

Holiness

UNTO THE

LORD

AN ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT FOR
TOTAL DELIVERANCE



DR. D. K. OLUKOYA

Warfare Prayer Series

44

**HOLINESS TO THE LORD,
AN ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT FOR
TOTAL DELIVERANCE**

***“But upon Mount Zion shall be deliverance,
and there shall be holiness; and
the house of Jacob shall
possess their possessions”
(Obadiah 1:17).***

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First Edition

Table of Contents

[Title Page](#)

[Copyright & Permissions](#)

[Introduction](#)

[Chapter 1: What is Holiness?](#)

[WHY PEOPLE MISS OUT ON GOD'S BLESSINGS](#)

[WHAT IS THE MEANING OF HOLINESS?](#)

[HOLINESS IS BY FOLLOWING CHRIST](#)

[HOLINESS IS THE REQUIREMENT FOR SEEING GOD](#)

[HOLINESS MEANS BEING STRAIGHTFORWARD](#)

[HOLINESS IS THAT IN WHICH GOD IS GLORIOUS](#)

[HOLINESS MAKES DELIVERANCE EASY](#)

[HOLINESS IS EMBRACING THE HOLY SPIRIT](#)

[HOLINESS IS THE CLEANSING OF THE SPIRIT AND
BODY](#)

[HOLINESS IS STANDING FIRM AND NOT FALLING
WHEN TEMPTED](#)

[HOLINESS IS BEING LIKE GOD](#)

[Chapter 2: Foundation of Holiness](#)

[WHAT TO DO TO ASCEND THE HILL OF GOD](#)

[CONSIDER THE ANALYSIS BELOW TO KNOW YOUR
OWN LEVEL OF CONSECRATION](#)

[Chapter 3: Holiness as Foundation of Brokenness](#)

[WHY THE GROANING?](#)

BIBLICAL VIEWS OF SIN
FACTS ABOUT SIN
WHAT HOLINESS IS NOT
WHY SHOULD A CHRISTIAN BE HOLY?

Chapter 4: Holiness & Health

BELIEVERS' POSSESSIONS
CONDITIONS FOR POSSESSING YOUR POSSESSION
THINGS TO GET DELIVERED FROM

Chapter 5: Holiness & The Tongue

SCRIPTURAL FACTS ON THE USE OF THE TONGUE
HOLINESS AND THE TONGUE
THE POWER OF THE TONGUE

Chapter 6: Holiness & Prosperity

HOLINESS AND PROSPERITY
GOD'S PROMISES OF PROSPERITY
SCRIPTURAL VERSES TO SHOW THAT GOD WANTS HIS CHILDREN TO PROSPER
WHY GOD WANTS HIS CHILDREN TO PROSPER
HOW TO PROSPER

Chapter 7: Personal Pentecost

THOSE WHO CANNOT RECEIVE THE POWER OF GOD
HOW TO EXPERIENCE PERSONAL PENTECOST
THE IN-FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
COMPULSORY STEP TO PERSONAL PENTECOST

Backcover

Introduction

It is clear that the foundation of spiritual revival is brokenness. To attain the height of brokenness, you have to be holy. It is also clear that the Bible says that without holiness, no man can see God. An unholy person cannot go to heaven. Someone may prophesy or work miracles but without holiness, he cannot enter into heaven. The Bible says that on the day of judgement, many people will tell the Lord that they did this and that in the church; singing, sweeping, ushering in His name, but the Lord will say: "Get thee away from Me, ye workers of iniquity." It is because such works were done in a state of uncleanness. You would need to pray that the Lord should open your understanding so that after reading this book, your life will never remain the same again. I thank God for the opportunity given me to share these words with you. I pray that you will apply them to your life and take them to heart. I believe that you will have great testimonies as you read and apply them.

Think about your background; maybe you come from a family completely given to idolatry, or occultism, you would need to pray against these spirits. Even if you hail from a Christian home, I would also want you to pray against the spirit of religion, because the spirit of religion is a great barrier to living a holy life.

Take these prayer points with aggression in your spirit:

1. I receive deliverance from the spirit of idolatry, in the name of Jesus.
2. I receive deliverance from the spirit of the bond woman, in the name of Jesus.
3. I receive deliverance from the spirit of occultism, in the name of Jesus.
4. I receive deliverance from the spirit of religion, in the name of Jesus.
5. O Lord, let your fire purify the foundation of my life, in the name of Jesus.
6. O Lord, make my life a miracle, in the name of Jesus.

Chapter 1

What is Holiness?

1 Thessalonians 4:7 says: "*For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.*"

In this verse, we can see two opposite words: UNCLEANNESS AND HOLINESS. It is possible for either of these two situations to exist in the life of a person.

A man of God was bothered about what was going on in his church. He had a serious burden for the members that were misbehaving; some of them were going through hard times in their businesses, careers, marriages, etc. He was so aggrieved, that he went into prayer and fasting to seek the face of the Lord. At night, he had a dream where he saw some people queuing up in front of a caterer who had a big pot of delicious food in front of him. The caterer had a serving spoon in his hand and was weeping profusely. The people who were on the queue too were weeping. They were asking the caterer to serve them food. Some of these people had rags on; some were skinny, hungry-looking and dirty. At a closer look, the man discovered that the people were members of his church for whom he had been praying. When he looked at the plates in their hands, he discovered that they were dirty. Some had leftovers on theirs, some had roaches going about on theirs, and some had faeces on theirs, while some had cobwebs on theirs, yet they were crying that the caterer should give them food. The caterer too was crying that they should wash their plates that he too would like to give them the food.

When he woke up, he wondered what the dream meant and the Lord told him that the people he saw were members of his congregation for whom he had been praying. God told him that the caterer was God Himself. The food in the pot was the spiritual and physical blessings that He would like to bestow upon the people, but He could not because the vessels of their lives

were dirty. The man of God then asked God to help them out. But God said they were the ones to clean themselves up, and that they had the will-power to decide on what to do. He said they were not robots, and were the ones to choose either death or life, uncleanness or holiness. God says He cannot give money to a person whose pockets are leaking.

WHY PEOPLE MISS OUT ON GOD'S BLESSINGS

Exodus 39: 30 says, "*And they made the plate of the holy crown of pure gold, and wrote upon it a writing, like to the engravings of a signet, HOLINESS TO THE LORD.*"

When God wanted to make Himself known to the Israelites, He asked Moses for a place where He could show His glory. He asked Moses to build a tabernacle in the wilderness and gave him specific dimensions and details on how to build it. He gave Moses the inscription in the above text as their watchword and that it should be written boldly in the tabernacle. This inscription gave access to the presence of God.

The reason for lack of communion with God today in the midst of Christians is the fact that this inscription has been removed from the tabernacle of many churches. That is why heaven seems to be far away from so many people and why many are missing it. That is also why so many people in the so-called Faith Movements are missing it: they want to exercise faith without holiness, prosperity without holiness, Bible knowledge without holiness, and theology without holiness. Holiness above all, is important to God. God demands holiness before you can see His glory. Do you want to see His glory? If you do, then, you have to be holy.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF HOLINESS?

It means spiritual cleanness.

It means setting apart a thing or person to the service of God (it is not a thing that would be lent out to the devil and brought back to God).

It means inward spiritual purity.

It means righteousness.

It means the total submission of spirit, soul and body to the Lord and also the submission of one's ambition, will, property, and possession, at the feet of the Lord.

It is the state of being a saint, having a life which has not only changed, but has been exchanged for a new one; and the old one having been nailed to the cross. It makes a person to forsake his old ways, and people around him or her would wonder how he or she became a changed person. Holiness is not just cleaning the outside but also, the inside.

HOLINESS IS BY FOLLOWING CHRIST

Phillippians 1: 21 says, "*For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*"

True holiness does not come from obeying a set of rules and regulations; it is by following Christ. When you decide to walk the way of holiness, challenges will come. All those who have made up their minds to make heaven would face challenges. They would be provoked and ridiculed even by fellow Christians. When you are a follower of Christ, and you do all that He asks you to do, then, you are on the path of holiness. The Bible talks about the path of holiness and presents the attainment of it as a journey. So, it means that it has a starting point and a destination.

One secret you must know is that without holiness, you cannot grow in God; the bigger you grow in God, the smaller you become, until you finally disappear and only God would be seen in you. The problem with the church today is that only a few people understand this phenomenon. In many cases, less than 80 per cent of the congregation is walking towards holiness and getting to heaven. This explains the powerlessness of Christians today. That is why there is no fire in the church. If 50 per cent of a church decides to make heaven, come what may that church would be on fire for the Lord. I am not referring to excitement and entertainment. I am referring to the fire of revival. God is looking for the people who would live the kind of life that would enable Him to make use of them. He cannot put His power in an unclean vessel; He will not use you if anger or pride is still in your life, or if any other pet sin is still ruling your life.

Anyone seeking holiness must first depart from the school of pride, self-righteousness and hypocrisy. Many people are spiritual chameleons. They are one thing in the church and another thing at work or elsewhere. This is why there is pollution in the church today. Many people think that God will reduce His standards; no. He will not. His weighing balance is still the same. He does not judge by the number of sins committed; just a little sin is enough to send a person to hell. After all, Lucifer committed only one sin and he was thrown out of heaven. If you have committed two or three, it means you have even beaten the devil. If you are ready to repent sincerely, God is ready to pardon you.

Isaiah 35: 8 says, "***And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.***"

In the way of holiness, there is neither lion nor ravenous wolf; sorrow and sighing flee away because it is the way of the Lord. There is joy in the way of holiness that is worth shouting about. It is the way of life where all uncleanness and everything dirty dear away. Someone or something that has been wholly set apart for God is easily identifiable because his total life, the way he talks and what he reads are totally wrapped up in God. Some people would say that all you need to do is to read the Bible, or go to church or sing choruses. The time is coming when you will know whether what you are doing amounts to anything in the spiritual realm. Many Christians have never read through the Bible, whereas, they can sit down for hours reading newspapers and magazines from cover to cover, including the obituary and advertisements. It has been observed that an average Christian does not know more than five Bible verses off hand. Probably John 31:6, Psalm 23, Genesis 1:1, and two more. God will not accept such standards.

When you have separated yourself unto the Lord, your life no longer remains the same. Your life is no longer yours, it becomes God's own. You are no longer in control and you are ready to sacrifice everything to the Lord Jesus Christ. You have the assurance that come what may, you are heading for heaven and when the trumpet shall sound you shall go home with the Lord. The kind of clothes that some Christians wear today and the

kind of dressing that some pastors permit are highly outrageous, all because they want to have large congregations. Some pastors withhold the truth from their congregation, some tell blatant lies because they do not want the people to go away. The blood of such people would be on the head of preachers like that. We do not hide the truth in MFM. We make known to people the standards of the Bible. If you are a sister and you put on trousers, you have to check it. If you are one of those who put them on to church, no matter your denomination, it means there is something wrong somewhere. It is a lack of respect for the Lord. If you have to struggle to cover your knees while seated because your dress or skirt is short, then there is something wrong somewhere. A Christian, who is a man is not supposed to put on chains, fly his collar, or leave the upper buttons of his shirt undone so that his chain and chest are exposed. God is not interested in your chains or your chest, all He wants is holiness within and without. If more sisters would become holy, there would be fewer breakdown of marriages. If more men would become holy, our country would be a better place.

All human beings belong to two classes: sinners or saints. When you pass from the state of a sinner to that of a saint, then, you are a Christian. You would have noticed that things work in threesome, like the Holy Trinity, where we have God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Another threesome that works together is Jesus, the Holy Spirit and the Church. People who have surrendered their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ are Christ-controlled, Christ-conformed, and Christ-centered.

The devil also copies the use of threesome; he works in conjunction with the world and the flesh: this is the evil trio meant to pull down the children of God. The devil's 'trio' is the direct opposite of the Holy Trinity which presents the picture of people who are satan-controlled, world-conformed, and flesh-centred.

Beloved, to which set of trio do you belong? There is no middle ground. When you are holy, you will not give place to the devil in any way, you will not be conformed to the world and you will put on a new 'man.' Therefore, holiness is oneness with Christ, likeness to Christ and fullness of Christ in you.

HOLINESS IS THE REQUIREMENT FOR SEEING GOD

Hebrews 12:14 says: "*Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.*"

This passage does not say that without holiness you cannot see visions; in fact, you can see all the visions that you want to see. It does not say you cannot receive miracles, no. It does not say you cannot prosper financially. You can. It says: "**Without holiness, no man can see God.**" Of what use then is a life that ends without seeing God in eternity? It would have been better if the person had not been born.

One day, there was a head-on collision that involved two trailers. One of the drivers died instantly, while the other one was unconscious. One of the trailers was loaded with chickens in cages and before anybody could do anything, it caught fire. The chickens struggled to fly out, but could not because they were in cages. They cried out in agony but nobody could move close to the fire to rescue them. They roasted alive. It was a terrible sight. This can be likened to hell fire. Once a person gets in, he or she cannot get out; there is no escape route from hell. The journey of life is one-way. Once it starts, there is no reverse. If you have been treading the path of holiness and you deviate, the Bible says that if you die in that state, Judgement would follow because there is no repentance after death.

"Without holiness, no man can see God." You may be called, Sister, Brother, Pastor, Sunday-School Teacher, Superintendent, and General Overseer, whatever is your post or name; without holiness, you cannot see God! It is the requirement for seeing God. Holiness is not required for getting miracles. Do you know that at crusades, unbelievers usually go home with outstanding miracles? However, if the enemy binds a person, there is a level of holiness that is required for God to intervene in that person's situation. Unholy life is an open door that lets in the enemy. It serves as a ladder for the enemy to climb into the life of a person and it is a legal ground on which the enemy stands in order to afflict the children of God.

God is a holy God and He has the Holy Spirit. He sent His holy Son to the world to make us holy. Those who serve Him must serve Him in truth and

in holiness. If you want to see God as He is, you must be holy. Holiness makes our offering acceptable to God. If you have a talent and you are using it in the house of God without living a holy life, the Bible says it is an abomination before the Lord; everything you do with it is a waste of time. When the test of fire comes, it will not stand. One thing you must know as a believer is the fact that the enemy knows your spiritual level. He knows those who fight and quarrel, those who are proud, and those who live in one sin or the other. He always laughs at them when they are 'playing church.'

There was a sister living abroad. She said whenever she closed from work and was about to leave the office, she noticed that three of her colleagues would still be at their tables, discussing. Whenever she passed by them, they would ask when she would come and join them. She would ask them what she was joining for, and they would say she was one of them. She did not understand what they meant until later when she discovered that they had initiated her into witchcraft without her knowing it, or consenting to it. This can only happen to a believer who is not living a holy life. Holiness makes our sacrifice acceptable. No matter what that sister would have done in the house of God, it would not be acceptable because she offered it in an unclean vessel. If someone gave you a cup to drink from, and you saw three ants and two cockroaches in it, you would first ask that the cup be washed before you pour your drink into it. God requires even more than mere cleaning before a vessel is used.

There were three brethren living together. Every night, they would sing and pray together before going to bed. They all had bad voices and always wished they could sing melodiously. One day, a pastor came on a visit and passed the night in their apartment. Before going to bed, they had a praise-worship session where the pastor ministered in songs. They listened on and wished they too could sing that way. They even clapped for him. In the middle of the night, an angel of the Lord came and woke them up, asking why they did not sing on that night as was their practice. They wondered what the angel meant because to them, that was the night they had the best singing there. The angel said that as far as heaven was concerned, there was no singing that night. God knows what is acceptable to Him. If you put someone on the pulpit to preach and he speaks eloquently, all his eloquently

would amount to nothing and would be unacceptable to God if his vessel is unholy. It will not touch any soul.

There was an Evangelist whose name was Benton. He was a fervent Christian but illiterate. One day, he went to preach in a place and many hardened criminals surrendered their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ. There was pandemonium when able-bodied men broke down crying to God for forgiveness. It was amazing to everyone because those who had gone before him were more learned than him and they spoke good English. This happened to the glory of God, because Brother Benton was doing what God asked him to do and was doing it the way He asked him to do it.

Beloved, anything you do for God is acceptable only through a life of holiness. You could be the best person at what you are doing; if your vessel is not holy, it will not be acceptable to God. Even Jesus says that if you are approaching the altar with your tithe or offering and you remember that someone has something against you, you have to leave your offering where you are and go back to the person and settle your differences with him or her, before proceeding to offer your offering to the Lord. This is why it is wrong for a church to distribute envelopes to demonic men and herbalists for contributions towards the work of God. Until such people come to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, their offering is unacceptable to God. In fact, the Bible says it is an abomination before the Lord.

HOLINESS MEANS BEING STRAIGHTFORWARD

Holiness is being straightforward. The Bible says, "let your yes be yes and your no be no." We should be able to tell people when they are wrong. Diplomacy is untruthfulness.

There was a brother working in a bank. One day, there was a fraud and as the Police came in to investigate, the Manager told them that he could vouch for the brother's innocence. He said he was 100 per cent sure that the brother did not know anything about the incidence. After all the investigations, the brother was found innocent. His boss was able to vouch for him because he had always demonstrated truthfulness in his ways.

Another brother went to a store to buy newspaper. When he got back home, he discovered that he had taken two instead of one. He went back to the store and returned it. The storekeeper was surprised at his truthfulness. One day, he went to that store again and there was a theft. He was one of the suspects but the storekeeper said he was sure that the brother could not have been the one who stole the money. A search was carried out and the culprit was found sharing the money with other thieves and was arrested. Holiness is being straightforward. A believer is always straightforward.

HOLINESS IS THAT IN WHICH GOD IS GLORIOUS

Exodus 15:11 says, *"Who is like unto thee, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like thee, glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, doing wonders?"*

Holiness is that in, which God is glorious. God is glorious in holiness and fearful in praises. The key to experiencing the glory of God is holiness.

Psalm 29: 2 says, *"Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness."*

Holiness is the state of the true worshipper. True worshippers demonstrate holiness. The woman at the well told Jesus that their fathers worshipped on a particular mountain and the Jews were asking them to worship in Jerusalem. Jesus told her that the time was coming, when those that worship God would have to worship Him in truth and in spirit; for it is such people that God is looking for (John 4:24).

HOLINESS MAKES DELIVERANCE EASY

Obadiah 1:17: *"But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions."*

Holiness is that which makes deliverance easy, in fact, a person who is not holy will get possessed repeatedly. One day, I was praying for a sister and a voice spoke out through her. It asked why it should leave the sister and I quoted necessary scriptures; that she had given her life to the Lord Jesus that she was now a new creature, her body was now the temple of the living God etc. I insisted and the voice said it would go out but that it would come back because she would soon go and commit fornication. The thing knew

the door through which it entered and if that sister did not repent of her sins, it would actually come back into her life. That is why the best protection against demonic invasion is holiness. If evil powers are still pressing you down on your bed, or there is something walking about in your body, I challenge you to check your life; you are likely to have pet sins in your life. It could be anger, lying or any other sin that people usually readily excuse. There must be a door through which demons enter into the life of a person. Some people are perfectionists and cannot tolerate anything short of the best. It gets on their nerves and they get angry, that state of mind opens doors to demons. When such people sweep, it is done perfectly. When they dress up, It is impeccable; therefore, if anything short of perfection comes their way, they really get angry. This could make them utter abusive words, which they would regret later; but the demon has already found its way in and would remain there, if not chased out. The Bible says that when a demon is chased out of a person, it does not really go far. It roams around, searching for a possibility of coming back. If it succeeds, it will come back with more wicked demons.

When you live a holy life, God will move closer to you and many things will begin to happen.

HOLINESS IS EMBRACING THE HOLY SPIRIT

Romans 1: 4: *"And declared to be the Son of God, with power; according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."*

The operation of the spirit of holiness in your life will be very big if you allow the Holy Spirit to work. Holiness is embracing the spirit of holiness.

HOLINESS IS THE CLEANSING OF THE SPIRIT AND BODY

2 Corinthians 7:1: *"Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."*

Holiness is perfected by the cleansing of the filthiness of the spirit and of the flesh. When God begins to work inside a life it will not be clear to other

people why God is helping the person so much. It is because such a person is living a holy life, the kind that God wants him or her to live.

HOLINESS IS STANDING FIRM AND NOT FALLING WHEN TEMPTED

1 Timothy 2:15: "*Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, If they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety.*"

Holiness is part of the requirements for a woman's safe delivery during childbirth. Holiness makes it impossible for the devil to have a hold on your life. Many people fail to recognise that the enemy is always watching out for their period of weakness. The enemy knows when your faith is high and when it is low.

Holiness is standing firm and not failing when you are tempted. When you are holy, you do not do anything that will make your brother or sister stumble. Rather, you will lift him or her up when he or she is falling.

HOLINESS IS BEING LIKE GOD

1 Peter 1:15-16: "*But as he which hath Called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation. Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.*"

Holiness is being like God. It is thinking, talking and behaving like God. When you are offended, ask yourself what God's reaction would be in that situation. Would Jesus fight back or abuse or curse people when they try to offend Him? If God is your Father and He is holy, then you must be holy. When you ask yourself these questions, your response to people would be different. When the Bible says something, we would do well to abide by it because it would help our spiritual and physical lives. When you are living a holy life, you have nothing to fear, you are not afraid of what the enemy will do because there is no doorway through which he can enter.

The natural man is born a sinner. He is like Lazarus that came out of the grave with grave-clothes on. Once a person is born, he is naturally a sinner. He does become one. The life of such a person is being controlled by the evil 'trio' – the devil, the world and sin. If such a person does not get out of

this entanglement, he or she would go to hell. If you have decided to come out of the natural sinful state of man, you have to keep it up by living a holy life; otherwise, your life will become weaker every day, and problems will set in. Every Christian is supposed to be a man or woman of supernatural, formidable power. Many Christians are good at talking and analysing, but are powerless. Many are feeble when it comes to spiritual things and they rub shoulders with the enemy everyday and are not a terror to the kingdom of darkness in any way. In fact, the sight of many Christians often makes hell to rejoice because they cannot do the demons any harm. Those are the unholy ones

Beloved, I would like you to consider these things and make up your mind to present a holy vessel before the Lord. Do you want to present an unclean vessel before the Lord? Are you satisfied with the kind of vessel that you are now? If you look deep down inside you, can you say you are clean? Can you say you are pure? If you consider all your thoughts of today, can you say that they are pure? Are they of God? Do you hear the voice of God in the midst of all the noise around you? Have you ever wondered why the voice of God is so faint in your ears? It is lack of holiness and God is calling out for a cleansing. He wants the filth in your spirit to be cleansed. He wants you to be completely sanctified. He wants you to pray your way into sanctification. He wants you to get to the level where your life is no longer yours but His. He wants your priority to be reviewed and you see every other thing as being useless, compared to eternity. He wants your life to become like what Paul meant when he said: "All things I have gained, I count but dung, for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ."

How many people have taken away their certificates or money with them when they died? Of what use is the talent of a person if he cannot make heaven? Popularity cannot take you to heaven. Many popular people have landed in hell fire. What is that thing that should delay you from moving the way God wants you to move? The secret of power is purity. The way up to God is down, that is, death to self. You must die to self and become pure. Do not just read about the saints in the Bible, become one too.

This is a serious matter. I want you to talk to the Lord. Pour out your heart to Him. Tell Him who you are, as you are. Sincerely expose yourself to

Him. Ask Him to help you. Do not play games with God, you cannot get to the mountaintop and play games with God. Hypocrisy must stop. Seek God's face while He may be found; call upon Him while He is near. Holiness is very essential to seeing God. A life that is void of holiness opens the door to the enemy to come in and steal what God has provided for him or her.

You cannot sow a bad seed and expect to reap good fruit. You cannot sow bad habits and reap a good life. You cannot sow jealousy and hatred and reap love and friendship. You cannot sow wicked thoughts and reap a clean life. You cannot spend your life doing the wrong thing and expect to reap a righteous life. You cannot sow crime and get away with it. You cannot sow crooked dealings and reap success. You cannot sow dishonesty and reap integrity. You cannot sow deception and hope to reap confidence. You cannot sow cruelty and hope to reap kindness. You cannot sow unseriousness and hope to reap seriousness from the Lord. Tell the Lord that you do not want to plant evil so that you will not reap evil.

If the Lord has been talking to you through this book, and you want a spiritual change to take place in your heart today and you know that your life needs some revision, I want you to take the following prayer points with serious aggression:

- O Lord, let me be all that you want me to be, in the name of Jesus.
- O Lord, I want nothing short of your perfect will for my life, in the name of Jesus.
- O Lord, cause me not to derail from your path for my life, in the name of Jesus.
- Every egg that the enemy has laid in my life, you must not hatch, rather, be roasted, in the name of Jesus.
- Every root of problems in my life, I curse you to dry up, in the name of Jesus.
- Father Lord, incubate me with the fire of the Holy Ghost, in the name of Jesus.

Chapter 2

Foundation of Holiness

Psalm 15:1: *"Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill?"*

These are very good questions. There is a difference between visiting and dwelling or abiding in the tabernacle of God. It is possible to attend or be in church without the church being in you. The questions are about, who should be thrown out of the wedding banquet like the man without the wedding garment.

The answer could be found in verses 2 – 5: *"He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth. In his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour. In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the Lord. He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not. He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent He that doeth these things shall never be moved."*

The staircase to the holy place of the Most high God is holiness. It is sad to know that there are many Christians today, who disgrace the name of the Lord in many places. They do things that would make people ask if they are really Christians. This is because they hear wrong teachings from wrong preachers everyday. Such preachers preach wrong messages compelled by wrong motives; they preach appealing things that tickle the ears. They preach what people want to hear. They tell them to come the way they are, that God loves them as they are (not letting them know that once they come, they should not remain as they are in their sinful state). They tell them to feel good about themselves and that God likes them, even though they are living in abomination. They tell them that God is going to fix them up, sort out everything in their lives, and that all they need to do for God to sort

them out is to just plant a seed of faith, that is, contribute money and they will be okay with God.

A lot of people use all kinds of clever technics to attract audience and donations. Unfortunately, such preachers cannot speak the truth like Nathan or Elijah. Nathan went to David and did not mind whether David was a king or not. He issued five curses from the Lord on David. He told him to his face that he was the one he was talking about. Elijah told King Ahab that he, the king and his father's house were the ones troubling Israel. The Lord wants us to set up what is known as Holy Ghost hospitals, where spiritual healing and restoration would take place.

People marvel at what is happening already at the Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries. But God says we are moving far behind the standard He is taking us. He says we have not seen anything yet.

Sometime ago, in one of the states in Nigeria, the state government recruited Chinese doctors to replace the Nigerians in the hospitals. Part of the complaints was that women paid the Nigerian doctors visits and chatted with them in the consulting rooms, whilst other people were queuing up outside. The first obvious thing that happened when the Chinese doctors came was that the long queues were eradicated. They brought out their tables and attended to people outside. But they did not understand much English. When patients came, they watched their hands to see where the patients would touch. If somebody touched his or her head, they would diagnose headache, if the person went further to touch anywhere else, they would conclude that the person had malaria and would prescribe drugs for them. And the pharmacy was always filled with people waiting for drugs. The Chinese doctors cleared the crowd in their clinics in no time and then sat back and read newspapers. The major problem that arose was that people were treated for ailments they did not have. Since they diagnosed by the gestures of the patients, they sometimes treated a person who had arthritis for headache. Some people who had high blood pressure were treated for malaria. Although the Chinese doctors succeeded in clearing the crowd, they did not solve the people's health problems. The effect of preaching a false message can be very disastrous.

I feel sorry for those who, after trying different types of vocations and do not succeed, come out and say that God has called them to be full-time preachers. Beloved, if you hear from God, then you are settled. It does not matter what anybody else says. If you hear from God, you have nothing to fear. If you do not hear anything, you have a race ahead of you and you have to run fast. Many have abandoned the true gospel and are only preaching material advancement whereas true prosperity comes from the inner man. It is when your spirit man prospers, that you as a person will truly prosper. A person whose spirit man is prospering can never be poor physically. If you see a Christian who is serving the Lord deeply from the bottom of his or her heart, he or she can never be poor. The psalmist says he has never seen the righteous forsaken nor his children begging for bread. The Bible says, "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all other things shall be added unto you."

In a place where people are taught to only pursue prosperity without spiritual advancement, you would have more of shallow churchgoers and few Christians. They would be clever fornicators, backbiters, gossips etc. Many people are in their religions today not because they are convinced to be there, but because they were born into it or their parents too are in them. I was talking to a Catholic one day, and I asked if he was born again but he did not know what it meant to be born again. I asked how he became a Catholic and he said he was born of Catholic parents. He said he went to the confessional every Saturday. I then asked what would happen if he died before the following Saturday. I told him he would go to hell. He mentioned that some of the people they were confessing to, were human too, and were also liable to sin. When a sinner confesses sins to a sinner, where do we go from there? In the Bible, there is no call to Catholicism or Protestantism; we are called to be born again. If you are not born again, and you go to church everyday and you even have a label, it is all a waste of time.

In a lot of places, people only preach prosperity messages thereby producing shallow churchgoers. Such teachings do not require self-discipline or hard, fervent praying. People like it because our society worships money and comfort. So, the success message is a cheap message for those who love 'fast food' Christian life. It is for those who do not want a

change in their lives. When a preacher decides to change the message of God, automatically, he changes the god of the message too. The god of success and "anything goes" does not mind whether people come to church bleached from head to toe; it does not matter if they dress half-naked with bangles and chains here and there. Some say that Christianity is not a set of rules and regulations. They have forgotten that the Bible is all about "thou shall not" and "thou shall." The god of "anything goes" is not the God of the Bible, but the god of the strange church mentioned in the Bible. It is a manufactured god, an idol, the god made by man in order to improve his own lot, while living in disobedience.

A long time ago, I was invited to a church where I preached and waited for the service to end. Another person was called upon to pray before the offering was collected. The man started another sermon; he said that Jesus was interested in money. He went on to refer to the passage where Jesus saw the widow who put a coin into the offering box. He said that it shows that Jesus was actively interested in money; otherwise, He would not have known how much the woman put in the box. Before we knew what was going on, he said he wanted five people to donate ₦10,000 each. Nobody raised his hand. He then reduced it to ₦5,000, still nobody reacted until he got to ₦2,000. He did not mind the man who asked if he could pay ₦5,000 in two installments. He told people that if they vowed and did not fulfill it, that this or that would happen to them. We have a lot of them in our streets today. It is spiritually fraudulent to take money for a church from someone who is not born again and is not sure of eternal life.

One day, a man came to see me and offered me a Mercedes Benz car. I told him that I was more interested in the salvation of his soul than the car. I told him to get born again first and then go for deliverance. I never saw him again. Modernised gospel makes people believe that God's major concern is to make people enjoy and have money, and not to be rigid on people. They treat God like a spiritual messenger sent on errand here and there. It is wrong. I wonder where they put the God of Abraham who asked him to sacrifice his only son. I wonder where they put the God of Isaac who submitted himself as sacrifice. I wonder where they put the God of Jacob, who ran him through the school of affliction, wrestled with him and

dislocated his thigh and Jacob became wise. I wonder where they put the God of Moses who said because of his anger Moses would only see the Promised Land, but not enter into it. I wonder where they put the God of the apostles who allowed them to be beaten, sometimes killed, because they would not stop preaching the gospel. Where did they put the God of our Lord Jesus Christ who allowed Him to be beaten and then nailed to the cross to die for the sins of the world?

Beloved, the job of a true man of God is not to give the people what they want but what they need. Sometimes, what you want is not what you need. It is like a man praying for showers of blessings and has a hole in his pocket. God would not want the person to lose whatever He gives to him or her so He would want the person to first block the hole in his pocket before He blesses the person. If such a person refuses to listen, God would be watching, until the person succumbs to His will.

The message of the cross has to do with the killing of the Son of God. He died on the cross so that we can become holy. If Jesus was on earth now, He would condemn the kind of life that many Christians are living today. The kind of Christianity that allows people to do what they want is not the Christianity of the Apostles. When a church spends much time praying, it begins to see what meets God's approval and what does not. It would lead to repentance and then, revival would break out. It is prayer that starts revival and sustains it. When there is sufficient prayer, the unrepentant heart cannot cope. When there is prayer and everybody is serious, things would begin to happen.

It is a pity to find that modern-day Christians are becoming a generation of entertainers and pleasure addicts. We have a lot of actors and many people hail them even on Television. The present-day Christians surrender to Jesus only when there is a problem, or in the time of adversity, and not willingly. Whereas one's commitment to God can be measured by his prayer life. It would tell if you really want God or just what He can do for you. If you really love God, you would pray in good times as much as you would in bad times. Those who are only interested in what God can give to them would stop praying immediately God gives them their miracles. We do not know serious Christians when things are going on well. It is when things get hard

that many people pray, including the serious and unserious ones. We need revival, it is not just the demonstration of power, miracles and deliverance and aggressive praying.

It is sad to hear some modern-day preachers condemn the old pathway followed by the Christians of old. But these preachers have never seen an angel; not to talk of being lifted into the heavens. Our Pentecostal fathers of old prayed to the extent of being lifted from the ground. When such people talk, I think they should be taken seriously. When a person who cannot read or write quotes Bible passages from Genesis to Revelation, he should be taken serious. The entire "get rich quick" messages that are pushing people about should be watched. If a man would give himself up to God completely through prayer and holiness, God would develop him into an unstoppable person.

Jacob was a supplanter and a cheat. Later, God renamed him Israel and he was never the same again. The spirit of Jacob is the "give me, give me spirit" but the spirit of Israel is the one that seeks the face of God, to know what to do at any given time. The spirit of Jacob is always looking at the hands of God, to know what God can give while the spirit of Israel looks at the face of God, to know what one should do, and how God feels about everything. If you ask God what He wants you to do, you are likely to be shocked at what He would tell you. One of the things that God may tell you is that the harvest is ripe, but the labourers are few and that even the few labourers are confused and are backbiting, fighting one another, etc. No wonder, the Bible says, "By whom shall Jacob arise, for his enemies are many even his few friends are fighting one another."

Think about it beloved, God is not looking for educated or illiterate people, He is not looking for the rich or poor or famous or unknown. He is looking for people that are available for His service. He wants obedient people. If you are educated and obedient, God would use you. If you are illiterate and obedient, He would use you too.

What is it that is worth a man's glorying in? Is it popularity? It would fade away as soon as he dies. Where are the politicians of the 1960s? They are dead and gone. Although they were popular at that time, the children of

today would only read about them in history books. If you have a post today, tomorrow you will become an "ex." We hear of ex-principals, ex-governors, ex-heads of state, etc. The only position you occupy and do not become an "ex" is your sonship to the Lord, except you decide to leave Him. We become children of God by divine appointment. Nobody can dismiss you, except you dismiss yourself. Popularity would fade away completely; even riches would fade away. I know at least two people who were very rich in the past and are now paupers. One was so rich that musicians even sang his praises. He came to our church to see me and introduced himself and I welcomed him. He repeated his name and I welcomed him again, he repeated it once more. I then asked why he kept saying that his name was so and so. He then asked if I did not know him, and if I had never heard of him. I was able to remember but he was a carcass of himself. Is it education? It fades away. Even if you glaze your certificates and hang them on your neck, people would think you are insane. They would soon fade away. They become pieces of papers once you are dead. Beauty fades too. The beauty queens of yesteryears are no longer the same now. Once a person dies, it is finished. You did not bring anything into the world; neither would you take anything out when you die. Since you know that your stay here is temporal, why do you want to spoil your eternal with the temporal? Is it wealth? It finishes.

One day, I went to the psychiatric hospital and saw a highly influential man crying. His only son was insane. He was trying to write with a pen that was covered with its lid. Many shameful things happen to influential families, which would make you know that indeed, vanity upon vanity; all is vanity as the word of God says it in the book of Ecclesiastes.

One big man died and at his funeral, was an insane man who said some things that made some sense to the people that were present. He asked them if the dead man could ride in any of his numerous cars any longer. He said that very soon, they would all go to his house and eat rice. There is some truth in what he said, even though he was insane. Of what use is the food you eat at the funeral of a person who has gone to hell? What are you celebrating?

WHAT TO DO TO ASCEND THE HILL OF GOD

1. Become born again: Genuine repentance and conversion is not about stories but a change in you. The day you get born again, you change citizenship. God told Adam and Eve not to eat of the fruit of a particular tree, that on the day they do, they would surely die. Of course, when they ate it, they died spiritually. It was not a physical death because Adam lived for over one hundred years. When you get born again, the Adamic nature in you dies. The spirit that died in Adam would die in you, and then you become a new creature. The nature of sin in you dies. If you were fornicating before, you would no longer fornicate or tell lies. If you were drinking before, you would stop, because you are now born from above, old things are passed away and all things have become new. I am not referring to confirmation or church posts. A woman felt insulted when I asked her if she was born again. She said she was "mother-in-Israel." Do you know that many people are doing God's business without knowing God Himself? Many call themselves pastors, evangelists but still get angry and insult people. They could call prayer points and things would happen because God would not disgrace His name. However, those things can stand against them on the Day of Judgment. I am not referring to the kind of people that dress almost half-naked or are fraudulent and still claim, to be born again. I am talking about those who have repented genuinely. I am not referring to those who have more than one wife and still claim to be born again.

2. Be convinced that there is a need for you to be holy: Matthew 5: 6 says, "*Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*"

There must be a hunger and thirst for holiness. The most blessed experience in life is for you to be in the presence of the Lord, and for Him to talk to you. How wonderful it would be to go to church and see angels descending to praise and worship God in the congregation. It would be a wonderful thing, just as the Bible says that eyes have not seen, nor ears heard neither has it come into the mind, the good things that God has prepared for the saints. I made up my mind that no matter what enjoyment the world has to offer I prefer God's presence and must make heaven. You must be convinced that it is possible to be holy and that it is for you. You must be convinced that holiness is essential for your victory and growth. You must

be convinced that before you can enter into heaven, holiness is essential. You must be convinced that you need holiness to dwell in the presence of God. You must hunger after it.

There is no power in the heavens and on earth that can overcome a person who is prayerful and holy. One of the problems the church is facing today is that people want to be holy without prayers. It is not possible. How can anyone do it by the works of his own hands?

Many years ago, someone came for the baptism of the Holy Ghost. In those days, we used to have a seven-day meeting. On Mondays, there would be teachings about repentance, and the prayers would dwell on salvation. Participants prayed themselves into salvation unlike nowadays when people are asked to raise their hands and they would be prayed for. The second day would dwell on sanctification. From the third day, teachings on the baptism of the Holy Ghost would begin and the prayer as well to the seventh day. It would be essentially for prayer on power. There was a man who came for the meeting the first week and did not receive the baptism. He came again the following week, and nothing happened. He came again the third week and the pastor called him and asked why he kept coming for the meeting every week. The man said it was because he had not received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The pastor then put him aside to pray for him. He laid his hand on him, and commanded him to receive the baptism but nothing happened. Then, the pastor saw an inscription on his forehead, which read ₦30, 000. He ignored it and continued praying. It came again, and the pastor stopped praying and asked the man what ₦30, 000 meant. He said it was the sum of money, which he stole from his sister. The pastor said he had to make restitution and he agreed. He got the money, confessed to his sister and returned the money. As soon as he stepped out of his sister's house, he burst out in tongues and started to prophesy.

Any small dirt in your life would block your spiritual pipe and you would not be able to receive any information from God. Many people hear sounds from God in their ears, which indicate that God wants to talk to them but their spiritual pipes are blocked. You would be held responsible for not hearing the message that God is passing across to you. Some people would start praying and the anointing would fall on them but for about ten minutes

they would still be sweating and shaking. They cannot prophesy. This is because their spiritual pipe is dirty. Some people that are supposed to be mountain movers and prevailing for the Lord are not because they are still busy with the world. They are still arguing about the use of earrings, make-up and worldly dressing. They are still in the primary school of faith, and busy arguing about the foundation. God is recording it against them. He is saying that they are not performing, and are losing opportunities.

Sometime ago, somebody asked why he was not filled with the Holy Ghost. The answer he got was that he was not hungry enough. It is true. When you are hungry enough, you will be filled with the Holy Ghost. There would be no great revival until the people of God are deeply convicted of their need for holiness and prayer. In the olden days, one miracle would convert three thousand people. Today, even five hundred miracles are not enough to convince some people that there is power in the name of Jesus. They would say they studied psychology, and that those things are not true. When people reason like that, they need deliverance.

Are you really desperate about being holy? If you are not, it means you are a secret back slider. The most hardened back sliders are those who have disobeyed the call to holiness. They would say they are confused, and that the devil is pushing them. They close their eyes to the truth. The way things are going now, you have to either seek God's holiness or begin to accommodate defeat. Besetting sins are becoming popular. The lack of power in prayer is becoming more rampant. Sometimes, when you go to some places and tell people to pray until something happens, they complain.

Genesis 5:22 says. ***"And Enoch walked with God after he begat Methuselah three hundred years, and begat sons and daughters."***

Enoch was God's friend; he walked with God. Methuselah was his son, and the only thing that was recorded for him was his age; he lived long. There was nothing about his spiritual life. A person could be old and useless. A person could be growing old, but not growing up in the faith. When Isaiah saw the Lord's holiness, he became convinced and convicted of his own unholiness. He saw the vision of the Almighty. When you see the vision of

the Almighty, you will know where you are and who you are. There is no hiding place before the Lord.

There was a man who was drowning in a river. As he was gulping the water and sinking, he saw flashes of his sinful ways, it continued and he was convicted of his sins. He had just enough time to repent and suddenly, someone who could swim dived into the river and rescued him. On getting out, he went straight to a church to confess his sins and pray for forgiveness. I pray that you will see the visions of the Almighty today, in the name of Jesus.

3. Confess your sins: After you have seen the need for holiness and have become hungry for it, the next step is to confess all your sins. You must be absolutely honest and thorough about it and with yourself. You must not tolerate or excuse sin in any way. You must not cover up sin; there is no small or big sin. There is no black, White, or red sin. Sin is sin. There is no harmless sin. Some people would say that they tell harmless lies. There is nothing like that. Sin is sin. There can be no cleansing until there is honest confession. It is so easy to talk about other people's sins and gossip about them, whereas you have not confessed your own.

Consider these important questions:

1. Is your heart clean?
2. Do you look at people with disdain?
3. Do you call people abusive names?

Duncan Campbell used to be a man of God whose revival services were always powerful. There was a woman who was attending the revival services and her husband, who was an unbeliever, did not like it. One evening, as she came home from a revival service, her husband was furious and lifted his hand to hit her but the hand became stiff in the air. He could neither put it down nor move it. He could not even talk for days. Later, the hand came down. That man did not need a preacher to tell him to surrender his life to Christ. He did it of his own volition, because he saw the demonstration of the raw power of God and the anointing bestowed upon his wife.

One day, Duncan was on his way to another crusade and the host pastor came to pick him in his car. Suddenly, a reckless driver drove roughly in front of the pastor and the pastor shouted; "You lousy idiot!" Duncan, surprised, told the pastor to stop the car and asked him if that language was from the pit of hell or from heaven. Thank God, the pastor was convicted and he repented, because that language actually came from the pit of hell.

There are some so-called Christians who boast in the fact that they have a wicked side which they can show if provoked. Why should a believer have a wicked part? Think about it. Do you have bitterness in your heart? There are some people who go to church but still have the ability to keep malice. Such people are on the expressway to hell fire if they do not repent. Some people are not meek; they feel insulted by the slightest mistake of people around them. Such people are actually in bondage. Many have unforgiving spirit; they do not love God with their whole heart. Many have pride, envy, jealousy, evil desires, evil ambitions, evil thoughts, unbelief, etc. They have to repent.

Does the Holy Spirit dwell in your heart all the time? Check-yourself and confess your sins. If these things are in your life, you must confess them to the Lord and your confession must be definite and specific, not general. You do not ask for forgiveness of "all" your sins at once. You should name them one by one, confess them, repent and forsake them. Ask God to forgive you. The sins could be in words, thoughts or actions. Confession of sins should be to God, not man; however, there are some cases where you have to confess to someone that you have wronged. Tell the person that you are sorry. It is a test of your sincerity, especially if the person is "inferior" to you in any way. You cannot be right with God if you cannot say "sorry".

Matthew 5: 23-24 says, ***"Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift."***

As Christians, we should not harbour any negative thing or thought in our hearts. One day, a preacher started to preach in a church. He found that he was not flowing in the spirit. He then stopped preaching and said; "Excuse

me ladies and gentlemen, someone is hindering the move of God in this meeting. Who is it?" There was total silence and suddenly, a man got up and said it was he. He said that he had been keeping malice against a brother for twelve months. Before long, many other people got up to say they too were guilty. The floor was then opened to reconciliation. After that, the service continued and revival broke out.

The confession of sin could be accompanied by restitution. The confession that brings holiness is the one that is from a broken and contrite heart. If you are desperate about holiness, you must be ready to pay the price. It does not matter whether you are old or young.

4. Consecrate yourself: Romans 12:1-2 says, *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: and be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."*

You must be completely yielded to God. You must climb the mountain of holiness with both feet, not with one foot in the world. No one can walk on the broad and narrow ways at the same time. When you put all on the altar, then fire will fall. After Elijah had put the whole animal on the altar, then, fire fell. Many people are putting incomplete body parts on the altar. If your legs are on the altar, you cannot go to film houses, disco halls or any unholy place. If your hands are not on the altar, that is when you can still shake strange hands, play cards, etc. When your hands and legs are on the altar, but your head is not there, then you would be able to use your brain to do evil. Many people have incomplete body parts on the altar of God. That is why they sing; "Come O Lord and fill me now...." and nothing happens. God would tell them that He wants to fill them but because their totality is not on the altar, He cannot do it.

Some people give excuses why they cannot be serious with God. Some would say it is because they are not yet married. It is a terrible mistake to look at it that way. If God tells a serious brother that a certain sister is his wife and the brother looks at her and sees that she is all painted up,

including her hair, he would think twice and pray harder, thinking that he did not hear God well. God would have to really convince him that the sister would become serious before he makes any move. A lot of people miss out on the will of God for a life partner as a result of this. There is a Yoruba adage, which says that a lady that was married out of a relationship that started in a dancing hall would eventually escape through dancing.

You must submit all that is yours on the altar; your career, certificates, knowledge, beauty, material possession, spiritual endowment, etc. Apart from giving up unclean things, you must be committed to the cause of the Lord. Many people do not contribute in any way to the work of God. Our level of consecration must increase. This is why spiritual gifts are so low in the church; not many people are ready to be consecrated to God but they want to be blessed. It is a pity that some Christians work less hard for God than politicians and soldiers do for their governments and countries. I am always amazed whenever I remember Mungo Park, David Livingstone, and Mary Slessor, who left their countries and came to Africa. They worked hard for humanity and died on the field. Their lives challenge me. They left the comfort of their homes in their countries to work in Africa for Africans. Christians today, are expected to be more committed. God wants our all, without any reservation. He wants the total surrender of our will. When the whole of your will is surrendered to Him, it is the practical evidence that He occupies the first place in your heart. God wants our time. Many people waste time on useless things at the expense of their relationship with Christ. Many people need to get out of worldly pleasures, useless speeches and idle conversations. We must surrender even our future. Self must die!

CONSIDER THE ANALYSIS BELOW TO KNOW YOUR OWN LEVEL OF CONSECRATION

1. 100 per cent of self – 0 per cent of God.
2. 50 per cent of self – 50 per cent of God.
3. 30 per cent of self – 70 per cent of God.
4. 0 per cent of self – 100 per cent of God.

Beloved, can you really say that your all is on the altar and are now waiting for the fire to fall on it? It is when your totality is on the altar that fire will

fall.

5. Claim the blessings: Believe that the blessing is for you. If you do not believe that you can be cleansed from anger, pride, envy, jealousy and be kept pure, you will not seek it.

When you imbibe holiness, you become the master of your circumstances. It is like heating up a needle and passing it through candle wax. It will pass through smoothly. Holiness will make you hot enough to burn through your circumstances, but you must believe that it is for you now. Procrastination is the friend of destruction. Do not postpone the day of your holiness. You must claim the blessing by faith and faith is now. Hope is the future. There is no point hoping that one day, you will become holy. Although holiness is a gradual process, if you believe, you will attain it. The approach to holiness is gradual; there is a moment of decision, you surrender all, confess all sins, trust Him and claim the blessings. At that moment, when you would have finished your part, you are cleansed and saved and sanctified from above, if you believe. A man could be dying gradually but there is one moment when he finally dies. So, it is with our spiritual lives; there is a moment when we finally die to self and are sanctified by faith. Circumstances cannot make you holy neither can they prevent you from becoming holy. It is a personal decision.

Many people excuse themselves from the guilt of sin by blaming their circumstances. A man who is committing adultery would blame his nagging wife for pushing him towards other women. Also, a woman would say it is her husband that is provoking her to anger. The question is; why do you have the tendency to fall into these sins? Why is it possible to be seduced into fornication or adultery? Why should you be provokable? If you are waiting for those around you to change before you change, it means you are hanging your holiness on your circumstances.

A man said it was impossible for him to change because he was working in a hotel. He was waiting until he got another job before he could become holy. Who was he playing games with?

6. Continue in the blessing of holiness by being obedient: To attain the level of holiness, you have to die to self. Dying to self is the beginning of

your walk with God. For you to walk with God, He has to mould you to suit His own purpose. For Him to mould you, He has to break you down, put you together and remould you. Then, you are ready to walk in the path of holiness. This takes us to the subject of brokenness as an ingredient of holiness.

Chapter 3

Holiness as Foundation of Brokenness

Romans 8: 22-23 says, *"For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption to wit, the redemption of our body."*

The words in this text are very heavy. Paul did not say: "We think," he said, "We know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth." These two words are not pleasant feelings. They are not enjoyable experiences.

Many years ago, when I was in England, a white woman who was about to give birth went to the hospital. She met the Chief Consultant who introduced her to the doctor and the nurse on duty that night. They were both blacks. The woman said she did not want to be attended to by blacks. The Chief Consultant said they were the ones on duty and he walked away and advised the doctor and nurse too to go back to their offices. After a while, the woman fell into labour and cried out for the consultant. He came and asked what she wanted; she said that she needed their help to be delivered of the baby. The consultant reminded her that the doctor and nurse that were available were blacks. She said it did not matter. She was no longer at ease, so, she did not mind being touched by black people. They attended to her and she had her baby safely. Two weeks later, she came back to the hospital to apologise to the doctor and nurse. By then, she had overcome the effect of the travail of childbirth.

Groaning and travailing could be very terrible experiences. It could be a matter of life and death. The groaning and travailing of man could mean desperation. Many were born to be very rich but have been turned to paupers by the world. Many are supposed to be healthy but have been turned to invalids. Many are supposed to make others rejoice but they

themselves have become embittered, melancholic and mournful. Many have been tied up with unprofitable things and unprofitable people. These situations push some people to consult herbalists, seek help in the cemetery, etc.

One day, we were about to have a meal at a meeting. A man was called upon to pray and he started off by reciting Psalm 1. When he finished, he said: "Glory be to God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now and forever more." Before we knew it, he went on to Psalm 2, then, he went on and on, By the time he finished the seventh Psalm; I tapped him on the shoulder and told him that the food was getting cold. After the meeting, I asked how he managed to know all those Psalms off hand. He said he learnt them when he was bombarded with a lot of problems at the same time. This is what is called the groaning and travailing of man. This brother did not memorise the Psalms in the time of peace. He knew that if he quoted the scriptures, the enemy would leave him alone. The Bible says that even unbelievers groan. The groaning of Christians is based on the fact that one day we would leave this flesh and go to be with our Father.

WHY THE GROANING?

Some people that are meant to be great are being belittled. The Bible makes it clear that as far as man has refused to go the way of the Lord and has chosen to go his own way, he will meet nothing but destruction. The Bible says: "There is a way that seemeth right unto men but the end thereof, is death."

Samson told his parents to marry a wife for him from the midst of the Philistines. They told him that it was contrary to the will of God. He insisted and said she pleased him. They reminded him of the fact that he was a judge in Israel and a deliverer and if they did that, he would be setting a bad example for others to follow. He insisted. They told him the implications but he went ahead. He married Delilah and she sold him out to the enemies. Samson became a blind man and grinder of pepper; a whole judge. Why? It was because he lacked brokenness. If Samson was broken, the first day he saw Delilah, he would have taken to his heels, and if anyone

called him back, he would not have stopped. An unbroken person likes to observe and examine sin; whereas, the Bible says: "Flee all appearances of evil." As far as men refuse to be broken, the groaning and travailing will get worse, and may result to death.

Hebrews 12:4 says, "***Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.***"

When you are fighting against sin, you do it deep down unto your being. Then you get to a level where doing the will of God comes naturally; no one forces you again. For example, if you ask me to tell a lie, I will find it very difficult to do so whereas, telling the truth comes naturally. If you find it easy to tell lies or go into any sin, then you are on the way of destruction. It means you are not resisting unto blood, fighting against sin.

Hebrews 12:14 says: "***Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord.***"

You may see a vision; you may see your pastor, but not the Lord. The foundation of brokenness is holiness: then you build up from there. Holiness is being a partaker of the Divine Nature, the way God is. This means that a holy person is like God. The person is conformed to God in his nature. The whole goal of God for our lives is to be conformed to the image of Christ. You can see it as a dress. The shape or size does not change. If you grow fatter than it, you have to trim down. If you grow thinner, you have to fatten up for it to suit you. It cannot cooperate with you. It is you that should cooperate with it. Many people want to serve God on their own terms. No, it is on God's terms that you have to serve Him. Living a life of likeness to God, as is revealed in Jesus, is holiness. It is to be like Jesus in all our dealings, separation from the world, love for others, etc. Holiness is not maturity. In fact, it is when you start becoming holy that you start getting mature. Holiness is purity. It is your heart being pure, cleansed from sin and full of love. The Bible makes us understand that if there is any little sin in our lives we have not yet started the journey of holiness, let alone being broken.

BIBLICAL VIEWS OF SIN

The Bible takes the issue of sin seriously. There are about seven definitions of sin in the Bible, which are very clear for everyone to understand

1. Proverbs 10:19: "***In the multitude of words, there wanteth not sin; but he that refraineth his lips is wise.***" This means that vain talks, useless and fruitless talks are sinful."

2. Proverbs 14:21: "***He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he.***" Contempt for others or despising them is sinful.

3. Proverbs 24:9: "***The thought of foolishness is sin and the scorner is an abomination to men.***" The Thought of fornication, adultery, etc is sinful, even without going into the real act.

4. Romans 14:23: "***And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith for whatsoever is not faith, is sin***" This means that doubt or unbelief is sinful. If you come to God and you do not believe that He can sort you out, you are committing sin.

5. James 4:17: "***Therefore, to Him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin.***" If you are in the house of God, and watch while His work goes bad, it means that the zeal of God has not consumed you; you are not bothered, and you neglect opportunities. The Bible says you are a sinner. It does not matter which Bible College you attended and which collar is on your neck. The Bible says you are a sinner.

6. 1 John 3:4: "***Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law; for sin is the transgression of the law.***" When God says; "thou shall not..." and you do it, the Bible says you are a sinner.

7. 1 John 5:17: "***All unrighteousness is sin and there is a sin not unto death.***" All covered, cleverly concealed sin is an act of unrighteousness. There is nothing like being diplomatic. Once it is a lie and deception, it is sinful. Sin is an unpleasant companion.

FACTS ABOUT SIN

1. It is an unpleasant companion: There was a man travelling in a desert; after some time, he got to a place where he constructed a tent and took refuge in it. After a while, his camel asked if it could put its head in the shade of the tent because of the cold. The man allowed it. After a while, it complained about the cold beating its neck and asked if it could bring it into the tent. The man agreed. Later, it was its back and before the man knew it, the camel had forced its way into the tent and it collapsed. Then, the desert wind blew it away. Both the man and the camel were left with no shelter, they both suffered in the cold. It was an unpleasant experience. It is the same thing with sin in the eyes of God. Sin behaves like that camel; it comes in gradually, and if given room, it would take over and destroy the person. It is an unpleasant companion.

2. Sin is a personal destroyer: There was an old couple who had only one son. The young boy went to town in search of the Golden Fleece. He went away without communicating with his parents. They lost hope as they were growing old. They thought he had died. One day, a very rich young man came to town looking for his parents. He got to the house of this couple and asked if he could pass the night there for a fee and they agreed. The couple saw that the young man was a stranger and was rich, so they planned to kill him in the middle of the night. They killed him and buried his corpse in their yard and took all his belongings. The following morning, a friend came to congratulate them on the arrival of their visitor. They pretended not to have seen anyone. Later, the friend told them that he recognised the visitor, that he was their son. They could not believe their ears and it then dawned on them that they had killed and buried their only son, because of money. Sin is a personal destroyer. When you commit sin, you are killing yourself in installments. The devil knows that you are killing yourself and he will encourage you. In fact, he will give you many reasons why you should continue in sin.

3. Sin is a champion of disgrace: There was a man of God who was committing fornication and thought he was enjoying himself. During the convention of his church, there was a word of prophecy and the Lord exposed him before everybody and gave him a punishment. He was to

stay in the church hall for three nights and anyone who helped him would suffer too. When your heart is cleansed from sin, then, holiness starts.

4. Sin is a hard task master: There was a man who used to sell toast-bread. He used to cheat on the women who sold eggs to him. One day, he did it to a woman who used charms on him and made him fall and she sat upon him in the full glare of everybody. Neighbours begged her to leave the man alone. She agreed only on the condition that she got her money. So the man whilst under her described where his money was. She went there, took all the money and left. Everybody cleared out of her way as she was leaving. You may think you are clever but when it catches up with you like that woman, it will disgrace you as she did the man.

5. Sin is a clever detective: There is no escape. The Bible says: "Though hands join in hands, no sinner shall go unpunished." Also, it says that "Your sins shall find you out." Sometimes, the State detectives could fail but sin does not fail. A certain German boy trained a bird to steal. He trained it to carry out evil assignments. One day, he wrote a short note to a rich woman, telling her to drop a certain amount of money somewhere otherwise, she would die. The woman contacted the police and captured the bird. The police came with their helicopter and asked the woman to release the bird. She did and the bird flew to the boy. The police too landed in their helicopter and asked him questions. He denied knowing anything about the bird. They took the bird five miles away and released it, and it located the boy again. They took it farther and it still located him. Even though it was obvious that the boy was telling a lie; he continued denying the bird. Sin is like that bird, it will find you out. No matter how clever or smart you may be. Holiness is when you are free from sin and every unclean and selfish thought has been wiped out. It is when you are wholly dedicated to your God.

6. Sin makes a person to grow old fast: It makes you look older than your age. Holiness gives an inward peace and the love of God fills your heart. It makes you to be free from frustration, doubt and worry. It also makes you to be free from internal strife which destroys the body. Every part of your body, internally and externally share from your spiritual blessing and makes you to look fresh always. If you see anyone who is confused

internally, it would show externally. If you are holy internally, it would show externally. The Bible is the word of God. It is holy and is meant to make us holy. When you are holy, you will put off the flesh and put on the new man. Holiness is more than a doctrine. It is Jesus Himself. It is an experience.

These days, we see people turning holiness upside down. So, it is essential for me to let you know what holiness is not.

WHAT HOLINESS IS NOT

1. Holiness is not freedom from temptation: Jesus was sinless in all points, yet He was tempted. Hebrews 2:18 says, "*For in that he Himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.*"

The devil will always attack those who are most dangerous to him. If he looks at a person and sees that he or she is a spiritual nonentity, he will not trouble the person. He will treat the person like a Christmas goat. He will feed the person very well, so that he will be delicious to eat. Those who are doing all kinds of things against God, and yet are getting richer everyday are 'Christmas goats' for the devil. No one will be able to deliver them. Some of them are making fun of the children of God who are living holy lives. They ask them what they have gained from their holiness. They do not know that as far as the Kingdom of God is concerned, money is valueless, certificate has no value, and grammar is useless.

I saw a cartoon where there were some men at a table, drinking alcohol. Under their table was a demon, sleeping. Next to the cartoon was another one, where people were tramping to church. There were about seven demons there, pulling people's clothes, trying to dissuade them from entering into the church. These two cartoons depict the activities of satan and his demons in relation to people. The first one shows that the devil is not bothered about those who are his, because he has already pocketed them. The second one shows that he has to put in some effort, when it comes to the children of God.

Some people wonder why they are being attacked, despite all their efforts to serve God. They have forgotten that the devil is not at ease when he sees

people who are bent on serving God and making heaven. Thank God for the work, which has already been accomplished on the cross at Calvary.

So, you should know that temptation is not a sin, unless you yield to it. Someone said you may not be able to stop birds from flying over your head but at least, you can prevent them from building a nest on your head. All you need to do is prepare your bow and they will flee.

We face temptations everyday. It is a wonderful thing for a person to get to the state of being dead to sin. I pray that you will get there, in the name of Jesus. Some people say there is a limit to human endurance, that they were just trying to be friendly when they fell into sin. Such people are still struggling in the wilderness.

2. It is not an experience that cannot be lost: Just as a person can lose his salvation and sanctification, so also can a person lose the blessing of holiness. If he or she is not careful. It is a daily affair. It is not a thing that you accumulate for the future. The one that you had yesterday is not even sufficient for today because the devil too has not relaxed.

3. Holiness is not freedom from mistakes: A holy person could make mistakes but must make amends immediately and must not retain a jot of sin in his heart. Paul was arraigned before the high priest and he started to say that he had been of good conscience before God and man. The high priest regarded that as blasphemy and commanded those around to give him a slap and someone did. Paul got upset and protested saying that the treatment was contrary to the law. When he was told that the man was the high priest, he apologised. He no longer argued to defend his reaction like many people would have done today. I have a pastor friend whose Bible fell into the grave the first time he conducted a burial service. He was embarrassed and so was everyone. He did not know all the things to be read and recited off hand.

4. Holiness is not freedom from natural desires: Anger for example, is carnal and sinful, but righteous anger against the devil and sin is not a sin. You should know that it is with the devil that you should be angry when evil powers manifest. Some people are always complaining; they are angry with everything, including the weather. All these complaints should actually be

directed towards the devil. Worldliness is sin, but someone who is tired and takes a rest, has not sinned. Gluttony is sin, but when you eat normal food and take a normal quantity, you have not sinned. Holiness does not mean that you will no longer be hungry or tired.

5. Holiness is not freedom from trouble: The fact that you are living a holy life does not mean that you cannot have one or two problems. But Christians should not be overcome by problems.

6. Holiness is not superiority complex or holier than thou attitude: A holy man should actually be humble and conscious of his own weakness. God demands that His children be holy. It is not optional, it is essential for all Christians.

WHY SHOULD A CHRISTIAN BE HOLY?

1. It is the will of God: The Bible says: "Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven." It is God's command as 1 Peter 1:16 expresses it: "***Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.***" To disobey this command of holiness is sinful and it leads to back sliding and darkness.

The truth about spiritual experience is that you cannot remain static. You are either moving forward or backwards. If you do not go forward, you are bound to move backwards. Holiness is promised by God. God says that it is possible. It is God's prayer for us. Jesus prayed for us in John 17, that we might be sanctified and be holy. Holiness was exemplified by Jesus Himself. His whole life was a perfect illustration of all that is taught about holiness and we have to be like Him.

2. Holiness is necessary to keep us from backsliding: There is a great army of back sliders everywhere now and the chief reason for back sliding is failure to seek after holiness. The Christian life is like a man rowing a boat up a river. If he stops rowing, his speed will reduce and the boat will drift backwards or downstream; it cannot stand still, otherwise, it will capsize. Back sliding is a gradual process, it goes on unnoticed. It is possible for a person to still perform religious duties even though he is back sliding. Samson was a good leader for twenty years but at a stage in his life, he failed to move forward, he gave in to the lust in his heart. He married a

Philistine who sold him to his enemies. At the time he got up and wanted to do as he used to, he realised that he had been shaven. He did not know that the Lord had departed from him.

You rarely find Christians committing sin openly. The sin most Christians engage in is the one in the heart. Many people rob God in their tithes and offerings since it is between them and God. In MFM for example, there are no cards where people fill in their tithes because the Bible says that your right hand should not know what the left is doing. In that area, it is easy for those who are not sincere to cheat, and they would be wondering why their finances are upside down. They have to repent. Such people are called secret back sliders. Secret back sliders are most of the time, the most vocal people around. They are always at the forefront in everything; they are the ones that make people see them carrying Bibles, going from house to house, not knowing that the devil has already finished them.

3. Holiness helps us to witness effectively for Christ: The world no longer reads the Bible; it is Christians that they study now. An impatient or bad-tempered woman would find it difficult to witness to her husband and when she invites him to church, he is likely to refuse because she is not a good example. There is no evidence of salvation in her life. Many Christians still get angry; where then is the power to witness? Smith Wigglesworth was a great evangelist. He would have been lost forever if not for his wife. Her life challenged him into surrendering his life to the Lord Jesus Christ. His wife was a Christian and was attending meetings regularly. He warned her that any day she came in after 8 pm she would sleep outside. It was a cold country, where one could freeze to death. One evening, she went to the meeting and Smith locked the door at 8:01 pm. When she came back, she found the door locked and passed the night outside in the cold. The following morning, Smith opened the door and found her outside; she greeted him and told him that she would get his breakfast ready soon. He was dazed. He thought that as soon as he opened the door, she would pounce on him and fight it out with him. He then said he would go with her to that place that had transformed her life. That was how Smith Wigglesworth gave his life to Christ. He became a renowned evangelist and did exploits for the Lord.

4. Holiness is necessary because the Lord's return is near: Anytime from now the trumpet will sound and holiness is necessary if you must enter into heaven. No sin, no impurity, bitterness, pride, or jealousy can enter into heaven. It is a holy place for holy people. Satan was once a prince of God but he was cast down from heaven when pride entered into his heart. He committed only one sin: pride. Many people are committing more than five sins today. When you tell some people to live a life of holiness, they think you are exaggerating and claim to be free to live their lives the way they want. Anyone that wants this kind of freedom is like a train that is complaining about treading on two rails only. If it goes off the rails, it would be destroyed. We should be holy then, so that God can use us. The mightiest men of God have been holy men. Men with clean hearts, who are on fire for God, are the ones who move mountains. They are the ones who are great in the sight of the Lord. As long as there is a root of sin in your life, the Holy Ghost cannot have his way in your life and usefulness is hindered.

One day, a young man was praying for power and nothing happened. God ministered to him that he had to clean his vessel first. So, his prayer changed to "O Lord, I will give up every sin, forgive me." When he became clean, things began to happen. To be holy and useful to God is far better than any worldly post. Jesus died to make us holy so we have to be holy. He gave Himself up to beating and received stripes for our sake. People spat on His face for our sake. He was mocked and a crown of thorns was placed upon His head for our sake. So, let us not disappoint Him. Let not His blood be shed in vain for our lives. He was pushed across the streets, with a heavy cross upon His head. He did not sleep for several days; they took Him from one judgment seat to the other, from Pilate to Herod. All the disciples who were with Him ran away. Even Peter, who was very bold, followed from afar. When someone cornered him and said he was one of them, he denied it and began to curse himself until the cock crowed the third time. People gathered on roof-tops to watch the Saviour pass by with the cross. He could not move fast because He was weak and at a point, He fell and the Roman soldiers commanded one of the on-lookers to carry the cross for Him. (I praise God that the person who carried the cross on that day was an African. Every good student of the Bible would have discovered

that at any point when God wanted to do something spectacular, an African turned up and was used in effecting a dramatic change. This man's name was Simon. Also, the wife of Moses was an Ethiopian . In the book of Acts, the gospel was first preached to an African: the Ethiopian Eunuch, apart from the Jews. If you read about the church in Antioch, there was an African amongst them. Something is still going to happen, that would change the course of the life of Africans).

5. In order to be saved: Sin in the heart is more dangerous than gun powder and bomb under a bed. Holiness Is the surest protection against all demonic dangers. Samson fell due to lack of holiness. With holiness, Joseph and Daniel resisted temptation. The three Hebrew boys resisted oppression and gladly faced death, rather than deny the Lord. Stephen and Paul faced persecution. Without holiness, no man can see the Lord. 2 Corinthians 10:6 says, "***And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is complete.***"

Now that it is established that holiness is the foundation of brokenness, which is a criterion for total deliverance, we shall see major steps leading to holiness. I am not referring to theoretical holiness. There are many people who can preach and teach the subject of holiness from morning till night but if they get a little pinch, they react violently. I am not referring to intellectual holiness, where it is dissected and analysed. Some people organise prayer seminars and quote big words from big books, and when it is time to pray, they become gentlemen; some of them keep opening their eyes during prayer. They do not want to sweat. In fact, they could have a tiny bottle of perfume in their pockets so that they can refresh themselves after praying. Theoretical and intellectual holiness are no holiness at all people, who practice them do not only deceive themselves, but also hinder others.

The way God operates is this; for you to harvest yam or maize, you have to till the ground, sow the seeds, keep the weeds away; etc. It is the Lord that would give rain, sunshine, dewdrops, fresh air, etc to make the seeds to grow. Then you will gather the harvest. Likewise, for a person to be saved from sin, he or she has to cooperate with God. The major step leading to holiness is to become born again. You must be converted. There is no

experience as miserable as trying to live a holy life without being born again. This was the mistake of Nicodemus. Unless this first step about new birth is taken care of, all that follows would end in confusion and disappointment. Before you can build a good house or good character, you must have the right foundation, so that your building or good character will not collapse. It is a disaster to build on sand. Before you can have abundant life as a Christian, you must first have life because dead things cannot grow. Until you are born again, the Bible says you are dead in sin. There must be a root before you can have fruits.

Some people want to live moral, disciplined lives without being born again. It is like wanting to swim without entering into water. Let it be clear to you that no one becomes a Christian because he or she is born into a Christian home, by Christian parents. Is it possible for a goat that is delivered in a hospital to become a human being? All those experiences that some people talk about are not valuable if within your heart, you are not converted. If you do not know the day you got born again, it means you are not yet born again. If you can remember the day you turned 21 or 40, etc, you should know when you got born again, if you really are. It is the most important birthday because that is the day you took the first step into the kingdom of heaven. You must know, because it is an experience where you came to the realisation of your sinful state and you cried to the Lord for help and forgiveness and you became a part of the kingdom of heaven.

The Bible says, "If the foundation be destroyed, what can the righteousness do?" Many people are trying to build on faulty and weak foundations. God wants broken people. They are the ones that God can commit His treasures to. Woe unto the enemy that would attack you when God commits His treasures into your hands. When you are broken, you will be able to become holy and then, woe unto the enemy that will dare attack you, woe unto the herbalist that will dare send arrows to you. When you are broken and holy, woe unto that problem that would harass you; because they become instant enemies of the living God.

Talk to the Lord now; tell Him who you are deep down inside you. Ask Him to help you, forgive your sins and take you into His marvellous light. Ask Him to reveal to you whatever is hindering your spiritual growth.

Take these prayer points seriously:

- O Lord, let holiness be my food, in the name of Jesus.
- I break the hold of back sliding upon my life, in the name of Jesus.
- Let the power to be on the mountaintop descend upon me, in the name of Jesus.
- I receive the power to escape from the valley of defeat, in the name Jesus.
- I put myself in the envelope of fire, in the name of Jesus.

Chapter 4

Holiness & Health

The issue of holiness is eternal. It is forever. Even when everything we are doing on earth comes to a close, holiness will still be required, because God is a holy God. Health is temporal. No one can live for 200 years. Even if a person lives up to that age, he or she would not be able to do much for himself or herself. The person would even be praying to die because he or she would be absolutely useless and would be a burden to some other people.

Obadiah 1:17 says, ***"But upon mount Zion shall be deliverance and there shall be holiness; and the house of Jacob shall possess their possession."***

These are days of abundant opportunities for the Christians; it is therefore not a time to behave cowardly before the enemy. It is actually time for you to possess your possession. As soon as you were conceived, you became a winner because biologists say that many spermatozoa struggle to fertilize one egg. The one that wins fertilizes the egg and their union becomes a foetus. So, it means that you have been a winner from your mother's womb and God has planted some things into your life that are meant to make you prosper. It is unfortunate, however, to note that some people never smell greatness throughout their lives. Some are still fighting to obtain their own. Some are not even aware that they have hidden things in their lives.

When a person gets born again, he or she has an additional possession given to him or her by the Holy Spirit. Those who do not possess their possession are allowing the following prophecy to come to pass in their lives: "From him who has little, shall that which he has be taken away." It means that the poor is getting poorer, while the rich is getting richer. It is not supposed to be so. These days, the problems of many people seem to be on the increase. Things that used to require five minutes of praying now require three days. Sometimes, things that used to require 6-12pm fasting now require 3 days

dry fast. Some people who used to have spiritual gifts no longer have them because they have either disappeared, or are disappearing. Some have attended spiritual gatherings where their spiritual power has been sapped from them, as if with syringes. Some people's virtues are sapped through church posts. They get embittered when they are not voted into power. They create enemies through elections, thereby giving the enemy access to their lives.

A certain brother had a dream where he saw someone running after him with a syringe. It was in the compound of his church. He saw himself run into the church, under the pews, here and there, into the vestry and was eventually caught and the syringe was used to drain his blood. It was then he knew that he had to leave that church, but the harm had already been done.

There are many people who do not know what anointing is. There are many who are getting convinced by the devil that they should back slide. Some are crying that if they had been living their lives the way their friends are doing, they would have been successful in life. They forget that if they were like their friends, they would not have the guts to approach God. There is an adage that says that a tailless cow has only God to help it chase away flies from pestering it. If such a cow offends God, who will help it chase the flies that are troubling him? It would be in trouble. Maybe you are going about with partial deliverance, whereas, God has promised you total freedom. Whenever you start aggressive praying and your hands and legs begin to shake, it means there are some things in your life that need to be dealt with. Don't think that it is the flow of the anointing.

Sometimes, Christians are tempted to try traditional solutions to their problems. Some people are scared at the thought or mention of death, because they know that when the roll is called up there, their names will not be there. Many do not want Jesus to come now. Paul said: "Behold, you wonder, and perish; for I will do a work in your days; for though you see it, you will not believe it. This prophecy is coming to pass in the lives of many people. Many are still battling with the thoughts of fornication and adultery, in spite of all the messages they listen to. Some are tormented by the devil, who call them failures and they too agree with him that they are failures,

thereby sanctioning the wish of the devil for their lives. Some people have curses hovering around their lives and there are hindrances here and there working against them. Many have dreams that are obviously unchristian. There are some people who keep back sliding and coming back to the faith. Many Christians do not have a burden for lost souls. All these things show that such people are yet to possess their possessions.

"Upon mount Zion, there shall be deliverance, and holiness and the house of Jacob shall possess their possession." The Lord has possessions for us and we must make sure we possess them.

BELIEVERS' POSSESSIONS

Christians everywhere has the right to:

1. Good health.
2. Prosperity.
3. Spiritual power.
4. Power over all sins and bad habits.
5. Power to cast out demons.
6. Immunity to poisons (that is, if they take it accidentally).
A sister came to see me and said she wanted to die. I asked her to empty her account before dying, so that the money could be used to spread the Gospel, but she should know that she would go to hell for killing herself. She then said she would not kill herself again.
7. Ability to pray for the sick and they would be healed.
8. Ability to bind and loose.
9. Destroy the works of satan as Jesus did.
10. Receive answers to prayers, which could be yes, no, or wail.
11. Ability to work miracles like Jesus did. He said; Greater works than these shall ye do."
12. Execution of judgement on wicked powers.
13. Abundant provision for their lives, that is, they should have enough for themselves and more to give to others.
14. Ability to exercise authority over the devil.

15. Have rivers of living waters flowing out of their inner most being.
16. Freedom from darkness and experience complete light. It is not that a witch would have almost captured them before they cry out.
17. The gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Bible does not say it is only the pastor that should cast out demons, prophesy, pray for the sick, speak in tongues, etc. The Bible says, *"These signs shall follow them that believe: In my name shall they cast out devils, they shall speak with new tongues, if they take anything deadly; It shall not hurt them. They shall lay their hands on the sick and they shall be healed."*
18. Power to do what Christ did, and the grace not to do what He wouldn't do.
19. The fruit of the Spirit- love, joy, longsuffering, meekness, etc.
20. The fullness of God.

These are in a nutshell, the possessions of the believer. If you do not have any of them, you must make sure you pray hard and be sure you possess them.

Present-day believers do not know the way the apostles trod, not to talk of following the same way. If we could follow their pattern, there will be trouble in the kingdom of darkness. We need to tell ourselves some truth. If for any reason, you do not have these things listed, you have to strive hard to possess them.

That verse In Obadiah 1: 17 has hidden messages. It says: ***"Upon mount Zion, there shall be deliverance and holiness and the house of Jacob shall possess their possession."***

1. Mount Zion: Mount Zion is the church of God, not anywhere else.
2. There shall be holiness.
3. The house of Jacob shall possess their possessions.

CONDITIONS FOR POSSESSING YOUR POSSESSION

1. Become born again: Without new birth, the blessings of God cannot abide with you.

2. Be delivered: Get rid of the demons harassing your life. It would be difficult for the church to enjoy its full blessings if the issue of deliverance is not understood. In almost all the chapters of the Bible that recount the life of the Lord Jesus Christ, we can see that He was casting out demons, setting people free and binding evil spirits.

A Christian could obtain freedom and yet remain in bondage, if he or she is not permanently set free or delivered. When a person is under bondage, he or she would not be able to live a life of holiness. It is after deliverance that the person can live a life of holiness and aim at going to heaven.

If somebody is dedicated to an idol and has snakes programmed into her body, before she can pursue after holiness, she has to get rid of those snakes. She could be willing as a Christian to live a holy life and please God but the snakes will oppose it and claim that there is a covenant put in place by her ancestors or parents. They will not let go and will not leave voluntarily, except they are forced to leave.

Holiness is a position where satan has nothing in a person. It is after attaining this stage that a person can claim his or her possessions. Until then, the possessions of a believer could be in the hands of the enemy. You may then ask: what should a person get delivered from? Demons. God can only deliver you from your enemies, not your friends. If you want to keep what you have, He will allow you to have it. If you appreciate your anger and like the way you put everybody to task, you can go ahead. He will not force you to get delivered.

There was a sister who practically Controlled everybody in her home. If anyone turned on the radio, she would complain about migraine, it was the same thing with the television. Even when people walked fast and the sound of their footsteps was loud, she would complain. She was actually a lower witch. One day someone advised her to go for deliverance. She knew that if she did, she would no longer be able to control everybody, so she refused. Some men belong to social clubs here and there. The devil would always be there waiting for them.

Psalm 97:10 says, ***"Ye that love the Lord hate evil. He preserveth the souls of His saints; He delivereth them out of the hands of the wicked."***

If you want to get delivered, you must hate anything that is hindering you from pleasing God. The Psalmist says: "I hate them that hate the Lord, I hate them with perfect hatred. "When you hate evil seriously, it will leave you, but if you pamper it and claim to be better than this person or that person, you are likely to remain in bondage. Some people come to ask if they are free, and I tell them that they themselves should know whether they have been set free or not.

To possess your possessions, you need to get delivered from five things. We have established the fact that upon Mount Zion means you must be born again, you have to belong to the household of God. Then, you will possess your possessions.

THINGS TO GET DELIVERED FROM:

1. This evil age: The Bible says that we are living in perilous times. These are dangerous days and we must deliver ourselves from their influences. One of the most tragic statements made by Paul was that Demas had forsaken him and followed this present world. Demas was so good that his name entered the Bible, but alas, he was drawn back into the world. Many people are hooked to the world by money, so called enjoyment etc. when a person says he is enjoying, can he eat three meals at a go, or sleep in ten houses at a go? can a person sleep on two beds at a time?

It is true that many people are married to this present age. This present world has hooked them. Peter cried to those people, after he had preached his message; he said: "Save yourselves from this wicked generation." He told them that they killed the Lord Jesus Christ Modern-day preachers would appeal to people and beg them. The apostles of old did not appeal to anybody. They told them the blunt truth and when people asked them what to do, they told them to repent and be saved. As Peter told the people to save themselves from this wicked and crooked generation, I am telling you today to save yourself from this crooked and wicked generation. The Bible says that the children of darkness are cleverer in their ways than the children of light. When a child of God deviates and copies what the Children of darkness do, he would not get away with it. A child of God that goes into fornication; for whatever reason would get into trouble. It could

result in unwanted pregnancy and if he or she goes for an abortion, it would result in death because it is not their world. Whereas, the children of darkness know how they use contraceptives and seem to get away with their fornication and other sins.

Many people have the spirit of worldliness in them. It is in-depth in them; they worry about what people of the world say about them and their dressing. They see themselves as ugly and do things that would put them into trouble. The Bible says if the world is commending you, then you are doomed. Some sisters are bothered about what people would say when they do not apply make-up. They have forgotten that it is better to look dull than to be possessed. It is good to look dull and have the fire of God in you. When those who are shiny have problems, they go to the dull ones for prayers.

You must get delivered from this present age. Some people compare Christians in Africa with those in Europe and the United States of America. They have forgotten that the idolatrous background of Africans is still raging against many people. Americans do not have "Sango" or "Arochukwu" or "Obatala" to deal with. They complain that we are too strict, and that we should watch foreign Christian films and understand that we are exaggerating. We are not in the same environment so we are not to be compared with them. The white man would find it difficult to understand the phenomenon of water and mermaid spirits or forest spirits. It is in Africa that these spirits are worshipped. When you are at the warfront, you do not chew peanuts.

2. Unprofitable laws: Romans 7: 5-6 says, *"For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death. But now, we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit and not in the oldness of the letter."*

Immediately a person is born, he or she becomes a sinner; the seed of Adam is planted in him or her. That is why little children use abusive words without being taught. Sometimes, they have an innate tendency to tell lies. The seed of Adam always wants to commit sin and there is a law inside one

with the adamic nature that gives him commands. You need to be delivered from that law, because it is unprofitable.

3. Self: Galatians 2:20 says, *"I am crucified with Christ; nevertheless, I live. Yet not I but Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live In the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."* If you do not conquer 'self, you cannot reign with the King of kings.

This is the deliverance from self-centredness. If God says a person should stop breathing and should come home, what can he or she do? A dead person cannot ask for anything. All the cosmetics on the face, legs, fingers, etc would stop. Deliverance from self would lead to release from all the personal ambitions that are not part of God's plan for a person's life. It would make you to cease from self-exaltation. The way of life is death to the flesh. The trouble generally is that nobody wants to die. The Bible says, "Lose your life so that you can find It." The condition that Jesus gave for having life is self-denial. It is the condition for discipleship. Denial means saying "no" to the cravings of the flesh, for example, alcohol, sex, pleasure, etc. Human beings are by nature very selfish, they love to promote themselves.

4. Flesh: Galatians 5:24 says, *"And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."* It is unfortunate that Adam did not have any child until after he became a rebel and was driven out of the Garden of Eden. It then means that there is an iota of rebellion in every human being, because we are his descendants. This iota of rebellion is called "flesh".

Sometimes, some men follow sisters to church to become "born again." This is a misunderstanding of the Scriptures. Life as a whole is painful but there are two types of pain, God's pain and man-made pain. It is left for you to decide which one you want to pass through. You would have God's pain in God's way. It does not last forever and it ends in joy. One of the pains of God's way is that you would be unable to do what other people are doing. Others may, but you cannot. However, you can choose not to go through

pains in God's way. You are free to have pains the devil's way or the world's way.

5. The world: Galatians 6:14 says: "***But God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world.***" The world is a certain place and a system that is opposed to that of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Exodus 15:11: "***Who is like unto Thee, O Lord, among the gods? Who is like unto Thee, glorious in holiness fearful In praises, doing wonders?***"

In the foregoing verse, we see the Israelites praising God, after they had left Egypt, Pharaoh and his chariots were already drowned in the Red Sea and they had crossed the Red Sea. In this verse, they burst out in a joyous song unto the Lord God, who had delivered them from the hands of their enemies. So shall the Lord put a song in your mouth today, in the name of Jesus. In this verse, there are three great differences between the God of Israel and other gods. First of all, God has no comparison. He is fearful in praises, He does wonders, and is glorious in holiness. It means that holiness is glorious.

The Bible says you should allow the Son of God to wash you, so that there will be no spot or wrinkle on your body (Ephesians 5:27). This is true holiness. It is glorious and not grievous."

Psalm 9:69 says, "***O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; fear before Him, all the earth.***" Holiness is not dull or ugly, it is beautiful. The Bible says, "His yoke is easy and His burden is light." Holiness is not burdensome.

Psalm 93:5 says, "***Thy testimonies are very sure: holiness becometh thine house, O Lord for ever.***" The house of God is made attractive by holiness. A certain friend of mine went to a church and the pastor was talking about the beauty of the church. He asked people to look around and see how beautiful the fans, air-conditioners, carpets, pews, etc were and how they have made the church beautiful. On the contrary, it is holiness that beautifies the church; not material things. It is holiness that attracts God to the church. Fortunately, nobody can say God should come and sit in a particular place.

He is the one that makes the decision. Holiness is eternal. Long after gifts have ceased and faith has become obsolete, holiness will continue. A holy people will serve the holy God. Holiness is a nature, an innate tendency, a state of purity, and an inward thing.

A sinner is not just a sinner because of his behaviour or actions; he or she is a sinner by nature, from the inside of him or her. In other words, a sinner does what he does because he is what he is. When he or she is changed, his or her actions would change. You can take a pig from the mud but you cannot take the pig nature out of it. Likewise, we are not holy because of what we do; but because of what we are. Outward religious standard is not holiness. This is why our Lord Jesus Christ did not like the Pharisees and He called them names like fools, tombs containing dead men's bones, hypocrites, vipers, and generations of prophet killers. God is the best sanitary inspector. He begins inspection from the heart. True holiness proceeds within and works outside. The outward man must compulsorily show the virtue of the inner man. The outward man would naturally do what comes from the inside. God wants you and I to get to a level where doing God's will becomes natural. Any other kind of life will not be convenient again. The Christian life is the best life you can think of.

The Greek word for sin is "armatan." It means to miss the mark. When a person misses the mark or target, he will not win. If God says something and there are two options, it is better to align yourself with what God is saying, so that you can be blessed. If you reject what God says, you will be cursed. Note that there is no mid-way or purgatory where you can reconsider your stand after death. It does not exist. The Bible says: "For it is given unto a man, once to die, and after that judgement." The first sin in the history of the Bible is pride. It is still wrecking so many lives today. If you cannot do without evil thoughts, then forget about good health. If you cannot do without smoking cigarette and taking alcohol, forget about good health. If you cannot do without free women or free men, then forget about good health. If you cannot do without pre-marital sex with your boy friend or girl friend, forget about good health. If you cannot do without telling lies, forget about good health. If you cannot do without worldly fashion, and transparent dresses, forget about good health. If you cannot do without

watching immoral and pornographic films, then forget about good health. If you cannot do without backbiting or spreading rumours, forget about good health. If you cannot do without cheating in examinations, fighting, boasting about positions, riches and qualifications, cracking dirty jokes, pride, etc, forget about sound health.

Many people in the world today are restless, and they go to parties to vigorously dance away their sorrows and cover up their problems. Some wear fake smiles and some drink to cover up their sorrows. When the effect of the alcohol clears away, the sorrow comes back. Some go to discotheques to dance, where they have red lights on and there is loud music. At 6 am when all the music has stopped and they are back home, their problems would resurface and say: "Here I am, find me."

The Bible uses two strong words to describe the lives of many people in the world today:

1. Bondage
2. Captivity

Many people are graduating from bondage to captivity daily and there are many living dead people walking about today. Sometimes, we pray that mountains of difficulties should move and they actually move but if the person praying is in bondage, he cannot enjoy the blessings. That is why Jesus said: "The Spirit of the Living God is upon me, for He has anointed me to preach deliverance to the captives. Thou hast ascended on high and thou has made captivity captive." It is one thing to be free and another to remain free.

You must use the artillery of prayer and what would happen is written in Psalm 126:1-2: "***When the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen: The Lord hath done great things for them.***" Replace the word 'Zion' with your name and confess it aloud. God has a reason for allowing you to read this book. It is for you to be able to walk in His divine agenda for your life. You must be holy and must be delivered.

Say this prayer point out loud: "I must possess my possessions today, in the name of Jesus."

A man of God gave the following rules for living in good health after a good study of the Bible:

1. Take a bath everyday.
2. Resist all forms of lust. (Do not misuse your body).
3. Avoid drinking ice-cold water.
4. Eat correctly, because the state of your stomach affects your health.
5. Chew your food very well. Overeating is worse than over-worry.
6. Do not quarrel. Be cheerful.
7. Eat more fruits and vegetables.
8. Be in useful employment and have adequate rest.
9. Drink plenty of water.
10. Be anxious for nothing; because anxiety, anger and worry are destructive and every organ of the body is made subject to the mind.
11. Lock the door of your life against satan.
12. God will not work a miracle to change natural forces which you can control. The Bible says that honey is good. If you can afford it, take it in place of sugar.
13. All these laws are useless without holiness.

Once you are holy, other good things will follow including good health. As you live a holy life, even sicknesses that are in hiding will flee and great things will begin to happen. If you have anger, worry, anxiety, frustration, depression, poison, the body or the spirit etc you have to get delivered from them.

Take the following prayer points with determination in your heart:

1. Anything in my life that is preventing me from being holy, Father Lord, destroy it, in the name of Jesus.
2. Every spirit of slavery, release me, in the name of Jesus.
3. Spirit of corruption, depart from the tree of my life, in the name of Jesus.

4. Now have a heart-to-heart talk with God. Ask Him to forgive you in all the areas you have sinned against Him. Call the sins by their proper names and promise the Lord that you will never go back to them, and that you will do what He asks you to do.
5. Problems, do not relocate yourselves to any area of my life, in the name of Jesus.
6. I possess my possessions, in the name of Jesus.

Chapter 5

Holiness & The Tongue

James 1:26 says, *"If any man among you seem to be religious and bridleth not his tongue but decieveth his own heart, this man's religion Is vain."*

Perhaps you are a Christian, Spirit-filled, and Tongue-speaking, Pentecostal or Evangelical, sister or brother; perhaps you hold an important post in the church or you are an ordinary member, maybe you are even a pastor or choir master, you are the "any man", mentioned in the text above, If you cannot bridle your tongue, all that you do in the church is vain. If the Bible says that something is vain, it really is. God is in the best position to qualify or describe a thing or a person, so, if He says your religion is vain, it really is. It is completely vain, meaning that, one day such a person would end up in hell fire.

SCRIPTURAL FACTS ON THE USE OF THE TONGUE

1 Peter 3:10: *"For he that will love life and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil and his lips that they speak no guile."*

Ephesians 4:29: *"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your month, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearer."*

This means that Christians should not crack dirty jokes. It is shameful for Christians to do or say things that they cannot repeat before everybody.

Matthew 12:36: *"But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgement."*

Jesus says, 'Every', not some of the words that we speak, shall be accounted for. If human brains could manufacture cassette players and recorders, how

much more God, He has a record of all that we do and say. He says, "By thy words thou shalt be justified, or condemned." Our words are powerful enough to justify or condemn us.

Proverbs 29:20: "***Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? There is more hope of a fool than of him.***" Somebody that is talkative has no hope.

Proverbs 15:4: "***A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.***" When you talk rubbish, the Bible says there is something wrong with your spirit.

Proverbs 10:19: "***In the multitude of words, there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips, is wise.***"

These verses of the Scriptures show that the tongue is very important and has power to kill or to make alive, it determines success or future. It can decide whether a person goes to hell or heaven.

It is clear that the tongue can do a lot of havoc. A deaf and dumb person cannot abuse his wife or her husband. Many marriages have hit the rocks today because of vile words people have spoken against their spouses. In many places, wars started by the use of abusive or provocative words. Many people would have passed their examinations if they had not used negative or wrong words. Many would have lived good lives if they had not used their tongues wrongly.

Isaiah 35:8 says, "***And an highway shall be there, and a way and it shall be called the way of holiness: the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those, the way faring men, though fools, shall not err therein.***"

God wants us to tread the way of holiness. Even though the world sees us as foolish, we know what we are doing. Many people have a wrong notion of holiness, they think it is when you wear a sad or melancholic look, or you look gentle as if you cannot hurt a fly. Some people believe that holiness is being courteous or kind. It is not the ability to generally avoid trouble. The truth is that people who are holy are tough. If you look through the Bible, you would see that people like Elijah and John the Baptist appeared strange but had fire in them. People like Paul and Silas were filled with deep joy.

Despite persecutions and trials, they sang praises unto the Lord. Holiness is an attractive quality. It is not something forbidden or uncommon. It is not something inhuman, or for angels only.

Holy men in the Bible and in the history of the church were loving and happy people; they were not melancholic. The Bible refers to a life of uncleanness as an unholy life. A holy person is separated from the world, and evil. Any Christian that is careless about holiness cannot have the assurance of salvation. If you hate messages on holiness, it means you are on your way to hell fire. No one can enjoy the benefits of eternal life without being holy. The yardstick with which to measure the degree of holiness in a believer's life is his sensitivity to sin. How sensitive are you to sin? When you get to a level where you commit sin without remorse, it means that your holiness is gone. When you no more shed tears when you fail God, or you are not worried about what you do and you do not ask God for forgiveness, then your holiness is gone. A perfect man is one who can control his tongue and is grounded in the faith of the son of God.

The influence of the tongue upon a life is so strong that the Holy Spirit wants to control it. This is why we quote the verse of the Scriptures where Jesus says, "In my Name they shall cast out demons. They shall speak with new tongues..." If you cannot control your tongue, then you cannot control other parts of your body.

HOLINESS AND THE TONGUE

When the issues of holiness and the tongue come to mind, the following essential aspects should be considered:

- 1. Of whom do you speak?**
- 2. Are you a gossip or rumormonger?** (Have you heard? Did you see?)
People who engage in gossiping, rumour spreading, backbiting, etc are doing some perfect jobs for the devil and do not hope to make eternal life.
- 3. Do you say the correct things when you talk?** Do you put yourself and others in trouble by saying what you know nothing about? Some people even commit abomination by speaking ill of the people of God.

Do you know that it is sinful to criticise somebody who is trying his best to serve God and is trying to satisfy you? God sees that the person is trying his best but you cannot see it.

4. **To whom do you speak?** Who are your confidants? Are they Christians or unbelievers? Do you reveal your secrets to the enemy? Who do you talk to? Whose company do you enjoy? Search your spirit. It is possible for a person to go from church to hell fire. If your friends are heading for hell, so also are you. That is why the Bible says that evil communication corrupts good minds. It is often said that "Birds of a feather flock together," "Show me your friends, and I will tell you who you are." If you are a prayer warrior, your friends too will be prayer warriors. If your friends love the word of God, you too will love the word of God. If your best friend is someone who cannot do without make-up, or someone who runs after every available woman or man in the streets, you cannot call yourself a Christian. If your best friend carries contraceptive pills about in her bag, and you go about with her under the pretext that she is your childhood friend, you will soon get confused and go back to those sins that you have left behind. If you come out of darkness into the light, you do not go back into darkness to make friends. If you do, you would be pulled down. It is strange for a person in darkness to be the adviser of someone who has seen the light of God. To whom do you direct your speech? How do you speak? Does your speech carry respect? Does your speech reflect the indwelling of the Holy Spirit? How do you use your tongue? Do you speak when you are supposed to be silent or when you are supposed to be praying?

5. **When do you speak?** Do you ask the Holy Spirit when you should speak?

6. **Where do you speak?**

A close look at the points above would enable you to know how and why you still commit sin. Death and life are in the power of the tongue. When a person loses control of the tongue, he loses the control of life. Many years ago, a certain woman came and told me that her husband had asked her to move out, that he did not want to marry her anymore. I agreed to go to there

with her, to see her husband. I carried my Bible and as we approached their house, she saw her husband coming out and said: "Doctor! There he is, crawling out like a snail." That statement nullified all the accusations she had levied against the man. I told her that If she could talk about her husband to me in that way, it means she is really a troublesome woman.

The key to a beautiful life is the ability to control one's tongue and regulate one's conversation. A Christian cannot accomplish much with God if he or she does not control his or her tongue. Make a decision today to tame your tongue and you would be surprised at the result. When God created man in the beginning, He gave him a lot of power; part of that power which God has not withdrawn is the power of imagination. For example, If I say the word, "mango," immediately you hear it, the image of the mango fruit would come to your mind. Also, the power to dominate the earth has not been withdrawn from man. Even the most dangerous animals would first run away when they see a man approaching. The spoken word is one of the most dangerous weapons you can find. Many people are in bondage and in trouble today because of their inability to control their tongues. The truth of the whole matter is that many tongues are indeed in serious bondage.

THE POWER OF THE TONGUE

James 3: 2-13 says, "***For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.*** (This means that if you are able to control your tongue, you are able to control your body, and you will become a perfect man.) ***Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouth, so that they may obey us and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great and driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. Even so, the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members that it defileth the whole body and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts and of birds and of serpents and of things in the sea, is tamed and hath been tamed, of mankind: but the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil,***

full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceeded blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? Either a vine, figs? So can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh? Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? Let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom."

The Bible says that you can find dangerous animals in the zoo, because they are tamed, but it is not possible to tame the tongue. The tongue is a tiny organ in the body but it can spark off a big fire. So far, it has destroyed families, nations, etc.

I saw a cartoon one day where they drew an old man in army uniform, with a microphone in his hands. It was captioned: "Old men declare wars young men fight them." Those who declare wars are usually in their air-conditioned rooms whilst others go out to fight it out with the enemy. This is the power of the tongue. It has destroyed many nations. It is a dangerous part of the body. God gave us two eyes, two ears, but one mouth, where the tongue is hidden. The tongue can be used to serve God or the devil. It is one of the most effective passports to hell fire. In fact, the only thing that can be compared with it as regards sending people to hell is the reproductive organs. If you cannot control your tongue, it will control your life. Many lives had been interesting until their tongues dived into the opposite direction, created opposition and problems began to happen.

In the Bible days, only the high priest entered into the holy of holies in the temple. And there was a rope tied around his waist, with a bell at the tip, so that if anything happened to the priest, those outside would pull him by the rope so that the corpse would not rot there. It was the presence of God. The holy of holies was a dreadful place. The priest went there only once in a year. One day, Zechariah was there worshipping God when an angel appeared to him and told him that his prayers had been answered; that his wife would conceive and bear a son, that would be great before the Lord; many shall rejoice at his birth, and he shall go before God in the power and spirit of Elijah; and shall drink no wine or strong drink. Zechariah asked

how that could be made possible since he and his wife were old and gone past the age of childbearing. Then the angel introduced himself as Gabriel who stands in the presence of God. The angel then told Zechariah that he would be dumb until the child was born. Why did Zechariah become dumb? He was using his tongue in a way that could have robbed him of his miracle.

There are people with demonic tongues; their mission is to speak destruction to good things. Sometimes, the tongue becomes unruly. The tongue puts people in trouble before they realise it. The Bible says that if you can control your tongue, it means you can control the whole of your body. When your tongue is under God's control, it will speak God's words and if it is under satan's control, it will speak satan's words. Watch what you say with your tongue. The words that you speak shape your life. Your life today is the result of what you have said about yourself in the past. There is nothing, so great or powerful that the tongue cannot control. It is a pity that even the children of the devil understand the power of the tongue while the children of God do not.

One day at a popular bus stop in Lagos, a cow broke loose and everybody was running helter-skelter. Suddenly, a commuter bus passed by and the conductor jumped down and spoke to the cow. To the amazement of everybody, the unruly cow became calm and sat on the ground. The conductor jumped back on the bus and went away. The young man used evil power to speak to the cow and it worked. It was possible because he had given himself to the devil; he had demonic powers which surpassed the power of the demon in the cow.

There was another case. There were about six armed robbers facing a firing squad. A priest was in front of them who talked to them and prayed for them. They made their last wishes and were shot. But one of them did not die. The firing squad used up their bullets on him. Suddenly, an old man came from the crowd to where the robber was and chanted some incantations. Before then the mouth of the robber was moving as he was muttering words to nullify the effect of the bullets on him. The old man asked them to aim at his mouth. They did and his mouth was blown off and they killed him. That is the power of the tongue.

There are many women whose tongues are very sharp and they can abuse anybody. If such people use the same tongue to command witches to come to a halt, the witches will not obey. They will just laugh at them. The baptism of the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues is very important. The tongue has to come under the control of the Holy Spirit to enable it to control the whole body. What your tongue says about your life will come to pass. If your tongue is dirty or unholy, it would hinder your whole body from being holy.

Excessive talking, idleness, careless words, lying, hasty speech, swearing, and cursing must be banished from your tongue if you want to see good days. You must refrain your tongue from speaking evil. When a believer calls other people derogatory names, he is demeaning God's creatures. A believer must not use worldly slangs such as like 'bobo,' 'paddy', 'chick' etc. Some people make negative exclamations such as, "I am dead." Such confessions are satanic. Some Christians do not see anything wrong in listening to worldly music. They do not know the origin and meaning of the words that some of these musicians diffuse into the air and the adverse effect on the listeners.

One day, someone came into my office and asked if she could slot in an audio cassette into my cassette player. I did not mind until I heard what the musician was saying. He said: "he was dying". When I asked the lady if she heard what he was saying; she said 'yes' that it did not matter. When I was young, there was a musician that sang a song about not knowing if the boat of life was taking him backwards or forward, that he was just seated in the boat and looking. People were singing it with him thereby putting themselves in bondage. What you confess with your mouth matters a lot. Some people confess poverty into their own lives. There are some people who would stylishly oblige others to pay for their food, when they could have paid for it without begging. They forget that they are God's creation and should not allow the devil to have his way in their lives.

Some people learnt incantations before they got born again. Such people need to pray that those words be wiped off their memory. Some people memorise the Psalms and use them in perverse ways as dictated by white-garment prophets: they call on the names of strange gods and evil angels.

They should know for sure that it is unholy and that the tongue can set the whole body on fire. This is why some people find it difficult to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Also, those who crack dirty jokes and engage in perverse sexual acts find it difficult to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit because their-temple is not clean. They are yielded to strange men and women. Also those who abuse and curse people are misusing their tongue.

The Holy Spirit is a gentleman. He is clean. He will not use a dirty tongue. When these people see that the Holy Spirit is not coming upon them, they resort to saying that it is not important to be baptised or speak in tongues: that there are many other gifts in the Bible. I pray that God will have mercy on such people. Paul said, "I thank God that I speak in tongues..." If it was important to Paul, we should not joke with it. You must pray that your tongue be loosed from the bondage of satan, in the name of Jesus;

You must also consider the things you put into your mouth. Some people share cigarettes with other people, eat sweets cut into two with the teeth by other people; some have eaten sacrifices, licked 'holy salt' etc. All these things put the tongue in bondage.

You must seek healing for your tongue and make sure that something happens to you as you read on. If you make up your mind not to make negative confessions, good things will begin to happen in your life, family, business, finances, etc. This could be very difficult for some people because the devil has programmed their tongues to speak evil. If you are always saying negative things to yourself, for example, if you speak failure or sickness into your life, they will really come true. If you speak weakness into your life, it will come in and conquer you. If you talk poverty into your life, it will come in and stay with you. If it is fear of the future, it will grip you.

Isaiah 6:1-7 says, ***"In the year that king Uzziah died, I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up and His train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphim each one has six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts: the whole earth is full of His glory. And the posts of the door moved***

at the voice of him that cried and the house was filled with smoke. Then said I, Woe Is me! For I am undone because I am a man of unclean lips and dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips, for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts. Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar. And he laid it upon my mouth and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips and thine iniquity is taken away and thy sin purged."

Isaiah was a prophet; he declared the holiness of God when he saw the Lord. He did not see the Lord until king Uzziah died. So also, every "king Uzziah" that is blocking your vision shall die, in the name of Jesus. As soon as Isaiah saw the Lord, he located his problem. He saw that his lips were unclean and that he was in the midst of people with unclean lips. This passage reveals a lot about the holiness of God and the impact it would have, when you come face to face with it. It also reveals the problem of many churchgoers. Many people go to church without seeing the Lord. They have never had an encounter with Him. Many people have encountered pastors, miracles, evangelists, showmanship but have not encountered God. Many have not found God. When you come face to face with God, your life will no longer be the same. Everything that people are running after will lose its significance. The world will lose its hold on you and you will set your priorities right. You will know that your priority should be to make heaven. Apart from all these, you will see yourself the way you are: just as Isaiah saw himself the way he was. He cried out; "I am undone: I am unclean and I live in the midst of people of unclean lips, my eyes have seen the Lord of hosts." When you see the Lord, your life will change. My prayer for you today is that you will encounter the Lord God of hosts. All the pleas about not committing sin would no longer be necessary because you would know that you should not do those things.

When Isaiah saw the Lord God of host, his life changed. It is possible to see the Bible or musical instruments, you could be the best in everything without seeing the Lord. All these things are possible without seeing the Lord. It is possible to get degrees on the Bible and Bible knowledge without seeing the Lord. For example, thousands of people have written theses on the book of Revelation but the writer of the book of Revelation did not go

to school. He was not a learned man. He was an illiterate who saw the Lord. One thing everyone needs and which most people lack is an encounter with the Lord. Immediately Isaiah identified his problem, he confessed it and there was a change in his life. God then sent an angel to place a coal of fire upon his tongue. From there, Isaiah became one of the greatest evangelists that ever lived. It is in the book of Isaiah that you find the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ clearly preached in the Old Testament. He was the one who wrote: "Unto us a Child Is born, unto us a Son is given..." He talked about the Lord Jesus as being the Man of sorrow and acquainted with grief. He was the one who first Identified the name of the Lord Jesus Christ All these did not happen until he saw the Lord.

When he saw the fire of God, his life passed through a dramatic change; the power of God that shook him left him there as one dead. That divine touch burnt all rubbish and filthiness out of him. If you read that passage further, you would see that it was the merciful touch of the angel that saved him otherwise, he would have been finished. The reason many people cannot break free from bondage is that they lack the fire of God in their lives. Even though they listen to powerful messages, read inspiring books, the bondage remains because they lack fire. Some people go from one church to the other, yet they are not delivered. It is because there is no fire in their lives.

Beloved, you need the fire of the Holy Ghost to purge you and burn off every ungodliness in you, and leave you the way God wants you to be. Ideally, the baptism of fire should come upon you the day you receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost as it happened on the day of Pentecost. That is the way God planned it; but many people do not allow God to do His work of purging in their lives. The Holy Spirit being a gentleman will not force His way into anyone's life. Many people are afraid of what would happen to them if the Holy Ghost fire comes into their lives. They cannot run away forever. When the fire falls, you will do that which you have been afraid of doing. There was ill woman who could no longer resist the power of God. She parked her Mercedes Benz car and went from one commuter bus to another and to the market to preach the gospel.

I used to be a quiet Christian; I liked attending church services and programmes and would always jot down notes, until the Lord took over.

When I caught the fire, people began to see me as a fanatic, who was carrying the Bible about and making noise. Some of these people have also encountered God and their own noise is even louder than mine. One day, I saw one of them with a Bible that was bigger than mine, and I marvelled at the transformation that the Lord had wrought in his life. He said: "Bro. Daniel, at that time, I did not understand. "Thank God he now understands. The reason so many lives remain unchanged is that they have no fire. You need to have a fresh encounter with God. God sent tongues of fire upon the apostles on the day of Pentecost. Why did God make the fire to take the shape of a tongue? It is because there is power in the tongue. Also, when the power of the Holy Ghost descends upon you, it bursts, forth in you and you express it through the tongue.

Today, you can make up your mind to receive the fire of the Holy Ghost. Some people are afraid of the kind of assignments that God would give them when they receive Him. It is possible for God to ask you to go and preach in a place where you would have to pass through a cemetery. God could ask you to park your car and jump into a commuter bus to preach from one bus stop to another. It is also possible for God to ask you to give up worldliness and sell your jewelry so that you can use the money to print tracts that would invite people to surrender their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Ghost right from when he was in his mother's womb. Bible scholars talk about the way John preached. The kind of messages that he delivered are what we need today. They were hard, uncompromising messages. He told them that the axe was laid at the root of the tree and every tree which did not bring forth good fruits would be cut down. He showed them that they were vipers and needed to repent. People rushed there and multitudes got saved through him. Jesus referred to him as being more than a prophet; and that there was no one born of a woman that was greater than him. This same John recognised the lordship of Jesus and said: "I must decrease, so that He can increase." As you pray for the power of God to fall on you, you have to decrease and let God increase in you.

Some people do not know that they do not need stickers to show that they are Christians. It should burst forth from within them. Labels and stickers of

"I love Jesus" or "Jesus saves" is not a proof of Christianity; that is not what should announce that you are born again. If the fire of God descends on you, you would become untouchable to the enemy and your words would carry fire.

Take the following prayer points with aggression:

- Father Lord, soak me in the fire of the Holy Ghost, in the name of Jesus.
- O Lord, do unto me what you did to Isaiah, in the name of Jesus.
- O Lord, increase in my life that I may decrease, in the name of Jesus.

Many people do not know that the spiritual injury they received during the early stage of their lives could be responsible for the problems they are passing through now. It is a secret that many people do not know. Maybe you are a product of an illicit sexual fling, so your parents did not really want you, or you were born through Cesarean Operation, or you were delivered breeched, and you gave your parents a lot of headache, and they told you all these things which have made you to know that they do not like you. Maybe you have been suffering from rejection. There could be wounds that you received at the early stage of your life which, if not healed, would hinder you from being able to stand against the storms of life.

Do you know the names you were given as a baby? Do you know their meaning? Do you know that some of these names, including the ones by which you are not called, could be controlling your life? Do you know that the spiritual condition of the person who gave you your name could have an impact on your life? There was a demon idol that was sent to a sister to kill her. When it entered her room, it called her by some local names that no one called her. Thank God the sister had the fire of God in her. She commanded it to hit its head with the club it wanted to use to hit her and it beat itself to death.

Take the following prayer points and believe God for something spectacular.

1. Every curse that has been issued upon me by parents, consciously or unconsciously, be revoked, in the name of Jesus.

2. Every damage In the foundation of my life, be repaired, in the name of Jesus.
3. Every foundational problem in my life, receive solution, in the name of Jesus.
4. Every influence and activity of witchcraft curses, release me, in the name of Jesus.
5. Every influence of familiar spirits, release me, in the name of Jesus.
6. Every foundational bondage, release me, in the name of Jesus.
7. Every spirit of infirmity, release me, in the name of Jesus.
8. Every influence and activity of water spirits, release me, in the name of Jesus.
9. Every spirit of death, release me, in the name of Jesus.

Chapter 6

Holiness & Prosperity

We have established the fact that holiness means to keep clean; to separate oneself, to stay fresh and unblemished spiritually. Humility precedes holiness. Holiness removes the barriers put in place by sin. It precedes power. It is tearing down and smashing to pieces the idols in the heart. Many people cannot consciously worship idols but they have idols in their hearts: there are things that they have put in the place of God.

Ezekiel 14:4 says, ***"Therefore, speak unto them and say unto them; thus saith the Lord God, Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his Idols in his heart and putteth a stumbling block of his iniquity before his face and cometh to the prophet; I the Lord will answer him that cometh, according to the multitude of his Idols."***

If you have already made up your mind before going to God or before seeking counsel from anyone, you would get an answer that suits your mind-set. Also, anyone that resists correction and remains stiff-necked shall be destroyed suddenly. When you seek holiness, you surround yourself with the joy of heaven because the first sound we will hear when we get to heaven is, "Holy, holy, holy."

Holiness is beautiful and radiant, no matter what you are going through. Anyone who wears a sad face is worrying about the problems or situations in his or her life. When you meditate on your problems, you are saying that God cannot help you. When you come into the presence of the Lord, you would be surrounded by His light. When some people enter into an environment, they are easily noticeable because of the light of God surrounding them.

Sometime ago, some people accompanied me on a visit to a woman, who was bedridden. She was a new convert. She had no fire, no power. As I moved close to pray for her, I saw that there was darkness and a small ray

of light. The Lord told me that the whole of that house was in spiritual darkness and that the sister was the only ray of light there. The other tenants were in darkness; they were eaters of flesh and drinkers of blood. The sister had to leave the house, so that she would not be polluted. Wherever we are, we should be light to those around us and our lives should be a challenge to them. In fact, the fire in you should make them feel uncomfortable. Holiness is purity of the heart. It would refuse to hide your darkness.

HOLINESS AND PROSPERITY

Luke 10: 30-37 says, "And Jesus answering said, A certain man went down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell among thieves, which stripped him of his raiment and wounded him and departed, leaving him half dead. And by chance, there came down a certain priest that way: and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. And likewise, a Levite, when he was at the place, came and looked on him and passed by on the other side. But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was and when he saw him, he had compassion on him. And went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring in oil and wine, and set him on his own breast and brought him to an inn and took care of him. And on the morrow, when he departed, he took out two pence, and gave them to the host, and said unto him, Take care of him; and whatsoever thou spendest more, when I come again, I will repay thee. Which now of these three, thinkest thou, was neighbour unto him that fell among the thieves? And he said, He that showed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go and do thou likewise."

The man fell into the hands of robbers and was avoided by the people who were expected to help him. It was a Samaritan, who was not even supposed to mix with the Jews that helped him and paid for his medical care. The Jews and Samaritans hated one another so much, that Samaritans even did not want Jesus to pass through their land. One of the disciples got angry and wanted to call down fire on them but Jesus told him not to do it. This parable illustrates three groups of people and their attitude towards wealth:

1. Thieves: A thief knows that something does not belong to him but he takes it by all means. Many thieves come to church too. They take what

does not belong to them. Many people live beyond their means; as far as God is concerned, they are rogues. If you earn ₦2, 000 as salary and you buy a pair of shoes which costs ₦2, 500 on credit and you are not able to pay, you are a thief. Those who borrow money with the intention of not paying back are thieves. Failure to work honestly and hard where you are earning an income is stealing.

2. Misers: The priest and the Levites were the ones expected to be kind and compassionate. They represent the class of people who are rich. People who are rich but are not kind enough to be a blessing to others are called 'coffin men or women'. They enclose themselves with what they have.

Luke 12:16-20 says, *"And He spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought within himself saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, Thus will I do: I will pull down my barns and build greater and there I will bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years: take thine ease, eat, drink and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night, thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be which thou hast provided?"* The man in the foregoing passages could not see his opportunities and obligations. He was blind.

There was a man who was very poor and someone wanted to give him a piece of land. He told the poor man that he would give him as much land as he could walk through. Instead of walking, the poor man began to run, so that he would cover much distance. He ran many miles and covered a good portion. At a point, he was so exhausted, that he slumped and died. He wanted a very vast portion of land so he ran. If he had walked, he would not have covered as much land but he would have stayed alive. His greed made him want all at once and he died.

God does not confide in some people; He cannot entrust a large sum of money into their hands because they are not faithful in the little they have. If as a poor man, you do not give to God, you will not give to Him as well when you are rich.

3. The large-hearted: Those who are ready to share what they have with other people do not hoard what they have. The good Samaritan was a kind man, he looked after the victim and paid for his treatment. This is the kind of person that God is ready to bless. Those who are ready to be a source of blessing to others are blessed by God. The reason many people are not a source of blessing to others is that their lives are not holy. Holiness and prosperity go hand in hand. If you are holy, you and your children can never go hungry. The Psalmists says that all through his life, he never saw the righteous forsaken, nor his children begging bread. The Bible also says, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all other things shall be added unto you." Holiness is not just staying away from sin. It has a lot of benefits and one of them is prosperity. Many Christians are poor because they add the money that is not theirs to their own money. The Bible says, "Woe unto him that keepeth that which belongeth not unto him." When you have strange money; money from bribery, bloody money and dishonest money, you cannot expect God to open the windows of heaven to you and for blessings to fall. God would tell you that your hands are filled so, He cannot give you more, or that your hands are not clean.

A lady, who is praying to get married and has sugar daddies, cannot expect God to give her a husband. Until she gets out of such relationships, she cannot get a husband from God. God wants His children to prosper. Right from the Garden of Eden, God has always wanted His people to prosper. Adam and Eve never lacked anything because God blessed them abundantly. They had everything at their disposal. Abraham was abundantly blessed and through him, many were blessed. Today, we say, "Abraham's blessings are mine." He is referred to as the father of faith.

GOD'S PROMISES OF PROSPERITY

Matthew 19: 27-29: *"Then answered Peter and said unto Him: Behold, we have forsaken all and followed thee; what shall we have therefore? And Jesus said unto them: Verily, I say unto you that ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne upon His glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters,*

or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundred fold and shall inherit everlasting life."

Joshua 1: 8: *"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shall meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then, thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shall have good success."*

2 Chronicles 20:20b: *".....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."*

Psalms 1:1-3: *"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall wither and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."*

SCRIPTURAL VERSES TO SHOW THAT GOD WANTS HIS CHILDREN TO PROSPER: Psalms 34:7, Psalms 35:27, Proverbs 3:9-10, Isaiah 1:19, Malachi 2:9-11, Luke 6:38.

Also, He wants His children to balance it up with holiness. A believer should not seek after filthy money. A believer should be holy and God will bless him on such a foundation. I would like you to ask the Lord to break down every barrier to holiness in your life.

WHY GOD WANTS HIS CHILDREN TO PROSPER

1. God wants His children to prosper so that they will have enough for themselves and others.
2. Money is not the root of evil, but the inordinate love for money is. Prosperity does not make a person to backslide. It is when character is lacking, that backsliding takes place. Holiness would make you to prosper but sin would result in poverty.

There was a man who was poor and was always bothered by mosquitoes. He had a tattered net and whenever mosquitoes entered into the net at night, he got up to pray. When things got better, he installed an air-conditioner which kept out mosquitoes but he was no longer waking up to pray at night. Such a person is planning afresh for poverty.

Prosperity has nothing to do with what you have in your bank account or in your pocket, but what you have access to. There was a man who went bankrupt within one hour. He was supposed to be worth more than 105 million pounds. He invested all that he had in one business which failed in one day and in his presence, his property was auctioned. When Jesus was in the world, He had no money in His pocket, but whenever there was a need, it was adequately met.

HOW TO PROSPER

1. Believe that God wants you to prosper. Some people think that Christians are not supposed to bother about prosperity, it is a wrong notion.

2. See God as your source. It is not your job or business that would make you to prosper. Money is not prosperity, but faith and confidence in God. A believer should not go about worrying or chasing money at the expense of his or her relationship with God. The Bible says, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." Prosperity lies in your seeking God.

3. Be a giver. Don't be stingy, don't hoard money.

4. Pay your tithes and give more to the work of God. Businesses fail because the owners reinvest in business, without paying their tithes and they wonder why they fail or are duped. The devil is a legal expert and would always look for evidence against the children of God. The devil knows how much tithe you are owing, and would make sure he steals that money by ensuring that you waste it on things that are not worthwhile. For example, a person could wake up and find that all four tyres of his car are gone, or one of the children would throw his bag and books in the lagoon and he would be forced to buy another set. In fact, sometimes, those who do not pay their tithes waste more than they owe God. Sometimes, the devil can afflict a

Christian with an ailment that looks simple but he would not get healed, so he would end up spending a lot of money on it. One of the fastest ways to poverty is robbing God. Paying tithe involves everybody, including children. Children should be taught to set aside 10 per cent of their cash gifts for God.

5. Give to the poor: In giving to the poor, you should be careful and discerning, so that you do not give to somebody who is serving a punishment from God or is collaborating with the devil.

All these things will work if you are determined and are living a life of holiness.

Some people teach that Christians are not supposed to be rich, and that poverty is a blessing. Unfortunately they quote scriptures to support the idea. They say that the disciples were not rich, that they were sometimes too poor to pay their tithe and needed a miracle of the coin from the fish. They sometimes say that the people who get rich fail God. This kind of teaching is inconsistent with the word of God on prosperity.

Many people want to claim the blessings of Abraham but are not ready to go through what Abraham passed through. True prosperity is to be in favour with God. The Bible says, "What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul? With what can he make an exchange for his soul?" There is a principle of vomiting; whatsoever you vomit will be transferred to your children, whether good or bad.

One man told his son that he would like to build a house for his old age. He gave the son money to buy materials to build the house, and he bought inferior materials, inflated the prices of the materials and within a short time, he had finished building the house. He gained a lot of money from it dubiously. He handed over the house to his father, who thanked him. A week later, the father called all his children and said he was preparing for his death so he gave them their inheritance. He gave that house to the son who built it. The son was surprised and said it was built for the father. The old man insisted and the son took it. That house did not last long. The young man thought he was cheating on his father but ended up cheating himself.

Many people abandon the real things and chase shadows. By so doing, they set a barrier for themselves. When you are not serious with God, you cannot get much from Him.

John Rocky Feller was a strong man, who worked very hard. He drove himself harder than a slave ever was by a taskmaster. At the age of 33, he had made his first million dollars. By concentrating every effort possible on his work, he was able to control the biggest company in the world at the age of 43. At the age of 53, he became the world's first millionaire. The achievement left him with a battered health condition. He had a disease which made his hair fall off, including his eye lashes. His digestive system could not tolerate normal food. Even though he could afford to eat every good thing possible, he fed on only crackers biscuits and milk. There was a time when he wanted people to love him, but did not understand the fact that he too should show affection to people. In his hard work, he could not sleep well. He lost weight and was looking very old at 53. The situation made him to think deep and he discovered that all the money he had would be useless if he died in that state. He then decided to give out his wealth to the needy. He started to visit an orphanage where the children turned out to love him and were keeping him company. He was funding their education and other things. Gradually, he noticed that he started getting better, and in the end, he did not die at the time the doctors thought he would. He had time to love people and to be loved and in the end, he detached himself from the wealth and worldly things that would have taken his life.

Some people do not attend vigils because of mosquitoes, others do not fast because of their doctors' prescription, etc. The Bible says, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all other things shall be added unto you." All the things you are running after should be the ones running after you. There was a brother who complained about his business and I asked him some basic questions about his Christian life, his physical life and counselled him. When the Lord started to bless him, he could no longer handle the number of customers that were patronising him.

God does not want you to kill yourself running after money. Many years ago, there was a woman who was a teacher but things were not going on well with her. One day, there was a call for help in the church for funds and she could only donate ₦10. Then she prayed hard to God concerning the situation. She told God that she wanted to do more. The Lord ministered to her to start planting vegetables at the back of her house, and within a short while, her vegetable became a wanted commodity and before long, she had started to build a house. She discovered her prosperity prayerfully and God blessed her. The Bible says, "Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life."

Beloved, for you to prosper, you have to be holy. The Lord will prosper you beyond your wildest dreams if you do not turn back from following him.

Take these prayer points:

1. O Lord, uphold me, so that I do not back slide, in the name of Jesus.
2. O Lord, release to me that which you have kept in the bank for me, in name of Jesus.
3. I bind every spirit of death, in the name of Jesus.
4. Every tree that the Father did not plant in my life, be uprooted and be roasted, in the name of Jesus

Chapter 7

Personal Pentecost

Luke 24: 49 says, *"And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high."*

Acts 2:1-4: "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

When Jesus died, the disciples were very discouraged. They had expected Him to pull a trick and make them governors and rulers. They did not expect Jesus to give Himself up the way He did. They were so discouraged that someone like Peter went back to fishing. Thomas did not even believe that Jesus had risen, he wanted to see the holes in His hands and feel them before he would believe. Peter that was optimistic at the beginning denied Jesus three times. He wept bitterly. The state of the disciples was like that of a pot of vegetable soup, nicely prepared with fresh vegetables, oil and plenty of meat but without salt. Something was missing in their lives. Occasionally, some people are able to pinpoint the problem but sometimes, they are not.

When you study the way God manifested Himself to the Israelites, you would find that He manifested in the form of wind, cloud, rain and on the day of Pentecost, as a rushing mighty wind. When a bush is burning, or there is a great fire, you would hear sounds like human voices. The explanation is this; as the fire is burning, it is consuming oxygen and needs more oxygen to continue burning. When fire from heaven falls, great things

happen. A man of God said that the sign of Christianity should be sign of the tongues of fire, instead of the crucifix that gives the impression that Jesus is still on the cross.

When God touches your life with fire, people will come and watch you burning. A man was to preach in Russia and could not speak the language and nobody could interpret. Suddenly, the power of God fell on him and he started speaking Russian, for thirty minutes. When he finished, he could not remember one word of Russian. Oh that that fire would come upon us and burn in us, so that we would not need to go through deliverance or write books on deliverance or healing or bondage or curses and covenants. Our lives would become too hot for the enemy to touch and too hot for the enemy to live in. It is when there is no fire in the fire-place that earthworms can go there and play. If you are still being pressed down on your bed when you are sleeping, it is because there is no fire in your life. If there is fire, the earthworm and snake will not choose the fire-place as a field of play.

I wish we would have the kind of fire that Elisha had, that even after his death his skeleton revived a corpse. The skeleton of Elisha had more fire than many Christians who are alive today. If you want to remain a Christian in our environment today, you must be filled with the fire of the Holy Ghost. It is compulsory. You must experience what I call a **personal Pentecost**. It is nice when Christians are together and the Lord is in their midst. When you get home, it is necessary to experience this personal Pentecost as an individual. Anything done in the house of God that is not energised by the Holy Spirit is useless, as far as the kingdom of God is concerned. It makes no contribution to the furtherance of the kingdom. The truth is that many people who claim to have received the Holy Spirit have not really received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. It is wrong for any minister to teach people how to speak in tongues. Utterance comes from God the Father. If you say that you speak in tongues? and you still have strange dreams, there is no living faith in your heart, no fire in your spirit, no zeal for God or you are still living in sin. What then is the use of the speaking in tongues? Some people say they are born again and speak in tongues yet there are serpents in their lives that bite any time they pray

aggressive prayers. Such people will then think that they have ulcer and they begin to spend a lot of money on it.

The in-filling of the Holy Spirit is an experience that revolutionises a person's life. How can you say that you are baptised with the power of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and not feel an evident change in your life? Why should your life remain the same, when you say you have the Holy Spirit, bodily dwelling in you? How can your life remain cold? It means that something is wrong somewhere. Some present-day believers claim to be filled with the Holy Spirit yet, they put on materials that are dedicated to demons without knowing it. Some put on shoes or jewelry that are used in initiating them into evil spiritual associations without knowing it. Some employ house helps who are serpents or witches, but they don't know it. Some Christians complicate things for themselves by laying hands on some people that are possessed, whereas, they themselves need deliverance. Present-day believers cannot distinguish between real friends and unfriendly ones.

There was an "evangelist who was not born again. One day, he made the mistake of laying hands on a demon-possessed girl. The girl rained abuses on him and the "evangelist got angry and started beating her seriously. The girl burst out in a demonic laughter and said: "That was what I was waiting for you to do." He beat her the more, until he got tired. As from that day, he felt lashes on his body. He would not see the person whipping him and would cry like a baby. People prayed for him but nothing happened until he cried to the Lord in repentance. This was the person who would preach vigorously and speak in tongues and everywhere would be Vibrating. We must put an end to self-deceit. We cannot deceive God, we can only deceive ourselves and other people, not God.

There was another man who was not born again, and thus, not filled with the Holy Spirit. He would speak strange tongues, jump here and there, laying hands on people. One day, he laid hands on a woman and behold, there was a horn on her head. It pierced through his palm and blood physically gushed out from it.

Beloved, I want you at this Juncture to take this prayer point

- O Lord, do surgical, operation in my innermost being, in the name of Jesus.

There was a certain man who was a chorister in a church, where they always confessed, "As it was in the beginning, is now, and forever shall be." He did not know what the recitation meant but he was saying it. He was practically a millionaire but eventually, became a pauper. It got to a stage where, sometimes, he would not have up to ₦50 on him. One day, God had compassion on him and his daughter began to confess to witchcraft. She said she had gathered all his finances and hung them on an Iroko tree. All the money he could ever make in his life had been captured. She was brought to me and I asked her if it was true. She said: "Yes," confidently. I asked her what the solution to her father's problem could be and she said there were two options, either sacrifice or payer, but she would suggest prayer. The father was astonished that it was his daughter talking. We thank God that he was delivered.

We need personal Pentecost, we need to have an encounter with the fire of the Holy Spirit Everyone needs to have this touch. As soon as you notice that your spiritual level is not sufficient with what you are facing, you need personal Pentecost When you find that you have unclean imagination constantly, it means that you need a personal Pentecost. When you discover that you have allowed something to come between you and God, it means that you are lazy spiritually, and taking it easy and abandoning things that are of God. If you hate long prayer sessions, and engage in gossips and have become the devil's advertiser, you need personal Pentecost. When you worry so much that even the smallest pimple on your face has become an object of worry, then, you need personal Pentecost.

When you are distracted from the work of God and prayer, and fasting has become hard work, then, you need personal Pentecost. If you tell lies, you need personal Pentecost. If you are always depressed, easily discouraged and unhappy, you need it. If you always argue, you need it. If you find that you always plan to do one thing or the other for God and at the level of implementation, you fall, you need personal Pentecost you are not known as a Christian at work and in your neighborhood or you are ashamed of Christ, or you are a spiritual coward, who cannot tell an unbeliever that he or she

needs Christ, you need personal Pentecost. If you present a picture different from what you are in the church, you need personal Pentecost. If you are so prayerless that you even forget to pray on your meals or snacks, you need personal Pentecost. You need it also if your tongue is without discipline. You need it if you are vindictive and have unforgiving spirit. There are many clever pretenders in the church who do not have time for Bible study or meditation, or prayer, no time to be alone with God, they all need personal Pentecost if you are not happy when your colleagues are praised, you need personal Pentecost.

Jesus says, "You will receive power from on high." The superior power is from on high. Many believers have been caged by sin, the world, the devil and the flesh. The fire of God is absent in their lives. Some decades ago, Nigeria was in darkness, demons and demonic activities were all over the place. Many bad things were happening. There came a time, when some children of God, who were on fire, got up and chased those demons out of the nation, back into hell. Do you want that kind of power from on high? Do you know that Christians are supposed to be the ones with the most dangerous spiritual power on earth? Only those presently living on earth need power. Those in hell are already in the devil's hands, those in heaven are already out of his way, it is only those that are alive that need the infilling of the Holy Spirit. It is not the kind of baptism that people say they receive and they only say "Bah, bah" year in year out, or they copy the tongues that their pastors speak.

It is true that many believers want the power of God, but no father would give a gun to a 7-year-old boy and turn him loose in the streets. Why? It is too much power for him at his age. Likewise, God cannot entrust power into the hands of some people. God is hoping and looking at them that one day they will get to a level where He would soak them in His power. If He expects you to move at 100km/hour and you are moving like a snail, He cannot fill you with His power. Although God is ready to fill people with His power, there are some that He would not fill.

THOSE WHO CANNOT RECEIVE THE POWER OF GOD

- 1. Those who cannot control their emotions.** There are people who preach motivational messages but still cannot control their anger. God cannot trust such people. He would not give you power if He knows that one day, you will get angry with your wife or husband and command him or her to roast and it will happen and then you start crying. God will not entrust power into the hands of those who will always shed tears for any small thing.
- 2. Those who lack love.** Many people harbour hatred in their hearts, whereas, God commands us to love Him and love our neighbours.
- 3. The doubters and the fearful.** The Bible says a man that doubts is like the waves of the sea that are tossed here and there, and such a person should not think that he or she can receive anything from the Lord. Peter was a fisherman, he was programmed to fear the wind, and could not imagine walking on the sea. He wavered and began to sink.

HOW TO EXPERIENCE PERSONAL PENTECOST

Have an encounter with the "I AM."

When a person comes in contact with the Lord; he or she gets born again and his or her life never remains the same.

Can you say that you have met the Lord? Have you lost your sanctification? Can you clearly say that you have met God? I am not talking about confirmation or baptism. Have you met God? If you have, can you say when it happened? When the Lord took me to heaven, I saw many things. One thing I will never forget is the joy that was on the faces of those that I saw there. I did not want to come back to this world but the Lord told me that it was not yet time for me to stay there. I heard the voice of the Lord. He called me by name.

When you meet God, there will be a lasting mark. It is, a lasting experience. You will never be the same again. Maybe your father is or was a Reverend or a Pastor, it does not matter; you need a personal encounter with the Lord. The issue of salvation is very basic. Everything starts from there. There is no mid way. It is deliverance from the guilt and penalty of sin, so that you can enjoy the unchanging favour of God forever. Salvation is not about big

works, or the number of years you have spent in the church. It is not by the group or association you belong to in the church.

Many people do what their mind tells them to do. They find it difficult to live above sin. Brotherly love is dying out in the church; people no longer trust one another. If you are saved, there will be an internal joy in your heart, no matter what your condition is. You will know that everything does not end here. We have a better country where we are going. Those who are saved will talk to God everyday in prayer: they will hear from God everyday through His word, they will talk to sinners about the love of God and the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross at Calvary.

Beloved, you are either saved or unsaved or a back slider or conquered by sin everyday. If you are saved, you will know it. Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries is not a place for social gathering, where people gather for excitement and where the people are told what they want to hear. The main purpose of the ministry and the message we are trying to portray through this book is to make men and women godly. When you meet the Lord, you do not need a prophet to tell you. You will know where you are. When Isaiah met God, He said: "Woe is me, for I am a man of unclean lips..." When Paul met God, he knew it and his life changed. The problem of many people lies in the fact that they have not met the Lord. Back sliding is the result of not meeting the Lord. You cannot live your Christian life on the basis of someone else's experience.

Consider how long you have been going to church. Consider the fact that God is a living and active God. The problem is yours not God's. Those who do not have a personal encounter with God are targets for the enemy. So, you must encounter Christ, and that encounter must be remembered always. Some people celebrate the day they were born into the world, whereas the real day they should celebrate is the day they got born again.

There was an old man who gave his life to Christ at the age of 70. One day, he went to church and broke down into tears. He wept bitterly. The pastor asked why he was crying and he told him that he had wasted seventy years, serving the devil, and how many years more did he have to live and serve the Lord? The pastor tried to console him by saying that even if he had ten

years more to spend on earth in the service of the Lord, it is better than having wasted a whole life time.

One thing that kills a lot of people is wanting to do things "the way they do it'. Many people celebrate parties the way the world does them, even if they cannot afford it. When my father went to be with the Lord, I was told to do the burial arrangement in a way that would span five days. I told them that the Bible does not talk about all those things. The Lord helped us and everything was done in one day: wake-keep, burial and outing service. Do not get hooked on the "that-is-how-they-do-it" syndrome.

As a sister was preparing for her wedding, I told her not to allow the traditional pouring of water on the bride's feet to be done to her. She attended a "faith" church, so she said she did not see anything wrong in it. She said she would "faith it". I told her not to "faith it", that prevention is better than cure. She said she was not convinced that it could have any adverse effect on her. She allowed it and for more than five years, she struggled to get out of the problems it brought into her life. When you encounter God, you will not be entangled by the things of the world.

The saints are crying that the Lord should avenge them of their blood that was shed for the propagation of the gospel. The souls of aborted babies are crying for vengeance against those who would have been their fathers and mothers. God is waiting end assuring them to be patient for the fullness of time. Some people have aborted the children that were supposed to be prophets, God will deal with such people seriously if they do not repent.

Beloved, the Lord is coming soon. If you are not ready by the time the trumpet sounds, you will be left behind. On that day, those whose lives are right with God will be taken up in the air: they could be driving and suddenly the driver will be nowhere to be found. He would have gone to heaven and those who are not for the Lord in that vehicle will find themselves in hell. If the pilot of an aeroplane is taken up at the sound of the trumpet, the plane will crash and the sinners inside will find themselves in hell.

Beloved, let us face facts, can you say that you have actually encountered God? Do you know the exact date that you met the Lord? This encounter is

the new birth and it is the one that should be celebrated. As far as God is concerned, that is your birthday. If you want personal Pentecost, you must be born again.

Colossians 3: 5-6 says, "***Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth: fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence and covetousness, which is idolatry, for which things sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience.***"

Many years ago, a man was asking God for power. He fasted and prayed and waited long on the Lord. Later, the Lord told him that if he wanted power, he had to die. He wondered what the Lord meant and the Lord told him that the 'self in him had to die. The Lord told him that a living person (someone who is self-willed), cannot be used of God. Later, the Lord made him to understand that all the inordinate cravings of the flesh have to be out of his life for him to be useable or before he could have power. All the evil reactions and evil thoughts have to die before God can use you. When you are dead to self you cannot see when a person looks at you badly. You will not be moved to fall into sin.

One day, a brother was in a commuter bus and someone slapped him. Fellow commuters told the brother to retaliate and he said he could not. They asked him why and he said that his hands were dead. They wondered what he meant, because his hands were there. He said they had been nailed to the cross. They were shocked. They hissed and called him a fanatic. Beloved, would you not strike back if you were the one? Are your hands nailed to the cross? Are you crucified with Christ?

God does not trust those who are not dead to self. One day, a man had a dream, he saw people tramping to a burial ground. He followed them and they sang hymns. As he looked at the face of the person in the coffin, he saw that it was his. He wondered why he was being buried and just then, he woke up. God then ministered to him that he was dead and could now qualify for His use.

Romans 6:1-2, 6-7 says, "***What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein***" ?

Verses 6-7: ***"Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth, we should not serve sin for he that is dead, is freed from sin."***

When you die, you are freed from sin. The reason the enemy is making so much progress on the lives of many people is the fact that they are not dead to sin. The longer you look for God, the more hunger you have for Him. God will not reveal Himself to you in His fullness until you are dead to sin. The Bible says, "Except a grain of corn falls to the ground and dies, it cannot grow". To God, the way up is down. God will use you when you die. The more you die to the flesh, the more power you receive. As you yield your members to God, the Spirit of God takes control of all those areas that you have yielded. Some people resist the call to modesty and continue to paint their lips and faces. If God wanted your lips to be red, He would have painted it by Himself and you would have been born with it. Many people say they have the call of God on them but because they do not want to do away with worldliness, they abandon God's work. This becomes an idol in their heart. They are not totally yielded to the Lord.

That part of your life that is not yielded to God will serve as entrance or ladder for the devil to get into your life. God will only accept that part of your life that you give to Him. The part you do not yield is the one that the devil uses. It will serve as door through which your life would be attacked. Your emotions must be mastered. There are many followers but only a few are disciples. The church of God is not an entertainment centre. It is supposed to be a recruitment station for recruiting soldiers. We are in a perpetual warfare so let no man think that he can win the external war without gaining victory internally. The internal war against the flesh must be won before one can have external dominion over it. It is a serious affair; there should be no agreement with the enemy. It is the person who has surrendered to the Lord completely that will not surrender to the enemy. Many are playing instead of praying. They need to die so that the Lord can use them."

You must stab the flesh to death. Sometimes, it will tell you to react to people's actions. When flesh dies, woe betides the witch or herbalist that dares take your name to any witchcraft coven. But if you still have anger in

you, they will prosper. There was a brother whose name was taken to a herbalist. The herbalist asked the man to quarrel with the brother so that his charm would work. The man told the herbalist that it was not possible because the brother was unprovocable. Whenever they tried to provoke him in the neighborhood, he would say: "God bless you". When the water he kept for his bath was thrown away purposely to provoke him, he just picked his bucket, washed his face and went to work without having a bath. The herbalist said if there was no legal hold, they could not do anything against him. We need to die completely so that the glory of God will burst forth in us. As far as Christians refuse to die, the serpent will thrive against them.

THE IN-FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

When you die to self, the Holy Spirit will fill you. Many people claim to be born again, sanctified and Spirit-filled. Many have not attained the level that God really wants for them. It is like taking two teaspoonful of water, when you have a whole jug to drink. Until you are dead to self, the Breaker of yokes cannot descend upon you and reveal Himself in a mighty way. If you go through the Acts of the Apostles, you will find that whenever Peter was to do anything, the Bible would say: "And he, being filled with the Holy Spirit... did so and so." Immediately that happened, miracles followed. You must be filled with the Holy Spirit. You must experience personal Pentecost. Let the Holy Spirit reign in your life.

Many people are struggling with strugglers and weeping with weepers and crying with criers, because they do not have authority. There is no indwelling of the Holy Spirit. When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you will not be satisfied with just reading two or three verses of the Bible as suggested in daily Bible reading guides. You should hunger for more of Him everyday. Anything that is preventing you from being filled with the Holy Spirit is your greatest enemy. It means that somewhere somehow, there are some powers that are afraid that if you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you will be dangerous to them. They know that you will not only surpass them, but also defeat them.

COMPULSORY STEP TO PERSONAL PENTECOST

If you are reading this book and you have never at one time or the other surrendered your life to the Lord Jesus Christ, you have to do so before you can talk about personal Pentecost. If you have never publicly accepted the Lord Jesus Christ into your life, I would advise that you do so, right there where you are. Being a regular member of a church does not mean you are born again, if you have not officially asked Him to come into your life.

Right there where you are beloved, think about your life, confess your sins to the Lord Jesus Christ and ask Him to forgive you. Repent sincerely and make sure you do not go back to those sins again. Claim the redemptive power in the blood of Jesus that was shed at Calvary. Invite the Lord Jesus Christ into your life. Ask Him to come in and become your personal Lord and Saviour. Ask Him to take control of all the affairs of your life and let Him know that you will never go back to the world. Renounce the devil and all that he does.

If you have Just taken this decision, I congratulate you and I pray that the Lord will uphold you with His right hand of righteousness. I pray to the Lord, that you will not turn back from following Him.

How wonderful would it be when you can hear what the Lord is saying to you rather than pass through people. How wonderful would it be for you to know the secrets of heaven! The prayer points below are meant to propel you into your personal Pentecost so that you can receive gifts from God.

1. The gap between my life and what God wants me to be, be removed today, in the name of Jesus.
2. I blind every demon of theological Christianity, in the name of Jesus.
3. Holy Ghost fire, use my life as fuel and burn in me, in the name of Jesus.
4. Lord Jesus, do all the necessary things that will bring revival into my life, in the name of Jesus.
5. Holy Spirit, give me the power of the overcomer, in the name of Jesus.
6. I vomit every satanic deposit in any department of my life, in the name of Jesus.

HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD

Holiness Unto The Lord is an essential ingredient for total deliverance. This book addresses an important ingredient that will secure, guarantee and sustain deliverance.

The author identifies the missing ingredients as far as total deliverance is concerned. The power of holiness as a form of immunity for bondage and spiritual attacks. The approach is practical and the book is offered in a readable form. The prayer points will put an end to all kinds of bondage

With this book in your hand, total deliverance is sure.

About the Author

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The Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries' Headquarters is the largest single Christian congregation in Africa with attendance of over 120,000 in single meetings.

MFM is a full gospel ministry devoted to the revival of Apostolic signs, Holy Ghost Fireworks, miracles and the unlimited demonstration of the power of God to deliver to the uttermost. Absolute holiness within and without as spiritual insecticide and prerequisite for heaven is openly taught. MFM is a do-it-yourself Gospel Ministry, where your hands are trained to wage war and your fingers to do battle.

Dr. Olukoya holds a first class honours degree in Micro-biology from the University of Lagos and a PhD in Molecular Genetics from the University of Reading, United Kingdom. As a researcher, he has over seventy scientific publications to his credit.

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