

Catch the Anointing

Dag Heward-Mills

Parchment House

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DEDICATION

*I dedicate this book to Bishop Nicholas Duncan Williams.
Thank you for paving the way for the church in Ghana.*

Contents

You Must Be Anointed	5
Associating with Great Men of God	7
The Art of Soaking Tapes	12
My Testimony	19
Catching an Anointing	26
The Art of Preaching and the Anointing	30
“Aman” and “Tsalach”	38
6 Giants Catch the Anointing	45
Why Some People Never Catch the Anointing	66

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CATCH THE ANOINTING

CHAPTERS

1. You Must Be Anointed
2. Associating With Great Men of God
3. The Art of Soaking Tapes
4. My Testimony
5. Catch an Anointing
6. The Art of Preaching and the Anointing
7. “Aman” and “Tsalach”

Dedication: Rev. Kenneth E. Hagin

CHAPTER 1

YOU MUST BE ANOINTED

I had no formal training in the ministry, no Bible school and little contact with any great man of God (and lots of critics). Some of the men of God I came into contact with, ended up opposing and fighting the call of God on my life. I had no option but to tap into the anointing that was on other more distant men of God.

I was forced to catch the anointing through tapes and books. I believe that I am anointed with the Holy Ghost to stand in my office of ministry. I have too much evidence all around me to doubt the reality of the anointing on my life. I also believe that the electronic and technological development in the world is for the benefit of the kingdom of God and the ministry. The technology of this world can help you to get near to people who are anointed.

It's the Anointing That You Need

When God sends you a man of God, you are given a chance to receive him and catch the anointing that is on his life. The anointing is the principal thing that you and I need to do God's work. The prophet Zechariah knew that the most important thing was the anointing. It was he who said, "It is not by might and it is not by power but it's by the anointing of the Spirit" (Zechariah 4:6).

*Elisha also realized that the thing which made Elijah's ministry successful was the anointing. When he had the opportunity he asked for the anointing. Some people may have asked for the money, the education or the qualifications that Elijah had. **But Elisha just wanted the anointing!***

...Elijah said unto Elisha, ask what I shall do for thee before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me.

2 Kings 2:9

In this book, I want to share about a channel of anointing that is not usually spoken of. It may sound new to you, but it is very real. If there is any way by which you can catch the anointing please take it! I am not presenting this as the only way that God can anoint you. I am sharing with you what I have received from the Lord. I am sharing with you what is biblically and scripturally sound.

*Many people have received the anointing through listening to tapes and reading books but they do not understand what has happened to them. **Many people who have received the anointing through this channel cannot teach it because they do not fully understand it.** I believe that it is my duty to teach this simple but real method of catching the most essential ingredient of ministry – the anointing.*

CHAPTER 2

ASSOCIATING WITH GREAT MEN OF GOD

In another book¹, I have shared about the importance of associating closely with the man of God in order to receive the anointing. Why do you have to associate with anointed men of God? What exactly do you acquire through association? As you closely associate with a man of God you will hear him speaking over and over. These words are what contain the anointing. When Elisha associated himself closely with Elijah he heard him speaking over and over again.

*And it came to pass, AS THEY STILL WENT ON, AND
TALKED...*

2 Kings 2:11

Words Are Powerful!

Jesus told His disciples that His words contained two important things. They contained life and the Spirit! What is this Spirit? The Spirit is the anointing! The scripture says that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power (Acts 10:38). Jesus was anointed with the Holy Ghost, and therefore the Holy Ghost *is* the anointing (the substance with which He was anointed).

...the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life.

John 6:63

For many people, the close association we speak about is not possible except through the medium of books and tapes. Books and tapes contain the words of anointed men of God. The words of anointed men of God contain the Spirit and the life. "Soaking" in books written by anointed men is a very valuable way of fellowshiping with them. The time you spend reading a book is time you spend fellowshiping with the one who wrote the book. What a great privilege to interact with someone with three hours in the privacy of your home. As you read this book you are fellowshiping with me and I am fellowshiping with you. As I write this book I feel that I am talking to certain people. I am ministering directly to as many as would take the time to receive. Just as Elisha listened to the words of Elijah and the disciples listened to the words of Jesus, you are listening to my words as you read this book! The disciples listened to the words of Jesus, that is why they were anointed. The anointing makes people take note of you.

...and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

Acts 4:13

You can be with Jesus today by reading His words in the Bible. I constantly become amazed at the number of ministers who do not read the Bible. They just use the Bible as a tool for preaching. The word of God is, first of all for your benefit. You will not be a minister of substance if you do not have your own personal fellowship with the Lord. I do not mean a last-minute check of certain scriptures before you preach. A quick check of a scripture is different from fellowshiping with somebody through the written word. Fellowship with Jesus everyday. God wants to interact with you. He wants to

fellowship with you. God's desire since the days of Adam has been to fellowship with man.

When Moses came down from the mountain after fellowshiping with the Lord, the glory of the Lord was upon him. The glory of the Lord will be upon you when you fellowship with God.

When I woke up in this world I found myself in Ghana, West Africa. I realized that I was very far from the great men of God in America. I desperately wanted to fellowship with them but there was no way possible. I did not even have a visa to America. I had no money to buy a plane ticket. Even if I had been able to get there, many would have seen me as a crazy Black man who was trying to get too close! They would have called their security guards to protect them from me. So God showed me a way that I could fellowship with some of the great anointed people of this generation. I have fellowshiped with many people through their books. I have got to know their minds through their books. I have interacted with the Lord Jesus by reading the Bible and studying His words and actions. One of my favorite portions of the Bible are the gospels. In the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John), I can see what Jesus said and I can hear Him talking to me personally.

Two Types of Receivers

There are two types of people who receive the anointing – those who are physically near and those who are physically afar off. You see, some people have the opportunity to be physically near to the anointed vessel. The apostles, Peter, James and John were physically close to the Lord. They touched Him, they held Him and they even had dinner with Him.

That which was from the beginning, which we have HEARD, which we have SEEN with our eyes, which we have looked

upon, and our hands have HANDLED...

1 John 1:1

The Apostle Paul loved his books. Unfortunately, Paul did not have the chance to physically interact with Christ as the other apostles did. Paul was just like me, he had to depend on books! That is why he sent urgently for his books and parchments (booklets). He had to study and fellowship with the Lord and other great men of God like Isaiah through the written Word.

The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, AND THE BOOKS, BUT ESPECIALLY THE PARCHMENTS.

2 Timothy 4:13

If Paul had lived in our generation he would have used all the technology available to receive even more of the Word and the anointing. Paul would have listened to tapes and watched videos. **Books contain the written word, but tapes contain the spoken word.** You can catch the anointing from the spoken word.

CHAPTER 3

THE ART OF SOAKING IN TAPES

“Soaking” in tapes is a scriptural practice. **Soaking in tapes simply means to listen to the words over and over again until it becomes a part of you and until the anointing passes unto you!** When a tape is fully *soaked*, both the Word content and the Spirit content are imbibed into your spirit. The anointing is not something you learn, it is something you catch.

Do not assume that the “soaking” in of the tape is just an educational exercise. It is a spiritual event. Two important things happen when you soak in a tape. Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word (Romans 10:17). Secondly, the anointing of the Spirit content comes into you.

The Spirit enters a person as he receives the Word of God. That is why many people experience radical transformations by just listening to a powerful message of the Word of God. That is how come people are saved when they hear the preaching of the Word of

God. The Holy Spirit enters into them as the preaching goes forth and they are gloriously Born Again. The Bible says that we are born of the Spirit.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

John 3:6

Being Born Again is not an educational experience. Being Born Again does not mean that you have learnt something new. It means that a spiritual change has taken place. Your spirit is recreated by the Holy Spirit. This experience of being Born Again completely and forever changes a person's life. It happens when people listen to the preaching of the Word. That is why we invite people to church. We want them to be exposed to the preaching.

In the same way as you are Born Again and experience a spiritual transformation, you can experience a further spiritual transformation that will convert you into a minister. This spiritual transformation that makes you a minister is what some call "receiving an anointing" or "being anointed". There are too many people who are called ministers who have not received a call to ministry and an anointing to minister.

When you have not been anointed, you are dry and lifeless. I used to go to church every Sunday and I hated it! It was a lifeless and boring experience. I only went because my parents had asked me to go. Unfortunately, not only are some so-called ministers not anointed but they are not even Born Again. This is even worse! You do not become a minister by obtaining a certificate. **You become a minister when God calls you and anoints you!**

Churches do not grow because there is no anointing for church

growth. Pastors everywhere must desire the anointing. It is the anointing that makes the difference! Once you know the anointing, you will not want anything else. You will not succeed in the ministry by being clever. Intelligence and education are no substitutes for the anointing! Desire the anointing! Go for it! It is the main thing! And the main thing is still the main thing! The first sermon that Jesus preached was about the anointing. The first thing that He said when he began His ministry was that He was anointed.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me?? because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor...

Luke 4:18

In fact, Jesus did not attempt any form of ministry until He was anointed. Jesus knew that the ministry depended on the anointing. I recently visited a beautiful large church. The pastor himself was not around so the janitor took us around the building. The main hall had hundreds of beautiful mahogany pews. It was a beautiful building with two huge pipe organs and surrounding balconies.

I asked the janitor, "How many people does this building seat?"

He answered, "This building seats at least eight hundred and eighty people."

"Wow," I remarked, "That's a lot of people!"

He continued, "But, we don't have many people coming to church anymore."

"I see. How many people come to church nowadays?" I asked inquisitively.

"About twenty, with a maximum of thirty people." He added, "Only old people attend church now. The young people don't come to church anymore."

I thought, "How sad. Such a large church has been reduced to a fellowship of twenty old and dying people."

Obviously there was no life. But that was not all.

The janitor continued, “The services from this month are being held every two weeks instead of every week.”

I thought to myself, “We hold church services on almost every day of the week. There is so much life in our church. It is full of mainly young people who want to serve the Lord. What a contrast!”

What makes a difference between a growing and a dead church is the anointing. The anointing is the life of God in the ministry. Oh, how we need the anointing! We can’t do without the Holy Spirit.

So how do we come by this Holy Spirit? That is what this book is about. God is trying to show you that you need an anointing. You may be ministering the Word. You may even be ordained. But it is only when you are anointed that your ministry will begin to make a difference to the lost masses of humanity. I see the anointing on you right now as you read this book!

The prophet Ezekiel experienced the anointing entering his life one day. He described exactly how and when the anointing came upon him. Ezekiel sensed that the power and anointing of the Spirit had entered into him whilst he was listening to the Word.

And the spirit entered into me WHEN HE SPAKE unto me...

Ezekiel 2:2

Ezekiel said very clearly in this scripture that the Holy Spirit entered into him when he was being spoken to.

Peter, the apostle, also noticed this phenomenon. He noticed that the power of the Holy Spirit fell on people as he preached. Do you remember when Peter was preaching to the Gentiles? The Bible says that as he ministered the Word the Spirit of God

fell on the people.

While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

Acts 10:44

If the gift of the Holy Spirit could fall on people whilst Peter was preaching then surely the gift of the Holy Spirit can fall on you when any other anointed man of God is preaching. This is simple logic.

At 5 o'clock in the morning on the 1st of January, 1987 I decided to obey the call of God on my life. It was in the early hours of the first day of that New Year when I decided to take up the mantle and become a pastor. I knew that I had been called and I had decided to obey and become a pastor.

At the time, I was in my fourth year of medical school. I began the church with a few nursing students and laboratory students in the Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital where I was studying medicine. I had no one to direct or guide me so I struggled quite a bit during that first year. By the end of 1987 many friends had expressed their lack of confidence in me and deserted me. I was criticized until I felt like killing myself, just to make my enemies happy. I remember looking at the ceiling fan as it twirled above my bed. I often thought of hanging myself on it. I wanted to vanish out of the view of all those who hated me and criticized me. I had very little guidance, but I was sincere and I had a lot of faith and many enemies. It is amazing how people hate you when you decide to follow the call of God.

This was the precarious and doubtful beginning of my ministry. I started out by faith and began teaching and preaching what I knew. A few nursing students responded. At the beginning the church met in a little classroom in the School of Hygiene. After

awhile many people left and some stayed. The little church stabilized with about forty members. But something happened to me in 1988 that made a big difference to my ministry. It transformed the ministry from a little classroom full of nursing students to a ministry that impacts thousands of people around the world today.

CHAPTER 4

MY TESTIMONY

Sometime during the middle of the year 1988, I had to fulfill what is called a community health rotation. Every class in medical school is divided into groups. Each group rotates through different fields of medicine throughout the year. That is why it is called a rotation. I had to complete four rotations in my final year, one each for surgery, medicine, specials and community health.

During the community health rotation, I had to travel outside the city of Accra to a smaller town called Suhum, in another region of the country. Whilst there I lived in the Suhum Government Hospital for one month. I was to gain practical experience in running a hospital and working out on the field where conditions are different from the bigger cities.

Although I was fulfilling my medical requirements, as usual my mind was on the ministry. By the second week, I took advantage of a more relaxed timetable and decided to fast and pray. On my way out of Accra to Suhum, I had passed through a Christian bookshop and bought some Kenneth Hagin tapes. I felt that I just need something to soak in whilst I was in Suhum. I had been a great follower and admirer of Kenneth Hagin's ministry. Actually, I had already listened to those tapes many times but I thought I would just have something to listen to. No one had ever told me to listen to tapes. I just enjoyed doing it. I loved the Word and I loved the minister of the Word.

No one had ever told me to listen to tapes over and over. I wasn't trying to memorize the message although I ended up remembering almost every sentence. Listening to tapes never replaced Bible study and personal quiet times for me. I wasn't losing my personality! I wasn't becoming a clone. I was being blessed tremendously!

One night I was praying, fasting and listening to one of these tapes that I had bought. I remember that day as if it was yesterday. I was using a small red Sony auto-reverse tape recorder. The message that was being played was something about dealing with demons. It was a message I had enjoyed listening to many times. The tape played nonstop throughout the night.

Something Happened!

*At about 3 a.m. in the morning I was kneeling by the bed praying. I could see the tape recorder situated at the other end of the room. Then suddenly, something literally jumped out of the tape which was playing and moved into my belly. I could feel it entering me. Then I heard a voice saying, "From now you can teach." I didn't know what that was but I thought to myself, "That's good, because I want to teach." **I didn't know at that time that I had received a major impartation of anointing through the channel of soaking in tapes.***

At that time, my church was comprised of about forty students. The Bible teaches that we should prove all things, so I decided to try out this new gifting. I was invited to teach at a Full Gospel Businessmen's breakfast meeting in Suhum. This was my first ministration after my impartation experience. I tell you, I noticed a difference. After the ministration someone asked me where my church was. He was surprised that I was an unknown minister. Inside me I knew that something had

happened that was making a difference.

When I got back to the church after a month, I noticed a difference in my ability to teach and preach. The anointing had arrived and I began to build up. The first series I preached was about the prodigal son. I preached this on a weekday and the attendance and interest in the service began to increase steadily. I tell you, I noticed there was some life and Spirit in the ministry. It is difficult to describe it but when it's there you know it's there! The anointing is a bit like beauty – when you see it, you know it! You can't easily explain how or why you recognize beauty. But when you see beauty or anointing you know that it is there.

I have no reason to say what I am sharing except but to help you. My ministry has grown in leaps and bounds because of an anointing caught from soaking in the Word on a tape. Today, you are reading one of the several books that I have written under that same teaching anointing.

At the time, I did not have any biblical basis for what I had experienced, so I did not talk about it. Later, as I studied the Word of God, I realized that the mystery of impartation of anointing through the soaking of the Word is a reality. It is biblical! It is doctrinally sound and it is experientially real!

Anyone who exposes himself to soaking in the Word through books and tapes is exposing himself to more of the anointing!
When you do that, only good things will happen to you.

On different occasions I have heard people describe how they have received an anointing as they sat in the congregation and received the ministry of the Word. One pastor described how he felt warm drops of anointing falling on his head as I spoke the Word at a Camp Meeting. I believe the Lord was anointing this man.

T. L. Osborne, the great evangelist, describes how God changed his ministry as he sat under the ministry of William Branham. It all happened in a moment and he was anointed to go out and be a great witness to the world. It is interesting that outsiders sometimes are better receivers than insiders. Do you remember the story of the Centurion whose servant was sick? He sent for Jesus because he knew that Jesus had the anointing and power to heal.

And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die.

And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant. And when they came to Jesus, they besought him instantly, saying, That he was worthy for whom he should do this:

For he loveth our nation, and he hath built us a synagogue.

Then Jesus went with them. And when he was now not far from the house, the centurion sent friends to him, saying unto him, Lord, trouble not thyself: for I am not worthy that thou shouldst enter under my roof:

Wherefore neither thought I myself worthy to come unto thee: but say in a word, and my servant shall be healed.

Luke 7:2-7

This man realized that there was anointing in the words of Jesus. So he sent another message to Jesus.

*He said, "Don't bother to come all the way here. **Just stand there and say something.**"*

In other words, there is no need for you to even lay hands or pour oil on my child, Just speak some words and the healing anointing will flow.

He sent his word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

Psalm 107:20

One night when I was ministering at a Miracle Wave Convention something astonishing happened. There were thousands of people present that night and the power of God was flowing. That night I remember that when I finished preaching the Word, I felt that God had already moved. It wasn't even necessary to do anything further. There was a lady sitting up in the balcony with her baby and husband.

The Angel Appears

This lady suddenly experienced an open vision. Her eyes opened supernaturally and she could see me and everybody else on the stage. But she saw a huge angel standing on my left hand side suspended in midair.

She said, "As you were preaching you would say things like, 'I see you blessed!!', 'I see God answering your prayer!', 'I see you healed in the name of Jesus!', 'I see you owning a car!'" The angel would hand out blessings as I spoke and smaller angels would carry them to the people.

She said that some people had outstretched hands and were very receptive. The angels would go straight to them with the blessings. Whilst others were receiving others were dozing off and missing out on the spiritual impartation that was taking place. I believe that that angel goes around with me whenever I minister. I know that that "big guy" has been assigned to me. He's my ministering angel. Spiritual things are as real as physical things. The Bible teaches us that angels are ministering spirits that minister for us. They work for us and help us. That is why the angel was distributing spiritual parcels to those who were receiving the Word.

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Hebrews 1:14

CHAPTER 5

CATCH AN ANOINTING

Anyone who listens to tapes and reads books will receive to a greater or lesser extent. Some people are not impressed or touched by the message. Some others are even offended by it. As Jesus said, "Blessed is he that is not offended in me." Some people are excited by the message. Some cannot remember anything they just know that it was a good message.

As you listen to a tape you learn the message. You learn the Word. You acquire the knowledge content. Some people stop at this point. But others go even further. I went further without even knowing what I was doing. Somehow it wasn't the knowledge content that I was after. If it was knowledge, I had virtually assimilated all the facts that were being shared after a few times of listening to the tape. My love for the Word made me expose myself to the anointing without even knowing it.

I remember being blessed by messages of a pastor of a huge

church in Los Angeles, California. I had a few videos of his that I thoroughly enjoyed. I would watch these videos over and over. As I watched this pastor preaching in his church I desired to have a church like that and to preach as well as he did. One day, I was preaching in my church, walking up and down the aisles when the Spirit of God told me, "This is it!"

It suddenly dawned on me that I was walking in the steps of that pastor that I had watched and listened to for years. I was teaching and preaching like he did. I was pastoring a church which was as large as I had seen on the television. You see, when the anointing is on you will do certain specific things in your ministry. Do you want to have a big church? Catch the anointing that is on someone who has a big church. Do you want to be an evangelist? Look around and see who God is using and follow that person. Listen to his tapes and read his books. The anointing will fall on you one day.

The Specificity of the Anointing

The anointing is like your gun. It does certain specific things. You just have to use it and direct it where you want to. Every anointing has a way of working out itself to achieve specific results. The anointing that was on Elijah made him do certain things. Do you want to be a teacher of the Word? Then follow someone who has a teaching anointing. The anointing is very specific. The healing anointing is different from the teaching anointing which is different from the pastoral anointing.

Elijah miraculously caused three years of drought. He multiplied the meal and oil of a widow, caused the resurrection of a young boy and called fire from heaven. Elisha did similar things. He also caused years of drought, performed healings, and multiplied a widow's oil. It is interesting to note that Elisha did exactly twice as many miracles as Elijah did. Elijah did

sixteen miracles and Elisha did thirty-two miracles! Elisha had a double portion of Elijah's anointing.

The anointing is a very specific substance that makes you achieve certain things. You can desire a specific minister's anointing. God may have put it in your heart to achieve certain things in the ministry. Elisha went for Elijah's anointing without any apologies to anyone.

If you catch the anointing which is on certain people you will do similar things because it is the same anointing. John the Baptist also carried Elijah's anointing. There were many similarities between John the Baptist and Elijah's ministry. Both of them had dramatic ministries and both of them confronted kings. Both of these men were familiar with deserts and solitude. They wore the same type of garments and lived simply. Both of them had their ministries terminated by queens.

Benefit From the Tapes

In order to gain the maximum benefit from a tape, you must listen to it with a vision of eventually receiving an impartation of the anointing. Listen to the same tape several times. In my experience, this is different from listening to many different tapes of the same minister. When you want to get to Level F below, stay with the tapes you enjoy. Listen to tapes unconsciously and listen to them whilst praying and fasting. Allow yourself to receive the gift of God that is ministering to you. You must be open to the man of God who is ministering. You must receive him with admiration and with love, otherwise, you can get nothing from him or through him.

But as many as received him, to them gave he power...

John 1:12

CHAPTER 6

THE ART OF PREACHING AND THE ANOINTING

You can learn how to preach and teach by listening to tapes. I have not been to Bible school and did not have the privilege of being taught how to deliver a sermon. But there are many ways of learning the same thing. When I was practicing medicine I learnt a little phrase from the surgical department. They said, "Watch one, assist one and do one." What does this mean? It means that if you want to learn how to operate you watch one, you assist one and then you actually do an operation yourself.

Everyone can learn how to preach by listening to preaching. The best thing is to listen to other singers all the time. The

prophet Daniel studied what the prophet Jeremiah had taught. The prophet Jeremiah ministered from 685-616 B.C. and the prophet Daniel took over from 616-536 B.C. Daniel said very clearly that he knew what he knew by studying the books written by Jeremiah. Why are you afraid to learn from somebody if great men like Daniel were blessed by prophets like Jeremiah?

In the first day of his reign I Daniel understood by books the number of the years, whereof the word of the Lord came to Jeremiah the prophet, that he would accomplish seventy years in the desolations of Jerusalem.

Daniel 9:2

*Open up your heart and become a learner and receiver. After all, we all learn from somewhere. **It is insecure people who are afraid to show that they learnt what they know from somewhere!** Become so receptive that you receive the knowledge of the Word! Open your spirit so that you learn how to preach yourself! Open your heart so that you receive the anointing! I want you to notice these levels of receptivity that I have listed below and ask yourself where you fit in!*

Level A: *The word has no impact. You do not understand the message. You probably did not even like the message.*

Level B: *The word has an impact on you. You are excited and think that it is a good message. However, you only retain 11% of what was preached. This is usually what happens when a person listens to a tape just once.*

Level C: *You absorb the word even further but cannot reproduce the message.*

Level D: *You absorb the word so much that you can reproduce the message.*

Level E: *You begin to learn to how to preach and teach in the same anointed manner.*

Level F: *You absorb the word and at the same time begin to absorb the anointing and spirit of the message.*

Level G: *At this level, the transfer of an entire ministry gift takes place. Often an anointing which is on the speaker is transferred to you. Like John the Baptist and Elijah, similarities emerge between your ministries because the same anointing has been transferred.*

NOTICE THESE SIGNS

These are signs that you are on the road to catching the anointing.

- 1. You are able to follow the trend of the message; even when it is confusing and disorderly.*
- 2. You receive additional lessons that are not the main message. This is an important sign of you catching the anointing on the minister. You begin to know the mind and the heart of the person you are listening to. Most of these lessons are unrelated to the topic that is being taught. You begin to learn so many little things such as principled character, how to speak, how to analyze scripture and how to overcome problems.*

3. *You unconsciously begin to use certain phrases and points in these messages. Unknown to you, you begin to walk and think like the person you are listening to.*
4. You are able to minister the message with the same results. E.g. Church growth, miracles, people commenting on the word that they were blessed, people buying your tapes and people wanting to hear part two and part three. This is different from dry imitation, when you become an exact replicate of what you hear, but do not get the same results.

AVOID THESE MISTAKES

I am not teaching you not to study the Bible for yourself. I am not teaching you to neglect personal Bible study. That is a great mistake. I am an avid listener of tapes but I study the Word of God everyday. I have personal quiet times everyday. Many of my messages are what I have learnt from my daily Bible study.

- *Avoid the mistake of not reading the Bible and doing Bible study for yourself.*
- *Avoid the mistake of thinking that it is a man that is going to anoint you. God anoints you through a man .*
- *Avoid the mistake of only listening to tapes when you are going to preach. Listen to tapes all of the time. I listen to tapes all the time.*
- *Avoid the mistake of not doing further study on subjects or tapes you listen to*
- *Avoid the mistake of preaching about things you do not*

practice. Do not preach about things that you do not understand or believe in.

- *Avoid the mistake of simply imitating and copying someone without understanding the whole mystery of catching the anointing through soaking in the word.*
- *Avoid the mistake of leaving out the video dimension. The video dimension helps you to catch things that you cannot catch on a tape like posture, attire and gestures. Soaking in videos helps you to learn how to minister the Spirit and to minister with signs and wonders.*

Ignore the Ignoramuses

Listening to tapes over and over does not mean that you are engaging in mindless memorization. Some people call this, "Chew and pour." I just laugh to myself when I hear such comments. The most difficult time for me in the medical school was the second year. During the second year we had to study physiology, anatomy and biochemistry. Of these three subjects I found biochemistry the most difficult because it involved a lot of tedious memorization.

I am not teaching you to become a copycat. I am teaching you how to catch the anointing. I am teaching you to walk in the steps of anointed people. When a young girl is learning how to cook she is taught to follow a simple routine. As she does this over and over she is able to cook the food as well as her mother. With time she will develop her own variations and style. Would you call that daughter a mindless copycat? Would you say that she is engaging in senseless memorization? Certainly not! She is a humble learner.

Dear friend, the devil wants to keep you from the anointing. I

have heard people speaking sarcastically about this method of catching the anointing. Someone said that I was producing clones. What is a clone? Why do some people try to confuse God's sheep with clever sounding phrases? Quite frankly, I would rather hear my dog bark in the morning than listen to such rubbish!

When a doctor is learning to be a surgeon he has to closely observe what his professor does. Then he assists his professor several times. Soon he gets an opportunity to do the procedure himself. He gingerly follows the procedure that he has seen his professor do. He makes a few mistakes but soon he can perform the operation perfectly. If you watch this new surgeon closely you will realize that he is doing exactly what his professor does. With time, he develops his own additions or improvements to what he has learnt. Has the professor produced a clone? Certainly not! He has trained another competent surgeon.

When Paul was training Timothy for the ministry, he wrote to him and said, "My son preach the same things that I have preached to you. Spend time sharing the same things with the faithful brethren that you have."

Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, THE SAME COMMIT THOU TO FAITHFUL MEN, who shall be able to teach others also.

2 Timothy 2:1,2

Paul told Timothy to preach the same thing that he had preached. Was Paul producing mindless clones? Watch out for people who try to redescribe godly things and make them appear stupid.

When you soak in tapes many good things happen to you. You

*learn how to preach and you catch the anointing. It is funny how some people see things. Someone once said that he did not want to listen to tapes because he did not want to “lose his personality”. How would you lose your personality by exposing yourself to the anointing and the influence that comes from special men of God? When the choir in my church sings a song by Andrae Crouch or someone else are you telling me that they have lost their personality? Do you know that they would have to rehearse the song for several hours in order to get it just right. As they soak in this music over and over and as they try to do exactly what they are hearing, are you telling me that they are losing their personalities? **As I said earlier, I prefer to listen to my dogs barking in the morning than to listen to foolishness!** Remember what Paul said to the Corinthian Christians; he told them to follow him!*

Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:1

It's okay to follow people and to soak in their tapes as long as they are following Christ closely.

CHAPTER SEVEN

“AMAN” AND “TSALACH”

And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

2 Chronicles 20:20

In this famous scripture, you find Jehoshaphat, a church member, exhorting the rest of the congregation to believe in God as well as in the man of God. This famous speech teaches us a very great lesson for the ministry. In the first part of the scripture, there is a prediction that believing in God will lead to establishment. In the second part of the scripture, the promise is that believing in the prophet will lead to prosperity.

You see, Jehosophat was faced with a very difficult situation. Several kings were about to attack him and his nation was in crisis. He had called for a prayer meeting and much prayer had been offered to the Lord. At the end of the prayer meeting,

one of the pastors (Reverend Jahaziel) gave a prophecy. He prophesied that they were going to win the war. He predicted that God was going to fight for them and that everything was going to be okay. Because of this Jehosophat made the choir march in front of the army. That was a very dangerous move! But he believed in God and in the prophet – and it paid off! By the time Jehosophat and his followers had finished believing in God and in the prophet, they had more blessings than they could carry away. God blessed them with more than they could carry!

And when Jehoshaphat and his people came to take away the spoil of them, they found among them in abundance, both riches with the dead bodies, and precious jewels, which they stripped off for themselves, more than they could carry away: and they were three days in gathering of the spoil, it was so much.

2 Chronicles 20:25

The Hebrew word translated “established” in 2 Chronicles 20:20 is the word Aman. It means to nurture, to foster as a parent, to build up and to nurse. This teaches us that as you believe in God you will be nurtured and nursed by God. He will build you up in the faith and you will receive a strong foundation that only a parent can give. But this scripture goes on and says, Believe in the prophets and you will “prosper”. The Hebrew word translated “prosper” is the word Tsalach. It means to push forward, to go over, to come mightily and to break out! Aman and Tsalach are two very different experiences in the ministry.

*God will nurture you and build you up for His work. He will nurse you like a baby in a cradle. He will foster you like a parent and encourage you until you are well developed. **BUT THEN, YOU NEED A PUSH FORWARD IN THE MINISTRY.***

You need to come mightily in ministry. You need to break out into the fullness of your calling. God wants you to go over every wall and obstacle in your life and ministry. The question is, "How will you receive this push forward into ministry?" After you have been nurtured and fostered by Almighty God, what is the key to coming mightily to the front of the ministry lines? The key is to believe in the man of God.

Some people have a difficulty in believing in the man of God. They say, "I can believe in God, but I can't trust these men." They say, "I cannot put my trust in the arm of flesh." What you must realize is that you are not putting your trust in a human being, per se. The safety catch in this scripture is that you are supposed to believe both in God and in the man of God. One without the other will not get you where you need to go. Believing in God without believing in His prophets will help you to be nicely built up in Christ. But you will not have the push forward that you need. Believing in the man of God without believing in God is also very dangerous! You could easily make a mistake and follow the errors of a human being. That is why the two go together!

As you read this book, my prayer is that you would open yourself up to the blessings of Tsalach. The blessing of being pushed forward mightily in the ministry.

My early Christian life was one of being nurtured by God through great fellowships like the Scripture Union. I was raised in the Word of God. I was nourished through Bible studies and prayer. I can assure you that I grew steadily in the Lord. As the years went by I came across men of God who impacted my life. Without realizing what I was doing, I began to follow people like Kenneth Hagin, Fred Price and Yonggi Cho. I have closely followed and believed in the ministries and instructions of such men of God and it has pushed me forward in ministry. That is the reason why you are reading this book

now. *I always have a book or a tape that I am soaking in. It's alright to follow people closely as long as they are following Christ.*

Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.

1 Corinthians 11:1

It's alright to believe in a man of God as long as you simultaneously believe in God.

God gives everybody a man of God. Through the man of God in your life, you will receive a push into ministry. You will catch the anointing and you will break out mightily. Do not make the mistake of rejecting the man of God that God gives to you.

Many people's ministries end up nowhere because they refuse to get connected to God through a man of God. In Ghana, we have the Akosombo Dam as our major source of electricity. That is the world's largest man-made lake. I can assure you that it generates a lot of power. If I want to get connected to that power I do not have to travel to Akosombo. All I have to do is to plug into a socket nearby. The socket nearby is the man of God on this earth whom you can relate with. By connecting to him you will be connecting to God who is 'far away' in heaven. Plug into the socket and you will be connected to amazing power! Plug into the man of God and you will be startled to find that you are actually connected to incredible power itself. He that is plugged into the socket, is plugged into the Akosombo Dam itself.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

John 13:20

Look around you and see all those “unimpressive” sockets around you. Look around you and see all the “unimpressive” men of God. Make a connection to God through His chosen vessels. You can do that by listening to their tapes, watching their videos and reading their books. Do not make the mistake of rejecting this great opportunity to be pushed forward in the ministry.

Jesus was rejected by the people of his hometown. They could not believe that this unimpressive carpenter was the man of God for their lives. When Jesus told them that He was anointed to heal and preach, they were offended and angry. They ran him out of the city.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

And all they in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, And rose up, and thrust him out of the city, and led him unto the brow of the hill whereon their city was built, that they might cast him down headlong. But he passing through the midst of them went his way,

Luke 4:18,28-30

Others who believed in Jesus received Him and were blessed by His ministry. They received mighty breakthroughs for their lives and ministries. When Peter, James and John began ministering in the Book of Acts, many people noticed that they were heavily anointed. They began to ask themselves, “Who are these young men who have come mightily in ministry?”, “Who are these guys who have pushed to the forefront of ministry in Jerusalem?”, “Where did they get an anointing to preach and to heal the sick?”

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.

Acts 4:13

I see you being pushed forward in ministry! I see you coming mightily into the forefront of ministry in your city! I see you going over every obstacle and difficulty in your ministry! Tap into your man of God! Soak in the tapes and soak in the books! The anointing is yours for the taking! You are breaking out into fruitfulness and success in the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ!

Heavenly Father, I pray for every young man and woman who desires the anointing of the Holy Spirit. I pray for every pastor in the ministry. I pray that you would open their eyes of understanding that they may see the truth that is in Your Holy Word. Pour out your power and your Spirit on the ministers of this end-time harvest. O Lord, we need your anointing more than ever before. As your people tap into the men of God that You have given to us, may a Spirit of humility and receptivity engulf them. May precious mantles fall on those servants who desire to walk in a greater level of anointing. May every minister of the Lord Jesus who reads this book never be the same again! And may they be endowed with real power and real gifts from on high.

