to the judgment throne concerning us, but the effects we feel as a result of the verdicts from the Judge is decided by our own participation in the process and the participation of those who are praying for us.

Also, our everyday walking and talking generates evidences and arguments that can be used either for or against us. Yes, we may have the right to remain silent but it is a right that we will exercise to our detriment only; it is better you speak in your own defence.

## CHAPTER 5

### **The Voices Of Accusation**

*“Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night.” (Rev. 12:10)*

Satan is the accuser of the brethren; the Bible says he does this duty day and night, that is, he is unrelenting. His aim in all the accusation is to get the Judge to grant him access so that he might kill, steal and destroy. He wants the Lord to permit him to afflict people, to ruin lives and to remove thanksgiving to God from every mouth. He tries to get people to deny God.

The case of Job is well known. Satan brought up an accusation before God about Job, that he was serving God only for what he was getting. Now that is a powerful accusation, and you must understand that up till that point there was no evidence with which to refute it. In fact, God allowed the trial of Job so that Jesus and all intercessors could later use the evidence of Job as precedence when they would plead for mercy for the people. Job was a demonstration of what love people could have for God, and God needed to have a reference for future judgments. The fact that Job passed his test settled that, and he is forever a reference in heaven.

What does Satan accuse us with?

He accuses mainly with the evidence of sin that we commit; he accuses using the fact of the depravity in the human nature; and he uses the words spoken against us in the past.

It is important we note that there is what is called the handwriting of ordinances that was against us; these things, the Bible says, are contrary to us (Col 2:14). I like the way this is expressed in the New Living Translation; it is called the record that contained the charges against us. That is exactly what they are, charges.

These things are records of our sins, words of curses issued forth legitimately against us, and negative things that come as inheritance from our ancestors. This latter is crucial we understand — the power of ancestry.



## The Power Of Ancestry

Where you descended from is a powerful determinant of whether you can receive certain types of blessing or not. God shows mercy to people because of their ancestry, and many are under a negative charge because of the works of their forefathers. I like to use the story of David and his descendants to explain a bit.

No matter what the descendants of David did till the time of Jesus, it was impossible to deny that family a throne in Israel/Judah. The single point that ensured this was the mercy and promise upon David.

*"...that My servant David may have a lamp always before Me in Jerusalem, the city where I have chosen for Myself to put My name." (1 Kings 11:36)*

On the negative side, for using the name of the man of God, Elisha, to lie so as to collect money, and for attempting to deceive the prophet of God, the leprosy of Naaman was placed upon Gehazi and his descendants forever (2 Kings 5:27). Also, for the blood of Abner, the household of Joab was cursed.

*"...the blood of Abner the son of Ner. May it fall on the head of Joab and on all his father's house; and may there not fail from the house of Joab one who has a discharge, or who is a leper, or who takes hold of a distaff, or who falls by the sword, or who lacks bread." (2 Sam. 3:28-29)*

As a matter of fact, the sin of Adam passed a curse on all his descendants.

*"Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam..." (Rom 5:14)*

So we see that the place where one takes his root from affects the kinds of handwriting or records against the person. As we go on I will show how exactly it happens that those ancestral records become chargeable against the individual, but for now let us just understand that these are the things that the devil uses when he wants to activate his power of death on people. Indeed he has the power of death.

*"...that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil." (Heb 2:14)*

One thing underlies all these accusations of Satan, and that is sin. Sin is what gives the devil the ability to charge something against people. That is why the

power of forgiveness found in the blood of Jesus is the most important thing that one must receive from God to have hope in life.

Please allow me restate that point: the power of forgiveness found in the blood of Jesus is the most important thing that one must receive from God to have hope in life.

Without it, Satan is just too powerful against you.

## CHAPTER 6

### **Echoes of Accusation and the Power of Death**

I mentioned earlier that the devil has been given the power of death and we have seen that this power is only effective as he succeeds in securing a judgment against people from the Judge of all. We have also seen the various things that he uses in his accusations against people. At this time I want us to understand the importance of what I call echoes of accusation.

We have come to understand that spiritual things control the physical, and we must also bear in mind that those things are also paralleled by things in the physical realm. By this I mean that what is going on in the realm of the spirit is reflected in the things going on *on* the earth. For example in the issues of accusations, when Satan begins to accuse someone or a nation before God so as to bring the force of death upon them; those accusations also begin to sound out on the earth. It is important that at this point the person and relevant intercessors, if they can sense it, should begin to pray, if peradventure they can secure mercy from God. It is as if the charges are being laid before the Judge and the person and his advocates must respond to overcome those charges.

Echoes of accusation are those physical evidences that begin to persuade people that failure and death is the only thing that can come upon them. They begin to see and hear things that show that doom will come. When people believe those things they develop what I call 'excuses for Satan.'

Excuses for Satan are those explanations that we give ourselves as we cooperate with Satan to hold us in bondage. They are developed after we have heard those voices of accusations and have believed them.

To explain let's take a few examples.

A young lady's mum died from cancer of the breast and her sister has developed the same; thoughts then begin to plaque her mind telling her that her turn is about to come. What is happening is that she is hearing the echo of Satan's accusation.

A day may come in which she reads about a medical study that has shown that those who have had abortions have a higher tendency to develop cancer of the

breast, and she recollects that in her wild days of youth, she had two or three abortions. She begins to hear another echo of accusation in her mind arguing that she will likely get cancer of the breast.

All these things put together convince her that she is very likely to develop cancer of the breast. She believes it in the deep parts of her being. The first day she feels something that may be a lump in her breast, she knows it is breast cancer. So she begins to rehearse her excuses for Satan. "After all my mother had it, and my sister too; so it must run in our family. Also, I knew my past deeds would one day find me out; the abortions have come back to demand their payment."

When she is eventually diagnosed as having breast cancer, she says, "I said it." And Satan says, "Yes you did. The fact is that I needed you to say it and you did."

All the thoughts of fear that were in here mind were actually echoes of the accusations that Satan was presenting concerning her case in heaven, and there was no mercy being obtained for her. All she was doing was agreeing with Satan's voice, and the Judge had no choice but to rule in Satan's favour.

Another example we will see: there is nothing that Satan loves more than to keep people in economic bondage. When he begins in the heavens to accuse a young man before God so as to keep him poor and frustrated all his life, on the earth the young man begins to notice some 'facts.' Those so-called facts are actually echoes of the accusation of Satan.

He suddenly notices the unemployment rate of his country, how no one of his race can make it in his nation. He notices how many new businesses fail shortly after they start. When he discusses with his friends, most of what he hears is how it is difficult for someone without connections to get a job and how no bank lends capital to start businesses to young people.

He hears all these and finally declares, "A young man can't make it in this country."

When he eventually fails, he says "I said it." And Satan says, "Yes you did. The fact is that I needed you to believe and say it, and you did."

When Satan begins to accuse, what he is trying to get is the power of death over you. If you agree with him by converting his accusations to excuses, then you come under the power of death.

Listen to me: every aspect of your life is on trial. Satan is accusing your marriage day and night, trying to get the power of death with which to scatter it. He is accusing you concerning your job, business and success in life, looking for the way by which to totally frustrate you. Your health also is under attack. You must make up your mind to acquire life by faith or you automatically come under the power of death.

Please note that Satan's accusations are not lies in the way we understand lies. They are actually facts that can be 'proven.' They are however spiritual lies because they contradict the will of God as we will see in the next chapter. Truth is that which is in agreement with God, and it is what sets free. The fact that Satan has facts to show does not imply that he is not lying; those facts are only the physical manifestations of the current predominant spiritual climate or what is being amplified for you to see. It can change when you take hold of truth, the truth of God, and obtain mercy. Acquiring life by faith is to create new physical things out of the truth of the will and word of God.

## CHAPTER 7

### Saved by the Blood

The last few chapters have served to lay the important foundation of understanding what really determines the release of life and death. We have seen that Satan tries to get the authority to afflict us with the power of death and that his accusations often reflect on the earth for us to perceive and one with proper understanding can recognize them for what they really are. One of his major objectives is to have us agree with him in the courts of heaven by testifying against ourselves in agreeing with his evidence.

Now, what is the truth, as opposed to Satan's lies, that we must know as we approach the courts of heaven?

Paul helps us here.

*"...in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ; having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And when you were dead in your transgressions and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He made you alive together with Him, having **forgiven us all our transgressions, having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.**" (Col 2:11-14)*

I need you to note the expressions I have printed in bold characters above:

*...forgiven us all our transgressions...*

*...cancelled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us...*

*... He has taken it out of the way...*

Personal sin and inherited curses from ancestors are powerful decrees written against us. The fact that Adam's sin introduced death into the world is a powerful statement against us as we walk into the courts of heaven; but they have all been removed by the power of the blood of Jesus.

When Jesus went to the cross, He went as the sinless lamb of God that was carrying the sin of the whole world. No wonder John the Baptist exclaimed,

“behold, the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the (whole) world.”

The aim of the sacrifice of Jesus was to shut the mouth of Satan forever as he comes to the throne of God to accuse the people who would believe in Jesus. Anyone who has come to accept the sacrifice of Jesus by faith is freed from all the accusations of the devil. Every handwriting or decree that Satan would have used as evidence against him, every sin that he or she may have committed, have all been washed away by the blood.

Recollect that before we began to talk about the voices of accusation we saw the importance of the forgiveness of sin. We saw that to forgive is not just to overlook it but to actively cleanse away the effect of sin.

Now, this is one of the things that the blood does; it cleanses the effect of sin by crippling the ability of Satan to use that sin as accusation against the believer. This is why we all need faith in Christ Jesus. I always say it is not about going to church but about having sin cleansed.

The cross of Jesus really takes away the sin of the world.

It took away the curses of Gehazi.

It took away the curses of all the descendants of Ham, whom Noah cursed.

It took away every form of generational curses.

Every sin that you may have committed has been wiped out; you are forgiven.

Listen, no one who is of faith in Jesus has any handwriting against him that Satan can use in the courts of God. This is why you do not have to be afraid of anything like a witch or anyone of the occult. They can do nothing because they have no plea that is greater than the power of the blood of Jesus. Once you are of faith, you are safe!

Once, a lady told me what a woman who was in the occult said about their operations; this woman was what we would call a witch. She testified herself that before they can afflict anyone they have to obtain permission from the regions of light. We know from the testimony of the scriptures that God is judge and that is what she is seeing as the regions of light.

Now, see what Paul said about the court session on the believer.

*“Who shall bring any charge against God's elect [when it is] God Who justifies [that is, Who puts us in right relation to Himself? Who shall come forward and accuse or impeach those whom God has chosen? Will God, Who acquits us?] Who is there to condemn [us]? Will Christ Jesus (the Messiah), Who died, or rather Who was raised from the dead, Who is at the right hand of God actually pleading as He intercedes for us?” (Rom 8:33-34 AMP)*

You can see that once we stay in faith in Jesus, we have no problem. No witch or enchanter or occultist can go up to God's throne against the believer. It just cannot work; the blood of Jesus and the Lord Jesus Christ Himself standing there makes it impossible.

The believer's life is totally in God's hands; Satan has no part of it. Even when you are not actively praying or focusing on fighting your accusers, you are still covered because the one who pleads your case is always there, neither sleeping nor slumbering. He never goes on leave nor does He ever forget you.

*“Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.” (Heb. 7:25)*

When Balaam was trying to raise accusations and enchantments against the children of Israel and was not able, they were not doing anything out of the ordinary; they were not even aware that there was anybody called Balaam on Balak's payroll, trying to afflict them. They were just relaxing in their tents.

*“And Balaam lifted up his eyes, and he saw Israel abiding in his tents according to their tribes...” (Num 24:2 KJV)*

Many times I have heard it taught that we should start speaking against the altars raised up against our persons as believers and I maintain that it is not necessary. What is necessary is that we continue in faith, having offered our lives as living sacrifices to God. The issue is our faith and not our enemies. Our lives are totally secure by the sacrifice of the blood of Jesus.

The blood wipes away the limitations of the society, the limitations imposed by the economy or even of the colour of your skin; these are the things that Satan had used to hold many down. No one who is of faith in Christ Jesus can be held down anymore by anything.



So you see that the young woman who was afraid of cancer can rest under the cover of the blood of Jesus, knowing that all those echoes are lies. The negative power of natural ancestry is broken and the effects of previous sins are washed away.

The young man being persuaded by Satan that he would fail can rest knowing that all the purported effects of negative economic 'realities' are unreal.

That is what the truth is!

And it sets us free, once we know it.

## CHAPTER 8

### **Overcoming by the Blood**

*“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.” (Prov 18:21)*

Now, no matter what it is that God has done for us, if we do not consciously and deliberately agree with Him, we may never see the benefit of it.

There was a point I mentioned briefly earlier and it is that we have a right to speak in our own defence in the courts of heaven. The problem is that many people use their tongues to give excuses in support of Satan's accusations rather than using the same tongue to defend themselves. As a matter of fact, what we say is so powerful in determining our cases, that is, our lives, that even when all of God's plans and provisions are there, fully ready and functional, our own testimony can cripple it all.

Let me explain further with the story of Kardesh Barnea.

From here Moses commissioned the 12 spies who went to check out the land of promise. The spiritual fact was that all the angels needed to help them take the land were ready; even their personal strength was enough for what it would be needed for. They had enough warriors and the giants absolutely had no chances against them. Yet they said they couldn't, and they did not.

They said they would die in the wilderness and they died in the wilderness.

All the evidences before the courts of heaven were in their favour. The plan and purpose of God spoke for them; the heritage of their fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, spoke for them; even the sin of the Canaanites spoke in Israel's favour. Everything was on their side until they opened their mouths to speak.

I remember a funny but true case that involved a driver in my dad's office when I was just a little boy. He was arrested for a traffic offence and was immediately arraigned before a mobile court which existed then. Now, someone coached him before the trial on how to enter a non-guilty plea. The custom was to say something like, “I am not guilty and that can be explained.” Now, maybe because he was only half-literate or was just out of sync for a while, he blotted out when asked to enter a plea, “I am guilty and that can be

explained.” Of course the magistrate said the explanation would not be necessary and processed to impose a fine or an option of a short jail sentence. When my dad told the story at home, we all fell apart with laughter.

But the issues of life may not be so funny.

*“Say to them, 'As I live,' says the LORD, 'just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will surely do to you; your corpses shall fall in this wilderness, even all your numbered men...’” (Num 14:28-29)*

As I mentioned earlier, though the Israelites had everything on their side in the courts of heaven, yet when they spoke their words made all the advantages of no consequence. What they said killed them, even though life was available for them.

One thing that my studies in the word of God have shown me is that it appears like our voices as men and women on this earth, when we are the ones on trial, only serve to echo the voices of accusation or the voice of defence.

Now, there are many voices that we hear on this earth and which we respond to. We spoke earlier about echoes of accusation, but I want us to know much more about the main voice of our defence — the voice of the blood of Jesus.

*“(You have come) to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Abel.” (Heb. 12:24)*

The blood of Jesus speaks. It has things that it is saying about you.

The voice of accusation, the voice of Satan, says that you must die because you have inherited a defective gene which came actually by the sin of the ancestors. But the blood of Jesus says, “even though the body is subject to death as a result of sin, yet the spirit will give it life because of the forgiveness of sin.” (Rom 8:10 paraphrased).

*“But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.” (Rom. 8:11)*

The voice of Satan about your health is thus silenced by the voice of the blood.

Satan's accusations against your finances scream loud everyday. It says you cannot become anything because your country's economy is weak. The dollar

is too strong for your currency; your leaders are corrupt; you do not have a university degree; jobs are scarce. In the face of these the blood of Jesus whispers gently but powerfully,

*"For not from the east nor from the west nor from the south come promotion and lifting up. But God is the Judge! He puts down one and lifts up another."*  
(Ps. 75:6-7 AMP)

The blood says that anyone can prosper anywhere because the same God is rich unto all that call upon Him. The blood says economic power does not belong to any special set of people but to anyone who is of faith. The curse upon the earth is lifted for their sakes.

The blood is constantly speaking life. Jesus is always before the throne of God pleading your case on the merit of His blood, just as Satan is trying to plead his lost case; but the deciding factor is which of the voices you echo.

Which of the words do you repeat? Which of the voices do you agree with, both in your heart and with your mouth? It is as you agree with what the Lord Jesus is speaking by His blood that you overcome the accusations of Satan.

"Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night." And they overcame him because of the blood of the Lamb and because of the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death." (Rev 12:10-11)

The power of the blood is released as your words of testimony agree with what the blood is speaking.

The Lord Jesus is always pleading your case by the power of the blood but, just as in the case of Israel at Kardesh Barnea, it is ineffective if you speak against Him.

I mentioned before now that Satan's goal is to make us agree with him. He knows that as long as we speak according to the testimony of Jesus he has lost. This is why he uses everything he can get to make us agree with him.

He uses the news media. They amplify for you all the negative things in life; they give you all the 'facts.' The aim is to make your faith fail.

He uses the words of friends and loved ones. When he was working on Job's case, he tried using even his wife but Job simply refused to speak Satan's words.

What you are speaking is what is directing which evidence overcomes in your case before the courts of heaven.

The Father has done everything necessary to obtain victory for us; all we need to do now is to simply agree with voice of the blood no matter what our surrounding says.

When it comes to this overcoming-by-the-blood thing, people think it is by shouting "the blood of Jesus" and covering things with the blood. We love to 'plead the blood of Jesus' over everything, and we think that is how to overcome by the blood. Unfortunately it is not.

To overcome by the blood is to align your words with what the blood is speaking. The blood of Jesus is the payment with which the plan of God for your life became your entitlement. Without that blood all the things that God planned for His people can never become theirs. Now that it has been shed, what the blood speaks are those glorious things that God wants the believer to have. The blood in effect is speaking God's perfect plan for your life.

## CHAPTER 9

### **What the Blood is Speaking**

I have mentioned that there are many voices in life and all these voices are in effect trying to pull us in their various directions. Most of the voices we hear in life are voices of death; that is, the word of accusation that is trying to bring death into our lives. Satan's voices are shouting loud, but the blood of Jesus speaks gently. You can only here the voice of the blood when you deliberately turn to listen.

When Satan tells you the economy is bad and there is no hope for you in your country, the blood speaks progress and prosperity. By His blood, Jesus says, "I have paid for you to be out of poverty and to step into prosperity." He says you have been blessed so that you can be a blessing.

He says that before now you have been praying to get a job but you should now know that He has made you a job giver. You will create glorious enterprises and provide employment for many.

He says it is too small a thing for you to be blessed alone but that you will be blessed so much that you will be a blessing. The fact that your background does not appear great means nothing. By a release of the kind of power that is now working on your case, small men have been made into great people in the past, just as Samuel has testified.

*"And Samuel said, "Is it not true, though you were little in your own eyes, you were made the head of the tribes of Israel? And the LORD anointed you king over Israel." (1Sam 15:17)*

The blood says to you that God can make something out of you. All the limitations that Satan would have used to keep you down have been nailed to the cross, taken out of your way.

Do you want to experience this?

Do you want to acquire life?

Then believe it and speak it.

Defend yourself with the power of the voice of the blood and you will live!

There are many who desire a spouse but Satan is shouting loud in their ears that they cannot get one. He explains that they are not beautiful enough or rich enough. All these are lies from the devil. The blood of Jesus says that from the beginning, God created a person specially for you, and in due time they will come to you. Just keep loving the Lord and the power of your love for God will draw him or her into your life.

Satan tries another lie; he says that you can't trust anyone. He reminds you of the fact that many people come to church only to find wives and to find husbands, and that their real lives outside church are different.

Like I said earlier, these lies of Satan are based on correct statistics, but they become a lie when we try to apply those statistics to the life of the one who loves the Lord. Your case, Child of God, is different!

Note this:

*“And I discovered more bitter than death the woman whose heart is snares and nets, whose hands are chains. One who is pleasing to God will escape from her, but the sinner will be captured by her.” (Eccl 7:26)*

So you see, the real problem is not the wicked people, but whether your own heart is pleasing to God. If you are in tune with God, forget about deceivers; they can never catch you. There is a force emanating from your spirit that will repel people who do not have your kind of spirit. Or do you think that the witch will not fear for her life coming into the house of a real child of God?!

Brethren, this was my faith and it produced for me a good wife. I have read books that say that you must do a thorough background check on a woman or a man before you marry them. As much as these things may sound good to the flesh, the reality is that they are the ways of the world, and are secondary in the life of the Christian. The first thing is for the child of God to agree with God in his or her own life and then God will take care of the rest. You cannot go around fornicating and cheating and taking advantage of people and then start praying for a good wife. No; a good wife is a blessing from God, and the person who wants one must live like he does.

*“House and wealth are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.” (Prov. 19:14)*

There are no real chance occurrences in life; God directs who you will marry and you will escape from. There is no wisdom of the flesh that can help you here. I have seen people, after running wild in town, when it was time to marry they went to look for what they considered an innocent young girl. They came to discover later that wickedness can hide as a seed in the young 'innocent' heart, and that time will allow it germinate and produce fruit. It was later they realized they had married the Devil's daughter, one very much like her father.

Faithfulness before the Lord is your guarantee of getting a good spouse.

Another thing you must never forget is that the Lord does not recognize tribal divisions in the body of Christ.

*"Therefore from now on we recognize no man according to the flesh... if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature..." (2 Cor 5:16-17)*

Please do not fight death on its turf; you can only succeed if you do your warfare in the realm of the Spirit, which is doing it according to the word. Recognizing human natural divisions is fighting the devil on his turf.

So, the blood is speaking that you have a good wife and a good husband coming your way. It is not a game of chance. It is a matter of predetermination. When Abraham's servant was going to get a wife for Isaac, notice how he prayed.

*"Now may it be that the girl to whom I say, 'Please let down your jar so that I may drink... may she be the one whom Thou hast appointed for Thy servant Isaac..." (Gen. 24:14)*

Please my emphasis here is the fact that he recognized that it was by an appointment from God. All the instructions of Abraham, the gold and stuff he took, and the methods he used to talk to the girl were all based on one premise — God had appointed a woman, and that is the person we are trying to locate.

I remember a senior sister who I discussed my interest in a lady with once, that was while I was a single young man. I told her how the interest had been forsaken for certain reasons; she told me something in passing which I remembered only long after that, after I had met and married my wife. She spoke to the end that she saw in a passing vision (she's a prophet) the kind of



lady I married and the other person I spoke about did not fit at all. She was not trying to guide my choice but only shared it when I told her some things. The fact is that God had appointed my wife, who I had not met, and gave this woman a glimpse of the physique, so when I spoke about something that did not match, she said nothing but knew I was not there yet. Believe me, events proved her right.

God created Eve specifically for Adam, and you must understand that He has done the same for you too. To the person that God has appointed, you are just fine enough and rich enough.

Now, you must speak accordingly. Stop helping Satan with excuses why it will not be as the Lord has commanded. Whatever the mouth of God has spoken, His Spirit will gather.

The blood says you will have your own children.

The blood says you will not die young no matter what the doctors say.

The blood says that life is not hopeless but full of joy and expectation.

The blood says it is well with you all round.

## CHAPTER 10

### **The Power Of Creation**

*“By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.” (Heb. 11:3)*

One of my favourite laws of science is the Newton's first law of motion, also known as the law of inertia, which states that every object continues in a state of rest or uniform motion in a straight line until a force acts upon it compelling to do otherwise.

I like this law because it describes so well the things of this life.

Let me explain what I mean.

See, the Bible says that the whole world lies under the power of the evil one, who of course is the Devil. The Devil, the Bible also says, has the power of death.

Now all these mean that everything around has a natural tendency to go wrong. It is a natural tendency for marriages to break and for businesses to fail. I was reading a book recently and the author pointed out that 90% of businesses fail in the first 5 years, and that of the surviving 10%, nine out of ten will also fail in the next 5 years. This means that, on the average, only one out of a hundred businesses survive beyond the first 10 years.

Now this was not based on figures from Africa but from America, so we should understand that it is not a problem with underdevelopment. Since the curse on Adam, it has been a natural thing for the earth to withhold its increase until people use all kinds of exertions to bring it out. It is also natural that after a while the people tire out, but the death dealing force of sin is ever so present. So things continue to fail.

Please understand that it was not so at the beginning; when God first made this whole thing, the Bible testified that it was good. It was after sin was introduced that the problem began.

Now we should know that righteousness has come by Jesus Christ and a new force is now available to turn the order of things around. This new force is what Paul called the power of His resurrection (Phil 3:10).

The power of Christ's resurrection is what reverses the power of death that was on the earth, and every child of God has access to this power. This is what we use to create new things where the old had prevailed. Where businesses fail, we decree a new order so that it becomes natural for them to succeed. You know, I was watching the news the other day and they stated that life expectancy was about 34 years in Zimbabwe; and when I was discussing the recent passing away of my Dad at the age of 74, some said it was an achievement to have lived up to 74 in a country where the life expectancy is just about 47. What we are saying by all these is that it is natural, under the world order, to die young; but the power of Christ resurrection, when injected into life, will make living beyond the age of 100 natural, so much that people will wonder what happened when someone dies earlier than that.

*"No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his days; for the youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred shall be thought accursed." (Isa. 65:20)*

That power of Christ's resurrection is a creative force by which we acquire life in all that we do. Because of it we refuse to accept the order of this world as normal. No matter how much a wrong thing has prevailed, it is still a wrong thing and we simply refuse to accept it as normal.

You know, I have heard of it, and apparently the thing is now common, for Bible schools to preach that there is nothing wrong with divorce, a thing that God stated categorically that He hates (Mal 2:16, Matt 19:6). What informed such thinking, in actual fact, is that the things happening around have so inundated the hearts of the ministers that they began to see it as normal. To speak otherwise appears like you are blind to issues or you are simply denying them.

Well, that is the first mistake – accepting a thing as okay just because it is common. One thing you must never do is accept the devil's excuses. We must never agree with him; once we agree with him his works begin to take root and get amplified in our lives; that is why it is so easy, especially in a country like America, for pastors to drop one wife today and marry another in a few days, and for people to start giving testimonies of how they received the strength to walk away from their marriage and marry another man. The sense of sanctity

of marriage and the fact that it is a covenant has essentially disappeared among the people.

No one is saying it is easy; even the disciples of Jesus then were greatly alarmed at what Jesus was teaching. When He told them they were not allowed under the order of God to divorce their wives, they responded that it was therefore better not to marry at all. It's obvious that they had left divorce as a safety valve to escape all the troubles that might plague a marriage (Matt 19:10). We know it can be hard but in all of it, what you say and believe must remain what the divine standard is. It is only then that the power of God can help lift you up to that divine level.

Let me state again that I am not saying that life will not be rough or that the things that may happen will not suggest at any time that Satan's ways are better. I am only saying that we must continue to accept the standard of God as true so that His power may be revealed to bring us to that level. Listen, my experience with marriage has shown me that no man can by himself sustain it, and no marriage counsellor has the principles to preserve it. It can only be sustained by the power of God. What I am preaching is that we must tap into the grace that sustains it and not start giving excuses for the works of the Devil.

The power of Christ resurrection is available for us to create good where evil existed. We can, as a church, decide that the way of the Lord must stand, and then God will start releasing that power to bring His ways to pass.

It is power, not methods.

## CHAPTER 11

### **Exercising Creative Power**

Please let us not forget that these are legal issues in the realm of the spirit. There was a reason why death reigned and everything went wrong naturally; and there is a reason now why life should reign and things must begin to go right, and being blessed must become natural.

The reason for the reign of life is the sacrifice of Jesus; His death on the cross removed the legal powers of all the forces arrayed against us and released for our blessing the creative power of His resurrection.

*“For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.” (Rom 5:17)*

Please understand here what this scripture is saying. The word life there is the thing we have been examining and we have seen it as a force that the power of Christ resurrection brings into our lives. It is the opposite of death which reigned because of sin.

Death was the thing reigning, but now, because of Jesus, those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will begin to experience the reign of life in their own persons and in everything that is under their control. Paul was not saying that we reign as kings in our society; people often take this to mean that we are to just go around commanding everything and everybody around us as our whims dictate. No. The reign is the reign of life; because you have life you dethrone death from having control of your affairs and that which concerns you.

I want us at this point to begin to see what we are to do to enforce this change in our lives.

#### To Release the Power

To release the power, there are two things that we must do. The first is that we must agree with God, and the second is that we must subsequently begin to talk like Him.

Agreeing in your heart and speaking with your mouth!

This principle can be understood from two portions of the Bible that I love so much.

*“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts... For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there without watering the earth, and making it bear and sprout...So shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it. For you will go out with joy...Instead of the thorn bush the cypress will come up; and instead of the nettle the myrtle will come up.” (Isa. 55:7-13)*

*“But what does it say? “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” — that is, the word of faith which we are preaching, that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.” (Rom 10:8-10)*

There are a number of things that we can see from these two passages which are so important. The first is that we believe in our hearts, and this is what generates righteousness which in turn makes available the power of life.

Righteousness is to accept the standard of God for a thing. From Isaiah we see that righteousness is to accept the methods of God for doing something; God has His ways. For example, if God says you are forgiven because of the blood of Jesus, then it is unrighteousness to want to exercise yourself in any form of penance to achieve forgiveness. Also, if the word of God says that a thing is good, you must never let statistics and science say to you that it is bad. Accepting what statistics and science say is what is called eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. It is when you think that doctors and sociologists are wiser than God.

Just to use this as an example: Sometimes I have discussions with people about the number of children that is good to have, and most times people tell me that the fewer the better. When I ask why, I am told of all the problems of life

and the cost of raising children. Well I never bother to argue about those statistical or sociology facts, all I ever say is that God said a quiver-full is good (Ps 127:5). You can begin to unreasonably argue what is the size of a quiver, but a quiver-full is good simply because the Lord said it is.

We must learn to agree with God and not subject His word to the judgment of our personal experiences. God has the plan of life; He wants us to enjoy our lives and family, and He indeed knows what is good.

Listen, all God is saying is, "Agree with me!" He is not in the habit of explaining Himself before being believed. He demands faith before you can understand His reasons. That was something I used to tell my wife those days, that if I had to explain everything till she is persuaded about them before agreeing with me, then there is no submission. After all, even a stranger will get that response from anyone if he can by arguments convince him first. The test that you are submissive to a husband, I explained, is when you trust his judgement even when you do not fully agree based on reasoning. That is the way it is with God. You must agree with Him even if what your eyes see seem to say the contrary. It is only after this that He will allow your experiences demonstrate the rightness of His ways to you.

He is not trying to argue with you concerning what the society says, like in the case of the number of children. He will not try to prove them wrong by strong points. All He has said is that His opinion is that the thing is good and that it is a blessing to have a quiver full. If you accept it, you will experience the power of life to make your life sweet with your children. If you agree with science, then you are, like we say, on your own!

Marriage is another very good example, if not actually the best one. It is an area in which the standard of God, the creator of the marriage institution, is so different from what the world accepts. You see, when I look at the issue of marriage failures in the society most times, I realize that people do not even get the point concerning where the problem stems from. The issue with marriage problems is not just about forgetting birthdays and being not-so-romantic; it is far deeper than that. The real issues have to do with what people call marriage, what women think a husband is supposed to be, and what husbands think wives are supposed to be. The opinion of the world, which sadly is what even Christians often accept, is often so far from that of

God that I will be hesitant to utter the truth in many places. As an example, I have found out that many believers draw near to the doctrine of submission with their mouths only; the real practice is unthinkable for them.

Just to illustrate, there was a day a group of us were having a discussion about the authority structure in the home and such related matters, and one brother began to explain how husbands should remember not to be lords and rulers in their homes but that they should allow a kind of democracy and expression of wills by everybody. He opined that we should try to emulate the freedom that families in developed countries like the United States demonstrate.

While he was speaking I interjected to remind him that the very thing he is saying that we should avoid is what God says that men must do; I reminded him that they are commanded to 'bear rule' in their homes and that Sarah was commended for recognizing her husband as lord. Another point I brought out was that he was giving us a very poor example, the United States, to follow, as the breakdown of family values is recognized now even by their own people to be a real problem. I have heard their own preachers say that it is things like that that will lead to their downfall as a nation. Believe me, he had a real hard time stepping down his opinion.

I used that as an example because often what appears good to the flesh and the society may not be in agreement with the word of God, and we will never experience the creative power of God if we don't first forget about being correct in the eyes of the public.

See, if you want to experience the power of God to keep a family and help the children become what the Lord wants them to be, you must first forget what the world says and learn what the Word says. It is not about methods but about a power bigger than all the methods of marriage counsellors. The power of life in Christ Jesus, does what is beyond the calculations of statistics and that which is natural.

If the Bible says that flogging a child is good, no matter how I feel about it, it is good. It is amazing that sometimes Christians complain about how stubborn and disobedient their children are but when you question them you discover that they hold on to the opinion that it is not good to flog kids, something that



they probably read in some journals and which opposes the counsel of God (Prov 22:15).

Please understand this that one of the main battles you have to win as a Christian is that of casting down strongholds.

*“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.” (2 Cor 10:4 KJV)*

Most Christians do not understand that the strongholds are not Satanic empires in the air but are thoughts and attitudes in our own hearts. Those are the things that are our problems.

*“We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.” (2 Cor 10:5)*

Notice that the problems are with knowledge and with thoughts. How are you thinking? What are the standards that you hold unto in life? I remember teaching one series about the will of God, and in one of the messages I talked about 'whose criteria are these?' What I sought to pass across was that in anything we are doing in life — marriage, ministry or business — the principles we use must be those that are in conformity with the word of God.

Decision making is always based upon criteria that we have in our hearts. The question every child of God must ask is “whose criteria are these?” You know that was what the Lord asked Adam in the garden when Adam said that he was naked. “Who told you you are naked?” He asked. As a matter of fact, the information you are operating by decides whether you will be blessed or you will not be blessed.

Who told you women from that particular place do not make good wives?

Who told you that you can now overrule the word of God that says believers are new creatures in Christ Jesus? Hear what God says you must do:

*“So we have stopped evaluating others by what the world thinks about them. Once I mistakenly thought of Christ that way, as though he were merely a human being. How differently I think about him now! What this means is that those who become Christians become new persons. They are not the same anymore, for the old life is gone. A new life has begun!” (2 Cor 5:16-17NLT)*

To cast down imaginations and thoughts is to reject the standards of this world by the power of the word of God and accept the standard of Christ.

Many children of God have rejected the blessing of God for their lives because they hold on to the standards of their village and community. Their village or tribe do not like to marry from the other one, and they have therefore ruled out all the children of God from that area. They want to be acceptable in the eyes of people; they would rather please people than please God. I still remember how the Spirit of God convicted His people as I spoke that day on that topic. The people of God often do not understand the danger of these things.

The people you will rather please have taken the place of God in your affairs. Just make sure they have the power to bless you, give you children, heal your sickness, make your future secure and take you into their everlasting rest after this life. If they can't do these, then beware!

Stop casting down strongholds from the heavens; the strongholds you need to cast down are inside your heart; they are the opinions you have of life that are not in agreement with what the New Covenant in the blood of Jesus dictates.

Who told you that you cannot prosper in the land where you are in right now?

Who told you that your future depends on getting a particular job in a particular company?

Who told you that you will never have your own child?

Who told you people like you can never rule and ride on the proverbial horses of life?

Once you cannot answer, "God, the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ" to any of these questions, then you have been lied to. Cast down the stronghold.

## CHAPTER 12

### **Hope, the Result of Agreement**

The first step to experiencing the power of creation, we have seen, is to agree with God and so cast down every thought, opinion or idea that stands in opposition against the knowledge of God. Now, once that is being done, the result is that a new set of expectations begin to be created in our hearts.

The woman that thought she could never bear now starts to realize that she can indeed become a mother, just as God declared. The young man who thought that he did not have a brilliant destiny suddenly realizes that he has no disadvantage at all, but that God can set over the kingdoms of men the lowliest among them. His lack of education now and his domicile in a third world country means nothing; God can make anyone from anywhere into anything. No wonder David danced so hard before the ark in recognition of the fact that though he was just a shepherd boy, God overtook all the hindrances and made him king.

Agreeing with God changes your perception of life and causes you to have new expectations for your life. That is what is called hope, the real hope.

Hope is not a wish, but a concrete expectation that someone has because he has heard and believed the word of God. For example I do not have the ability to imagine that I may be poor in life or unsuccessful. No one has been able to persuade me that I may be suffering and lacking in my old age. I lived through all the intense hardships that the IMF-inspired Structural Adjustment Programme brought to Nigerians, and I saw how many had to go overseas just to get the basic things of life. I have witnessed all the oppression by fellow citizens and experienced the failure of infrastructure in the country. Yet I believe strongly that it is well with my soul and that much financial prosperity will I experience. Why?

Because many years ago, the word of the Lord came to me powerfully saying, “behold I cause prosperity to flow towards you like a river and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream.” I realized that He never said to look for it and find it, but that it will flow towards me; wherever I might be, that is where it will flow to. That word created an expectation, and that is what hope is — an expectation.

God's hope does not ever disappoint. Once your faith creates the expectation from the word of God in your heart, then you can be sure that it will certainly come to pass.

*"Such hope never disappoints or deludes or shames us..." (Rom 5:5 AMP)*

What the Lord wants to achieve as you begin to agree with Him and so change your perspective is the creation of this new hope in your heart. You will see the same things as other people but because they do not believe God like you do, the conclusions you will draw will be so different. Things that will make others loose heart and panic are the same things that will make you look up and rejoice knowing that your redemption is near (Luke 21:28).

Sometimes people try to be hopeful and be cheerful in the face of adverse situations; they do not understand that it is not a matter of a conscious effort, but is rather a natural effect of beginning to see life from the viewpoint of the word of God.

Remember that I mentioned that to experience the creative power, the second thing is to begin to talk like God. Well, that talk is not just to utter words because you have been told to do so, but it is giving verbal power to the reality that has already been formed in the heart, that reality which we called hope. That which is real in the heart is released into the physical realm by words. It is first real in the heart.

## CHAPTER 13

### **Calling the Things that Be Not**

*“(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.” (Rom 4:17 KJV)*

If you read from Genesis 1 the story of creation, a recurring expression you will notice is, “and God said.” The Lord always issued forth a command or word as He would begin to create something.

Another recurring expression to be noticed in that Genesis 1 is, “and God saw that it was good.” Now this expression always followed the material appearance of that which the Lord commanded to be. I want to look closer at these two expressions so that we will understand deeply how to release the power of creation.

I am sure you will quickly agree with me that God did not speak English, or even Hebrew, when He was commanding things to exist. These languages neither existed then, nor did the things being spoken to have ears to understand any language for that matter. The language God spoke we may never know. The fact is that it was not the words that mattered but that the sound uttered gave expression to that which was in His heart. In fact any word that is not an expression of something in the heart is said to be empty.

I am a university teacher and in the course of performing my duties I have to examine students both in written and in oral exams. One thing that I know as a teacher is how to recognize a student who may be using what would appear like the right words but the words are not expressions of concepts that are real in his heart. My aim always is to find out what the person really understands.

That is the issue about words; it is what they contain that really matter. The contents of words are the pictures in the heart that the words are supposed to convey. When God spoke at creation, He was giving expression to what was in His heart, something that has settled there because of the brooding that first took place.

*“The Spirit of God was moving (hovering, brooding) over the face of the waters.” (Gen. 1:2 AMP)*

It was after brooding, after having a clear picture in His heart concerning what He wanted that He spoke. The language is now irrelevant; maybe all He sounded like was a thunder or rushing wind, but it was expressing something. The thing that it contained was the spirit of the words and that was what imparted life into a dead situation.

*"It is the spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life." (John 6:63)*

In summary, the Lord God looked at a dead situation, brooded upon it and created a hope in His heart; that hope was then uttered as sound and the life of the hope created the physical things upon the earth. He gave life to a dead situation.

If you want to acquire life, if you want to turn your dead situations around, then after having created a hope in your heart by agreeing with God, you must release that power by speaking according to the new picture you have in the heart. What gives power to those words is the hope that the testimony of the blood has created in your heart. Until you are thus converted in the heart, saying what may sound like the right words is nothing but empty babbling. This is the problem with Christian talk that produces no Christian life.

Please notice that the way by which God gives life to the dead is by calling something accordingly.

*"...God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were."*

In the same manner, you are not to describe the dead situation with your mouth. You are to assess it in the light of the word of God, form a conclusion that agrees with God and then begin to command life into the situation.

I have contemplated the economic adversity of the so-called third-world nation in which I live; I have checked it with the word of God, and I have come to know in my heart that only goodness, mercy and prosperity is my portion. Therefore I command abundance to flow toward me. In the same manner I received from the word of God the plan of God concerning child bearing and began to call children's names even before I got married. I have come to know the hope of God for a long and healthy life and I currently call out accordingly even though I am still young.

No matter what your family history or your personal history of health may say, look away from that and receive a hope of health about your body. Once it is formed, speak to your body to be well, and it will conform with God's will. No matter what the doctors or scientists have said, if you can see the plan of God for your health from the word, then your health will most certainly come as you command.

*“But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you.” (Rom 8:11)*

A lot of times people talk just because someone said to confess; the confessions don't produce anything because there was nothing formed in their hearts from brooding on the situation in the light of the word. The first thing is to brood, change your perspective to match God's, and then speak.

## CHAPTER 14

### **The Principle of Sitting Down and Counting**

E. W. Kenyon said that a lot of people wait till they reach a point of crisis — they are sick, or a loved one is sick, or they are in financial crisis — and then they start trying to recite scriptures in prayer in what they call faith. He said it is often nothing more than unbelief. The prayers are just prayers of panic, and not prayers of faith. Smith Wigglesworth said that if you wait till you need faith before you try to go get it, then you waited too late!

There is a principle of life that the Lord taught us which applies very well to the issue of faith.

*“For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost, to see if he has enough to complete it?” (Luke 14:28-29)*

As we go about in life we see where death had reigned and is still reigning in many lives. We are not blind to the issues that plague the people around. Depending on the geographical location you live in and the situation in which you grew, you are conversant with certain oppressive operations of Satan. For example, people from most third-world nations are familiar with the operations of the spirit of poverty. Those living in the first-world are familiar with operations of the spirit of family breakdowns, divorces and a feeling of hopelessness that often results in suicide. Some families have certain spiritual problems or even physical problems; you may have heard that mental illness run in some families. Paul explains that being aware of the schemes of Satan helps us know what to do so that he won't be able to take advantage of us (2Cor 2:11).

I have heard it preached, and I believe it, that certain kinds of devils tend to hang around certain places and families so that the problem of a father tends to be repeated in the lives of the children.

One thing I have noticed is that many times the children know that their fathers had those problems and so want to avoid it in their own lives; they try but often find themselves in those very problems before they realize it was even coming. The reason is because they were trying to tackle a spiritual problem by natural means, and it does not work. What is happening is that the force of death is at work, and only the power of life can reverse it. It does not



just get reversed because you are now educated or have become civilized. All these modifications of your life only serve to modify the manifestations of the problem, so that, as an example, where the fathers only lost money on the farms, the sons loose in large businesses; however the spirit of loss is still working.

In this principle of sitting down and counting, you identify ahead of time those areas that appear like places where the force of death has especially raged and you consciously attack them with the force of life.

Many people unconsciously expect and prepare for those bad things to happen to them. A young woman from a broken home thinks she will have to endure the breaking of her own marriage one day. Listen, it does not have to happen to you the way it happened to your family before you; that is why you have a hope in Christ Jesus.

If you have noticed an area that fear seems to grip you concerning what may happen to your there, then it is time to specially tackle it. There is a weapon of the spirit, and that weapon is effective.

*“for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.” (2 Cor 10:4)*

Remember that I explained earlier that the main area of the battle is in your mind. The first thing therefore is to take the word of God and meditate upon it with prayer so that it will penetrate your heart and change your deeper thinking. Allow it uproot every thought in your heart that is not the thought of good about your life. Take that word in prayer and use it as a cleanser. The Bible described the word of God as water that washes; apply it by prayer.

When I say apply it by prayer, this is what I mean.

*“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9-10)*

One thing that I have come to learn about our Father God is that He sees everything and there is no need to pretend before Him. If you are afraid because of the things that appear like echoes of accusation against you, simply go in prayer and first say it to the Lord just as it is. Tell him, “Lord, I confess that I am afraid that I might not be able to have children after I marry. My

reason is that I notice it happened to that my sister or cousins.” Or, “my reason is that I remember I had abortions as a young lady before I came to know the Lord Jesus, and the thoughts of the consequences keeps coming to my mind.” Then go ahead and tell Him that you realize that those thoughts are not in line with the word and you have come confessing it as a sin so that He might by His Spirit help uproot the fear and establish a hope, a confident hope.

See, there is a spirit of fear, which is a spirit of unrighteousness, and this kind of confession washes it out of your life. Remember He is faithful to cleanse us of all our righteousness.

After that is when you begin the second kind of confession — the confession of faith. You begin to confess the truth that you have learnt.

“I know my sins are forgiven; I have been cleansed by the power of the blood of Jesus. My past sins have lost their effects on my future.

“I have not inherited any evil genes because I have the Spirit of God dwelling inside me. I am a redeemed child of God and I am above the Devil and his accusations.”

Then begin to direct specific words at the area in contention.

“I will bear my children by the power of God. I am a blessed person, and the Bible says a quiver full of children is a blessing. So I have my quiver full of children.

“I speak to children, ‘come to me in due season, in the name of Jesus.’

“I am a joyful mother of children.”

Now, you are saying these when you are not even married yet. You are taking charge ahead of the time of battle.

A young man that has been assailed in his mind by the fear of poverty must take charge of it before he comes into the times of pressure. Confess the sin of fear — the fear of poverty. Then confess the truth of God. Though He was rich, He became poor that I through His poverty might be made rich.

“In Christ Jesus I have all grace abounding toward me so that I have all sufficiency in all things and even have an abundance for every good work.

“The spirit of lack and poverty has been taken away from my life by the sacrifice of Jesus. It is well with me financially and materially.”

You begin to speak into your future, calling those things that be not as though they were.

You may have been told that mental illness runs in your family, and one of your siblings is currently afflicted. Well, the same principles apply; the word of God concerning you is that old things have passed away and all things have been made new. Also, God has given you a spirit of love and a sound mind. You have a sound mind guaranteed by the shed blood of Jesus.

Though many have said it does not matter, I personally believe that you may have to change your name as directed by the Spirit of God. You cannot afford to have a negative word prophesied upon you every time your name is called. Jesus said that Caesar had his mark and his inscription on what belonged to him, and the God too has things that belong to Him (Matt 22:20,21). I believe that I belong to God and must therefore have His inscription in my name. I cannot serve Jesus and bear the name of an idol that my forefathers served. Those little things leave small doors open for Satan, and I believe it is a thing that Africans must overcome. If you have stopped serving idols, then stop bearing their names. In Nigeria we have a lot of names that do nothing else but glorify Satan and his works of old in the lives of our ancestors.

The word of God and prayer is what generates the right words from inside you. You would have first conquered Satan in your heart, cast down his stronghold, before you begin to take charge of your environment by that creative word of God. For this reason you must arm yourself with the relevant word even as you pray. Take books that address those areas of conflict and read them with purpose. Don't go around playing religion and just reading the Bible or a daily devotional. Take the Bible as you would take medicine and read it with the purpose of discovering the counsel of God that will give you the victory. Read it with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to direct you to the relevant areas for your need, and to give you understanding.

The word of God has the answer to every part of life that you may be having problems in; there is nothing that can plaque anyone today that the Lord did not know ahead of time and that He did not provide an answer for. The

understanding that you will get in the word of God, David said, is the secret of acquiring life.

*“Thy testimonies are righteous forever; give me understanding that I may live.”  
(Ps 119:144)*

To live means to acquire life, to convert the reign of death into the reign of life. The power that makes all these available is the power of His resurrection. Once Jesus rose from the dead, it was a sign that the reign of death had come to an end. But you must understand what the blood is speaking so that you can use the same words to inject life into those threatening areas of death.

I have a conviction that the Lord allows us to notice those areas of threat so that we might tackle them before they begin to manifest in our lives. I remember a message that was preached by Rod Parsley which he titled, “You can miss that mess.” What he was explaining is that you do not have to get into trouble before you get delivered; that you do not have to get into debt before seeing abundance, nor do you have to have a divorce before you experience the power of God to heal a marriage. He said that it is better to see the problems ahead and engineer the circumstances so that you miss the mess. It is the same principle I have been explaining in this chapter.

## CHAPTER 15

### **A Wrong Approach**

*“Why do you spend money for what is not bread, and your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is good, and delight yourself in abundance. Incline your ear and come to Me. Listen, that you may live.” (Isa 55:2-3)*

*“...There is a proper time and procedure for every delight...” (Eccl 8:6)*

A lot of people see problems ahead but they do not understand that there is proper procedure for every thing that we may want to do in this world. They apply the wrong method and often this method is what delivers them into the very thing they were trying to run from.

It reminds me of the Greek tale of Oedipus, about whom the oracle prophesied at his birth that he would kill his father and marry his mother. In trying to prevent that from happening, the boy was carried to and abandoned alone on a mountain to die, on the father's instruction. There a shepherd found him and out of pity took him away. He grew up not knowing who his real father was.

As a young man Oedipus met a fortune teller who told him his destiny, that of killing his father and marrying his mother. This caused him to abandon the parents he knew, promising never to return to the land of his upbringing. It was on this journey that he met his real father, and without knowing it, killed him in a fight and eventually married his widowed mother. All these had completed happening before he found out the true details of his life. The very steps taken by his real father and later by him to prevent the prediction from taking place were the same ones that helped the destiny become a reality.

I have told this story here to help you understand the fact that oftentimes what people think they are running from is the very thing they are actually heading for. The reason is because life is spiritual and there is a proper procedure to tackle the things of the spirit. For every problem that you see ahead, the beginning of the solution is to know the power of Christ's resurrection. It is only after you have settled that one that any natural manoeuvre will make any meaning.

There are those who fear marriage breakdown, but their way of trying to escape it is to avoid any potential husband or wife that comes from a broken home. They believe that the chances of having a broken home are more with those that come from such a background. The fact is that they are probably statistically correct, but you cannot use the game of chance that statistics play to live your life. You should go for a hope that is both steadfast and sure; you need something that you can anchor your soul on in the time of trouble.

As much as the chances of having a broken marriage are higher with those whose parents had it, the fact still remains that many, if not most, who end up with marriage breakdowns did not come from such homes. You do not want your marriage to be one of those ones that are the unusual ones in which both parties came from stable homes but produced a broken home. That is what happens when you want to tackle the things of death on death's turf, the natural realm. The solution is to move to a ground higher than the realm of death.

If your fear is that of a broken marriage and your children growing up with just one parent, then use the method we explained in the previous chapter — tap into grace. In your case, even though both you and your partner come from broken homes, yet you will produce the soundest of homes that anyone can on this earth. That is what grace does for people. It does not mean that you will never have trying times, but with every trying season you will come out better lovers, fonder of yourselves and thanking God even more for what wonderful a spouse you each have. That is what an anchor is for — the times of trouble.

As another example, there are people whose fear is that of poverty. They have known what lack means; what it means to have no food or decent clothes for use. They have seen loved ones die from a simple ailment for lack of money to purchase the necessary medicine. For this reason they drive themselves against poverty. They work hard and do all they feel will establish them in wealth. People jump from one job to another for any little pay rise. They move from one country to another once the new one appears to have better prospects. But all this is fighting the spirit of poverty on its own turf. Eventually you will wear out. It is like gravity; no matter how long you fight it, it eventually pulls you back down. This is because, unlike you, it is not trying; it is

just there. What you need is to escape from its pull. You need the power of escape (I will explain more about this power of escape in the next chapter).

I remember the testimony of Bishop David Oyedepo, founder and Bishop of Winners' Chapel Churches. He told of how he fought poverty and won. He did not fight poverty by trying the way many people do. He did not go to a business school to learn how to make money. He did not hire financial advisers nor did he learn the principle of borrowing from a bank. He fought it by a three-day search in the word of God concerning what it takes to overcome poverty. It was a spiritual exercise. It was a period of fasting, praying and studying.

Concerning this three-day adventure he testified that a point came in which enlightenment came upon him, and he jumped out shouting, "It is over!" Poverty was over. That day poverty died even though physically he had not changed. He did not have a new job nor did someone just give him money, but he knew it was over. He said he came to understand that it was a matter of an unshakable covenant of service to God. He would serve the Lord and the Lord would bless him. He won a spiritual victory that day. It was not a method of investing or how to mine for gold or drill for oil in the Nigerian Niger delta; it was a spiritual substance that would most certainly produce wealth on the earth. It did.

Many people love to copy the material methods of people who have overcome poverty, but it does not work that way. All you are copying are the things I call methods of harvest. There is no use to them when you do not have seed in the ground. The seed is spiritual. It is the victory that you have won in the realm of the spirit over the spirit of poverty. Many years ago I won my victory over lack and poverty by a word from heaven. The word of the Lord came to me powerfully saying,

*Behold I cause prosperity to flow towards you like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream.*

I am not afraid of lack. I can make my decisions freely about the affairs of life because I know that my bread will be supplied me, and my water will be sure. No matter where I am, I have the life that overcomes death. Prosperity and

supplies are not chance occurrences but are organized by spiritual forces. These forces are working on my behalf.

*“Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?” (Heb 1:14)*

Angels are ministering to me; they effect the counsel of God for my life. I like something I heard once from Myles Munroe, the great teacher of the word from the Bahamas; he was quoting from Psalm 23. He said Goodness and Mercy are angels, and they follow the blessed man around.

Angels follow me around and arrange the supplies of God for my needs. I have all I need to do the will of God. I super-abound to every good work. Poverty died on the cross!



## CHAPTER 16

### **Escape Velocity**

*“Blessed be the LORD, Who has not given us to be torn by their teeth. Our soul has escaped as a bird out of the snare of the trapper; the snare is broken and we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.” (Ps 124:6-8)*

I mentioned in the previous chapter that fighting your fears by physical manipulations is weariness to the soul because the force of death is like gravity which is persistent and so eventually wins. I mentioned that what we need is to escape from its level into another level. I wish to expound on it in this chapter.

As I was about to write this portion of this book, it was the 50th anniversary of the launch of the first man-made satellite to orbit the earth. Sputnik 1, which contained only a simple radio transmitter, was an 84 kg capsule which circled the earth every 96 minutes and remained in orbit for about three months after launch before falling back and burning in the earth's atmosphere. Now, to launch an object into space and into orbit, the object must attain what is called the escape velocity.

The escape velocity, a term used in astronomy and space exploration, is the speed that is sufficient for a body to escape from the earth's gravitational pull without undergoing any further acceleration. The point is that once the object attains that, we are sure it will get out of the downward pull of earth's gravity and require only a minimal amount of energy to stay in orbit.

Please understand that spiritual things are very much like physical things.

As a believer in Christ Jesus, God did not ordain for us to fight the power of death in the low realms; He rather ordained for us to get up into a high place that automatically makes overcoming the power of death easy. Paul testifies that we are seated with Christ in such a place.

*“...and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come.” (Eph 1:20-21)*

*“(He) made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places, in Christ Jesus.” (Eph 2:5-6)*

That is a place that God has placed us in, but we need to get up in our minds and our spirits to dwell in that place.

Just like the matter of escape velocity, the initial attempts to get into that place may appear hard, but once you get in there, turning every situation of death into life is easy and staying there is easier than getting there. This is why the book of Hebrews says it this way,

*“For the one who has entered His rest has himself also rested from his works... Let us therefore be diligent to enter that rest...” (Heb 4:10-11)*

There is work to do to enter, but once you have entered, things are easier.

It is important that we understand this because many people may get discouraged in the initial battles they face when trying to stamp the authority of the resurrection into their lives. Satan will fight, things may appear rough, but you must continue to wrestle. Your wrestling is to do all those things which we saw earlier that they are the things that get us into the higher realm of life. The most important is that issue of retuning our minds to think like God, to begin to see things the way our Father sees them. This thing is a battle. In fact Paul said we need weapons to do it. When he spoke about the weapons of our warfare which are mighty through God for the pulling down of fortresses or strongholds (2 Cor 10:4), he showed that those fortresses are the thoughts and imaginations that are trying to overshadow the knowledge of God.

Once you begin to break away from the experience of the gravitational down-pull of death, you will begin to breathe easy. When you start it may appear hard, but you must fight until you overcome as God has ordained you to.

Bearing your first child may be hard, but after that you will one day pray to God to stop the childbearing for the multitude that will be coming. After Hannah gave birth to Samuel, many more children followed with little effort. What happened was that she had broken forth from the power of death by her consecration and the prophesying of Eli.

Your prayers, meditations, incubations and prophesying are the ways by which you generate your escape velocity so that you might escape, and having escaped you will begin to soar with wings like an eagle.

Many people learn the good things to do about a situation, and this represents the wisdom for their salvation which was preached to them as the will of God to do in that situation. Unfortunately, what it begets initially is what Jesus called the affliction or persecution which arises because of the word; this discourages them and they wither away. I am teaching at this point so that you will understand that this is just the way it will be when you are generating your escape velocity. You friends may call you names for departing from your former 'quick' ways; some people may ridicule the wife for the extreme submission and subjection to her husband. Men who have just learned how to really love their wives may be surprised initially that all it begets is a loss of respect from other men, but when you finally escape, then you will be glorified and everyone will see.

## CHAPTER 17

### **A River Of Life**

*“And it will come about that every living creature which swarms in every place where the river goes, will live. And there will be very many fish, for these waters go there, and the others become fresh; so everything will live where the river goes.” (Ezek 47:9)*

Life is dynamic; you hardly ever get to a place where you will say you have done something and will never have to bother with it again. When you achieve a result, the next stage is to sustain what has been produced. A house, after having been built, needs to be maintained. In fact, Solomon tells us in the book of Ecclesiastes 10 verse 18, that idleness and lack of attention causes a building to decay. The same way you get a result is the way you sustain it.

What I seek to bring out is that though you may have achieved your spiritual escape velocity and so have escaped from the realms of death, you must still keep yourself in the orbit of eternal life by a constant injection of the force of life. You will notice that concerning this the Lord speaks in a continuous tense fashion. For example,

*“...but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD.” (Deut 8:3)*

Notice that the words are ‘lives’ and ‘proceeds,’ not proceeded; it is a continuous thing. The word of God is like a river; it flows. It is not stagnant water but a body of flowing water.

It is important that we understand that it is a constant feeding on the word that proceeds from the mouth of God that keeps you in the realm of life. The word you fed on yesterday may have been able to give you life for yesterday, but to remain in the realms of life today, you need a fresh word from heaven. The revelations of God are ever progressive and we cannot get all there is in a lifetime. The Lord has ordained that there is a word for a season, and He gives you only the word for each season of your life. The word of God is bread, and the Lord Jesus taught us to ask for our daily bread.

Having eaten the bread from heaven yesterday, you need the one that is relevant for today. The word that gave you a sweet marriage yesterday will not

carry you into the level that the Lord planned for today. And you will need a fresh one for tomorrow. The word that healed your diseases as a 25 year old man may not sustain you in the face of diseases of old age. You therefore must be in the presence of the constant flow of the word of God so that you will be able to receive the one that is yours.

An understanding came to me many years ago as I sat outside one evening. I saw a cock try to perch on a clothes line and, of course, all that it achieved was great instability. It just confirmed what a proverb from my part of the country says, that “the cock tried to land on the line, but neither the line nor the cock had any ease.”

As I watched the swinging to and fro of the cock that would not give up easily, I thought about it that if that had been a small bird, there would have been no problem. We see it every day as small birds perch without stress on thin stems of grass, or even the blades thereof. As I was contemplating all of this, I suddenly realized that this is the very issue with the truth of the word of God. I went into my apartment later and wrote a teaching titled, “On what do I stand?”

*“You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard lest... you fall from your own steadfastness, but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” (2 Peter 3:17-18)*

Reading this injunction of Peter teaches us that the mechanism of preventing our fall from steadfastness is to grow in grace, and this grace increases as we increase in the knowledge of Jesus our Lord. What I am saying here is that people fall from the realm of life when they stop increasing in the knowledge of God.

The keyword there is 'increase.'

The problem with our proverbial cock is that it had become too big for the truth it was trying to stand on. It may have done well on that same rope/truth when it was much smaller, but the growth it experienced in life and the challenges that necessarily come with the growth demands that bigger and stronger ropes be sought, which represents deeper and more accurate knowledge of God. We must continually increase in our knowledge of God by a constant infusion of the word.

There is an interesting way by which the word works: Once it is being received as it is coming forth from the throne of God, it by itself creates something in the hearer without the person making any effort to make it work; it simply by itself imparts life into the person's situation. It is very much like an antivirus programme on your computer that updates itself regularly once you are connected to the internet. It simply updates itself and gives life to your computer; by itself it overcomes all the death dealing effects of computer viruses.

In the same way once you are connected to God by a constant presence before His word, the word goes in and by itself updates your spirit to be able to maintain life in the face of the increasing challenges of everyday living. It does not ask you to try to succeed in the face of new opposition or even try to believe the latest update of the word of God; it just gives the ability to overcome the new challenges to your spirit. Without your trying, you just find that there is something inside so strong that makes you a victor at all times.

Yes, you had a word to conceive and to bear children, but you will require an upgrade to raise God-fearing children and protect them from all diseases. When they are reaching their teenage years, there is an upgrade that your spirit must load from the depths of your soul so as to guide them right. Never let anybody explain away that teenagers are always rebellious; the power of life in Christ Jesus will overcome every rebellion and make them sons of God to be proud of. You must be constantly connected to have all the updates.

Your connection is by prayer and by a constant study of the word. It is by also by appropriate fellowship. Those are the three ways by which we contact God in this world.

#### Prayer, study and fellowship.

It is by these that we tap from the rich anointings on the ministers of the body of Christ. You cannot know God all by yourself; there is a part that every joint supplies and there are parts of God that you will never know unless you tap it from certain people.

Life is yours in Christ Jesus; He has died all the death necessary to deliver you eternally from the power of death. The sting of death is gone; the power of death is defeated. The Devil has lost permanently. Let us step into that victory.

## CHAPTER 18

### Legal Documents

Here are samples of the truth of God established as reality by the power of the blood of Jesus concerning your life. They are the words you will speak so as to agree with what the blood is speaking. These are words which you will use in your own defence before the courts of heaven. This is the sword of the Spirit that overcomes the spirit of fear.

Please note that they are based on what God has already said and are not just a matter of desire or wishful thinking.

*"...for He Himself has said, 'I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,' so that we confidently say, 'The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid...' (Heb 13:5-6)*

Once we discover what He has said, then we can boldly make our declarations based upon His words.

Please speak aloud the words following.

#### Concerning Your Destiny

I was born on purpose, for a specific assignment which will bless my generation.

*I give thanks to the Lord because I have been perfectly made to fit the purpose for which I came. His work, me, is wonderful, and I am confident that I cannot fail. (Ps 139:14)*

The circumstances surrounding my birth cannot change the fact that I was born on purpose. I may have been born of an illegitimate relationship, but so was David; and in fact all things work together for my good. All the negative things of life will only serve the purpose of God for my life. (Rom 8:28)

To call me a mistake is a lie of the devil; the truth is that I am special in the sight of the Lord.

I was predestined because God foreknew me and destined that I will be conformed to the image of Christ Jesus. (Rom 8:29)

This generation needs me; there is a blessing for them that I carry. I will definitely manifest and no devil can stop me.

I have been blessed to be a blessing

### Concerning Long Life

I will not die; I will live and fulfil the purpose of God for my life. The blessing that God placed inside me for this earth will not return to Him void; I will only depart from this earth after I would have fulfilled completely the reason why I was born. Like David, I will serve the purpose of God in my generation. (Ps 118:17, Acts 13:36)

Satan has no power over me. All what he could have used against me have been washed by the blood of Jesus. I am a new man in Christ Jesus and my life is kept inside God Himself, where the devil cannot touch me. (Col 3:3)

Death cannot take me before my time. No disease can terminate my life before the due time. Even though they may say I inherited a tendency for a disease, yet I declare that death has been swallowed by immortality, and the Spirit of Him that raised Jesus from the dead, dwelling in me, gives life to my earthly body. (Rom 8:11)

I don't believe in accidents, therefore they will not come to me. Though I walk through the worst of roads, that armed robbers are supposed to be frequent on, yet I will not be afraid of anything, because the Lord is with me. He has given His angels a commandment concerning me that they will watch me in all my ways. (Ps 23:4, Ps 91:11)

*"The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear Him, and rescues them." (Ps 34:7)*

He has promised, and I believe it, that I will be satisfied with long life; I will see his deliverance, healing and prosperity. (Ps 91:16)

### Concerning Health

I have come to understand that the Spirit controls the physical. The Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in me, and makes my body well despite all the reasons why I should be sick. No matter what the genes say, they are inferior to the life giving Spirit of Christ in me. Because Christ is in me,



even though the body was subject to death because of sin, the Spirit will give it life because of righteousness. (Rom 8:10)

I will live and not die.

With me there is no incurable disease because God is my healer (Ex 15:26)

There is a life force that the resurrection of Jesus has introduced into my life. The word of God says that He was wounded for my transgressions, bruised for my iniquity and the chastisement for my peace and prosperity was laid upon Him, and last of all He says, 'by My stripes, you have been healed.' (Is 53:5)

He has taken away my pains and my sickness.

I reject sickness, pain, and all afflictions of the devil. I am a child of God and have been healed by the power of Christ.

(For more on this please see my book, 'The law of life')

### Concerning My Spouse

Other people may worry about getting a good wife or husband, but in my case things are really different.

God has prepared all the help that I need in life; chief of these is my spouse.

I do not walk by chance but by the knowledge of the fact of God's provision.

I have come to understand that a wicked spouse is for the one who is displeasing to God. I have commended my conscience toward God and He has directed away all wicked people from me, and I am available only for the one who is ordained by God. (Eccl 7:26)

I do not walk by what I see, by human standards, but I judge with righteous judgement. Like Paul I do not care what tribe my spouse appointed by God is from, what colour or race, as long as a person is washed by the precious blood of Jesus, I am okay because the Lord said it is good. (2 Cor 5:16,17)

### Concerning My Family

I will certainly have a good home. Peace and prosperity will be within my walls. My Father God perfects everything that concerns me. (Ps 138:8)

The peace of God dwells in my home; the Father and the Lord Jesus dwell there too. (Jn 14:23,27)

In peace will I lie down and sleep because the Lord alone makes me dwell in safety.

I will dwell in my house as a joyful parent.

My wife will conceive and bear (Ps 113:9, Ps 128:3)

My children will not be borne for calamity. (Is 65:23)

Health, peace, prosperity and safety are to be found in my home.

“no evil will conquer you; no plague will come near your dwelling.” (Ps 91:10 NLT)

My children will grow, increase in favour with God and with men. They will serve God and will be outstanding in their generation.

“How blessed is the man who fears the LORD, Who greatly delights in His commandments. His descendants will be mighty on earth; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever.” (Ps 112:1- 3)

#### Concerning My Work and Ministry

I have been specially equipped by God to fulfil the purpose for which I was created. I have a gift according to which grace is given to me. Grace means that I have the power of God working with me. I am what I am and I will be what God ordained me to be by His grace. (Rom 12:6, 1 Cor 15:10)

I am not a failure. Even though I may have failed before, I still am not a failure. I know this because the word of the Lord says even though I fall many times the Lord will still raise me up. What matters is that He will do me good at the end. (Prov 24:16, Mic 7:8)

I am effective my work. I am a blessing to my generation.

I am a giver, and not a parasite. I bless people with my work and with my skill. There is something in me that my world needs. I will give it to them and they will give back to me. I have been blessed to be a blessing.

Even though my beginning be small, yet my later days will greatly increase. What is important is that I always increase, and God has said that this is my

portion. My path is like the light of dawn that shine brighter and brighter, until perfection is manifested. (Prov 4:18, Job 8:7)

Failure is of death; it is not my portion. I have passed out from death into life in Christ Jesus. (Jn 5:24)

### Concerning Prosperity

Poverty is not my portion

I have been redeemed from any curse that may try to hold me down. Jesus preached the year of God's favour to the poor. I have believed His gospel and it works prosperity in me. (Luke 4:19, Gal 3:13)

God is able and will make all grace abound towards me so that I will not only have sufficiency in everything, I will also abound to the doing of all kinds of good works. I am a giver, a cheerful giver. (2 Cor 9:8)

No matter how tight things may appear, I am not afraid because I fear the Lord and He said that I will not lack any good thing. (Ps 34:9,10)

God's favour follows me; when I plant my physical seed, He pours water upon the seed that I have sown. (Ps 126:5)

I have come to understand that my not-so-glorious background is not at all a hindrance to me. The word of God says that promotion does not come from there. I have also come to understand that the situation of my society and my country cannot hold me down. The word of God says that God is the one that lifts me up and not all these things. (Ps 75:6,7)

I am not afraid of the future; I may not know what it holds but I do know who holds it.

My God holds my future; my life and times are in His hands and He delights in my prosperity. (Ps 31:15, Ps 35:27)

In all I understand that the forces of death have been silenced in my case; I have been redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus, the lamb of God. In God's presence I stand; I stand justified, without blemish. All former sins are washed; the devil has no part in me; he can't lay a hand on me. No he can't. His accusations are frustrated; this I know for sure. All my dead spots have been turned around; I have life now in Christ Jesus.

## **Kingdom-Word Ministries**

Kingdom-Word Ministries is a non-denominational teaching ministry based in Enugu, Nigeria. Activities of the ministry include weekly Bible classes at the ministry studio-hall, publication of free teaching tracts, magazines and books, radio/TV broadcasts and organizing teaching seminars in various towns and cities.

Pastor Bankie's audio message catalogue includes over a thousand messages most of which are available on MP3 CDs and on the web.

For more information and for free downloads of Pastor Bankie's audio messages, books and short sermons, please visit [www.kwm.com.ng](http://www.kwm.com.ng) or [www.pastorbankie.org](http://www.pastorbankie.org).

## **About the Author**

Dr. Bankole Olusina, fondly called Pastor Bankie, is a teacher of the Word of God. He teaches from the platform of Kingdom-Word Ministries, a non-denominational teaching ministry based in Enugu, Nigeria. The emphasis of his teachings is the separation of the church from the world by the obedience to the truths of God. He is a member of the Light of Christ Community Alumni Fellowship (LOCCAF) Ministers' Forum and is happily married to the wife of his youth and partner in ministry, Ufuoma.

### **Books by Pastor Bankie include**

1. The Blessing
2. Here on Purpose
3. The Law of life
4. Great Faith Can Be Yours
5. Choices, Key to Destiny
6. He that believes
7. By Faith, Acquire Life
8. Grace to live by
9. Grace to Prosper
10. How to Work for God
11. So, Who Will Pay For This?
12. The Laws of Increase and Breakthrough
13. Should I Say Yes?

### **Mini-books by Pastor Bankie include**

1. The Righteousness of God
2. Prophecy!
3. Your Greatness Has Been Prepared
4. What is God's Will Here?