

FROM
Adversity

TO
Testimony



DR. D. K. OLUKOYA

Warfare Prayer Series

16

**From Adversity
To
Testimony**

DR. D. K. OLUKOYA

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DR. D. K. OLUKOYA

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email: sales@battlecryng.com

Phone: 0803-304-4239, 01-8044415

I salute my wonderful wife, Pastor Shade, for her invaluable support in the ministry.

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All the Scriptures are from the King James Version

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BACKCOVER

CHAPTER ONE

FROM ADVERSITY TO TESTIMONY

The power of God is great and all encompassing. When you come to terms with the knowledge of the dynamism of God, you will relax and rest at the time of adversity. The God of heaven and earth can turn your adversity to a testimony and your problem to promotion. The light of God can illuminate your dark pathway and put a smile on your face.

God can turn your night to day, your sorrow to joy and insurmountable mountains to stepping stones to experience the unprecedented power of God. Alas! The time for your breakthrough has come.

The Almighty is ready to do the impossible in your life. Never will you remain in the dunghill of poverty, lack and adversity. The Bible says;

Psalm 30:5-6: For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life; weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning. And in my prosperity I said, I shall never be moved.

Whatever unpalatable situation you find yourself at this moment is not your final bus-stop. It will only prepare you for reaching forth to your divine destiny. God has a special plan for you and no devil or power of wickedness has the legal right to cancel it. You might be caged in the prison of problems today. but. you will soon break-forth into the limelight tomorrow. Obscurity may cover your sight, but, the hand of God will put an end to every form of darkness.

Get ready! The Lord wants to perform unprecedented miracles in your life. God will lift you up from the valley of limitation and failure. A new thing is

about to happen in your life which will shock on-lookers. Believe God for the fulfillment of His divine promises over your life.

Pray the following prayer points with all your strength and might you have got.

1. Every power behind my problems, die! In the name of Jesus.
2. Every ancestral vulture assigned against my destiny, die! In the name of Jesus.

You need to demonstrate courage in the name of adversity. Giving up in time of trouble or adversity will not help matters at all. The Bible says: Proverb 24:10: If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.

THE IRREFUTABLE LAWS OF SUCCESS

Nothing good comes out of life without a sacrifice. There is no promotion without pain. You must go through a test before you can come up with a testimony. Before wearing the crown, you will need to carry the cross. Barriers are usually the stepping-stones to breakthroughs. You will need to pay a price before making progress in life.

Adversities wilt of course, prepare the ground for your advancement. God will definitely give you an examination before you can have divine exaltation. You must make sacrifices before you can become successful in life's endeavours.

Wisdom, is the master key to unlocking the doors of wealth. It is possible for your afflictions to be turned to achievements. The Bible says;

Psalm 34:19: Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all.

THE SCHOOL ADVERSITY

There is no education that can be compared with adversity. If you take a close look at the lives of successful people during Bible days and in our contemporary times, it will be clear to you that adversity has taught them a

lesson that is quite expensive and which cannot be gotten anywhere else. Adversity will reveal the truth. If you want to know the substance that a person possesses, it is adversity that will bring it out. Most times, the strength and weakness of people are revealed by adversity.

Adversity is a kind of situation, where you do not find things convenient. And, it appears everywhere at all times. There is no place you can run to where adversity cannot locate you. Any pastor or church that promises you trouble-free existence is deceiving you. A trouble-free life does not exist in the realm of mortals. You can only find it in the cemetery. Everybody will definitely and unavoidably face the day of trouble, trials and adversity. It just varies from one person to another.

Adversity has the potency of reducing a prince to a pauper and an intellectual to a wreck. It can reduce a strongman to a piece of bread.

It is you who will determine never to give in to discouragement and the voice of the devil. Since adversity is inevitable, you must make up your mind to face it. If you are a good student of the Bible, you will agree with me that trouble or adversity is normally the price for progress. You will also agree with me that all true children of God passed through one form of adversity or the other. Before you can become a friend of God and reach your potentials, It will be necessary for you to come out in flying colours in the school of adversity.

Something stands out clear about successful people in the Bible. The common denominator that all of them had was that they all got into trouble and got out of it. The truth you must acknowledge is that, you might want to feel at ease and relax if you are not pursued by the enemy. It is sometimes the pursuit of the enemies that will get you moving forward. I want you to know that you can not bribe your way out of adversity.

The fact that you are going through adversities is an indication that there is a golden treasure in you. The enemy will always try to use the weapon of adversity to derail you from reaching the divine destiny. If enemies are disturbing you now, then it shows you that your life has a very expensive treasure which is standing as a threat to some powers. The Bible says;

Isaiah 43:1-2: But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. When thou passest through the water, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shall not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

Let me make this clear to you. God will not deliver you from troubles but He will deliver you inside of troubles. This may be difficult for you to believe but it is a fact. The adversity you are passing through is a blessing in disguise. You cannot have victory when you run away from the battle front. Every adversity you are going through has an opportunity for advancement. The solution for adversity or troublesome times is right inside it.

THE PLOT OF THE WICKED

The Bible wants you to understand that every righteous person will face the wrath of the wicked. This is what will link you with glorious opportunities and privileges. If you are a righteous man or woman, you will need to face the wrath of the wicked. The experiences of Bible characters make us to understand this. Daniel, Joseph, Shadrach, Meshack and Abednego faced the wrath of the wicked.

Adversity comes your way as blessing in disguise. It is a spring board for a glorious upliftment. In fact, adversity acts as the springboard for you to progress. I want you to hold on to this truth. You do not have the power to decide the kind of adversity which will come your way. The principle is simple; different strokes for different folks.

MAN, KNOW YOURSELF

You need to know yourself before you can address some of life's problems. If you don't know yourself, you might have to stay longer in difficulties and satanic bondage. As Christians, we must know the strength of the power that resides in us.

A brother was perplexed concerning the barrage of problems he was facing. The brother discussed his problems with his friend who later took him to a fetish priest. Immediately they entered the place where the fetish

priest was, his friend was quickly called aside and warned never to bring that kind of a person again. The friend was surprised and could not tell the Christian brother that the fetish priest did not want to see him.

At that point, the fetish priest decided to meet the brother and told him; "people like you do not come to this kind of place. He further said "There is sufficient power where you go". The brother was surprised and stretched out his hands to shake the fetish priest. The herbalist said "No! don't shake my hands. You have God's power. We don't shake hands with people who have God's power."

Here was a servant of Satan recognizing the power of the Holy Ghost in the brother. It is a tragedy for you not to know who you are. Why suffer in silence while the power for your deliverance resides within you. The tragedy of life becomes complicated when you go to the camp of the enemy who is pursuing you.

THE TOOL OF DISCOURAGEMENT

The worst thing, that can happen to you during adversity, is to yield to discouragement. When you are discouraged, you give the devil a legal hold over your life. In fact, during discouragement, you are bound to pray the wrong prayers.

Also, when you are discouraged, you will be saying the wrong things. The wrong thought will also come to you during the time of discouragement. Aside from this, you are bound to do the wrong things when you are discouraged.

Moses yielded to discouragement and smote the rock instead of speaking to it. This of course made him to be disqualified from entering Canaan land. He was only permitted to see the land from afar off.

Discouragement is a very powerful tool which the enemy normally uses to hinder a lot of people from receiving their miracles.

Discouragement will make you to focus on difficulties rather than on the power of God. You are likely to end up in the wrong place when you

yield to the voice of discouragement just as Jonah found himself inside the fish's belly.

Discouragement is the spirit that makes people faint. It will make you to faint at the edge of your breakthroughs and hinder the blessings of God over your life. If you want to move from the valley to the mountain and from tragedy to testimony, the first power to destroy is the power of discouragement.

ANXIETY AND WORRY

The second power to destroy if you need a testimony is anxiety and worry. The more you worry and become anxious, the farther you will push your miracles away. When worry moves into your life, faith jumps out. Also, when faith comes in, worry must jump out.

EVIL SPEAKING

The third thing that must die in your life is evil speaking. Evil speaking enslaves rather than deliver you from problems.

The strategy of evil speaking is the handiwork of the devil. It should be clear to you that there is power in the tongue. Whatever you use your tongue to do, will go a long way in determining the kind of person you are likely to end up becoming. The power of remaining in bondage or setting delivered lies within your tongue.

The Bible says;

James 3:2-10: 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. Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are 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 there with curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

UNBELIEF

Unbelief is tragic. It does not solve any problem at all. There are a lot of people who go to church just for going sake without believing in God. Such people do not exercise faith in God's word and promises. They rather manifest unbelief.

Unbelief must be banished from your life, If you want to taste honey out of the rock. You are expected to have a very high expectation of what God wants to do In your life. You must know the ability of the God whom you serve. to do all things at all times.

The Bible says;

Lake 1:37: For with God nothing shall be impossible.

I cannot begin to recount all that God has done. In fact, you might likely not believe some of the wondrous things that God has done. When the Bible says that God can do all things, it means all things in the real sense of the word. I want you to believe God that He can do all things in your life. No matter your situation, faith in God will definitely bring laughter into your mouth. Your case is not impossible for God.

Even if people have told you that the situation of things is impossible and men have written you off, it is then God will arise and fight your battles. Unbelief has to die for you to move from adversity to testimony.

PRAYERLESSNESS

Prayerlessness will keep you under the dominion of satan. You are expected to break free from prayerlessness if you want to enjoy the liberty of the gospel. A prayerless man or woman is a victim and captive of the

devil. In fact, a prayerless man is powerless. While a prayerful man or woman has the power of God and of men. Our Lord Jesus Christ has this to say;

Luke 18:1: And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

LACK OF THE WORD OF GOD

The word of God is potent. It can achieve great feats in the lives of men. For you to have testimonies, you must allow the word of God to take a full place in your life. The Bible says;

1 Peter 2:2-3: As newborn babies, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: if so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

You must become an addict of the Bible. The word of God is the surest anchor, you can hold on to and remain unmovable. Lack of the word of God will keep you under the defeat and the domination of the enemy.

FEAR

Fear is dangerous and demonic. A child of God must never exercise fear. Fear torments the soul and has the ability of killing stars. It will be disastrous, for you to give in to the grip of fear.

It is fear that enslaves a person under frustration and satanic delusion. The Bible says;

2 Tim. 1:7: For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Fear will kill your faith and reduce you to a wreck. You should be bold as a lion in order to confront and defeat the demon of fear.

PRAYERS FOR A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

The time for a change has come. God wants to do something new in your life.

Pray the following prayer points and you will surely experience the hand of God moving in your life.

1. Every power, walking against my promotion, scatter, in the name of Jesus.
2. Every satanic umbrella, covering my glory, tear away, in the name of Jesus.
3. Every power, blocking me from uncommon breakthroughs, die, in the name of Jesus.
4. Every power of any dead human spirit, that is working against me, I bury you now, in the name of Jesus.
5. Resurrection power of the lord Jesus Christ, fall upon me now, in the name of Jesus.
6. Power of devourers, die, in the name of Jesus.
7. Thou power of satanic delay, my life is not your candidate, therefore, die, in the name of Jesus.
8. Every poison, that has entered into my body, come out now, in the name of Jesus.
9. I move from adversity to testimonies, in the name of Jesus.
10. My Stubborn enemies, move from disgrace to disgrace, in the name of Jesus.
11. Every wealth, that my ancestors have lost, repossess them by fire, in the name of Jesus.

CHAPTER TWO

WHEN SPIRITUAL WARFARE BECOMES SPIRITUAL WEAR-OUT

One of the hallmark of the last days is spiritual Lukewarmness and redundancy. This is what characterises the present age which we live in. Spiritual warfare can easily become spiritual wear-out if care is not taken. It is therefore necessary, for you to put all things in place so that you will not be among the victims of Spiritual wear out.

The world we live in is full of battles. The young have battles to fight. The old also have battles to fight. The educated and the non-educated fight the battles of life. Whatever race, family or background you come from, you have your own share of battles to fight.

Believers are in for battles. Immediately you give your life to Christ and you are enlisted among the pilgrims undertaking a journey to the glorious city, you will have to work your fingers to the bone. It is imperative, for you to put on the whole armor of God so that you will not fall among the countless number of casualties.

Paul the Apostle gives a vivid description of what it means to fight.

1 Cor.9:26-27: I therefore so run, not as uncertainty; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

Put on the armour of warfare and get prepared to fight the battles of life. Your hands must be taught to fight and your fingers to war.

What are you supposed to fight against? Well, the scripture is not silent as to what you have to wrestle against. We are made to know and

understand that we do not fight against flesh and blood.

2 Cor. 10:3-5: For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

The fight against the enemy is otherwise called "spiritual warfare." When a person is praying fire prayers, such a one is involved in spiritual warfare. Being involved in deliverance or praising God is spiritual warfare. At another time, when somebody is involved in prayers and fasting, it is spiritual warfare. That is why the bible says that though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh.

DEEP TRUTHS ABOUT SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Knowledge of the dynamism of spiritual warfare will arm you with the tools needed for fighting spiritual battles. I want to implore you to allow the following truths about spiritual warfare to sink into your inner man.

The number one unchanging truth about spiritual warfare is that, evil spirits have no power to destroy you unless they find an area of your life that is not yielded to God. No one can deceive God because He knows all things. Also, you cannot deceive the devil because he is the head master in the school of deception. The Bible makes us to understand that, he is the father of lies and deception.

Any area of your life, that is not totally yielded to God, gives room for the devil to act. In the African society, it is generally believed that it is only when a wall is cracked that a lizard can gain entry. When your relationship with God is broken in any area of life, it make it easy for the devil to gain entry with his host and launch an attack.

The second truth you must not forget in spiritual warfare is that evil spirits cannot destroy you unless there is something in you that they can take hold of and use as a ladder. This is what is called spiritual loopholes. Anybody who harbours a loophole is a willing tool for the devil and his

agents. Jesus Christ had a glorious testimony that the prince of this world came to him but found nothing.

It is when you can beat your chest and lay claim to the testimony of personal purity that you will be exonerated from satanic attacks and enslavement. Spiritual wickedness in high places is so organised that they look for loopholes, points of contact, ladders, and history. If they find such in your life they are going to move in.

The third deep truth you must know before engaging in spiritual warfare is that, a life that is completely yielded to God, nothing can cooperate with devil's desire in such a life. When your life is yielded to God, the devil and his agent's attacks become nullified. A yielded life is a life completely protected by God himself. I will implore you to yield your life and being to your maker.

This spiritual truth confirms one of the sayings of Jesus while on earth. "Whosoever shall find his life shall lose it but whosoever shall lose life for the gospel's sake shall find it"

The fourth deep truth that must sink into your heart is that, once you are completely yielded to God, majority of the spiritual warfare sessions you are bound to encounter is already settled. In other words, if you can afford to pay the price of yielding your brain, talent, time, certificate, vision, future and entire being to fight on your behalf.

It is an incontestable fact, that there are witches and wizards with networks of activities all over our environment. But suffice it to make it clear that they succeed in people's lives because they come across readymade materials, through which they can perpetrate evil. Most of the time, believers sing "All to Jesus I surrender", while proper investigation will show that it is a lie. What they mean, is, "Some to Jesus I Surrender."

DON'T GIVE UP!

A Christian should never listen to the voice of the devil. You are to be rugged and resolute in dealing with the issue of winning souls into God's kingdom. No matter the character of the person you are reaching out to,

God expects you to persist because salvation of souls is important in spiritual warfare.

A missionary met a young African boy who appeared to him as being strange. This is because the boy could neither write nor read. And often, he troubled the missionary by asking him to preach and read the Bible to him.

At a time, the missionary began to get worn-out. So, the missionary decided to do something to the boy in order to hinder him from his usual harassment. He decided to read the gospel of Matthew chapter 24 to him.

Surprisingly, as the missionary was reading about the end time, false prophets, the abomination of desolation and other details, the boy was busy smiling.

After he had finished reading the passage, he asked the boy whether he understood it. To his amazement, the boy declared that he understood the passage beyond what the preacher thought. He further revealed to the missionary that the Lord had revealed exactly everything he had read to him in a vision. This became a challenge to the missionary.

I want you to understand that, the souls of men never die immediately a person is born. the soul of that person will never die. It is the soul of man that will give account before the Lord at the judgement seat. That is the reason evangelism should be given a high priority in the church of God. That is the heart cry of God to everyone who has tasted of the bread of life and has been washed in the blood of the lamb.

I want you to take cognisance of the fact that, satan will fight relentlessly to blindfold the church of God from the task that our Lord Jesus Christ gave to his disciples before ascending into heaven. God depends on you. Do not disappoint God on this issue. The mandate is clearly stated below.

Mark 16:15-18: And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any

deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

Do you know that, so many have become a Martyr for the cause of the gospel? In fact, if some people had not decided to lose their lives for the sake of the gospel and come to your community, you will never have had the opportunity of knowing Jesus. If you have studied the church history, your perception of evangelism would change. The type of Christianity that a lot practice nowadays can be best described as bread and butter Christianity.

Many waters have passed under the bridge. Lots of lives have been wasted due to the faith of our fathers. I want you to understand that, so many people have walked in the path we are threading now. They have taken risks, walked upon the sea and faced lions for the cause of the gospel. These people are now in heaven watching the way we are fighting the battles of life.

There was a time when Christians were hated bitterly. In fact, so many of them were burnt to death in Rome. Not only that, some of them were eaten alive by wild beasts. During that time, Christians were publicly mutilated to death and they became a laughing stock to the people around. To the extent that the stadium was expanded to accommodate about 87,000 people who would come and watch and laugh at Christians being eaten by lions.

The corpses of Christians were converted to big lanterns in order to light the roads. In spite of all the persecutions and horrible deaths that these Christians faced, they were still joyful for being counted worthy to suffer for Jesus. These Christians were able to endure the persecutions meted out to them because they had been completely and totally yielded to God. Jesus says

"In the world, you shall experience tribulations and trials, but be of good cheer, because I have overcome the world."

UNYIELDEDNESS

An unyielded life will hit the rocks in the journey to heaven. Things will become gloomy and obscure when you are unyielded, spiritual growth

will be retarded. In fact, spiritual warfare would soon become spiritual wear-out.

A man of God was completely unhappy with his life. He detested what was happening to him and he therefore decided to go on 7 days dry fast. He began to drink a little water on the third day of engaging in serious spiritual warfare with bitterness and anger as he poured out his heart before God. He prayed for deliverance and God's judgment over the people making his life difficult.

However, as he was praying and crying to God, Jesus appeared to him on the seventh day and presented a black board before him. On it was written a song which can be found below.

Oh God! My heart doth long for thee,
Let me die, let me die,
Now set my soul at liberty
Let me die, let me die
Let all the thrifling things
Of this world be now unto me of little worth,
My saviour calls and I am going forth,
Let me die, let me die,
Lord, I must die to scofs and jeers,
Let me die, let me die
Unto the world and his applause
To all its customs, fashions
Lost and of those who hate the humbling of the cross,
Let me die, let me die
When I am dead then Lord to
Live, I will live, I will live
My life, my strength, my all to thee, I will give, I will give.

The man of God read this song and became astonished. He told God to reveal the meaning of the song to him. later, Jesus told him that he was the source of his problem. Jesus continued and told him that He was not making serious efforts to deal with the problem he has been facing, and all that was expected of him was to dethrone the flesh and yield his life, and entire being to God Almighty.

He was made to realise that, that if he could dethrone the flesh, the enemy would not have any legal hold on his life. Jesus further told him: "Son, your major problem is that the old man is still reigning and ruling in your life. Dethrone the old-man and your enemies shall flee.

After this, Jesus went away with his black board and the man was left alone. For the first time somebody told him the blunt truth.

THE TRUTH SHALL SET YOU FREE

Spiritual warfare does not entertain deception. You are expected to come to terms with the word of God which shall set you free. A church that will engage in spiritual warfare must declare the whole truth of the word of God. Word of the truth must be preached without any form of distortion. The Bible says:

John 8:32: And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

If you do not want your shouting and prayers to be in vain, you are expected to arm yourself with the truth of the word of God. Spiritual warfare will soon become spiritual wear-out if the truth of God's word is missing.

Ephes. 6:14: Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

Preachers of God's word must not shy away from declaring the whole counsel of God. The last day will be characterised by deception, but it takes somebody who is ardent in declaring the whole truth to survive. You need not to be afraid of losing members if you are a pastor. God expects you to preach without looking at faces. Hit the hammer of God's word on your congregation so that they could become broken and surrender to the saviour of their soul.

The Bible says: "For the LORD will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them" (Prov. 22:23).

Everybody will get wise someday, but it is time that will tell when you will get wise. Some will be wise while they are still alive while others will

be wise when they are dead. In fact, some will be wise in hell fire while another set of people will be wise at the gate of heaven when they are hindered from entering into the kingdom of God.

THE ENEMY WITHIN

The old man in your life is the enemy of holiness, heaven and God. It is the satanic force inside us that aids the devil in his works of unrighteousness. Man fell in the Garden of Eden through disobedience and became wedded to sin. Man was immortal but after the fall he became mortal. Through yielding to sin, he brought physical death upon himself right from the garden. What man lost in the garden can hardly be quantified. While he was in the garden, there was no need for him to put on clothes because the glory of God covered him. It was in the garden that man lost holiness and entire sanctification. This of course, brought corruption to the perfect nature of holiness upon him. At the end of the day, God had this to say about the degeneration and degradation of man.

Genesis 6:5-7: And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

The worst sin of man which resides within him is what is referred to as "inbred sin". Others call it carnality or the remain of sin. The Bible however calls it the old-man. When the old-man is enthroned in your life, you will only get small results, if any. It is when the old-man is dethroned in your life that answers to prayers become easy and smooth.

The passage below gives a true picture of a life lived under the control and domination of the old man.

Romans 1:29-32: Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, Inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without

understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure In them that do them.

It is from the heart that all kinds of evil things emanate. That is why you must guide your heart from the operations of the old man. The bible says,

Mark 7:21-23: For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

The operations of the enemy within are described as the works of the flesh which are enumerated below.

Galatians 5:19-21: Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you In time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

One of the things to do, if you want the battles of life to be harder is to pamper the old man. Pride is one of the characteristics of the old man which can bring sudden destruction and damnation to a person's life. It was pride that turned angels to demons. It threw many stars from heaven to earth.

The etymology of the word "Pride" is revealing. The Greek meaning of pride is "To swell up like a balloon being inflated." It also means trying to appear to be above others. That is, feeling superior on account of your wealth, talent, attainment or intellect. Most of the disagreement, misunderstanding, rancour, strife, contention, discord, evil speaking among brethren is a product of pride. When you are trying to classify yourself in a unique way in the fellowship of the children of God, you are proud.

It is pride that will make a teenager of 18 or 19 years to want to do things by himself or herself without seeking counsel from elders. They take decisions that will eventually ruin their lives. The Bible says:

Proverbs 30:11-14: There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother. There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness. There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! And their eyelids are lifted up. There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men.

It is also pride, that will make one to always desire to be praised and glorified. It will make you have your own ways at the expense of others. Let It be settled in your heart, that pride will receive a very severe judgment from God. The Bible says,

Proverbs 16:18: Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

God will definitely judge the proud. No matter the situation or circumstances involved, the wrath and indignation will come upon people who are consumed with pride.

Malachi 4:1: For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

Pride will cage and incapacitate you from reaching forth to your life's goals and ambitions. It will make spiritual warfare to become ineffective and dormant.

ANGER

This is another sign of the presence of the old-man in a person's life. When you are angry, you are likely to miss out on God's plans and purpose for your life. An angry man is a failure in warfare. Anger can be likened to a substance inside a mountain which suddenly becomes a volcanic eruption.

There is what is called silent anger. This is otherwise called pressure-cooker anger which builds up inside looking for expression. There is also explosive anger. Anyone under the grip of explosive anger will lose control of himself without putting the people around him into consideration.

I know a pastor who got angry and threw his Bible and bag away. After which he jumped on the table used for the meeting. This man of God could not control his temper.

Anger has the potency of destroying the peace of the church and that of the home. The old-man normally uses the ladder of anger to block the purpose of God for people's lives. Mr. Anger will curse, bring hatred, rancour and murder. It will look for revenge, break up homes, enslave people, split churches and populate hell. Anyone with the seed of anger has a problem greater than all the witches and wizards in the world.

There are people who get angry when they are called bad names and are misrepresented. If you are not a thief or fornicator, you should not get angry when you are called such. Some husbands get angry because the wife has served a burnt, tasteless or salt-less food.

SPIRITUAL PERMISSION TO KILL MOTHER?

A lot of people have been caught in the web of ignorance as far as spiritual warfare is concerned. You are bound to fight a lost battle if you don't have the right understanding of deliverance. In fact, your problems might become compounded when proper attention is not given to how to fight spiritual warfare effectively.

Anger is a destroyer. Sometimes ago, a sister came to me and told me: "G. O., can you please give me spiritual permission to kill my mother?" I was utterly surprised and I asked why she wanted to take such a wrong decision. She opened up and told me that she prayed to know the secrets of her problems.

After this, she had a dream that some giants were pursuing her. As she was running for her dear life so that the giant men would not catch her, her mother held her down so that those people now caught her. She told me that they seriously dealt with her with all kinds of beating. She then told me that now is the time for her mother to die! I therefore took time to explain to her that she cannot do that because.

2 Cor. 10:3-5: For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through

God to the pulling down of strong holds ;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

The sister still stomached her anger and when her mother called her, she told her not to call her again because she was a witch! This of course aggravated her problems.

The old man has to be dealt with before you can live the life that God expects from you. Anyone who wants to be delivered from the power of the old man must first take the step of being born-again. However, the new birth does not destroy the old-man but suppresses him. The best way to deal with the old-man is to get it destroyed by killing it, through the process of death. For the old-man to die, the flesh must completely go. The Bible says:

Galatians 2: 18-20: For if I build again the things which I destroyed, I make myself a transgressor. For I through the law am dead to the law, that I might live unto God. 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.

When the old-man is dead in your life, it will be very difficult for you to fall into temptations. It is then you will become broken. The grace and the glory of God will also beam into and reflect in your life.

Pray the following prayer points seriously if you want to deal with the operations of the works of the flesh.

1. Father, nail me to the cross, let me die to the flesh, in the name of Jesus.
2. Any power pushing me towards hell fire, scatter, in the name of Jesus.
3. Anything in my life, that will encourage my enemies, die, in the name of Jesus.
4. My Father, make me wiser than my pursuers, in the name of Jesus.
5. Every stranger in the temple of my life, go out, in the name of Jesus.
6. Any ladder of darkness in my life, die, in the name of Jesus.

7. Ancestral iniquities, flowing down to me, I cut you off, in the name of Jesus.
8. My Father, make me Your battle axe, in the name of Jesus.

CHAPTER THREE

THE COMPULSORY SURGICAL OPERATION

There are three scriptures that need to be examined. These passages of the scripture will reveal the kind of surgical operation that everyone ought to experience.

These surgical operations are compulsory to all and sundry. You might have been saved for many years, yet there is a need for circumcision of your heart. Even if you just got saved, you need it too.

This operation does not exclude anyone. It is for those who have passed through deliverance sessions before and those who have no idea of what deliverance entails. The issue under consideration is a very serious one before the Lord our God. This issue is such that God would never go into compromise about it.

DEMAND FOR SURGICAL OPERATION

Spiritual surgical operation is demanded from all. This operation has to do with the foreskin of your heart. God is calling for spiritual circumcision. The Lord is asking for the circumcision of your heart. The book of Deut 10:16-17 has this to say about heart circumcision.

Deut 10:16-17: Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked. For the Lord your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward.

This request for heart circumcision demands a sober reflection. This is a serious request that needs our utmost attention. The second passage of the scripture that is of necessity is Romans 2:28-29;

For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

The third passage is located in Acts 7:51;

Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.

Stephen, the faithful martyr, was the one speaking in the above passage. The three passages put together reveal to us the necessity for surgical operation.

WHAT IS COMPULSORY SURGICAL OPERATION?

When we say compulsory surgical operation, we mean heart circumcision. Circumcision is the removal of the foreskin in male children. God intentionally decided and commanded that a part of certain organ of the body should be cut off. The organ whose part was to be cut is the reproductive organ in males. It is from this organ that men and women are reproduced.

The foreskin is a covering of the male organ. This is the physical circumcision commanded in the scripture. There was a time when God required Abraham to circumcise all the children born in his family.

Physical circumcision is a type of spiritual circumcision. The physical circumcision is a type, while the spiritual circumcision is antitype. The physical circumcision is a shadow of the real substance, which is the spiritual circumcision. Spiritual circumcision is the answer to the question of sin.

THE NATURE OF SIN

What is Sin? Is the transgression of the law. It is anything done outside faith. Sin is missing the mark. It is doing contrary to the law and love of God. It is sin that makes a person declare freedom for himself without receiving direction from God. Sin is taking to self-will, self-love and management. It is overstepping the divine limits or boundary. Sin is failure to attain the divine standard.

What is the nature of sin? Sin as revealed to us in the Bible is a cheat. It is a deceiver. It is a destroyer that destroys lives and properties. It promises pleasure but pays back in the currency of pain. Sin will promise life, but a pay back in the currency of death. Sin promises profits but pays back in the currency of poverty. The dangers of sin are beyond expression. Sin takes a person to a place he never intended in life. Sin is dangerous; it is disastrous. It is very terrible.

DIFFERENT KINDS OF HEART

God's answer to the question of sin is circumcision of the heart. God is more interested in what is going on in our hearts than what we utter out of mouths. He is interested in the work of grace wrought in us than the work of faith we engage in. God is more interested in the state of our hearts than in the works we get involved in. The inner life is more important than the external life.

The Bible says;"... Man looketh at the outward appearance, but the Lord Looketh at the heart" (1 Sam. 16:7b).

As far God is concerned, your outward appearance or what you claim to be does not matter to Him. There are different types of hearts.

- **There are evil hearts**
- **There are desperately wicked hearts**
- **There are weak hearts**
- **There are Impenitent hearts**
- **There are stubborn hearts**
- **There are rebellious heart**
- **There are double-minded hearts**
- **There are soft hearts**
- **There are some hearts that are perverse**
- **Some hearts are foolish**
- **There are proud hearts**

God is interested in what is going on in all these kinds of heart.

NECESSITY OF HEART CIRCUMCISION

What really matters to God is what is going on in your heart. If the heart is rough, terribly dirty and uncircumcised, then you are on your way to hell fire except you repent. The scripture says that, "the heart of man is desperately wicked." This is why the circumcision of the heart is necessary.

The major opposition to what God wants to do in our lives is the flesh. We should note the fact that God takes this issue with great gravity and that is why God insists that no one should relate to Him without circumcision. Abraham the father of faith was circumcised at the age of ninety nine. God did not overlook it for Abraham and say, after all Abraham will soon die let me excuse him from circumcision. No! He insisted that he must be circumcised and he was."

A true Christian is the one who is circumcised in the heart by the hand of the living God. Heart circumcision has no direct relevance to being a pastor or general overseer or being born into a Christian family. These are irrelevant issues. Without heart circumcision, a lot of evil thoughts, evil imaginations and traffic of sinful desires and habits would be going on in your heart. For example, you can kill, rape, steal, commit adultery and commit fornication right in the laboratory of your heart before carrying out the act in the physical sense of it.

What a man could not do confidently and boldly outside could be done in the laboratory of his heart with ease. That is why the Bible says in Jer. 17:19;

The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

PERVERSION!

My wife related the case of a preacher who was preaching and a lady who sat in the front row of the church to me. The more the preacher preached, the more the lady burst into tears, crying and shouting at the same

time. When the preacher saw the reaction of the lady, he too gathered his strength and momentum and started to preach harder.

The preacher thought it was his message that was causing the lady to cry.

After the service, the pastor sent for the lady for counselling. The lady came and the pastor said, "Lady,, discovered that you were crying all though the time of the preaching? The lady answered, "Yes."

The pastor asked further; "What aspect of the message is making you to cry." The woman said, "No, I was just looking at you and started considering how handsome you are and I was thinking that I wish that you are my husband. That was why I was crying. "

Can you see now that the heart of man is desperately wicked? The heart of a man is deep and desperately wicked. The Bibles says, "who can know it?"

CONCEALED DISOBEDIENCE

There is a need for heart circumcision to deal with the deceptive nature of the heart. A person may be smiling at you outwardly but if you give the same person a sword he would cut off your head.

A mother shouted at her son, "You, sit down." The mother then said. "If you do not sit down I will spank you. "The boy then said, Mummy. although I am sitting down but inside of me, am standing up."

The only solution to spiritual heart disease and problem is heart circumcision.

God's judgment on human life is based on the judgment of motives and intentions of Man. The intentions and actions of a man are like husband and wife. They go hand in hand.

THE ANALYSIS OF CIRCUMCISION OF THE HEART

Physically, an uncircumcised man has a collection of materials under his foreskin. These materials have proved to be capable of causing cancer.

An uncircumcised man could perform all the functions of the circumcised, but yet an uncircumcised man is a disaster, a time bomb waiting for the time of explosion. Likewise, an uncircumcised heart is a walking corpse.

In a culture where circumcision is practiced, an uncircumcised child cannot be stripped naked before his colleagues because of shame. The uncircumcised in heart covers up a lot things. They use religion, spirituality and their zeal as cloaks to hide their true nature from people. They employ all kinds of tricks to cover up their internal decay.

The uncircumcised will not like to undress in the public because of shame, likewise the uncircumcised heart hides things away from people such as their friends and spouse, pastors, counsellors and prayer partners. The uncircumcised in heart have a lot of secret matters stored away from people. As one lie expires, he invents another form of lies to cover the situation of his heart up.

An uncircumcised man behind the pulpit is a half-baked preacher. A half-baked preacher will preach a half baked message that will not improve the spiritual level of people. I ask you; are there things you have, which if revealed to the public you will be embarrassed of? If you have such secrets, then your heart is yet to be circumcised.

Circumcision is a painful procedure. The uncircumcised possess some things in their lives which when exposed will cause pain. Many are running away from God's presence because the process of circumcision is painful.

There is no one who can circumcise himself or herself. Every one must submit himself or herself to God to deal with the heart for circumcision. Excess 'fat' in a Christian life is very destructive.

For deep and closer walk with God, you must submit yourself unto the circumcision of the heart. There are several instances that reveal that people, even pastors are no longer walking in a close communion with God again. We have turned the things of the spirit to physical combats. We have introduced carnalities into Christianity.

THE BANE OF CARNALITY

Most often than not, we have taken issues of the gospel with levity. Human wisdom human ideas and human understanding have replaced Biblical principles and instructions.

This reminds me of an incidence where the General Overseer and a pastor of a certain church were at loggerheads. It got a level that both the G.O. and the pastor started to exchange blows. It was the church members that came to separate them. What caused the fight? The pastor turned the branch to his. He changed the name overnight. That was the crux of the matter. The pastor was not circumcised in the heart neither the general overseer who resorted to a physical combat.

Anyone who is not circumcised in the heart will always trust the arm of flesh to fight rather than trusting God. John the son of Zebedee showed signs of the uncircumcised heart when he asked Jesus to command fire to come down to consume the enemy. It is a sign of uncircumcised heart that make people opt for revenge whenever men cross their way.

The issue of circumcision of the heart transcends outward looks. Outwards looks are very deceptive. God sees your heart. He knows the level of wickedness going in your heart. God can weigh every thought going on in your heart. You may assess yourself and say you have a good heart, but as far as heaven is concerned, your heart is desperately wicked.

DANGERS OF UNCIRCUMCISION

Moses was almost killed by God because his son was not circumcised. The uncircumcision of hearts among us could lead to all kinds of terrible things. lack of circumcision will prevent you from partaking in the Passover. This could be located in Ex 12:48;

Exodus 12:48: And when a strangers shall sojourn with thee, and will keep the Passover to the Lord, let all his males be circumcised, and then let him come near and keep it; and he shall be as one that is born in the land: for no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof.

Note the latter part of the verse, which says, "For no uncircumcised person shall eat thereof." This means that, lack of circumcision will prevent anyone from eating the Passover feast.

The Passover signifies deliverance from bondage. Every form of deliverance is a form of Passover. And anyone who is not circumcised in the heart is not fit for the blessing of the deliverance.

The removal of the foreskin of your heart will save you from a lot of problems. Oppression will be lifted away from you once there is no landing place in your heart.

Circumcision was the qualification required for men who were to replace men who died during war in the Bible.

The entire Christian life is devoted to battle, therefore the circumcision of the heart is a prerequisite in order to be successful in spiritual warfare.

For effective and sensible spiritual warfare, a long deliverance session may not be necessary if the heart is circumcised.

THE NEED OF THE HOUR

There is a need to be naked before God before circumcision can take place. Once your underwear is in place, God wouldn't circumcise you. You need to be naked before him. There is no room for hypocrisy in this regard.

More than any other time in the history of the church of God, circumcision of the heart is the need of this hour. It is a critical issue that we must face because without circumcision of the heart, there will be no fulfillment of God's agenda for our lives.

Circumcision is a stage of no return. It is a point where you burn the bridge and there is no going back, That is, circumcision is foundational to salvation. To be circumcised means to get to a point in Christian life that you can confidently say, "I have reached the point of no return." When the power of darkness sees the mark of no return on you, they tremble and flee. That is why people like Paul said that, "what can separate us from the love of Christ?" That is the point of no return in the life of Paul. The present day believers need to get to that level of faith in God. That is why believers should long for this circumcision of the heart.

It is very unfortunate, that many present day believers have become stiff-necked and very stubborn. It is the operation of circumcision of heart

that would correct this.

To be stiff-necked is to get to the terminal stage of disobedience. When you are circumcised, you can then put off the burden of sin. It is then you can humble yourself before God Almighty and then He will lift you up. It is then you see yourself as God sees you.

There is a general loss of focus among believers; it is the circumcision of the heart that would correct this. When the heart is circumcised, then it becomes clean, good, fit, fixed, faithful, understanding, honest, contrite, truthful, sound, glad and established in the things of God. It is then your heart becomes tender and pure.

HEAVEN OR HELL?

Heaven has a gate so also does hell. What makes the gate of heaven interesting is that the gate can only open from the outside and not from the inside. That is, the gate allow people in but cannot allow people to get out. That is the reason people cannot leave heaven for hell or hell for heaven.

Once you enter through the pearly gate to heaven, you are there throughout eternity. And once you enter thorough fiery gate of hell, there is no way of escape forever. That is why you must make up your mind to be circumcised in your heart so that you can make your way to heaven and be there throughout eternity.

Anyone who enters in through the pearly gate into heaven is safe and secure forever. Whosoever refuses to be circumcised in heart wants to be banned forever. It is left to you to make a choice of where to belong.

THE FOUNTAIN HEAD

The heart surgery is required for every man because no one can carry out evils acts without first conceiving it in the heart. Every evil act starts from the heart. Anger is not just the expression of the face, it starts from the heart. Robbery begins from the heart before it manifests physically.

The eyes are like lenses of the camera. The heart is like a darkroom which develops pictures focused by the eyes. It is not until you allow the

heavenly surgeon to visit the darkroom of your heart and cut away the foreskin of your heart that there is a way to heaven; the city of our Great king.

The wicked, foolish and vagabond heart has no part in the kingdom of our Lord Jesus. The testimony of the scriptures is that, there shall be no unclean thing in heaven. If the heart is unclean through uncircumcision, then such a heart shall be banned forever. Any of the wicked hearts that try to get into heaven shall be turned away from that beautiful gate.

PATH OF SPIRITUAL REVIVAL AND RECOVERY

The part of spiritual revival and recovery is to allow God to come with His surgical knife for surgical operation. It is time you cry unto God to do something specific in you. May your prayer be; "Change my heart, oh God."

Hear what a popular writer wrote in his song: "Have thy affection been nailed to the cross? Is thy heart right with God? Do thou count all things for Jesus but lost? Is thy heart right with God? Washed in the cleansing blood? Cleansed and made holy, humble and lonely right in the sight of God. Have thou dominion over self and sin? Is thy heart right with God? Over all evil within and without, is thy heart right with God?"

"Is all thy power under Jesus control? Is thy heart right with God? Does He each moment abide in your soul? Is thy heart right with God?"

RECEIVING CIRCUMCISION OF HEART

God is the divine surgeon. He is always ready for you. How then could it be possible for God to carry out the surgical operation of your heart?

☛ Holy Intention

Have the good intention to be circumcised. Desire the heart circumcision and determine to present yourself unto God for the operation to be carried out. The scriptures says, "If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land." Hear what God says in Rev 22:17; "And the spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let

him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

Your willingness will go a long way in receiving heart circumcision.

☛ **Make Yourself Naked Before God**

Before physical circumcision can take place, the person to be circumcised must make himself naked. He must remove every form of covering from his reproductive organ. He must be stripped naked. He is to uncover himself for the local circumcision expert. The same way, anyone who desires God's surgical operation of circumcision of the heart, must come to God with an open heart before God.

There is nothing, that should be hidden from Him. You cannot come to God and begin to act like a masquerade and still expect heart circumcision. God is never interested in masqueraders of religion. God knows every detail about you, why will you then hide away from Him?

Be sincere to God about yourself. The more open you are to God, the more He is ready to help you out.

☛ **Cry Unto God**

Cry out God that He should attend to your wicked heart with His surgical blade. Let Him remove the foreskin of your heart. So that you might be what God wants you to become. Cry unto God from your heart.

☛ **Make A Commitment**

Be committed to obeying the Lord always. Anytime God gives you instruction, make sure you walk according to such Instruction.

It is your commitment that determines your seriousness. It is your commitment that shows the index or level of preparedness to go an extra mile with God.

☛ **Desist From Fake Repentance**

It might be possible that along the way, you stumble over the law of God. You might err in your onward journey. That is not your end. Move on.

When you are found in any of the sins you have reported of, then you should truly repent from such sins again and get restored. Constant repentance without departure from sinful habit is very dangerous to your spiritual life. 'Sunday in Sunday out' confession of sin without determination to be free from sin committed shows a sign of unseriousness. Repentance without instant obedience to God, is fake. If someone says he has repented and he is still longing for sin, then, he or she has not repented.

Repentance that goes with hypocritical concealment of sin is not repentance.

Repentance that is still keeping company with old sinful partners is not for real. Repentance that would not produce desire to move closer to God is not repentance.

Let your prayer now be: 'Lord deal with me; break me and mould me and make me'.

PRAYER POINTS

1. My Father, circumcise my heart, in the name of Jesus.
2. Anything in my heart, that will tear my prosperity away, die, in the name of Jesus.
3. Every satanic point of contact, in my life, die, in the name of Jesus.
4. The book of life would not reject my name, in the name of Jesus.

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46. Holy Fever
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48. How To Obtain Personal Deliverance
49. How To Pray When Surrounded By The Enemies
50. Idols Of The Heart
51. Is This What They Died For?
52. Let God Answer By Fire
53. Limiting God
54. Madness Of The Heart
55. Making Your Way Through The Traffic Jam of Life
56. Meat For Champions
57. Medicine For Winners
58. My Burden For The Church
59. Open Heavens Through Holy Disturbance
60. Overpowering Witchcraft
61. Paralysing The Riders And The Horse

62. Personal Spiritual Check-Up
63. Power Against Coffin Spirits
64. Power Against Destiny Quenchers
65. Power Against Dream Criminals
66. Power Against Local Wickedness
67. Power Against Marine Spirits
68. Power Against Spiritual Terrorists
69. Power Must Change Hands
70. Pray Your Way To Breakthroughs
71. Prayer Is The Battle
72. Prayer Rain
73. Prayer Strategies For Spinsters And Bachelors
74. Prayer To Kill Enchantment
75. Prayer To Make You Fulfil Your Divine Destiny
76. Prayer Warfare Against 70 Mad Spirits
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About the Author

Dr. D. K. Olukoya is the General Overseer of the Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries and The Battle Cry Christian Ministries.

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.

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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.

Anointed by God, Dr. Olukoya is a prophet, evangelist, teacher and preacher of the Word. His life and that of his wife, Shade and their son Elijah Toluwani are living proofs that all power belongs to God.

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