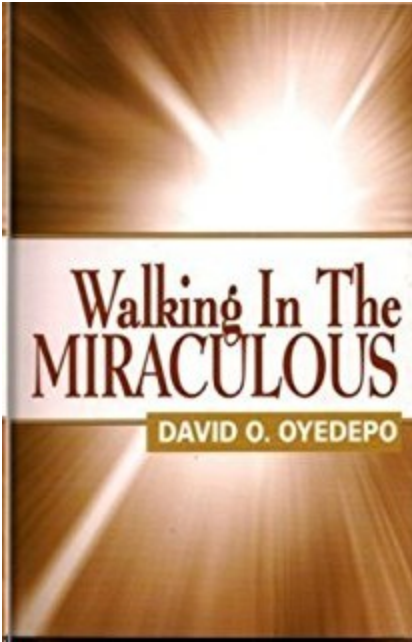




Walking In The MIRACULOUS

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In The
Miraculous

David Oyedepo

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Introduction: It's Your Turn!

And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified. Acts 20:32

The miraculous is yours for the taking, but it shall not be by wishes. If you have been wishing you can work miracles, stop wishing and start working! Nothing works until you work it.

The Bible does not talk about the gift of waiting for miracles, but of the working of miracles. So, don't wait for miracles, go and work them!

Those who wait end up wasting, just like the man at the pool of Bethesda, who waited for 38 years. If Jesus had not come to his rescue, he would have died beside the miracle pool. What an irony!

Should you be childless now, don't say, "I know someday, I will be pregnant!" This is the day, and now is the time! Your miracle is available today, so why are you wasting, waiting until tomorrow?

Remember that if the woman with the issue of blood, in spite of her weakness could press her way to her miracle, then it's your press that will hand over your prize to you.

Perhaps you have been waiting for Jesus to come to you. In case He hasn't come, then you go to Him. You cannot afford to be like the man at the pool of Bethesda, who was so unprepared for a miracle.

Friend, you can go to Jesus today for attention!

Let me reiterate the fact that you are created for signs, not for sighs; you are created to be envied, not to be pitied. You are created for glory, not for shame; for beauty, not for ashes; for dignity, not for ignominy. Your position is, however, not decided by God, but by your dedication to the end-time programme of God.

We have had the Acts of the Apostles, now it's time for the Acts of the Church. It won't just be by the pastors and apostles, but by every member of the Body of Christ taking their positions in the move of God. This is where you belong!

The time has come when you will stand in your shop or office as a sign, that means your business will respond to your status as a sign, and everything will bow to your authority.

We must not gather around to pray, "If it be thy will..." prayers anymore. His will is you in action! And that's His will for mankind. You cannot afford to sit around in the church as a prayer project. It's time to get up on your feet and take your place in God!

I release you into a world of signs and wonders!

I release you into the miraculous realm of life!

Because you believe, signs will follow you from now on!

From today, you shall no longer live with obstacles!

Everywhere you turn, the signs of heaven will answer to you!

Go forth and make it happen!

Chapter 1: God's Miracle Plan

Behold, I and the children whom the Lord hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the Lord of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion. Isaiah 8:18

God has a miracle plan for the Church, prepared from the foundation of the world. We see a shadow of it at creation, when God made man.

Adam, before the fall was a miracle. Everything about him was extraordinary. His body was superb, hence there was no provision for drugs; all the herbs in the garden were for food. His mind was miraculous. This was proved when he single handedly named all the animals intelligibly, without repeating any name. His spirit was in union with God. Without doubt, Adam enjoyed life in the miraculous.

The fall of man signaled his exit from God's miracle plan. Adam had by his act of disobedience swapped his dominion over everything that the Lord had made (his life in the miraculous inclusive), for a life of oppression. Although he was king of the earth, he sold off to Satan, and legally transferred his right to live in the miraculous to Satan. Whereas previously whatever Adam said was law, after the fall, he lost control and was no longer in charge.

For a time, it looked as if God's plan for man to walk in the miraculous had been thwarted. But the Word of the Lord came unto Isaiah saying:

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14

Now, you see that God is talking about someone to come, whose appearing can not be hid — a sign. Later we understood that the prophecy

was about Jesus. Thus, when Jesus came to the earth, He came as a sign. By His death, Jesus stripped Satan of all His powers. He came out of the grave King of kings and Lord of lords, and declared: "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth..." He then went ahead to reinstate man in God's miracle plan.

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. Mark 16:15-18

Therefore as Jesus came to the earth as a sign, so are you a sign to the world (Jn. 20:21). You are for signs and wonders, not for sighs and sorrows. You are a sign of distinction, affluence, divine health, progress, etc. Wherever you go, according to God's miracle plan, you should be recognised as a sign-carrier and wonder-worker.

Friend, you are not here on earth to look for miracles, because God already recognises you as a miracle! You should not be the one looking for signs, you are ordained to be a living witness of Jesus, a proof-producing Christian. The world is waiting for answers from us, but when we do not know how to obtain answers ourselves, how shall we provide answers for them?

That is why I think a Christian should be ashamed of sickness the way he is of sin. He should be embarrassed at defeat or failure in his life the way he would be at being caught in adultery. Why? By virtue of his new status in Christ, he should not be under anything anymore. So, God is upset when you are cheated, defeated and manhandled, because on His part, He has done all He needs to do to ensure you live a victorious life.

Signs Are Your Heritage

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. Mark 16:17-18

Signs are the heritage of all believers. A sign is something beyond the ordinary; it validates the involvement of God in an issue. It comes by the finger of God, something beyond human ability; a proof of God's omnipotency! And God says signs shall follow you! That is simply amazing! It means God wants to make you a monument, a clear evidence to all the world around you that you are a believer. Remember, "And these signs shall follow them that believe..."

Therefore by virtue of your status, you are to be followed by signs, not sorrows. The devil himself is under your feet, so wherever you appear he must disappear! However, until you can grasp the reality of your heritage in God, you can never walk in the miraculous.

Sometime ago, a woman came to report to me that for some inexplicable reasons, the clothing material she was selling were not being bought. I went to her shop, laid my hands on the merchandise, and said, "Clothes, be gone, now." The following day, some people who came from outside the town bought up everything!

On another occasion, a brother came to tell me that the items in his shop were also not being bought. I laid my hands on his hands and declared, "Go back to your store and lay these hands on those materials." He went down to his shop and did the same. And to his amazement, the following day, at about twelve noon, a man in a trailer reversed into his drive way and purchased every item in the shop! And I said to myself, "Imagine if that brother were the owner of my hands? It would simply be a matter of touching his goods every morning and going to sleep."

But in actual fact, he has access to the same miracle hands that I have, and so does everyone that believes. Unfortunately, however, not all that believe know that there is a miracle in their hands. They think it is only in the hands of the pastors, evangelists or bishops; but it is the heritage of every child of God!

Friend, there is something in your hands that can produce answers for mankind, and should be able to produce answers for you too. So much has been invested into you, but it is your discovery of those treasures that will lead to your recoveries in life, and determine how much result you produce.

By the time you are through reading this book, you would be equipped to make things happen by yourself.

God's Miracle Health Plan

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. 3 John 2

From this scripture, it is clear that God has a plan in place for His people to enjoy divine health. Next to salvation from sin, God's desire is that we experience salvation from sickness. This is God's order of priority. This is made clearer when you read *Psalm 103:1-3*

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

As soon as God forgave our sins, the next thing He did was to heal all our diseases. He must have said, "I don't only want you to be spiritually healthy, I want you to be physically sound as well. I am equally interested in your physical well being as I am in your spiritual well being."

From scriptures we see that when God made the first man, he was physically sound. As mentioned earlier, a proof of this fact is that of all that was created, there was no provision made for any form of medication; therefore, sickness was not a part of God's plans for man. Sickness came in with the entrance of sin. In other words, the moment Satan took over the government of this world, and in consonance with his name — "the wicked", the first thing he did was to create sickness. Therefore, as long as a person is a child of the devil, sickness is a part of his inheritance.

However, when anyone escapes the kingdom of Satan, into the kingdom of the Son of God, he has also escaped from the horror of sickness and disease. Why? Because until sin came, sickness did not exist; so when sin goes, sickness must go with it.

This is the truth about God's miracle health plan. As soon as you make up your mind to look away from whatever health problem you may be facing, to the truth of God's Word, your liberty is guaranteed.

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

More often than not, the presence of sickness in the body of a believer is as a result of ignorance, because sickness thrives on ignorance. But once he can contact the truth of the Word, he has located the final solution to any type of sickness or disease in his body. This was the case with a medical student who had been diagnosed as being HIV positive.

"I 'm a final year medical student. My ill health began over three years ago, though I began to experience the symptoms and signs a year later. They pointed to HIV/AIDS. As it persisted and progressed, I went for a full blood count examination, and the result still pointed to HIV, with marked W.B.C. count.

One day while praying, the Lord pointed His Word to me and said that was all I needed. He said all I needed was the truth that would set me free. But before that, I needed faith, which comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.

I had to settle down with two books written by Bishop David Oyedepo — Keys to Divine Health and Understanding Vision, and several tapes. After reading the books, I took the holy communion, and the following day I went to the man in charge of AIDS counselling and told him that I wanted to have another lab examination. On January 2, 1997, I went to collect my result, and it was negative!

Also, when I went to do a full blood count, it was very normal and I knew Jesus had restored my health! The devil brought pains all over, to look as though I had not received my healing, but as I continued to confess my healing, it disappeared and I have never experienced them again! Blessed be His name for ever."

Koima, J. K.

In another instance, a brother who had been afflicted with typhoid fever for nine years was healed as he discovered God's miracle health plan and complied with heaven's directives.

"I had an unusual encounter with the book, *The Healing Balm*. Through this book, I received some revelational knowledge that gave me deliverance from nine years chronic typhoid fever, which had hitherto defied all known antibiotic treatment. I came to Douala, Cameroun, in much pains and agony for official reasons. I went to a private hospital, where I was tested and told that my intestines had been perforated.

In late August, I came in contact with Word of Faith Bible Institute (WOFBI) in Douala. I met one of the missionaries, who ministered to me and gave me the book, *The Healing Balm* to read. In about three hours I finished reading the book and contacted the following revelations from the book:

1. No sickness is to be treated as ordinary.
2. Sickness is a spirit.
3. Christ has redeemed me from the curse of the law; therefore, any sickness in my body is a curse from the enemy.
4. Until I curse that sickness and the spirit behind it by myself, God is not going to curse it for me.

By the time I finished the book, I knew I was operating from another realm. Faith rose up inside me like a giant. I wanted to postpone the battle till the following morning, but the Holy Spirit checked me and said, 'Do it now.'

I sat back on my chair, crossed my legs and said, 'You spirit of fever...' Before I finished calling fever, something took off from my stomach and the pains disappeared instantly! All other symptoms have followed suit since then. I never knew that satan is a coward. He did not even wait for me to pronounce the curse before he took to his heels! I give God all the glory for this miraculous healing."

Adekoya, K.

However, when sickness is not a function of sin in a man's life or of ignorance, it can also operate freely under the guise of the curse of the law. *Deuteronomy 28:58-61* says:

If thou wilt not observe to do all the words of this law that are written in this book, that thou mayest fear this glorious and fearful name, THE LORD THY GOD;

Then the Lord will make thy plagues wonderful, and the plagues of thy seed, even great plagues, and of long continuance, and sore sicknesses, and of long continuance.

Moreover he will bring upon thee all the diseases of Egypt, which thou wast afraid of; and they shall cleave unto thee.

Also every sickness, and every plague, which is not written in the book of this law, them will the Lord bring upon thee, until thou be destroyed.

The good news is that once you are born again, Christ has redeemed you from every curse of the law (Gal.3:13-14), so none can have a hold on you any longer. You are no longer in the domain where curses have a legal right over you. That was why Jesus not only shed His blood, but hung on a tree as well — to secure our redemption from the curses of the law. Therefore the cross of Christ crushed the curse of the law.

Let me illustrate this profound truth this way: when you pay for an item in a store, legally you are free to carry the item home. That merchandise is no longer under the supervision of the store keeper. In like manner, legally, you have been "carried" out of every curse of the law. So, you are not the devil's goods anymore, neither are you any longer under his supervision.

The truth is that God has done everything on His own part. He has completed His own part of the contract. He has purchased your health at the expense of His Son's blood. But He expects you to enter into it and make it a reality in your individual life. How? Read through Deuteronomy 28:15-16, and if your case matches any listed there, rise up with a holy anger and curse it.

Every sickness in your life now is due for a curse. You are to use your mouth to curse it. Jesus has set an example for us. See this account in *curse it. **Jesus has set an example for us. See this account in 21.***

And on the morrow, when they were come from Bethany, he was hungry:

And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find anything thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet.

And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it.

And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.

And Peter calling to remembrance saith to him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou CURSEDST is withered away.

So anything that has been mocking you is now due for a curse. Whatever will not let go of you, whether it's a migraine, asthma, hypertension, rheumatism, barrenness or whatever form of reproach, like Elisha cursed the children that mocked him and two she-bears came out of the woods and ate them up, you can turn back and curse those oppressions in the name of the Lord, and experience total liberty.

God's Financial Miracle Plan

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth. 3 John:2

Included in God's miracle plan is His miracle supplies. God wants you to be comfortable as well as healthy. He saw us in discomfort and sent Jesus Christ to come and give us the abundant life. Man's discomfort has not always been. Adam in Eden was a true picture of God's financial plan for man. He did not lack anything, he was super comfortable.

When Adam fell he was driven out of the garden of Eden into the wilderness and the gates were shut. Thus, no one could gain access into the garden until Jesus came out of the grave and the gates of life flung open.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. Psalm 24:7

Among those gates was the gate that led back to Eden. That is to say that God is bringing His people back into their Eden of abundance.

Therefore, financial signs are a part of our redemptive rights in God. If Jesus could send His disciples to go to the sea "and cast an hook, and take up the fish that first cometh up; and when thou hast opened his mouth, thou shalt find a piece of money; that take, and give unto them (the tribute collectors) for me and thee," then it's a clear evidence that financial signs are a reality today and is your heritage in God.

Get Set To Be Schooled...

Friend, I am persuaded that this book is going to be a principal text in the school of signs and wonders these end-times, so get set to be schooled.

We will be examining various issues that link us up to life in the miraculous. I call them connections; and believe that by the time these mysteries are unfolded, you will be quite capable of operating the miraculous on a daily basis.

Chapter 2: The New Birth Connection

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. John 3:6-7

Your first vital link to life in the miraculous is understanding who you really are now that you are born again, and the power that your new status confers on you. This is the foundation for walking in the miraculous.

From the scripture quoted above, it is obvious that every born again person is born a sign. Nobody can tell where he is going to or coming from. His ways become past finding out, just as it is with God. He becomes a walking miracle, operating signs naturally and at will.

The new birth brings you into a new sphere of existence. You cease from being a struggling human being, to being a commander of signs and wonders. That is why that scripture says:

The wind bloweth where it listeth...

You flow in realms where you have things the way you want them. A young man shared a testimony recently. According to him, he had been a victim of tonsillitis for three years when he heard me teaching on the New Birth Connection, and he caught the word.

On getting home, he did some further studies on it and went to bed, only to wake up in the morning with a swollen neck. In his own words, he said, "I knew it was the same ailment. And as I was going to the bathroom, I said, 'I am now a god, and a god can't be sick.' Before I got to the bathroom, something brownish came out of my mouth, and now I am healed!" His liberty came when he grasped the reality of his divine status.

Your Divine Status

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. John 3:3,6

When a human being has a child, that child is a natural reproduction of his parent. Because he is born of humans, he is also human. Human beings are made up of flesh and bone, and their offsprings are no less. But when a man is born again, he is born into a new order of existence. He is not born of flesh, but of Spirit; he is therefore no longer a human being, but a spirit being.

More often than not however, we are deceived into thinking that because we still live in our physical bodies we are human; but nothing could be farther from that! Consider Jesus, for instance. He was born of the Spirit, yet He arrived the earth very much human. But there was no denying the fact that He was also the Son of God. The same is true concerning you. When you are born again, you are a spirit being, even though you have a mind and live in a physical temple called the body.

Once your understanding opens to the reality of your divine status, you cannot but flow in realms of the miraculous.

Look at the man, Adam. Before the fall he operated in the class of God, his mind functioned in the same frequency as God's. He was a man of authority, a man in dominion. One day, however, he ate the forbidden fruit, and in accordance with God's warning, he died.

Adam's death was, however, spiritual, not physical. He was still physically alive, but his spirit was disconnected from God. At that very instance Adam went from the realm of the supernatural to the natural. He descended from the spirit world to the physical world. He also became a victim of what he used to have dominion over.

But God was undaunted, and as in a relay race, He picked up the baton that Adam had dropped and passed it unto Jesus, who did not fail Him.

Jesus came primarily to recreate what had died in Adam — his spirit. He came to restore to humanity what had been lost in Adam. He was called the second Adam, because like the first Adam, He was a representative of all mankind. With this restoration, as many as receive Jesus into their hearts can operate in the same class as the first Adam before the fall.

And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.

Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.

The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. 1 Corinthians 15:45-47

The new birth is much more than merely responding to an altar call. It could start from there, but until you have an indepth understanding of your new status, reflecting the heavenly life will be a mere dream.

I pray that your understanding is opened, then such statements as, "Under this circumstance what can I do as a human being?" will no longer come out of your mouth! Please be aware of your new status in Christ; it is the beginning of your journey into life in the miraculous.

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: 1 Peter 2:9

This scripture gives credence to the fact that we are new creatures, belonging to a royal priesthood and chosen to show forth His praise. We have no cause to fear what men of the world fear — for we are not of the world, our citizenship is of heaven. We belong to a superior sphere and a higher cadre of life.

Many people say, "You know in this world, you can't be sure of anything", "There are wicked men all around", etc. But because you are a peculiar people, made for signs and wonders, created not only to be different, but to make a difference in this world, you can be sure of yourself. This is the mentality that must engulf you if you are to take charge and be in full command of life's situations.

It was this consciousness that inspired Jesus to say:

**...My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.
John 18:36**

He knew where He was coming from, so it was easy for Him to maintain His territory and retain His status. If you can key into this revelation, you will no longer be subject to the harassment of the devil.

Your Superiority Over The Devil

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: Colossians 1:13

Once you are born again you are translated or transferred out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God's dear Son. The forces of darkness no longer have power over you; the weeping, mourning and gnashing of teeth that are characteristic of Satan's kingdom cease in your life. The moment you are born again, you are no longer in the kingdom of tears, but of cheers. Your sorrow is turned into joy, your weeping to laughter!

The devil's government has a constitution. *John 10:10* describes it as:

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy...

But as soon as you give your life to Christ you are no longer under the devil's government. So his evil desires, schemes, wiles and devices have no legal hold on you; you have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb.

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time. Revelation 12:7-12

Satan could not prevail in heaven, so he was cast down to the earth. Two kingdoms are brought to light here. The earthly and the heavenly. Only those who reside in the earthly kingdom are under the wrath of Satan. Those who are born again have been translated from the earthly to the heavenly kingdom. And in the heavenly kingdom there is rejoicing, because there is no place found for Satan there anymore.

As a new creature in Christ, we can safely conclude that Satan has no right to be anywhere around you. In your heavenly citizen status therefore, you should be able to display "the riches of His glory" in the face of the devil, not suffering as those in earthly places do. Just like Enoch who was translated so that he did not see death, you have been translated too, so that you do not experience the same buffeting as the world.

The fact that you have been redeemed guarantees you absolute liberty from all forms of oppression of the devil. You are no longer his captive, so he cannot plague your body or tamper with the works of your hand. This knowledge should spur you into reacting against the gimmicks of hell in all areas of your life.

Everybody may be complaining about the devil, but God is complaining about the ignorance of His people! And by inspiration I said sometime ago that there is no mountain anywhere; every man's ignorance is his mountain. Those cases that look special are really not special; many only have a case of "special" ignorance! Once you know where you belong, you should be able to confront the devil and secure your victory.

For instance, sickness is not your portion in God. So, if you sense an attack of sickness coming, react against it based on the light of God's Word you have contacted. Don't nurse or accept it, just fight it off, and enjoy liberty. I perceive very strongly in my spirit that God is going to bring a lot of revelations on the weakness of Satan our way this end-time. Just like ants

in a man's house do not pose a problem to his existence, Satan is not your problem; you can handle him!

Many years ago, a medical doctor cousin of mine tested my blood pressure and said, "Oh, your blood pressure is high!" I quickly replied, "Not me". And he said, "Look at it", but I wouldn't, and rather told him, "I cannot have high blood pressure." I could say that confidently because I understood that we were both operating from two different realms. After then I never prayed about it, neither was it an issue of concern. High blood pressure was swallowed up in victory, by insight about my divine status.

The advantage Satan has over believers is ignorance. He plays on the ignorance of the saints to buffet, oppress and punish them.

Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices. 2 Corinthians 2:11

But Satan has been stripped of all his powers and is left with only wiles and devices (Eph. 6:11).

By being conscious of your superiority over Satan, you can "take him for a ride." Instead of living at his mercy, you can turn the tables on him, compelling him to take to his heels at the mention of your name! The testimony of the demon who attacked the sons of Sceva was "Jesus I know, Paul I know." So he recognised that those were not folks to play around with. That will be Satan's testimony concerning you too!

Redemption guarantees your total liberty. With this understanding, you hold in your hands the master key to rest in all spheres of life.

The Mystery Of Identification

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. 2 Corinthians 5:21

Jesus took the place of man in sin, sickness, poverty, death, and every evil thing in the world. He was made sin on the cross, identifying with man in the fallen state. He became sin for us.

If you are to operate in the realm of the miraculous, you must be fully aware of your identification with Christ in every stage of His redemptive work. You were in Christ in every stage of it. You were legally present there, defeating the devil when Jesus died. You took part in His suffering (His passion), in His crucifixion, burial and resurrection. He became identified with you on the cross and you with Him.

Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:

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. Romans 6:3-6

When Jesus was made alive by the Spirit, you were also. You were raised up from the dead together with Him on the basis of identification.

And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: Ephesians 2:6

And when God raised Him up and exalted Him far above principalities and powers, you were there with Him, exalted as well. As a result of this mystery of identification, all principalities and powers are under your feet.

Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all. Ephesians 1:20-23

A sound understanding of your identification with Christ will produce outstanding manifestations.

Among all the disciples of Jesus, John the beloved was unique. Church history tells us that at the time the Church was being mercilessly persecuted, John was dropped into a drum of boiling oil, yet he could not "fry", he could not be burnt. In exasperation, he was banished to the Isles of Patmos.

Behind this disciple's outstanding manifestations was the unique insight he had into the mystery of identification. John the beloved all through his book kept referring to "The Father". He heard Jesus make those statements in reference to His identification with the Father and subsequently linked them up to the saints. Likewise, when you understand this mystery as well, you will become a sign in your community, displaying the power of God.

I and my Father are one.

Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him.

Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me?

The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God. John 10:30-33

No one could deny the works that Jesus did, not even the skeptical Jews; He was a fountain of signs and wonders. However, behind Jesus' amazing manifestations was His keen understanding of His identification with the Father. And as I often say, you cannot identify with God without proofs. Thus, Jesus produced undeniable evidences as a result of His union with God.

Now, see how you come in: salvation brings you in union with God. You were previously separated from Him by sin, but now through the atoning blood of Jesus you have been brought back into fellowship with God. He is now your Father (Jn. 20:17).

You are now one with the Father as Jesus was one with Him. As a result you have the same nature with God the Father. Therefore, whatever God can handle, by virtue of identification with Christ, you can too! A good understand of this mystery enables you to exercise your authority without fear or compromise.

For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. John 5:26-27

Authority answers to identification. You are able to execute judgement even against death. You say to it, "shut up there!" And it respects your voice. That is how Paul cheaply dealt with death. He often mused whether to go to be with the Lord or to stay; but then he chose to stay. Jesus also could not be threatened by death. Until His hour came, no man could touch Him. He said He had power to lay down His life and to take it up. That's authority!

A brother mistakenly drank acid, but was delivered. Here is his testimony:

"About a week to my wedding, I got late to the office, at about 11 a.m. I came in very thirsty and headed straight for the laboratory to drink from the de-ionised water (a chemically treated water), not knowing that the water had been tested acidic.

I took a cup and was already drinking it when the chemist in charge of the laboratory screamed at the top of his voice, 'Acid! Acid! You are drinking acid.' It immediately occurred to me that I was face-to-face with death, and I remembered the scripture that says, "Declare thou, that thou mayest be justified" (Isaiah 43:26). I knew right away that my declaration at that time is the only thing that would save me.

I immediately shouted, 'No! It cannot be acid. It is water.' To convince me of what he was saying, the chemist tested the content of my cup, and it was negative. But on testing the content of the container from which I drank, it was positive, confirming that it was acidic. Everybody was surprised and they said, 'This is not an ordinary man'!"

Adeyeye, S.

That is eternal life on display! It conferred on him the authority to execute judgement against death.

Therefore, "...As the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;" and "whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life." (John 5:26; 3:15). By the mystery of identification, what you carry now is eternal life. You have the life of God inside you, as a gift from heaven. That life cannot be terminated by any ploy of hell. Rather, it is quite capable of swallowing up disease, failure, stagnation, frustration and even death.

This kind of life is also known as everlasting life; that is life that lasts forever, life that can't be stopped, an unending life. That life is superior to human, animal, plant, or satanic life.

I remember sometime ago, we were out camping in a secondary school surrounded by a thick bush. There was this huge young man who had just

recently been delivered from insanity. Somehow the demons found their way back into him and he became very violent. The heftiest brothers in the camp were the only ones who could pin him down. I was asleep in one of the rooms. I was awoken and told what was happening.

When I got there, I was furious and instructed the brothers to leave the demoniac alone. Pointing my finger at him, I quoted from the book of Jude: "And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day." I then asked the devil in him, "What are you doing here?"

Immediately these words went out of my lips, he heaved a deep sigh of relief, and all the devils fled, never to return again. The man had very little education, and as such could not have understood the words I spoke; but then those words were not "grammar", but life! (John 6:63.)

The eternal life you carry on your inside is real, not theoretical. It is the exact type in Jesus that made Him immune to sickness and disease. That same life guaranteed His rest even in adverse situations. In it lay all He would ever require to live the abundant life. This same life is what you carry inside you! Once you become conscious of it, sickness cannot survive in your body. Failure itself cannot come near where you are.

"Drunk" with this insight, John G. Lake performed some amazing feats. He was in South Africa when a plague broke out and thousands of people were dying. Lake challenged the doctors to take some of the foam from the mouths of the victims and examine it, to be sure the germs were still alive. He then told them to put the foam on his hand, after which it was re-examined under a microscope. Behold, all the germs were discovered dead!

Truly, the Bible says whatsoever is born of God (a carrier of eternal life) overcomes all the hurdles of life (1 John 5:4). This truth will establish you as a celebrated miracle worker — a man licensed of God to displace the devil in any environment you step into. Not guessing, but too sure of who you are in Christ and what God has done in you.

Ask yourself these questions: "Could Jesus be on earth now and be stranded? If He were married to your wife or husband, would He be quarrelling and fighting with His spouse? If He were riding in a car would

He be involved in an accident and be trapped under the vehicle, with some villagers helping to pull His legs out of the wreck? Would He be sick and be on admission in a hospital somewhere, with a nurse punching His body with a needle?"

If your answer to all these questions is no, then know that it is not God's plan for you either. Jesus was an epitome of eternal life, He was eternal life in person. So, look at Jesus, compare yourself with Him and see whether you measure up to God's expectations or not. If we have the life He has, we should have the proofs He had!

Remember that at the age of twelve, with eternal life at work in Him, the doctors of law were all amazed at the wisdom with which Jesus spoke. He had not even been baptised in the Holy Ghost then, yet His mind was sharp! He displayed mental soundness, such as was in Adam before the fall, because He was connected to the same source of life Adam was connected to.

That is why it is an insult for a man with ordinary human life to beat a man with eternal life in any examination or interview! Being born again is a spiritual reality with earthly evidences!

Friend, the touchstone of identification is your union with God, because as the saying goes, "Like Father, like son." You cannot be a victim when your Father is Jehovah, the Man of war. No, you are more than a conqueror. You have a new nature at work in you, it is called divine nature, it is the same nature in God that makes Him who He is. Therefore possessing God's nature distinguishes you, and makes you superior to other humans.

The mystery of identification also hinges on this truth: everything produces after its kind. The child of a dog is a dog, the child of a goat is a goat, the child of a man is also a man; and according to John 1:12, to as many as received Him He gave power to become sons of God. Therefore, the child of God is a god.

They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course. I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High.

But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes. Psalm 82:5-7

This scripture explains that when you become a child of God, you are not permitted to die like natural men. You become a child of distinction, singled out among men. You are no longer a victim of the circumstances of life; rather, even Satan the perpetuator of evil circumstances is bruised under your feet.

To reject this fundamental truth and rather embrace the traditional views of church fathers is an open door to having the foundations of your life put out of course. Instead of exercising dominion over negative situations, you will lose control of your world and the things that happen to unbelievers will begin to happen to you.

Friend, it is God that says, "Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High." Mark that, "all of you"! This revelation is not just for the apostles, prophets and teachers, but for "all of you". This brings us all into the same class as God.

Something very interesting and which adequately illustrates the reality of our new status is found in *Exodus 7:1*. God told Moses:

...See, I have made thee a god to Pharaoh: and Aaron thy brother shall be thy prophet.

Although a fugitive, Moses returned to Egypt and no one could arrest him. All because he was a god unto Pharaoh! Likewise, God has set us up as gods to our generation. We can no longer be arrested or molested. Before Moses departed, he prophesied:

...A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. Acts 3:22

Thus, Moses was saying that Jesus was coming as God in the flesh. And truly when Jesus came, He was a god to His world. Not stopping there, when Jesus was about to leave, He left us here as gods to our world.

...As my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. John 20:21

This was confirmed when the apostles visited Lystra. The men of the city exclaimed after a notable miracle was done:

And when the people saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in the speech of Lycaonia, The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men. Acts 14:11

Please know that you are not on earth merely as a mortal man, but as a superior being, made a god on the earth. No revelation taunts the devil as this one. It is a fundamental revelation for the end-time Church which will produce saviours on Mount Zion. Not just apostles, prophets, etc. as we have been used to, but men and women who will stand in the shoes of the Messiah, taking their place in God.

Jesus answered them, Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods? If he called them gods, unto whom the word of God came, and the scripture cannot be broken;

Say ye of him, whom the Father hath sanctified, and sent into the world, Thou blasphemest; because I said, I am the Son of God? John 10:34-36

Meaning, "If because I said I am the Son of God you are angry, get ready, because the gods are about to take their place on the earth; men who will say to sickness 'go' and it must obey. Men of authority, saviours!" This understanding helped me appreciate what God said to me sometime in 1981.

One day I was in God's presence, receiving instructions on how to run the commission, when I took up my pen and wrote my wife. In that letter I said, "Jerusalem is in pains, our mother is in travail, the whole creation is groaning, awaiting Zion to manifest her sons. Prisoners are awaiting their emancipation. Zion shall not only bring forth prophets, apostles,

evangelists, pastors and teachers, but shall bring forth saviours" (Obadiah 21).

I wrote further, "Yet a little while and these saviours shall surface on the face of the whole earth. Joel 2, Zechariah 8 and all the related scriptures shall be fulfilled. The arrival of these saviours will compel the followership of multitudes that cannot be numbered. They will carry such aroma, the awesomeness of God will be so visible upon them, their operations shall be unique and strange. (We can see all these happening now.)

"Yet a little while and saviours will surface on the face of the whole earth. Zion is in her month, this mighty army shall be released in just a moment." Friend, you must appreciate your privileged position in God's end-time miracle plan. You are an arrow in the hands of God, which He will release this end-time, to torment all the forces of darkness.

In summary, let me reiterate that the way God made Moses a god to Pharaoh is the same way He made Jesus, and has in like manner made us gods to our generation.

The essence of the new birth therefore is, once flesh, now spirit; once you were seated in the earthly realm, but now you have been raised up together with Christ Jesus, and are now seated with Him in heavenly places. Therefore you are a citizen of an entirely different kingdom, your presence on earth is simply ambassadorial; you are simply representing the interests of your place of origin.

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ... 2 Corinthians 5:20

That means that just as in the natural, ambassadors enjoy the immunities of the nations they represent, as an ambassador of Christ here on earth, you should enjoy all the immunities that the kingdom of God has to offer.

Also, ambassadors enjoy comfort proportional to the wealth of the country they represent. That is why embassy staff of certain nations move about in taxis, while others have two cars attached to them. The poverty or wealth of the nations they represent naturally follows them wherever they go. New birth establishes a change in your citizenship, from earthly to the heavenly.

And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: Ephesians 2:6

He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all. John 3:31

Chapter 3: The Purity Connection

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. 2 Timothy 2:19,21

A condition must be fulfilled before you can work the miraculous. I call it another foundational stone for life in the miraculous. That pivotal factor is purity. Purity is the gateway to life in the miraculous. It will guarantee unending manifestations in your life and cause the power of God to flow unhindered through you.

Although signs and wonders are the heritage of all saints, the power to bring it about only flows through sanctified vessels. We see a clear picture of this in the time of Elisha. Gehazi his servant was destined to obtain a double portion of his anointing, but he lost it to sin.

When Gehazi was given the rod of his master to go and raise the Shunammite woman's dead son in 2 Kings 4, the rod would not produce. The reason was not very clear then. But it became glaring later, when he pursued after Naaman for a talent of silver and two changes of garments. It was then that the corruption in the heart of Gehazi was revealed.

There will be no manifestation of signs and wonders until corruption in all its ramifications is dealt with. If the rod could not produce in Gehazi's hands, then it will not produce in the corrupt hands of any believer either. And as I say often, until sin goes, signs will not flow. Sin, whether in the heart or in deed, is a major hindrance to the flow of signs and wonders. Jesus said:

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. John 14:21

The phrase: "I will manifest myself to him" simply means, "I will bring him to the realm of the miraculous, to the realm of supernatural manifestations." But it is on the condition that you keep His commandment of purity. If you, however, refuse to keep His commandment, you are automatically disqualified for supernatural manifestations.

Jesus for instance, could boldly declare, "Which of you convinceth me of sin?"(John 8:46) because He was a man of purity, a sanctified vessel. As a result, He enjoyed supernatural manifestations throughout His life here on earth.

Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

All thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad. Psalm 45:7-8

The place of purity in manifestations of signs and wonders cannot be overemphasized, because it controls the release of the power you require to do signs (Mark 16:15-18). Therefore if you are not a lover of purity, you can not be a candidate for God's power.

The Virtues Of Purity

There are three powerful instruments, among others, which guarantee the flow of miracles; and all three are enhanced by purity. The first is:

Insight

And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: Mark 4:11

There are mysteries in God's kingdom: mysteries of abundance, divine health, success, etc. Understanding these mysteries is your heritage as a saint. Your access can, however, be blocked by sin; and instead of having insight into the mysteries, they remain in parables to you. You are then considered as being without, an outsider; and outsiders don't have access to inside stories, only insiders do.

Revelation 22:15 sheds more light on those who are without.

For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

Those without are dogs. And who are dogs?

But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire. 2 Peter 2:22

Dogs are those who return to their vomit. Try as you may, your dog cannot have access to certain information about you. For instance, your dog does not know your bank account number or how much you have in the bank. It is just not possible to confide such "inside stories" to your dog.

When you are a Christian who says, "Lord, I am sorry" today, but returns to the same sin on another occasion, God considers you a "dog" Christian! And as long as you remain a "dog", you cannot gain access to the secrets in the Word of God, which is the power that controls the miraculous (Heb.1:3).

In *Exodus 4:17*, God said to Moses:

And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs.

So, there is a rod with which you do signs; and according to Isaiah 11:1, that rod is Jesus Christ — who is also the Word of God. Therefore it is with the rod of the Word that signs are produced. For instance, there is a rod of divine healing, which when you lay hold of enables you to produce signs of healing without struggles.

The moment you get the rod of divine healing, you have compelled your miracle to come. But the rod cannot produce when there is sin in your life. Look at Jesus for instance. The miracles in His ministry could be attributed to the revelation He had from God. He said in *John 5:19, 30*:

...Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

So the things He did were a function of the things He heard and saw. But He also had an outstanding testimony of purity. I believe that when a man lives in sin he is limited only to receiving information from the Word, he never gets to the point of receiving revelations. Righteousness is what paves the way for revelations from the Word of God. And until you have revelations, you cannot provoke revolutions in any area of your life.

Friend, information is no match for revelation. One is earthly, the other is heavenly; one is of the mind, while the other is of the Spirit. And we know that:

He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all. John 3:31

Here is a collection of testimonies from various brethren who gave up on sin, received insight, and obtained their miracles.

Boils Burst, After Forgiveness

"When I heard of the Signs & Wonders Week, I was prepared for it. But when I came for the service on Monday, I was in heavy pains, with boils in about five places all over my body.

When the Bishop said it was only holiness that would bring us close to God, I prayed (because he asked us to pray for forgiveness), then I asked for healing. I went home in pains and could not come to church on Tuesday.

I anointed myself, particularly the spots where the boils were. And by Wednesday morning, the boils had burst and I'm now relieved, with all the pains gone!"

Erhator, S.

Spirit Of Immorality Destroyed

"For about 12 years, I was held captive by the spirit of immorality. I gave my life to Christ in 1994, and when I read Proverbs 7:13-14, I began to cry. But this Spirit still didn't go.

I then made up my mind to wait on the Lord in the Word during the Signs & Wonders Week. And behold, I was totally healed from the spirit of immorality! Also, I suffered from pile since 1990. It first came as hemorrhoids. I took all sorts of drugs and native herbs. It subsided, but resurfaced last year and my anus was sticking out, causing me to dry up gradually. But this week, I decided to wait on the Lord for my healing. And now, I'm totally healed!"

Adepoju, O.

15 Years Marijuana Addict Delivered!

"I started worshipping here in July 1996. I was a marijuana addict for about 15 years. I got addicted while in secondary school. I've tried to stop the addiction on several occasions, because my whole Family was against it. In fact, this has hindered me from attaining my goals in life.

But when I started worshipping here, I took the anointing oil after praying, and that was the end of the 15 years bondage! And since then, good things began to manifest in my life.

I used to work in the bank before, but was relieved of my job. I later set up my own company, an agro allied and food processing equipment company.

Since I started worshipping here, things have started flourishing for me. I've been getting jobs worth 200,000 and one million naira. Also, I was recently given a free-lance marketing post in a newspaper house, which can fetch me about 50,000 naira monthly."

Sumonu, K.

The Anointing

It is impossible to talk about signs and wonders without making mention of the anointing as a potent force. But the anointing works only to the degree of consecration in an individual's life.

And he spake also a parable unto them; No man putteth a piece of a new garment upon an old; if otherwise, then both the new maketh a rent, and the piece that was taken out of the new agreeth not with the old.

And no man putteth new wine into old bottles; else the new wine will burst the bottles, and be spilled, and the bottles shall perish. But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved. Luke 5:36-38

The reason why the old wine bottle breaks is because the new wine, being fresh, is still undergoing fermentation and so is still increasing in volume. But the old wine bottle has reached its elasticity limit. So, while the new wine in the old wine bottle keeps expanding, the wine bottle can expand no further, and so breaks; and both the bottle and wine are lost. That is why Jesus said that to preserve both wine and bottle, new wine must be put in a new wine bottle.

New wine represents the anointing of the Holy Spirit and the wine bottle is the saints.

Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.

For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: Acts 2:13,15-16,18

If God anoints a man beyond his level of consecration, it may lead to his destruction. And since God is not a murderer, He allows you to attain a certain level of consecration before He anoints you.

Take a minister of the gospel, for instance, who refuses to deal with the issue of sin in his life. He will soon begin to fake supernatural manifestations. When he lays hands on people and they are not healed, he tells them, "It has happened, just give thanks." But there was no release of virtue, no anointing; because until a man is purified, he is not worthy of the new oil. I believe, and scriptures concur, that consecration enhances the flow of unction, while corruption of any form dams it.

Divine Presence

The third virtue of purity is divine presence. Divine presence is the aura of God, His aroma, His backing. When you carry God's presence, the seas of life give way to you of their own accord. The mountains that ordinarily hinder others flee at your appearance. When these begin to happen in your life, you can definitely be described as a miracle. Talking of Jesus, **Acts 10:38** says:

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

"...For God was with him" was one major secret of the signs and wonders in His ministry. The apostles also. God's presence was their master key, hence they could command such strange wonders.

**And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.
Mark 16:20**

God was working with them, so signs accompanied their ministrations. Paul, whom God used mightily in doing many miracles, also knew His presence (Gal. 2:20).

God's presence was obviously with Jesus, the apostles and Paul; but that presence is impossible without purity. Purity is the price that must be paid. Jesus showed us how He attracted God's presence.

And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him. John 8:29

The miraculous did not answer to Him simply because He was the Son of God. No. He was enveloped with the presence of God because He did always the things that pleased the Father.

Apostle Paul who wrought great wonders was a man of integrity. He could boldly say, "Be ye followers of me" (1 Cor. 11:1), because he was an example of godliness. God reckoned with Him as a worthy vessel for His anointing, and the devil respected him also. This same Paul was stoned and left for dead, but after the Jews were gone, he dusted his trousers and was on his way! He was indeed a strange character!

However, a look at Paul's epistles reveal that he was a lover of righteousness, an advocate of purity. And this guaranteed him the ever abiding presence of God.

Friend, just as Jesus and Paul were born to be signs to their generation, you are also born to be a sign. But the same way their productivity hinged on their purity, yours depends on your degree of purity also. The benefits of divine presence are innumerable, so you must strive to get it.

Psalm 114 describes how the sea saw God's presence approaching and fled, and Jordan was driven back. It recounts also how mountains and little hills skipped like rams at the majestic presence of God, thus symbolising that when the presence of God is with a man troubles bow to him. Sickness merely hears the mention of his name and takes to its heels. That is precisely why you must pay the price of purity, if you want God's presence; it is your guarantee for signs and wonders.

Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? or who shall stand in his holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully.

He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. Psalm 24:3-5

Divine presence is therefore a major factor in walking in the miraculous, but it is attracted by purity.

Purity Is Your Responsibility

If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. 2 Timothy 2:21

This scripture makes it clear that it is you that determines what kind of vessel you will be in the great house of God. Sin is not your master anymore, because when Jesus shed His blood on the cross, He atoned for your sins, and destroyed the power of sin. From that time on, sin lost its dominion over you (Rom. 6:14). So, sin is now your slave.

Therefore, no matter what evil habit has ensnared you, you can disentangle yourself from it right now. Crying does not solve the sin question as it were; rather, light into the covenant forces at your disposal is your winning ticket.

All bad habits can be stopped, all you need is to exercise your will power. And as the saying goes, "Where there is a will, there is a way." Therefore, until you will to be free, you cannot win in your fight against evil habits.

And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. 1 John 3:3

And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness. 1 John 5:19

So, never say, "I don't have a choice", because you do. The choice to sin is yours, and so is the choice to live pure. If purity is your choice, then you are a wise man. The power of choice cannot be undermined. It is a potent force against the influence of evil.

See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil; Deuteronomy 30:15

Please examine yourself critically. Is there any evil you are perpetuating? Are you in an adulterous union? Are you involved in fraudulent practices? If you are, then you are close to destruction. Get out of it now!

Sin hinders life in the miraculous. Until you put an end to anger, gossiping, lying and all other works of the flesh, and begin to walk in purity, miracles will never accompany you. What I am talking about is not just peity, but purity.

In case you are battling with sin, understand that you do not have to struggle with it; simply take authority over it and see how weak it really is. Remember that Satan is no longer in charge of your life, so you can choose to be free and he cannot stop you. Whatever you say "No" to must lose its grip off you. Jesus has paid the price, so you can live in total liberty. There is no other way to do exploits other than embracing a life of purity.

In addition to exercising your will power against sin, you can go a step further and tie your choice to a vow.

...An oath for confirmation is to them an end of all strife. Hebrews 6:16

A brother shared this testimony recently:

"I was a chain smoker for 35 years, until January 12, 1997. I started smoking when I was in secondary school, until it became an addiction. All attempts made to stop it when I realized I was gradually killing myself was to no avail. I even went on seven days fast when I was in a white-garment church; but after the fast, I started smoking heavily again.

On a Sunday morning in January 1997, the first statement the Bishop made was, 'Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.'

These words turned me on and I became jittery. As if that was not enough, he said, 'When Satan vows your destruction, you must vow his

devastation too. Until you will, you do not win.' From that moment I made a U-turn and backed up my decision with a vow.

I said, 'God, after today, any stick of cigarette I hold in my hand should be my tuberculosis, and the next immoral act I commit should be my AIDS.' That was it! The taste for these devilish acts died immediately!"

S. S. M.

Friend, you can end the struggle with sin with a vow against it. Sin is a barrier to the flow of signs and wonders, so you must stop it before it stops your manifestations.

Chapter 4: The Word Connection

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear. Hebrews 11:3

Every lasting miracle is a function of contact with the Word of God. Once the Word gains entrance into the heart of a man, he has compelled the manifestation of signs and wonders. He may not need to pray, but the moment he encounters the Word of God on any subject, he has switched on the miraculous.

It is the Word of God that makes you a commander of signs. Therefore no accomplishment is authentic, no miracle is genuine, until it is founded upon the Word.

The trigger for signs recorded in Mark 16 is the name of Jesus. "And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils..." But **Psalm 138:2** tells us that in spite of the power in the name of Jesus, it cannot be compared with the power in the Word.

...For thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

The Word of God is therefore a very powerful instrument for producing miracles.

And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them. Luke 5:17

The power that healed them came through the Word Jesus was teaching, because no disease, no matter how terrible, can resist the authority of the

Word. Once the Word concerning any situation goes forth, the devil cannot stop it from producing a corresponding sign.

A young man came to me and said he needed a job. I quoted Isaiah 3:10 to him: "Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings" I told him that the Bible said they shall eat the fruit of their doings, not the doings of their uncles or fathers. This must mean that God has no plans for the righteous to be jobless. And I asked him, "Do you believe that?" He said, "I believe", and I said to him, "Now, you get a job!" He got a job the following week!

That miracle came about by operating on the Word. Remember, I did not need to pray, all I did was to take charge of the situation by the Word.

It's The Rod For Signs

And thou shalt take this rod in thine hand, wherewith thou shalt do signs. Exodus 4:17

That was God speaking to Moses to take the rod in his hand and produce signs. The rod then must have the ability to command the miraculous. What is this rod? I'll show you a couple of scriptures that describe what it is.

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; Isaiah 11:1-2

The Lord's voice crieth unto the city, and the man of wisdom shall see thy name: hear ye the rod, and who hath appointed it. Micah 6:9

Feed thy people with thy rod, the flock of thine heritage, which dwell solitarily in the wood, in the midst of Carmel: let them feed in Bashan and Gilead, as in the days of old. Micah 7:14

The rod therefore is Jesus. He is the "rod out of the stem of Jesse", He is also the rod whom the Father has appointed. And from an understanding of scriptures, Jesus is also the Word of God (Rev. 19:13). Therefore it is with the Word of God that you do signs. It determines the degree of the miraculous you experience in your life and actually shows your worth in the world of the spirit.

For instance, I can confidently say I have a miracle home, by the rod of God. I discovered from the Word that, "it is not good for man to be alone". So I concluded that God must be saying "I want to make life better (not worse) for him, let Me give him a wife." Adding "for better for worse" to the marriage vow is merely being religious, because God designed marriage for better.

Somewhere else I read, "Two are better than one." So I figured out that God has a better programme for me as a married man. Since I was not a fighter as a bachelor, I cannot be one when I am married.

Again, I discovered, "One shall chase a thousand and two shall put ten thousand to flight." From this I understood that I am designed for greater victory in life as a married man. Then I heard Him say in His Word, "...Be fruitful and multiply." Therefore I became convinced that fruitfulness in marriage is not a favour, but part of the covenant pact God signed with man (Ex. 23:25-26).

All these are secrets discovered in the Word and things I have taken delivery of to ensure rest in my marital life. And I can say with all boldness that my wife and I have not had the first argument in our home since we got married.

Nobody has the Word and lacks miracles. Every Word you encounter has the potential to produce a miracle for you.

Sometime ago, Kenneth Hagin lay paralyzed and dying on his sick bed. But then he encountered God's Word in **Mark 11:23** that says:

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

And he began to act on that Word. He would rise up and fall, until he rose never to fall again! That is the power in the Word at work! It cheaply delivers the miraculous into your hands.

He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions. Psalm 107:20

Actually all a man needs, to do wonders, is "Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it" (Jn. 2:5). Until you do what He says, miracles are not in view. A business man for instance, who knows what God says should be done about His business and actually does it will have a flourishing business, the devil notwithstanding. If a pastor knows what to do about his ministry and does it, he cannot experience stagnation. That is why God laments at the ignorance of His people:

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. Hosea 4:6

God's Word is His rod that commands the miraculous. And until you are in touch with the Word, you cannot be in touch with signs and wonders. Some time ago, I encountered a powerful insight from God's Word, which has resulted in diverse miracles. I saw it in **Genesis 2:7**:

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

I deduced that by the breath of God, clay took on life, and blood began flowing in man. By this same breath the muscles, tendons, etc. assumed their perfect positions. I couldn't imagine the internal organs being built separately by God and being put inside the formed man. He probably only built the human frame, and when He breathed the breath of life into man's nostrils, other things came into being.

And when Jesus came, He exhibited the same kind of life that the Father has:

For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. John 5:26-27

Not stopping there, I saw that redemption conferred on me the same quality of life Jesus and the Father have. Based on this scriptural analogy, I came to the conclusion that if the life in God the Father could create all the organs in the human body and also maintain them, then the eternal life in me carries creative as well as preservative power.

To validate this insight, I breathed into someone who had the AIDS virus and she was set free. At another occasion, a boy who had been diagnosed as having polio was healed after I breathed on his legs. Friend, signs and wonders result whenever you act on the word. It always works!

At another occasion, as I sat meditating on the life of the three Hebrew boys in Babylon, I came to the place where it was written concerning them that they were ten times better than their colleagues. Then I saw from 2 Corinthians 3 that if the ministration of death be glorious, how much more glorious shall the ministration of righteousness be. So, I understood that redemption offers me a more glorious package than the law of Moses could have offered Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

Something began to tingle in my brain and I found out that from that time I could easily assimilate things, to the point that a one-time chief judge of a state asked where I got what he described as my "electric brain" from. You can have a miracle mind also when you are Word connected.

In March 1981, I laid hold on the rod of prosperity and forced poverty out of my life. When I caught that insight, I proclaimed before men and devils alike, "I can never be poor!" At the time of this Word encounter I had not been called into full-time ministry yet, so I wasn't reading to preach. But I was certain that I had knocked the final nail into the coffin of poverty, and it died the same day.

Your business is not failing because there is a slump in your nation's economy, but because there's a problem with your covenant walk! Nobody with the rod of prosperity can be enslaved by poverty. It is impossible! All

you need do is set yourself to see the amazing things packaged in the Word for your liberation and your destiny is secured.

It is one thing to read, another to preach, and an entirely different thing to see; and only those who see possess their inheritance in God. So, set yourself to see mysteries from God's Word.

As I have earlier mentioned, Jesus Himself did signs by what He heard and saw. Therefore I can boldly say to you that everything contained in the Word is "possible", if only you set yourself to make discoveries. Stop pitying yourself or your situation, you don't have a special case. No matter how difficult that problem appears to be, there is a solution; all you need do is to go for discoveries.

Get To Know His Ways

He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel. Psalm 103:7

The ways of God are the highways to the miraculous. As soon as a man has an understanding of His ways, he becomes a commander of signs and wonders. Children may celebrate the acts of God (that accounts for the cheers when a miracle is performed), but matured believers are in touch with God's ways. His ways is what decide the acts, so His ways are superior to the acts.

That is what made Moses a General in the kingdom of God. Despite his experiences with God, he still yearned to know His ways the more.

Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, show me now thy way, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people. Exodus 33:13

Jesus needed to feed 5,000 men, beside women and children, who are generally more in number at crusades. The Bible says concerning Him:

And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. John 6:6

The knowledge of God's ways produced the miracle food that fed the entire lot. Jesus had an understanding that compelled the flow of signs.

I remember announcing to a gathering of people at the outset of the ministry, "God told me not to look up to you." He said I have two eyes, can I make one eye to look up and the other to look down? If I can't, then in God's Words, "Anytime you're looking unto men, don't claim to be looking

unto Me. For they that look unto Me are lightened and their faces are not ashamed."

I must have found something, that made me speak as I did. I understood my assignment from the pages of the scriptures. I understood God's covenant pact, so I did not have any fear as to whether it would work or not. I knew it would.

If the ways of God paved the way to the miraculous for Moses, Jesus and for me, then I can confidently counsel you to go for those ways. As a husband, do you want a miracle home? Then you need to locate the ways of God, it will keep the devil far from your home. Just love your wife as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for her, and you are guaranteed of walking on the highways of the miraculous. The same applies to any wife; submit yourself to your own husband in everything and your home will be peaceful.

Consider apostle Paul. He was a man of great manifestations, yet he cried out in ***Philippians 3:10:***

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

Therefore, until you know how to make things happen, you will keep being molested by the devil. It's up to you to go for God's ways.

Your Access To The Word

Miracles are not accidental occurrences, they do not only happen to a few lucky people. Miracles operate on the basis of insight. Once a man contacts insight from the Word of God, miracles are inevitable. For instance, in a situation where darkness is prevalent, all one needs to subdue it without a struggle is to introduce light. The moment light comes, darkness bows out on its own accord.

My son, eat thou honey, because it is good; and the honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste: So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off. Proverbs 24:13-14

There is no guess work in getting revelation from the Word of God. There is a search required. No one finds the answer without knowing. That makes for certainty. But how do we "find" the Word?

Meditation

The word meditate means "to consider deeply, to reflect upon, to revolve in the mind." It is akin to the physical process of food digestion. Food when eaten undergoes three major processes before the nutrients in it can benefit the body. They are: digestion, absorption and assimilation.

Often we think that the taste of food in the mouth and its weight in the stomach is all that there is to food. But until these three processes take place, food taken in offers no value to the body.

Similarly, until the Word of God you hear or read is broken down to assimilable forms and you contact the gems in it, your life can not be bettered by it. The meditation process is what breaks down the Word into assimilable forms, equipping you to walk on the highways of the miraculous.

Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts. Jeremiah 15:16

The time that many people allot to prayers should actually be dedicated to meditation. In times of difficulty you hear people ask, "Have you prayed through?" But no one asks, "Have you thought through?" But solutions come easily as you settle down to think through scriptures. The best of the covenant is accessible only to successful "meditators".

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt 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 shalt have good success. Joshua 1:8

But the Church is so tied to the old syllabus, that it keeps suffering the same age-old plagues and difficulties. God has made His Word available as an instrument for combating life's woes. But the power in the Word is only released through the process of meditation. Until you ponder on the truth

contained in the Word, get an understanding of that Word, and act on it, you cannot display miracles, signs and wonders.

You can through meditation collect effective strategies for success in your business, Family, career, etc. While you are before the Lord in your quiet time, ponder on the Word of God concerning any area of difficulty. You may say, "This thing ought not to be, so how do I resolve it?" As you wait before the Lord, light from scriptures stored up in your heart will begin to flood your heart, showing you practical solutions out of the negative situations of life.

Sometime ago, I heard a voice within me say, "Who says the devil is not powerful?" At the same instance, floods of negative thoughts came rushing through my mind. I remembered certain negative things that had occurred in my extended Family, and which would have made me afraid, except that as suddenly as the evil wind blew, three scriptures came to my mind annulling the effect of those words. The first was ***Romans 13:1-2:***

Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

So, I reasoned that God will not institute any power against Himself, because a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand.

The other scriptures were ***Matthew 28:18:***

...All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God. Psalm 62:11

So, I reacted rudely against Satan on the basis of these word, exercising my authority over him.

Meditation brings you into encounters with the Word that can be quite intoxicating. It is therefore not a question of how many chapters of the Bible you read in a day that determines your ability to flow in signs and wonders, but the quantity you successfully assimilate.

Sometime ago, while meditating on John 1, I saw how cheaply one can destroy the stronghold of darkness with light. I discovered that there is no contesting the supremacy of light in any conflict against darkness. I discovered the power of light.

Shortly after I went to my hometown for Christmas and was told that one of my cousins had been afflicted with insanity. When I learnt this, I was excited, because I saw an opportunity to manifest the truth of the Word I had just encountered.

So I went to the room where he was. And as soon as I entered, he prostrated to greet me, he could recognise me in his mad state! I asked his brothers to put him in my car, saying, "Let me see the devil that will follow him into my car." We had scarcely driven a few kilometers when this cousin of mine fell sound asleep (he had not slept in days)!

When he was taken to the teaching hospital the following day, he was asked, "What is wrong with you?" But he replied, "Do you mean what was wrong with me or what is wrong with me?" The doctors needed no further proof that he was healed! The same young man has since graduated from the university and is now working!

And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. John 1:5

May God make you a successful "meditator" on His Word.

Quietness

...Study to be quiet... 1 Thessalonians 4:11

For the Egyptians shall help in vain, and to no purpose: therefore have I cried concerning this, Their strength is to sit still.

For thus saith the Lord God, the Holy One of Israel; In returning and rest shall ye be saved; in quietness and in confidence shall be your strength: and ye would not.

But ye said, No; for we will flee upon horses; therefore shall ye flee: and, We will ride upon the swift; therefore shall they that pursue you be swift. Isaiah 30:7,15-16

One other avenue through which you can receive insight from the Word of God is quietness. It is a remarkable strategy for accessing revelations to bring revolutions in your life.

God came to Adam at the cool of the day, when everywhere was calm and serene. So it follows that God still comes visiting when everywhere is calm.

It is in the "cool" of the day that you often encounter insight or light from God's Word. At such times, as you begin to ponder on certain scriptures, solutions to situations are handed to you. It is also at such times of quietness that every weak area of your life is strengthened.

For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem: thou shalt weep no more: he will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when he shall hear it, he will answer thee.

And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers:

And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye

turn to the left. Isaiah 30:19-21

God is saying in this scripture that He will raise teachers who will instruct you. And when you are quiet on the inside, your spiritual ear will hear a voice behind you saying, "This is the way, walk in it." Such teachers may be in form of books or tapes; so that as you are following the messages, God causes your ear to hear a word. It may not come directly from the teaching, but from the Lord showing you what to do concerning any problem.

That was how I contacted the secrets of kingdom prosperity. I went to a quiet place armed with The Law of Prosperity written by Kenneth Copeland, God's Will Is Prosperity written by his wife, and my Bible. I was in that quiet place for three days. I programmed quietness for myself. As I read the books and the Book, I found what I was looking for. The secret I located was not in either of the books, it came as I read my Bible. I got to the place where I saw the infallibility of God's covenant and I knew I could never be bed-mates with poverty again!

I pity businessmen who claim to be too busy to settle down to locate where next to go or what next to do. Please, create an atmosphere for God's visitation. It will end all life's struggles.

Understanding

The Ethiopian eunuch in Acts 8 was reading from Isaiah 53, but did not understand what he was reading until Philip, moved by the Holy Ghost, asked him, "Understandest thou what thou readest?" Philip opened him up to the benefits of that scripture after he confessed that he didn't.

Until you have an understanding of any scripture, its benefits are not released to you. It is your understanding therefore that connects you to the virtues in the Word. Once this understanding comes, it becomes easy to believe God for miracles. Understanding begets faith. That was why as soon as the Ethiopian eunuch understood Philip's teaching, he said, "See, here is water, what doth hinder me to be baptized?"

Once you have the Word, you have access to the miraculous. All you need do is to lay hold on it and operate with it. You can live free from sickness, Family crises, financial troubles, etc. if you encounter the right word and act on it. Nothing gets God committed to act on your behalf as His Word, so go for it.

It is time to sit up and say, "Lord, I know that if I can lay hold on the Word, I will command signs and wonders." Remember that everything is under the control of the Word, so an encounter with the Word puts you perfectly in command of the situations of life.

Chapter 5: The Faith Connection

Miracles are not accidental occurrences; they are the deliberate acts of God provoked by the desperate faith of men. Faith is a vital key for unlocking the door to the miraculous. That was why Jesus said:

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; Mark 16:17

The condition for signs to follow one is belief. The believer compels signs and wonders to pursue after him. Signs don't follow every Christian, only those who actually believe.

Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. Mark 9:23

That means that as far as God is concerned miracles are not initiated by Him, but by man. God is a miracle worker, that is what He does best. He does not deny Himself, He abides faithful. His side is intact; in fact, He is surprised when miracles do not occur. Miracles are as natural to God as breathing is to man. If this is true, and God is constant, where lies the variable then?

The variable is on man's side. God will only act when He sees faith. Faith is the connection between man and the miracle-working power of God.

When the Jews observed how miracles attended to Jesus, they were stirred up to ask:

... What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? John 6:28

And Jesus' response is very revealing.

Jesus answered and said unto them, This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent. John 6:29

Therefore the cardinal way to "work the works of God" is by faith. I am not talking about the mental assent of "I believe", but the "work" known as faith. You may ask, "Is faith a work?" Hear this:

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. John 14:12

Faith is a work! Consider the account of the woman with the issue of blood. She needed a miracle from Jesus, yet many people were thronging Him. But by faith, she pressed through the crowd, until she touched Jesus and drew virtue from Him. She got connected to signs by her faith. That was not just the mental assent of "I believe Jesus can heal me." The multitude believed, but the steps she took demonstrated her faith. That's the work of faith! Jesus crowned it all by saying:

...Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague. Mark 5:34

Friend, without faith you cannot do signs nor receive signs. Without faith you are sign-barren! You need the instrument of faith to work miracles. Not tears, but faith!

And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou son of David, have mercy on us.

And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you. Matthew 9:27-29

The tears of the blind men did not move Jesus to act on their behalf. So, tears do not produce miracles. It is pathetic to note that this same incidence recorded in Matthew 9 is still prevalent in the Church today. Too many are still crying after Jesus for miracles. They have been following for long, crying after Him for miracles. Some undergo 40, 70 and even 100 days fast, just to cry to Him for miracles. But weeping will not produce signs.

The same question Jesus asked the blind men is the same He is still asking people today: "Believe ye that I am able to do this?" Until faith is in place, your tears are a waste. How long you have been following Him is irrelevant. All that will deliver the sign into your hand is your faith. For without faith, it is impossible to please God (Hebrews. 11:6).

In Acts 14:8-10, the story is told of a man who had been lame from his mother's womb. He received his miracle simply because he believed. As a matter of fact, nobody picked him up, he rose up by himself! And as he arose, strength came to his lame legs. Paul looking at him, perceived that he had faith to be healed. Faith is what connects you to the miraculous.

Looking closely at Hebrews 11, I discovered that all the men mentioned there were men of faith. For instance, Enoch was translated and did not see death, because of his faith. Moses' amazing ministry was run and sustained largely by faith.

By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment.

By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter...

By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

By faith they passed through the Red sea as by dry land: which the Egyptians assaying to do were drowned. Hebrews 11:23-29

That enormous ministry, characterized by mind-boggling wonders was a product of faith! I paraphrased *Hebrews 11:6* to read:

But without faith it is impossible to move God; for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and is up to the task he's presenting before Him.

The Force of Faith

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

Faith is a substance. It is not a figment of man's imagination, neither is it a psychological state of mind. From the reference above, it is substantial; it is a tangible "takeable", "handleable" force .

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. Ephesians 6:16

"Taking the shield of faith." If faith is not a substance, you cannot take it. The fact that I said faith is a tangible force does not make it physical. It is definitely as real as the air we breathe, and equally invisible to the human eye. It is therefore a spiritual entity, a living force. It is the trigger that provokes supernatural interventions. It is beyond the mental sphere.

Faith is a spiritual entity. How then do we take delivery of it?

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Romans 10:17

The Word of God is the delivery van of faith. It transports faith to you. The Word can also be likened to a pregnant woman, and the child in the womb faith. Only those who labour in the Word deliver faith. Just as a pregnant woman must go into labour before her child is born, so also must one labour in the Word of God before faith can be born.

Also, you cannot have faith without knowing it, just as a child cannot be born without the mother's knowledge; if any thing, she cannot forget the pushing or labour process. Faith comes that same way; not in the labour ward, but in the "Labour Word".

The sister in this testimony laboured in the Word, which gave birth to faith, that delivered her much desired baby to her.

"I was here last year for the last Feet-washing service of the year, trusting God for the fruit of the womb. Precisely three months before my wedding, I stopped menstruating. After my wedding, I went to see the doctor. The first doctor said, 'Madam, I am sorry you'll find it difficult to take in.' The second one said, 'Sorry, without menstruating, ovulation cannot take place. Without ovulation, you cannot get pregnant.' He then said, 'Tell your husband to get between 10,000 to 100,000 naira ready, and I will carry out different tests, to know what exactly is wrong with you.'

Initially, I began to run from one hospital to the other, seeing the gynecologists. Later I got hold of one of Bishop's publications, ***You Shall Not Be Barren!*** The first paragraph I read said, 'There is no biological reason that is strong enough to hold married couples from getting pregnant, if they want to.' I held on to that. And he further said, 'The Bible says, be fruitful and multiply'. I then said to myself, 'Menses or no menses, I am getting pregnant!'

During the last Feet-washing Service in 1996, I came here and was sitting under the canopy. The Bishop said, 'Today, the devil will see you and will cry'. I said amen. And he said, 'Today, we are going to disgrace the devil and give God a serious dance.' I was really prepared. He further said, 'Matthew (song leader), come and lead us in worshipping God in the Ijesha dialect.' The talking drum was playing full swing and I began to dance.

When it was my turn to wash my feet, I dipped my feet inside the water and said, 'Enough of barrenness, enough of unfruitfulness. Today, menses or no menses, I am getting my baby. I am coming here with my baby at the last Feet-washing service of the year in 1997.' After that, I began to dance as if I was out in a competition.

My husband wasn't at the service, so when I got home, I told him, 'Look, our baby is ready' and he said, 'Okay'. In January, I went to the hospital to see my doctor. I told him, 'Look, I am pregnant.' He said, 'Okay, let's carry out the most accurate test, which is the blood pregnancy test.' But the result was negative. I went home and told my husband, and he said the doctor didn't see well.

In February I went back to the hospital and told my doctor, 'Check me, I am pregnant.' He said, 'Madam, I don't mean to frighten you. I don't think you can be pregnant. I am sure it is because of your menstrual cycle. It is either you have PID (Pelvic Inflammatory Disease), ectopic pregnancy or the ovarian cyst is still disturbing you'. But I said, 'Doctor, I cannot have any of these diseases.' He said, 'Why are you so sure?' I said, 'It is because from Genesis to Revelation there is nothing like that.' He said, 'Madam, go and do a scan again.'

By the time I got to the scan doctor's door, I began to shake. The doctor said, 'But woman, I have scanned you before.' I said in my heart, 'God don't make me a case study in this hospital.' The man placed his scanning machine on me and said, 'Woman you are pregnant'! And I began to cry. I said, 'Doctor, how many months pregnancy?' and he replied, '11 weeks and 4 days'. Today, I have my baby in my hands – a bouncing baby boy!"

Olowosuko, A.

Faith Gives Substance To Hope

When the Bible talks about faith being the substance of things hoped for, it means that the things you hope for, your expectations, cannot be realized until you inject faith into them. It is faith plus hope that equals manifestation.

Many people miss it by hoping for miracles without activating their faith. But hope alone is nothing but an idle wish. It is faith that makes it a reality.

For example, I cannot see me fail, lie stretched out on a hospital bed or trapped in an accident vehicle. That is my expectation, my hope. But to give it substance, so that these woes never befall me, I have located God's Word on success, divine health and protection.

Standing on the Word is faith, while my expectation is hope; which is given substance by faith, guaranteeing the manifestation of my expectation.

Faith Guarantees Rest

**For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.
Hebrews 4:3**

Can you imagine a Family without problems, a ministry without crisis, a body without sickness, a pocket that is never empty, and a life without any worries whatsoever? Nothing defines the word "rest" more than these.

Rest is a worry-free existence. It is a much sought-after commodity, because nobody wants to live in worry. However, not everyone knows how to enter into it. One sure access to God's rest is faith.

There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God did from his.

Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief. Hebrews 4:9-11

Labour is required in order to enter into God's rest; that is labouring in the Word of God. You stay at the Word until you encounter faith, which in turn leads to rest. It was laborious those three days I went in search of prosperity, but I stayed at the Word until faith came and its result was financial rest.

Having laboured, I have "ceased from my own works", as God ceased from His. Abundance now attends to me naturally. There is no other way to life in the miraculous outside faith; and it is those who labour in the Word that encounter it.

I like the word "labour". Jesus said to the multitudes:

... Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled.

Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed. John 6:26-27

He was telling them not to labour for perishable bread, but for the Bread of life – the Word of God. As we labour for the bread of life, we take delivery of faith, which establishes us in rest. The moment faith comes, it commands rest on all sides. ***"If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth."*** When all things become possible to you, your rest is established.

That is why you cannot afford to be Word weary. As long as you keep hungering for the Word you are on the path to the miraculous. I am not talking about just reading, but reading, searching, meditating, until faith strikes in your heart. The moment faith strikes, there's a sigh of relief, because rest has come.

Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief.

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Hebrews 4:11-12

I love Doddie Osteen's testimony. She was struck with terminal cancer, and her husband, a mighty man of God, had prayed for her, but borrowing Bible words, "She was nothing bettered." He invited other mighty men of God, who also prayed, but there was still no improvement.

With just six more days to live, Doddie settled down with the Word and located forty powerful scriptures that guaranteed victory over cancer and death. With the last strength she had left in her, she began to feed on these scriptures, until faith struck in her heart.

In other words she sat down and mixed those forty scriptures with faith in the laboratory of her heart. She is still hale and hearty today, several years after her appointed day of death!

For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. Hebrews 4:2

Once the Word goes inside and is mixed with faith, it delivers definite benefits to you. If Doddie had refused to labour in the Word, she would have died, the great ministry they have notwithstanding, because God is not a respecter of persons.

Some years ago I wrote a book titled, *Power Over Death*. The title scared a lot of people, so I re-titled it, *Long Life Your Heritage*. That book came from a week-long seminar on the weakness of death over the believer. But first, I had sat down with scriptures, running through Genesis to Revelation, until I discovered that death does not have the final say in the life of a child of God.

Shortly after my discoveries, death literally came to my room. I was at the point of death when the Holy Spirit on my inside asked me, "What are you doing here?" and I replied, "I don't know too." With that, I jumped out of bed, went to the bathroom, got dressed and went on a journey, saying, "Any death on my way, I will drive over your head and break you." That was not just a boast, but a statement rooted in the light I had just received from God's Word.

When God's Word is ignited by faith in your heart, you command signs and wonders. But without faith you can neither receive nor do signs.

At a time, death came to take our last daughter, and was actually taking her away. But I went into my office, locked the door and said to myself, "There is always a way out of any situation. I am here to locate that way." I laboured in the quick and powerful Word of God until I found certain nuggets that forbade the activity of death over my offspring. I squeezed out the substance in them, until faith rose up in me and gave me the authority required for victory.

At that point I knew death had lost the battle. When she recovered I wrote a poem welcoming her back. In it I said she had been in a basket, as it were, on the waters of death; but the crocodiles could not eat her. All through the period she was down, there was no crying, vibrating or gyrating from me. I simply laboured in the Word until faith came and death was swallowed up in victory!

There is no point waiting for miracles to happen on their own accord, you can make them happen! A choice to wait is a choice to waste. Don't say, "I know someday I will be pregnant." If you are barren, today can be that day for you. Many people have waited like that for years without getting anything at the end.

But your miracle is available today! What you really need is the key of faith. Once it comes, your mountains will be levelled, and the impossible will become possible.

Therefore faith is the cheapest way to continuous victory (1 John 5:4). It is also the ticket to life in the miraculous. Once you are born of God, faith is your emblem, it's your staff of office and authority in the midst of conflict.

Chapter 6: The Spirit Connection

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 1:8

Signs and wonders are a result of the workings of the Holy Spirit. He is the producer of miracles on the earth. This explains why, although you are by the new birth a miracle worker, your identity never becomes a reality until the Holy Ghost comes upon you. It is impossible to separate signs from the operation of the Spirit of God.

The man Moses was miracle personified. He was miraculously delivered from Pharaoh's wicked edict at birth, and God's Word also lets us know that working inside the mighty prophet was the spirit of God.

And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone. Numbers 11:17

Whatever miracles we saw Moses do were actually done by the Holy Spirit. Jesus' life is another evidence that the Holy Spirit can shoot a man into realms of the miraculous. I believe that as a young Jewish boy, Jesus attended the synagogue faithfully. He was dedicated, but not distinguished. It was not until He returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit that the miraculous began to find expression through Him naturally.

And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about. Luke 4:14

Consider Jesus' disciples also. They were all timidly and cowardly hiding away in the upper room after Christ ascended into heaven.

But on the day of Pentecost, the Holy Ghost descended upon them and their ministry exploded! It was the coming of the Holy Spirit that launched them into realms of "notable" miracles. He brought them out of hiding, into the limelight. When they healed the lame man at the Beautiful Gate, the world took "knowledge" of them.

As a Christian, you can remain in hiding in the "upperrooms" of business, ministry, career, etc, never experiencing distinction until the Holy Ghost comes. Until He comes, you cannot become a sign.

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 1 Corinthians 12:7

And **John 2:11** says concerning Jesus

This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

We can therefore safely conclude that Jesus' miracles began with the manifestation of the Spirit. He could not manifest forth His glory until the Holy Spirit came.

Measures Of The Spirit

And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ankles.

Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters were to the loins.

Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over. Ezekiel 47:3-5

The Spirit connection, as has been mentioned, is the beginning of your manifestation, but there are measures of the Spirit. The different measures determine various degrees of manifestation.

We begin with the new birth. It is impossible to say, "Jesus is Lord" without the conviction of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians.12:3). Then you take a step further into the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Once you are convicted of sin and are born again, you are qualified to be immersed in the Holy Spirit, which is baptism. That was why on the day of Pentecost, when the people asked, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Peter replied, *"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."* (Acts 2:37-38). There is a baptism that follows repentance.

When I gave my life to Christ (I was led to Christ by an Evangelical), I was told that I was complete and did not require the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I agreed with all I was told and so I suffered along with them.

However, one day I was praying and found myself saying, "Holy Spirit, if You are anywhere, come to me now, because I am not sure of this thing." And I was filled with the Holy Ghost. I spoke a strange language, yet it was very refreshing, and I knew it had to be from God, because the devil does not bring comfort to anybody. So many great men are still locked up in that doctrine today, and as a result remain practically powerless.

The next measure of the Spirit is the anointing. It is also called unction and is a divine enabling. Looking at the life of Jesus, we see that although He was born of the Spirit, yet He could not manifest forth His glory until He was anointed with the Holy Spirit.

He was known as the Carpenter's son for thirty years, without any outstanding accomplishment until the anointing came. The Holy Spirit is the fountain for the miraculous. That was why Jesus could not get started in ministry until He was anointed by the Spirit.

But when the anointing came, Jesus was in a crowd someday and asked, "Who touched me?" Peter said, "Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me?" But Jesus said, *"Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me."* (Luke 8:45-46)

That virtue Jesus talked about also means unction. In other words, virtue went out of Him to effect a sign somewhere. It therefore follows that once there is a flow of unction, there is bound to be a manifestation of signs and wonders.

The Apostles could not break forth into the realm of the miraculous until they were first filled with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. As a result of that infilling, they healed a lame man at the Beautiful gate in chapter three. In chapter four, they desired an increase in the measure of the Spirit upon their lives, so they prayed:

...And grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness. Acts 4:29-31

The result of that prayer is recorded in *chapter 5:12*:

And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.

The result of the anointing of the Holy Ghost upon their lives was an explosion of signs and wonders!

But there is another realm and measure of the Spirit. Jesus revealed it when He said:

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. John 14:12

But how shall we do greater works than He did except we have access to the source of signs as He had. Jesus had the anointing of the Holy Spirit without measure and that accounted for His unique ministry (John 3:34). If we are to do the works He did, and greater, it means we must have access to the immeasurable anointing that He had.

Ezekiel 47:3-5 paints a graphic picture of the anointing of the Holy Spirit. **Verse five** describes the immeasurable realm of the anointing

Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over.

You also have access to the anointing of the Holy Spirit without measure. When you have this understanding you will find yourself working signs at will.

Someday, I was going into the church auditorium, when a man who had sustained spinal injuries in a motor accident some years back and who had been wearing a lumber jacket since then touched the flowing gown I was wearing. The moment he did that, unction went through the gown into his back and healed him.

Another woman could not defecate without medical assistance. One day, at the Healing School, I left my coat, instructing anybody looking up to God for healing to touch it. This woman touched the jacket and felt something loosen inside her. She immediately went to the toilet, and for the first time in thirty-eight years could defecate by herself!

These manifestations are not gimmicks to bring people to church. No, they are divine proofs of the flow of virtue.

Friend, the manifestation of the Spirit is your ticket to manifestations. This is why you must desperately desire an increase in the measure of the Spirit upon your life, because the greater your measure, the greater the degree of your manifestation.

Your Access To The Spirit

Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you. Proverbs 1:23

The principal access to the anointing of the Holy Spirit is purity. God will not anoint a man beyond how clean his vessel is, because it could spell his destruction.

That is why until a man turns at the reproof of the Lord, it is never his turn to enjoy an increase in unction. Does anyone put new wine into old wine bottles? No, else the bottle will burst, and the new wine is wasted (Luke 5:37).

Jesus, who was anointed without measure, got to that level because He knew no sin. The unction upon Him was a function of His consecration (Psalm. 45:7). Apostle Paul was a man of a strange order of signs, and he was also the most outspoken apostle against sin.

**Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:
1 Thessalonians 2:10**

Until your love for righteousness increases, your level of unction can never increase. Going on a forty days fast is not a substitute for purity, neither is crying and weeping for the anointing. It is your consecration that determines how far you go in God.

Do you want to live a life of signs and wonders? Then you must be prepared to step out of sin. I am not just talking about obvious sins like adultery, but hidden sins as well; sins of the heart, a filthy mind, etc.

Friend, you are the initiator of every change in your life. You can leave the ordinary realm to the miraculous, if you embrace this word of righteousness. I have observed that until righteousness is in place, you will never have an increase in anointing.

The Holy Spirit wants to come to you, but He is not permitted to come into dirty vessels. You must first consecrate yourself, then are you set to receive Him.

Remember Ezekiel 47? I believe that the Holy Spirit takes a man to the level that his consecration allows. If He takes you ankle deep, and you clean up some more, He takes you to the knee level. If He observes that you have cleaned up a little more, He takes you to the loin level and on to the river level. You must get there!

People have cried for the anointing, not knowing that what controls the increase in levels is one's degree of consecration. For instance, you cannot be lying, cheating and living in adultery and expect an increase in unction. Rather, you will have an increase in affliction! You have a responsibility therefore, to clean up your life.

God is not a respecter of persons. He has said, "*The manifestation of the spirit is given to everyman to profit withal.*" The anointing is equally available to all, but you decide how much of the Spirit you receive, by your degree of consecration.

Chapter 7: The Sound Connection

The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit. John 3:8

The sound produced by a believer is vital in determining whether he walks in the miraculous or not. Signs are products of sound.

Look at the creation story recorded in **Genesis 1**. It is one of the greatest miracles ever documented, yet all that were created came to be by the spoken Word of God. "**And God said...**" And **verse 31** records: "**And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good...**" God saw everything He said!

Friend, if the Almighty God could not see results until He had first spoken, it follows that you will not see results until you speak out.

You therefore need to understand the place of the mouth in producing signs. Your mouth is like an outlet for the rivers of the miraculous. Once it is closed, the river is dammed. But when you open it, miracles begin to flow unhindered. That is precisely why **Psalm 81:10** says:

I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it.

Your responsibility is to open your mouth wide against that sickness that has been harrasing you. Once you do, it will be forced to bow out. Even financial miracles are released by the words you speak, because there is power in your words. As a matter of fact, death and life are in the power of your tongue (Proverbs. 18:21).

When your tongue becomes Word-bridled, speaking not what it pleases, but what the Word of God commands, things will begin to happen for the

better around you. You must learn how to speak right, or else you are not a candidate for signs. Let me show you a few things that happen when you speak right.

You Get God Committed

And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Mark 16:20

One major thing that happens when you talk right is that you get God committed to act in your favour. The first disciples who went everywhere preaching, discovered that God was on hand to confirm every word they spoke. If they said nothing, then God would have had nothing to confirm.

That confirmeth the word of his servant, and performeth the counsel of his messengers; that saith to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be inhabited; and to the cities of Judah, Ye shall be built, and I will raise up the decayed places thereof: Isaiah 44:26

Israel journeyed through the wilderness, heading for the promise land. But just as they were about to enter into Canaan, they said with their own mouths:

...We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we. Numbers 13:31

...Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness! Numbers 14:2

God's response is recorded in **verse 28**:

Say unto them, As truly as I live, saith the Lord, as ye have spoken in mine ears, so will I do to you:

By their words, they committed God to acting against them, and their entry into the promised land was delayed for forty years.

When you speak negative words, God cannot help you out of whatever predicament you are in. But you can utter miracle words and experience a continuous flow of miracles. Those negative words you speak in secret are responsible for the problems you're facing. No one utters miracle words and suffers obstacle.

When one of my daughters in the Lord was attacked by armed robbers, she opened her mouth wide and "sounded", "The blood of Jesus", and the robbers immediately took to their heels! By pleading the blood of Jesus, she turned to her stronghold in the blood and so was supernaturally delivered. (Zechariah. 9:11-12, Revelation. 12:11.)

Without a sound there cannot be signs. Remember David and Goliath? If David had kept quiet after all Goliath's declarations, Goliath would have made minced meat of him. But he took charge and began to make counter-declarations, which compelled divine intervention.

Friend, you are not a child of circumstances, but of destiny. Don't you know that you are the apple of God's eye? You should not be molested by the devil in any area of life. The devil is not in charge of your destiny, so he should not keep tormenting you. Perhaps Satan has vowed to terminate your life, but that is no problem. You can turn the tables on him, and return fire for fire.

You Silence The Opposition

For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist. Luke 21:15

You can determine what becomes of your enemies by the words of your mouth. That is why I always declare boldly, "I cannot be killed." I know that if I open my mouth wide in agreement with what the scriptures says, I have silenced all satanic oppositions.

As soon as they hear of me, they shall obey me: the strangers shall submit themselves unto me.

The strangers shall fade away, and be afraid out of their close places. Psalm 18:44-45

The correct use of your mouth is a cheap way to torment the devil.

You are too quiet to be victorious. You are much too silent to be a winner. Your weakly appearance makes you a ready prey for the devil. Isn't it true that fighters size up their opponents before initiating a tussle?

In the world in which we live, no Christian can afford to keep his mouth shut, as this is an open invitation to oppression. Let him open his mouth, and he will see just how helpless his enemy is!

Rather than commanding positive signs, many people are attracting the negative, because of the negative sounds they produce. It is true that no sound, no sign. But it is equally true that negative sound will produce negative sign and positive sound, positive sign.

When I listen to some people cataloguing their woes, I immediately know that they are the cause of the hardship they are experiencing. I don't make negative sounds, so I do not experience negative signs. For instance, as a bachelor, I announced to all and sundry that my marriage would be absolutely hitch-free. I taught on marriage during that period and showed the people the seven concepts of marriage God revealed to me.

I backed up the teaching with weighty proclamations that angered some people. But they did not understand that I was sounding that way to prepare for a marriage filled with signs and wonders.

If you want positive signs, then produce positive sounds! Declare that your business, Family, finance, etc. will not fail, and you would have fenced out the devil from your affairs. It is time to open your mouth and declare what you want without fear, and you shall have what you say.

The devil has not been able to impose poverty on me since 1981 when I declared that I could never be poor. When I declared that I could never be sick, I stopped the activities of sickness in my life. At another occasion I told the Lord, "One minute before I miss it, take me home; I don't want to end my journey in mockery." Ever since, I have been free from the maneuverings of sin. It is these sounds I produce that compel corresponding signs.

A brother was bound to cigarette smoking and womanizing for 35 years. Then he vowed to the Lord, saying, "Let the next cigarette I smoke be my tuberculosis and the next immoral act my AIDS." Months later, he could boldly testify of his liberty from those devilish habits. But that sign came as a result of the sound he produced.

You Release Your Angels

Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.

Psalms 103:20

Angels are ministering spirits, sent to minister to those who shall be heirs of salvation (Hebrew. 1:14). The angels carry out your orders because they are your messengers. They take your utterances as instructions and carry them out to the letter.

Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thine hands?

Ecclesiastes 5:6

That is why it is risky to produce negative sounds, because the angel assigned to you will ensure that you reap negative signs. For instance, should you dare say, "I am sick", then you can be sure to take delivery of sickness from your angel. But when you say, "I cannot be sick", the angel draws his flaming sword to prevent any satanic agent from afflicting you with sickness.

Angels operate very much like waiters in restaurants. When you go to eat in a restaurant, and you place an order for spaghetti, what the waiter does is to ensure that you get what you ordered for.

When the waiter brings the spaghetti you ordered for, you cannot say, "Oh sorry, I want rice." No, you get what you asked for. Angels are compelled to grant you anything you say.

By your words also, you can release the warring angels to fight the enemy for you. They are equipped to bring deliverance to you when you are faced with trouble.

Words Are Seeds

**While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.
Genesis 8:22**

Whatever you say today is a seed planted with much assurance of a harvest tomorrow. Therefore, whatever comes your way tomorrow is what you sow as seed today.

Your words are indestructible, particularly as it is written concerning you that "ye are gods". If that is true (and it is), it follows that as God's words are incorruptible, your words are equally incorruptible. What you say is what you see.

The Key To Positive Sounds

**O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things?
for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.**

Matthew 12:34

One major way of ensuring that you speak good words is to load your heart with them. If your heart is loaded with miracle words, you will find yourself speaking them forth naturally. It will become an integral part of you.

When one of my cousins who is a medical doctor checked my blood pressure and told me I had high blood pressure, I did not need to go home to meditate on what to say to him; it just flowed out of my mouth. I said to him, "I do not have high blood pressure." Then I added emphatically, "I mean, I cannot have high blood pressure." To which he replied, "Okay Oh!" And it has been okay with me ever since.

We were in our hotel rooms one night after a crusade, when armed robbers broke into our rooms. I came out of my room in my pajamas, and with arms akimbo I said, "In the name of Jesus!" And the armed men fled, screaming, "He has a gun!"

When the Word of God is abundant in your heart, it flows out through your mouth without effort. But just like one cup of wine does not intoxicate, particularly for a certified drunkard, you must saturate your heart with the Word, if it is to come out freely when you need it.

Sickness, poverty, failure, etc. do not have dominion over you any longer. But until you sound out your victory, it will never be established. Like Ezekiel, you have the right to prophesy to the dry bones of your life and watch them covered by miracle flesh.

Don't be ashamed to make your declarations in public. Men may mock you, but God will use the occasion to make you. It is therefore time to speak boldly in the Lord.

**Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord,
which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted**

signs and wonders to be done by their hands. Acts 14:3

Chapter 8: The Love Connection

Love is a very potent force in the operation of signs and wonders. It also determines your degree of manifestation. Wherever you find men who are in charge, a second look will show you that they are men of love, men who love God.

Once you succeed in walking in love, you have endeared yourself to God, you have won His heart and cannot but make a mark on the earth. Let's see a few men who bear witness to this truth.

Moses

By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;

Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Hebrews 11:24-25

The man Moses was living in fortune, but he could not continue, because he could not stand the people of God being humiliated. When he saw an Egyptian maltreating one of his people, he killed him.

Although he was at peace in the palace, but his love for the kingdom of God caused him to flee. It was this love connection that gave Moses a place in the realm of the miraculous.

Elijah

And he said, I have been very jealous for the Lord God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away. 1 Kings 19:10

It is when a man is in love that he is jealous over his beloved. That is why you find husbands being jealous over their wives and vice versa.

When Elijah displayed jealousy over the affairs of God's kingdom, he demonstrated his love for God. It was this heart for God that connected him to the miraculous, so that he could say, "***As the Lord God of Israel liveth, before whom I stand, there shall not be dew nor rain these years, but according to my word***". And so was it. Elijah was a man of outstanding signs in the Old Testament.

Gideon

There was a man named Gideon, whom the angel of God described as a mighty man of valour in Judges 6. But in spite of this description, he did not celebrate his might; rather, his heart was towards God and fulfilling His purpose on the earth. As a result, God raised him and caused many mighty things to happen through his hands.

Nehemiah

The man Nehemiah was a steward in the land of captivity, but he asked about the welfare of Jerusalem and was told the walls were broken down and the people were scattered.

For this reason Nehemiah mourned for many days. I would have you know that Nehemiah was in the palace, right in the centre of pleasure, but his heart was with God, so God made him a captain over His people.

The Three Hebrew Boys

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego preferred to die, rather than bow to Nebuchadnezzar's idol. They were in love with God, their hearts were connected to Him. They were set to go all the way with Him, so He manifested Himself to them in the fire.

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. John 14:21

Daniel

It was Daniel's love for God that compelled him to pray as "aforetime", not minding the lions' den (Daniel 6). His genuine love for God caused him to be supernaturally lifted and made one of the presidents in Babylon.

Friend, you cannot be in love with God and not be promoted. You can't love Him and not make waves on the earth. It is your love connection that ultimately determines your manifestation. Daniel could not be stranded because he loved God; it follows therefore that you cannot love God and be stranded. He will always come to your rescue.

Love For Men

If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? 1 John 4:20

When you claim to love God, it must be reflective also in your love for men, otherwise your claim of love is fake. No one can claim to love God when he does not love his neighbour. Your love for men is a pointer to the depth of your love for God.

That is why you must guard your heart against hatred, jealousy, envy, bitterness and other vices; because every evil you harbour against someone gets you stranded.

Unforgiveness, bitterness, hatred, and the likes disconnects you from the flow of eternal life. When that happens, it becomes impossible for you to walk in the miraculous.

Until you learn to forgive, you will also remain bound and in chains. Purpose in your heart to let any man who has offended you go, or else your "prison" doors will only get stronger.

Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. 1 John 3:15

In the early days of our ministry, I was about travelling out of the country, but my health was in poor shape. One of my associates, for whatever reason, spitefully told somebody, "Let him go. If he dies, we'll bury him."

This associate had never counselled me not to go. When I was told, I called him and asked him why he said such a thing. Walking in love, all I did to him was to transfer him somewhere else. Today, anytime he's in town, he sleeps under my roof.

Nobody can do signs without a love for God and his brethren.

My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. 1 John 3:18

The Virtues Of Love

The first virtue of walking in love is the release of unction. When you are in love with God and men, you enjoy a higher degree of anointing, which is a vital force in the production of signs. The more you walk in love, the more unction you have; and with greater unction your manifestations are bound to be more.

David was described as a man after God's heart. He loved God deeply, therefore God said concerning him:

I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him:

With whom my hand shall be established: mine arm also shall strengthen him.

The enemy shall not exact upon him; nor the son of wickedness afflict him.

And I will beat down his foes before his face, and plague them that hate him. Psalm 89:20-23

God located a man who was truly in love with Him and anointed him. I have also discovered that the greatly anointed men of our time are men with a love connection, men of genuine love. You cannot be any more anointed than you are in love with God.

To cause amazing miracles to begin to happen around you, walk in the love of God. Once this happens, God takes over and the world will be forced to take notice of you.

I said earlier that the anointing is in measures. One thing that takes you from one measure to the other is love. John 3:34 tells us Jesus was anointed without measure. But this was because His love for God was beyond measure as well. Until you have found a place for yourself in the love of God, you cannot experience outstanding manifestations, things beyond your wildest imagination.

In those days the multitude being very great, and having nothing to eat, Jesus called his disciples unto him, and saith unto them,

I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now been with me three days, and have nothing to eat:

And they had a few small fishes: and he blessed, and commanded to set them also before them.

So they did eat, and were filled: and they took up of the broken meat that was left seven baskets. Mark 8:1-2,7-8

Jesus' feeding of four thousand men was a direct result of His compassion for them. He could not send them away hungry. He was filled with compassion for them, which provoked a release of the anointing, resulting in four thousand men being supernaturally fed.

It was like a chain reaction – compassion provoking unction, unction guaranteeing manifestation.

It was also compassion that brought Lazarus out of the grave. When Jesus arrived at his grave side, love welled up in His heart and compelled the release of the anointing. The moment the anointing came, the desired manifestation followed.

Some years ago, a growing ministry needed to erect a church building and I was privileged to be involved in drawing and designing it. Later, the pastor asked how much I wanted to be paid for my efforts; and tears streamed down my cheeks.

I had been dreaming of someday when I could build houses for my God, not how much I should be paid for a drawing. All I kept thinking was, "Lord, if You give me money, I will build the church for them." That was all that was in my heart.

You can't love Jesus with your means and not enjoy financial miracles. It was my love for His kingdom that motivated me into that investment, and today I enjoy financial miracles.

You also need unction to command wealth. ***Deuteronomy 8:18*** says:

But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

There's a power element involved. It is not just the work you're doing that brings the blessings, but the enabling of the Holy Spirit which attracts favours to you.

David, who was so blessed that he gave gold worth 576 million dollars for the building of the house of God, was an addicted God lover. He would not give sleep to his eyes nor slumber to his eyelids until he had found a place for the God of Jacob (Psalm. 132:4-5). As a result, God released the power for wealth upon him. Affection truly brings about the release of unction.

The second virtue of love is insight. This is true because it is the one you love you share your greatest secrets with. For instance, your next door neighbour may not have access to your itinerary, but your friend who lives in another town will have a breakdown of all your activities. Likewise, God's secrets are for His lovers.

He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel. Psalm 103:7

Jesus also said:

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.

**Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.
John 15:9-10,15**

It means that when you continue in His love you are no longer treated as a servant but as a friend, and friends have access to secrets.

The more your love for God, the greater your access to depths of insight in His Word. And it is also true that your depth in the Word ultimately determines your heights in life.

David Yonggi Cho once said, "Put me in a desert, and in three months, I'll build a church of 10,000 members." That is not pride, but insight. He has access to secrets of church growth that many do not have, so he can afford to talk like that. His depth of insight is responsible for the heights he has attained in life.

Manifestations of the miraculous are not just a function of the anointing, but also of revelation. *Second Timothy 2:15* says:

Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

Paraphrased, it could mean, "Study, get insights, and you will be approved of God as a workman who will not be ashamed, and anything you do will prosper." The mark of approval from God was evident in Jesus' life:

Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Acts 2:22

Signs and wonders are bound to follow a man of insight.

When God is looking for a man to put in a position, to anoint, deck with insight and revelation that will command the miraculous, He looks for men of love. That was why He chose Moses, Gideon, Elijah, Daniel and the others. If you also want to work the miraculous, you must be prepared to walk in love.

Chapter 9: The Growth Connection

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: Ephesians 4:13-15

Growth is a necessary requirement for anyone who wishes to walk in the miraculous. There is a need to grow spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically. It is the extent to which a man develops that determines whether God can entrust him with signs and wonders or not. Growth is not optional, but mandatory.

When the Messiah came to the earth, He carried the fulness of the Godhead bodily; yet because He was a child, He needed to grow before He could manifest His glory.

And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him. Luke 2:40

He began as a child, but developed physically ("and the child grew"), spiritually ("and waxed strong in the spirit"), as well as mentally ("filled with wisdom"). Jesus' growth was tri-dimensional.

When the child Jesus grew into a Son, it was written concerning Him that He returned in the power of the Spirit (Luke. 4:14). It was only after then that He could take His rightful place, standing strong in the face of confrontations.

We all began our Christian adventure as children of God, but not all remain as children. Some are sons of God, others men of God, while yet others are messengers and friends of God. All these are reflections of the various levels of growth.

It is true that we are all heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, but we can't handle certain things at the level we are right now until we grow up some more.

So little attention has been paid to the subject of growth in the charismatic circles, that many are groaning under things they are not grown enough to handle.

Even nature teaches us that it will amount to infanticide to give your eight year old child your car keys to drive your car. The car may be his by heritage, but as a minor, he is not permitted to drive a car yet. But when that same child becomes eighteen, he becomes a co-owner of your car and can drive it anytime he wants to.

Similarly, when you mature as a Christian, many of the things you are crying for now will simply be at your disposal.

Apostle Paul tells us that there are weights of glory.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; 2 Corinthians 4:17

There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. 1 Corinthians 15:41

This can be likened to the human body which develops muscles to match its level of growth. So there's a need for growth to match particular weights of glory. There must be a building up of your spirit, soul and body.

From a son, Jesus grew to a point where He was equal with God. He could actually say, "I and my Father are one." But that was not where He

started from. Please understand that growth is a continuous process.

Growing In Grace

But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. 1 Corinthians 15:10

God's grace is essential in the making of any man. Your status in the kingdom is a function of grace. Whatever you will become in God's kingdom will be determined by how much you grow in His grace.

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ... 2 Peter 3:18

Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, 2 Peter 1:2

The grace of God can be multiplied through the knowledge of the Word of God. It is a sure way to increase in grace. Apostle Paul, a man made by grace, worked on his level of grace as he desperately searched the Word of God. He was a hungry seeker of knowledge. As he grew in his knowledge of God, he also increased in grace.

Your status is a function of growth. If you want greater glory, then you must aim at greater growth.

Growing In Faith

For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. Romans 12:3

Faith is also in measures, and it is possible to go from one measure to another. It is actually what you do with the measure of faith you have now that determines whether you move up to the next level or not.

The first measure of faith is given to a man at new birth. As a matter of fact, it is impossible to be saved without faith.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Ephesians 2:8

Every believer has a certain measure of faith at salvation. This measure can, however, be lost and he returns to a no-faith realm.

And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith? Mark 4:40

Let me illustrate this point further with the parable of the 10 virgins. They all had a measure of oil at the beginning. But out of carelessness, five of them allowed their measure to run out. So when the bridegroom came in the middle of the night, they did not have any oil with which to meet him. Likewise, except you guard your measure of faith jealously, you can lose it. The next level is the little faith level. In this group are those who have done little with their measure of faith.

Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Matthew 6:30

There is also another level of faith, called great faith. In this group are those who have done great things with their faith.

When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. Matthew 8:10

From that point you enter into exceeding growing faith.

We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth; 2 Thessalonians 1:3

From there we move on to grounded and settled faith. At this point you are like mount Zion which cannot be moved, but abideth forever. You enter into the realm of trust.

If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven... Colossians 1:23

All these are proofs that faith is a living force, because only living things grow. But it's also true that whatever grows also dies. Therefore, this faith that grows can also die, except you learn how to nurture it. One way to do this is by the Word of God (Romans. 10:17).

Growing In The Word

So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed. Acts 19:20

It is possible to increase in the knowledge of the Word of God. A mighty growth in the Word results in mighty acts (Acts 19:11-12).

So, Word-growth equals sign-growth. When the Word of God in you increases, there is bound to be an explosion of signs and wonders. If you want to see mighty acts therefore, go for a mighty Word growth.

This calls for a consistent feeding on the Word. Not the haphazard type, where you do it as convenient. A disciplined and consistent approach to the study of the Word of God is required. Paying "mighty" attention to the Word will result in mighty growth, which will in turn lead to mighty manifestations.

Growing In The Anointing

You can also grow in the anointing of the Holy Ghost (Ezekiel 47:1-5).

Jesus for example had an encounter with the Holy Ghost in Matthew 3:16, when the Holy Ghost came upon Him as a dove.

Later in chapter four He went to the wilderness and came back in the power of the Spirit. At another point, He went up into a high mountain and was transfigured. His raiment became blazen white and his face dazzled. Jesus grew in the anointing, until the devil could not stand His presence.

The apostles also grew in the anointing. In Acts 2 they were baptized in the Holy Ghost, and later in chapter 4 they were again anointed with the Spirit. All of these reflect various degrees of the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

Growth Means Change

David Yonggi Cho wrote in one of his books, "Growth means change." Growth calls for a change in approach, attitude, etc.

Until you make room for positive changes in your life, you cannot be said to be growing. It is the tangible changes that reflect how much you are growing.

For instance, physically you must have changed a great deal from your primary school days. Whatever pictures you took back then will not look like you anymore. That's change, that's growth.

Leave The Fundamentals

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God,

Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. Hebrews 6:1-2

There are fundamental issues, also known as elementary principles of the doctrine of Christ, which you must leave, in order to move on to a higher realm in God. It is a realm where you taste of the powers of the world to come.

You appear to be living beyond your generation, steps beyond the level where others are. It is the unlimited realm, where nothing says "no" to you; where you step in and everything contrary steps out.

Apostle Paul operated in this realm of encounters, a realm where he would speak and the Holy Ghost would put His stamp of approval on it. That is a realm above doctrines, it's a realm of encounters.

God's will is that we grow from grace to grace, glory to glory, faith to faith, anointing to anointing. This can only become possible as we are changed from one realm of glory to the other.

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. 2 Corinthians 3:18

Friend, your inheritance in God can only be delivered to you to the degree to which you grow in Him. So, make up your mind to stop waiting and start growing.

Chapter 10: The Name Connection

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; Mark 16:15-17

The name of Jesus is an instrument for signs in the hands of the believer. It is also like a tap, which when turned on releases signs and wonders. The name of Jesus has what it takes to put you in charge of situations. It establishes your authority in times of conflict, it is an instrument of dominion.

The reason many Christians are suffering the way they are is that they do not know the value of the name of Jesus. Once its worth is discovered and used, signs and wonders answer automatically.

One thing that happens when you proclaim the name of Jesus, is the release of the unction that rests upon the name.

Because of the savour of thy good ointments thy name is as ointment poured forth, therefore do the virgins love thee. Song Of Solomon 1:3

The moment you declare the name of Jesus in faith, there's an automatic release of unction for manifestation. And because yokes are destroyed by reason of the anointing (Isaiah. 10:27), when you declare the name of Jesus in faith, whatever yoke of sickness, poverty, failure, etc, hanging around you is destroyed. The name of Jesus is a yoke destroyer!

When you look at a sick person and say, "In the name of Jesus", he will be healed. Just like when Peter looked at Aeneas in Acts 9:34 and said, "**Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise and make thy bed**", he released the unction upon that name to heal him.

The name of Jesus is no ordinary name, it carries the same immeasurable anointing as Jesus did in person. Therefore, when you invoke His name in difficult situations, the unction on the owner of the name goes into operation. That is what makes it an instrument for signs.

If you are confronted with death just say, "Okay Satan, you may not know me, but you know Jesus. Now, in the name of Jesus, the One who holds the key of hell and death, loose your hold!" Death will bow out, saying, "I am sorry, I didn't know you understand the game."

Why? This is because you have what it takes to subdue him. Not even sickness can withstand the power in the name of Jesus. Remember that it carries an immeasurable unction that can bring you into total liberty.

A brother in Port-Harcourt was travelling in a boat when a storm hit and destroyed their boat. In the midst of the storm, he shouted, "Jesus, I refuse to die." Just then (in the water), he felt something like a rod and held on to it. As long as he held on to that thing, he could not drown, so he held on tight to it. When the rescue boat came and he was lifted out of the sea into the boat, the brother opened his hand to see what he had been holding on to. Lo and behold, his hand was empty! He had been holding on to an intangible thing!

I believe it was the invisible hand of Jesus that he held on to that prevented him from drowning. The moment he called out to Jesus, Jesus must have said, "Son, the signs of deliverance are hereby released." Everybody else in that boat drowned, but the one with the name of Jesus could not drown!

The name of Jesus is not just a conjunction in prayer. It is not a religious emblem either. It is an authentic weapon of warfare and deliverance.

The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe. Proverbs 18:10

Origin And Value Of The Name

Everything in scriptures lives up to its name. That is why God took time to change the names of covenant men, to match their new destinies. Remember how he changed Abram to Abraham, Sarai to Sarah, Saul to Paul and Simon to Peter?

Names are significant factors in the destinies of men. Ever before Jesus came, God had told Joseph that His name shall be called Jesus, because His cardinal mission will be to save His people from sin. Let me trace the origin of the name of Jesus.

By Prophecy

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

Five hundred years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah had declared that the Messiah who was to come would be called Wonderful, meaning He would live a life full of wonders.

And true to the prophecy, when Jesus came, everyone was amazed at the wonderful miracles He performed. Jesus obtained a name loaded with signs and wonders by prophecy.

When He was to leave, He handed over His name as an inheritance to all believers and said:

**And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;
Mark 16:17**

Paraphrased, this scripture can read, "These wonders shall follow them that believe..." The name of Jesus in the hand of a believer will produce wonders.

It was with the consciousness of the wonder-working power in the name of Jesus that Peter and John drew up the lame man at the Beautiful gate, and he received strength to walk.

By Inheritance

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: Philippians 2:9

The word "given" here means that Jesus received His name as a gift from God. It was neither self-acquired nor self-imposed. God gave it to Him, and as the gifts and callings of the Lord are without repentance, so shall the gift of the name work through all eternity.

Remember how the gift of God in Elisha was still working in his dead bones, such that when a dead man was thrown into his sepulchre the gift jerked the man back to life? That is the potency of the gifts of the Lord! The name which Jesus was given is one which is above all other names. Therefore, when it is invoked in faith, it compels other names to bow. That is why when you can call on the name when an accident is about to occur it is averted. Accident is a name which must bow to the name of Jesus.

The same is true of cancer, heart disease or any other disease. Once you say, "Cancer, I come against you in the name of Jesus", it has no choice but to bow out.

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; Philippians 2:10

If things in heaven bow at the name of Jesus, it means that the angels, who are the heavenly hosts, are compelled into action at the mention of the name. As soon as you say, "In the name of Jesus", the angels in charge of that particular operation descend to carry out your orders.

"...And things in earth..." This includes satanic agents like witches and wicked men. The name of Jesus destroys all their activities.

In case there are demonic forces troubling you, that scripture also says, *"...And things under the earth."* So you can rise up against the things that are harrassing you in the three realms of existence and compel them to bow to the name of Jesus.

**Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.
Hebrews 1:4**

By Conquest

Through the death and resurrection of Jesus, He completely triumphed over principalities and powers, dispossessing them of their powers. His conquest established our redemption from the oppressive hold of the devil, and through that name you have been given the authority to deal with any intimidation of the devil.

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. Hebrews 2:14-15

Conditions For The Use Of The Name

It's For The Redeemed

The name does not work for all and sundry, it only works in the hands of saints. Do you remember what happened to the sons of Sceva, who tried to cast out devils in the name of Jesus "whom Paul preacheth"? They were wounded by the evil spirits (Acts 19:13-16).

The name does not answer to just anyone. The person using the name determines the release of unction from the name. The name of Jesus is only a tool for signs for the redeemed, otherwise, it will not produce (Proverbs. 18:10)

Only the righteous can run into the name of Jesus and find succour. It is righteousness that gives the name the required room to manifest in its fulness.

Do you remember how helpless the rod of Elisha was in the corrupted hands of Gehazi? As anointed as that rod was, it could not perform in the hands of an unrighteous man (2 Kings.29-31).

You may be born again and have faith in the power behind the name, but if you are unrighteous the name of Jesus will not produce miracles for you. Titles are irrelevant, your position in society is immaterial; it is your right standing with God that will make the name work for you.

It Must Be Used In Faith

**And his name, through faith in his name, hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by him hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.
Acts 3:16**

Until there is faith in your heart as you use the name, whether you shout it or not, it will not produce. It is when the name makes contact with faith in the heart that signs and wonders are given birth to.

One night I was teaching at a miracle service in church, saying that Christians have miracle hands. I remember mentioning that Jesus said in His name you shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover.

One woman rose up immediately and ran up to the overflow, where her daughter was, and laid hands on the growths at the back of her ears, in the name of Jesus, and the growths all disappeared instantly!

It is the name of Jesus working through your hands that makes them miracle hands. But without faith in the name, your hands are ordinary hands.

You Must Know Its Worth

It is one thing to have a thing, but an entirely different thing to know its worth. That is why we are not victims of the devil as much as we are of ignorance. The name of Jesus is loaded with miracle-working power, but you must know it for it to produce maximally for you.

That was the predicament of Job. He had something that was impenetrable by the enemy, but he did not know it. His enemy knew the power of what he had, but like many Christians, Job was completely ignorant. That ignorance became his doom.

Friend, size up those contrary situations of your life around you and reshape them by the application of the name of Jesus. Whatever name has been a source of oppression to you, curse it in the name of Jesus.

Bring down its head with the name, just as David brought down Goliath's head. As you challenge all your oppositions with the name of Jesus, your victory is bound to be delivered into your hand.

Chapter 11: The Prayer Connection

Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit. James 5:17-18

There is a kind of prayer that provokes the release of signs and wonders. It is not necessarily long drawn, neither must it be accomplished with shouting. The prayer that avails much is heart-seated. It is this type of prayer that releases tremendous power, which is dynamic in its working. That is how The **Amplified Bible** translates *James 5:16*:

...The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].

It is this type of prayer that triggers off the miraculous. When you pray sometimes, even as the prayer is leaving your lips you know it is nothing but a religious rite, because it is not arriving at God's throne.

But when your whole being is involved in praying, you actually succeed in arresting heaven's attention. It is not really how long you spend praying that matters, but the content of your prayer. Let's have a look at some successful praying people in the Bible and how they made it through to God.

Hannah

The woman Hannah was indeed one to be pitied. She had been barren for years, and to make matters worse, she had a rival who provoked her sore. Tormented and afflicted, Hannah went before God and poured out her heart to the Lord.

And she vowed a vow, and said, O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

And it came to pass, as she continued praying before the Lord, that Eli marked her mouth.

Now Hannah, she spake in her heart; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard: therefore Eli thought she had been drunken. And Eli said unto her, How long wilt thou be drunken? put away thy wine from thee.

And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the Lord.

...And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife; and the Lord remembered her. 1 Samuel 1:11-15,19

As she prayed, her mouth moved, but the words she uttered could not be heard. Yet she was praying from her heart and it released enough power to break the chains of barrenness.

You can say something to God from your heart, that will change your destiny. All that is required is for it to emanate from your heart.

Hezekiah

In Isaiah 38, king Hezekiah was sick unto death. God sent prophet Isaiah to inform him that he would surely die. Isaiah was God's recognised mouth piece then. Whatever he said was so. Yet Hezekiah refused to give up, he turned his face to the wall and cried to God and the answer came speedily.

In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live.

Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the Lord,

And said, Remember now, O Lord, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.

Then came the word of the Lord to Isaiah, saying,

Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith the Lord, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years.

And I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria: and I will defend this city. Isaiah 38:1-6

His prayer could not have been more than 60 seconds, yet it caught heaven's attention. There's no point playing the religion of futility. Even if you have been praying for 19 days, it does not automatically result in answers. What is most vital is that your prayer connects the throne of God. Once that connection is made, signs come straight away. Hezekiah adopted the wise approach to prayer, based on **Isaiah 43:26:**

Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified.

He put God in remembrance, recalling how he had walked with Him with a perfect heart. And that did it. God sent Isaiah back to cancel what He had earlier said.

There is no need for showmanship in prayer. It is not how well you can compose prayers for people's applause, but rather, saying a prayer that comes from your deep and ascending to God.

Mark you, Hezekiah did not ask Isaiah to join him in a prayer of agreement. He knew he had access to God by himself, and God added 15 more years to him. This is how to gain access to God's hotline for a release of the miraculous.

Elijah

Elijah had a very profound ministry, backed up by signs and wonders. He is also a reference point for effectual prayer. While the priests of Baal were cutting themselves with knives, crying and shouting, Elijah simply prayed for about 60 seconds or so, and the fire of the Lord fell, consuming the burnt offering, water, wood and stones! His prayer was short, but it was heart-seated, so it connected with the source and a miracle followed.

And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.

Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. 1 Kings 18:36-37

Jesus

The prayer Jesus made that raised Lazarus from the dead was just a few seconds long, yet it had enough power to bring a dead man back to life.

Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. John 11:41

Prayer is not a religious jamboree. You can settle down and set yourself to connect with the throne of God. Once you position your heart aright, you will never miss your target in prayer.

All the connections I have taught so far are vital in making your prayer gain access to God. The name of Jesus guarantees your access to God, purity ensures the sustenance of that access, while faith assures you of results.

The Word is what gives you confidence that God cannot turn you back and the Holy Spirit helps your infirmity when you are disorganised and don't know what to pray about, so you can hit your target correctly. It's a whole network.

Chapter 12: The Praise Connection

Praise is a formidable tool in the working of miracles. Though often paid the least attention, it is as potent as prayer. Looking at Jesus' ministry, the two most profound miracles He did were as a result of praise.

When He fed 5,000 men in the wilderness, thanksgiving was what multiplied the loaves (John. 6:5-12), and at the graveside of Lazarus, praise was what brought him back to life (John. 11:41-44).

When thanksgiving proceeds from the heart, it has the supernatural ability to multiply whatever you have. Praise has multiplication power, therefore this praise connection is intended to usher you into realms of unlimited signs and wonders.

And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost.

Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten. John 6:11-13

Praise has an inherent miracle force that ensures, among other things, that nothing finishes in your hand. God needs to open your eyes to the power of praise. Once you grasp it, all your struggles will come to an end.

It is still difficult for me to explain how we were feeding in my home on an income of 440 naira a month (I was on 300 naira, my wife 140 naira). We never dipped our hands into church funds and always had a crowd of people living with us; yet we never lacked food. Where the money was

coming from, I cannot explain, save to acknowledge that it came from heaven.

I remember that even as a bachelor, living in a one-room apartment, I sometimes had as many as eight people staying with me. Yet we never came to a point where we were looking around for what to eat. Not once!

Friend, there is a fountain you connect to in thanksgiving, that ensures you never run dry. If businessmen and women will hook up to that fountain, they will encounter the multiplication power of praise.

Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee.

Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us. Psalm 67:3,7

The power in praise is released as you learn to praise God in your secret place as much as you do in church. At every point and in whatever situation you find yourself, still give Him thanks.

Praise Is His Will

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompense of reward. Hebrews 10:35

Praise is the will of God, which after you have done, you are sure to obtain the promise of signs and wonders. Signs are meant to follow you, that is a promise of God. But this promise will not be accomplished until you first do God's will, which is praise. Therefore, no matter what you're going through, praise Him and you will obtain the promise.

Praise is not just one of those preparatory things you do before prayer. It has a force of its own, which is able to produce signs and wonders. If it could bring Lazarus who had been dead for four days back to life, it can bring you into a strange order of manifestations.

In Liberia, one of our Bible School students decided to operate what she had been taught on the wonders of praise. It was during the war, and there was no food, everyone was literally starving.

But as she was praising God, a group of rebels suddenly invaded their compound. They entered her house, but instead of doing them harm, brought bags of rice, beans, chicken and other food items and said, "Cook for us." The rebels ate that day and left, leaving the rest of the bags of food behind. God miraculously supplied their need.

That is why God's Word says, "***In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God concerning you.***"

Praise Attracts God's Presence

But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel. Psalm 22:3

It is a well known fact that God inhabits the praises of His people. So when you live a praiseful life, God's presence abides with you; and when He abides with you, He compels signs to attend to you.

You have been alone in that shop of yours, that's why things are the way they are. Bring God there through your praises and see the difference. Divine presence equals signs and wonders.

In Psalm 114, when the children of Israel came out of Egypt, God was their sanctuary. The sea saw them and fled, Jordan was driven back and the mountains skipped like rams, the little hills like young lambs.

It was God's presence that took them through the Red Sea and gave them victory over their enemies. When you succeed in invoking divine presence, you live as a sign and wonder to your generation.

In Acts 16, Paul and Silas were about to be executed, they were in the mid-night of their lives. But the Bible says they prayed and sang praises aloud to God in the prison (they turned on their praise connection right in the midst of their executioners) and something happened!

I believe that they actually sang God into the place. As He came, there was an earthquake, the prison gates flung open and their chains fell off! They were so confident that they could perform the same feat again, that they did not bother to escape from the prison. They knew that what had happened did not come by chance. When praise becomes your lifestyle, you never cease commanding signs.

In 2 Chronicles 20, king Jehoshaphat took the rear and allowed God to go ahead. God took their place in battle and victory was sure.

Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord with you, O Judah and

Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them: for the Lord will be with you. 2 Chronicles 20:17

How did they set themselves? In praises! Praise causes God to fight on your behalf – He takes your place in battle, while you just watch. Praise compels Him to take over the battles of your life.

This is a covenant technique that guarantees cheap victory. As one of my sons often says, you don't have to be strong to succeed, just be smart. Praise is the choice of the smart.

There is no mountain that God's presence cannot level, no sea that He cannot dry up, no "Jordan" that cannot be driven back, so that you have an express way to your destination. None.

But praise is your access to His presence. Once you engage in praise, you have brought Him to bear on the situations of your life and all things will be at your command.

I have seen many prayer warriors who are praise-dry. Prayer is important, but all you have access to when you pray is angelic intervention. Angels can be waylaid by demons, as was the case with Daniel.

However, praise does not stop at angels; it brings the presence of God Almighty down. And you know that when God steps somewhere, no demon can stop Him or stand in His way.

Friend, it does not matter what situation you find yourself in right now, receive grace to praise Him.

This may startle you, but I have not had to pray for my personal needs since I came into ministry. I am always so thankful for everything He has done, so He never waits for me to ask for a thing before He blesses me. His presence is equal to the task of providing any man's needs.

Steer Clear Of Murmuring

And when the people complained, it displeased the Lord: and the Lord heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the Lord burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp. Numbers 11:1

God hates murmurers. Those who murmured in the wilderness were destroyed of the destroyer. Their murmuring and complaining turned God against them, and if God is against you, what are you worth? That is why those who murmur are natural failures, nothing works in their hands, so they live in perpetual struggles.

This is the bane of many believers today. They work so hard, but nothing is working because God's presence that makes things work is far from them.

A heart of gratitude is your fastest escape out of the trap of murmuring. Gratitude will cause God's presence to envelop you, causing signs to attend to your every step. You cannot live a sign-dry life when you are full of gratitude. It's a great asset for the miraculous.

Jesus said in ***John 8:29***:

And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.

One thing that pleases God is found in ***Psalms 69:30-31***.

I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving.

This also shall please the Lord better than an ox or bullock that hath horns and hoofs.

Praise pleases God; and when He is pleased, He releases all manner of signs and wonders to follow you.

Chapter 13: The Fellowship Connection

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

Every trade has its training centre. To train as a technician, you go to a technical school. To train as a driver, you go to a driving school. Until you are trained, you don't triumph.

Where do we go to train up for signs? Zion is it. Zion is our training ground, our school for signs. You are created for signs, that is true; but until you are trained, you cannot manifest.

God has declared that upon mount Zion there shall be deliverance and holiness, and the house of Jacob shall possess their possessions. That means Zion is a place where your inheritance is handed over to you. It is a place of deliverance from every oppression of hell, a place where you are cleaned up and whatever belongs to you is delivered to you.

Zion is a spiritual factory for signs. It is where signs are produced en masse. Remember that before the coming of Jesus it was declared:

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14

Jesus' coming was a sign. He was a sign from heaven; and as the Father has sent Him, so has He sent us. That's why we too are signs to our generation. Jesus came as a Saviour and the Bible says we too are saviours.

Therefore, by spiritual calculations, saviours are signs and they are released from Zion. Thus the kingdom of God is established by the ministry of saviours.

That is why somebody anoints the dead and he comes back to life. That is a sign, and a pointer to the end-time ministry of the Church, because the last enemy to be destroyed is death (1 Corinthians. 15:26).

Friend, we have come into the days of saviours and they are made in Zion. Therefore the more addicted you are to Zion, the higher your status in the class of saviours. Remember that stars differ in glory.

After the Holy Ghost's arrival on the day of Pentecost, one of the things that He introduced was a strong love for fellowship among the disciples. They assembled daily in the temple and met in various houses.

The result of this was the rise of great men of faith from among them. Men like Stephen, who was appointed as a deacon to serve tables. But as he stayed with them in fellowship, he began to develop in the power of the Holy Ghost and faith, until he exploded in signs and wonders. Stephen came out of Zion as a saviour.

And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart, Acts 2:46

And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people. Acts 6:8

In Acts 8, we also see Philip doing exploits in the city of Samaria. He too was a product of the teachings of the apostles. It follows therefore that as you give the Word being taught you in Zion its rightful place in your heart and life, some day you too will explode in signs, wonders and miracles.

Once you locate a place where the Word is preached in truth, and plug into the happenings there, you have registered in the school of signs.

Some day, you will find yourself performing signs and wonders, blessing your generation in areas like business, career, ministry, etc. You will suddenly break loose and your generation will glorify God for you.

You are for signs and for wonders, and the Church is there to help make it a reality. Not just every place called "church", but places where God's Word is taught and you are shown how to stand in your place in the covenant. That is why *Hebrews 10:25* says:

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

As Jesus' second coming draws closer, fellowship will become more and more necessary for everyone who wants to be current in the move of God. By God's prophetic agenda, we shall see our enemies completely under our feet these last days; and when God has accomplished that, then Jesus will return.

Fellowship is not a place to play with this end-time. To stay away from it is to fall away from God's end-time programme.

What Is In Zion?

But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,

And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

Hebrews 12:22-24

...The city of the living God...

Coming to church is not coming to a human society. Zion is the mountain of God, it is the habitation of Jehovah. It is the city of the living God.

That is why you can rush to church at anytime you're faced with a challenge, whether there's a service going on or not, and you meet with solutions. Why? Because Zion is God's city, that's where He has chosen to put His name; His throne is there also.

Until you are conscious of where you are, you can never get the best out of it. That was how a lady who had a tumor sitting upon her eye nerves was miraculously healed when she rushed into Zion.

"In February 1996, I was wearing glasses quite alright, but at a certain time, I couldn't see well; it was as if there was something very strong or dark in front of me whenever I looked up.

So when I went to London (for my daughter's graduation), I decided to go and see my optician, and the difference between my last result and the one he carried out now was so much.

The optician asked, 'What is happening to your eyes?' I told him, 'I don't know, that is why I came here.' So, I went for more X-rays and after a close examination, they took me into a very large machine, as large as a hall. At the end of the test, they found out that there was a tumor sitting right on top of one of my eye nerves. The doctor tried to explain it to me by drawing a diagram. The tumor sitting on my right eye nerve was the reason why I couldn't see properly. The doctor said it had to be removed, otherwise, it will cause my brain to be filled with blood and I would be totally blind in both eyes!

When he told me this, I was really worried. I didn't know it was such a serious thing, I'd only gone to the optician to check on my eyes, since I couldn't see well even with my glasses on. As I was leaving the hospital, my spirit said to me, 'Go back and collect the X-ray and take it to church. Have you told God about it yet?'

So I went back to the doctor and told him I wanted the X-ray. He first refused, asking me what I wanted to do with it. I told him I wanted to come

back to Nigeria with it. Meanwhile, I knew what I wanted to do with it.

Immediately I got back to Nigeria, I took the X-ray and ran down to the church. I was new here then, and my faith was not this strong. I wanted to see the Bishop.

I waited the whole day and at about 3p.m., he came downstairs. I sat watching him as he was talking with the pastors. I kept wondering how I would get across to him, especially as he didn't know me. I also gathered that he was on his way out on a trip. I looked at him and didn't know what to do.

The Bishop then went outside, walking to his car. I said to myself, 'If I run to him, grabbing him, people will think there is something wrong with me.' So, I just kept on looking at him, wondering if he would just leave like that, without so much as touching the X-ray.

I had brought the X-ray to church, with the intention that if only the Bishop would pray for me, touching the X-ray, I would be healed. I had that faith. But here was the Bishop going away. I just stood there watching him.

Ten minutes after he left, I entered the sanctuary. I walked to the altar and laid the X-rays there. I told God, 'Lord, this is what I intended to do, but I couldn't do it. Now, over to You.' I stayed there long enough to say all I wanted to say, and went home feeling that it was done.

The doctor had said if the operation was not carried out, all my tubes, including my respiratory tubes and outlets, would be blocked and my face would be blown up. But since February 1996, my face hasn't blown up yet! I'm still using my brain, I can see, I can read, I can do all things normally!

I tell people that I'm a living testimony. All the pains and aches I used to feel are all gone. The face the doctor said would blow up within two months is perfectly okay, a year later! I've not seen the doctor since then.

God has healed me! The two things they said would happen have not happened. I'm sound! I'm in good health! I can use my eyes, my face hasn't blown up, there's no blood in the brain. God has healed me!"

H. H.

Let's see what more there is to Zion.

...Unto the heavenly Jerusalem...

Zion is described as a heavenly Jerusalem. This helps you to understand why He says we are seated together with Him in heavenly places; because Zion is where your heavenly status is made real.

...And to spirits of just men made perfect...

When you come to Zion, you enter into the midst of heavenly beings such as Elijah, Elisha, Gideon, Joshua, Paul, etc; and the anointing upon them rubs off on you. Remember that when Saul came among the prophets he prophesied, although it was not his heritage. That tells you that your environment plays a vital role in your destiny.

...To the general assembly and church of the first born...

Zion is the Church of the first born, where the spirits of just men gather. It is the general assembly of all those who have died and gone to heaven and we who are here on earth. When you understand this mystery, you will always have unique encounters every time you appear in church.

And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than the blood of Abel.

There is always a sprinkling going on in the spiritual realm in Zion, and the blood being sprinkled is always speaking "Passover". Thus, whenever you come to meet with God, you renew your passover insurance.

The reason we don't get the most out of Zion is because we don't know what it offers us. But Zion is a mysterious gathering, affording you all you need to do signs.

The Benefits Of Zion

It's The Place Of Cleansing

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

One thing that happens in Zion is a constant cleansing. When sin is trying to catch up with you and you come to church, somehow, perhaps through the singing, when the offering is being taken or the teaching of the Word, the forces at work in Zion knock it out of you. Zion does not allow sin to stick to you.

Someone wrote me a letter sometime ago. She was in the service one day and heard me say, "You proud wife, before your husband says one word, you have said ten."

Immediately she said to herself, "That must be me he's talking about. But how did this man know my thoughts." While she was still pondering on the word, she heard me say, "Get back home today, apologize to your husband and see if you will not see God in your home." And she got back home, apologized to her husband and a glorious new home was born!

There are many proud hearts who are undoing their destiny. And because they don't give heed to the Word in Zion, they remain that way. God wants to save you, that's why He brings you to Zion.

However, there are many people who prefer doing some funny things at home or going visiting rather than to be in church. Zion provides a place of cleansing, that makes you a worthy vessel for signs and wonders.

That woman is now having a wonderful time in her marriage because of the light she caught in Zion. She must have known that pride was bad, and probably concluded that she was not the only proud person. But that day God caught up with her and her home was preserved.

Fellowship establishes your heritage in God. It is in Zion that you experience deliverances from the traps of the enemy, and your possession is delivered to you.

The Place Of Illumination

Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end. Psalm 73:17

There is a strange light in Zion, a strange order of illumination. This illumination comes from the light that is emitted from the altar at Zion.

Zion is also the city of God, and according to 1 Timothy 6:16, God dwells in a light which no unregenerated man can approach unto. The illumination at Zion is as a result of the intensity of light which God dwells in.

When the redeemed enters into God's presence therefore, several things that he may have read at home, but which he did not understand become clear to him. Understanding comes as those mysteries are unfolded.

In these last days, Zion-addicted saints will do amazing signs in their generation, because of the depths of insight they encounter in Zion.

It is the knowledge they are receiving that will result in a strange order of manifestation. You will see men and women picking up secrets from testimonies and having multiplied results using them.

...But the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits. Daniel 11:32

By this same illumination, the Church will be absolutely in charge of the affairs of life, because knowledge is a catalyst for the release of the anointing.

So mightily grew the word of God and prevailed. Acts 19:20

The Word of God grew so mightily in their midst that it prevailed, causing an eruption of signs and wonders. So much so that handkerchiefs

and aprons taken from Paul were used to cast out devils.

Friend, Zion is no ordinary place, it is the centre of illumination. It is where you encounter light that causes your understanding to blossom, bringing about signs!

Growth in the Word is enhanced in Zion. As you grow in the Word, you also grow in faith, which comes by the repeated hearing of the Word of God. Once faith comes, signs are bound to follow.

A Place Of Growth

The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon.

Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.

They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing; Psalm 92:12-14

Zion is the most fruitful hill on planet earth. Everything planted there blossoms without effort. Nobody needs to cry to possess his possessions, because at Zion you naturally possess what is yours by heritage. Once you become a fellowship addict, you become a mysteriously flourishing saint. Things around you just keep flourishing.

We had one little tree on our pavement in Kaduna. The concrete had to be reinforced several times because the roots of the tree kept breaking through it. As I looked at the tree, I remembered what the Psalmist wrote, and concluded that that was the mystery of Psalm 92 at work.

Friend, nothing can stop your flourishing when you are planted in Zion; not even if it is as strongly opposed to you as that concrete floor was to the little tree. When you are in genuine fellowship with God, you naturally blossom.

Some people do not flourish beyond certain degrees because they have made themselves overseers in the house of God, instead of being participants. They see what everybody is doing wrong while they do just what they like. Remember, Zion is our Father's house. Jesus is the One in charge, not you, so be careful! If you take your place in Zion you will flourish naturally.

Glorious things are spoken of thee, O city of God.

And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her.

The Lord shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there.

**As well the singers as the players on instruments shall be there:
all my springs are in thee. Psalm 87:3,5-7**

The time has come when the greatest honour will be to be named a citizen of Jerusalem. All our springs will be in Zion, meaning that the signs of a generation will be produced there.

Most of the outstanding inventions in science were by fellowship-addicted men. Men like James Clerk Maxwell, a great scientist in his time, who was described as having a very fertile mind.

No "Sunday Sunday" Christian (one who worships God only on Sundays) goes far in this race, because the "servicing" he requires to keep his system in good shape and enhance his manifestations needs to be done regularly.

The Place Of Servicing

No matter how expensive your car is, there is something it requires regularly, if it will function effectively. That thing is called servicing. Except a car is serviced regularly, it won't serve you for long.

God's servicing workshop for the saint is the Church, Zion. It is where all the connections to your spiritual manifestations are fine tuned. Zion is where you grow in the areas that enhance your manifestation.

For instance, the Bible says, "***Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.***" (Rom. 10:17) And in the growth connection we learnt that at salvation each one has a measure of faith, and that what is done with that measure is what ultimately determines the extent of his manifestation.

There is a voice that sounds in Zion, coming straight at you from Heaven. As that voice sounds and you catch it, you keep upgrading your knowledge of God, bringing you to greater levels of faith and subsequently, manifestations of signs and wonders in your Christian walk.

That voice comes through apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, to work on you until you come out a perfect man. It is clear therefore that God wants us to walk in the fulness of the stature of Christ (Ephesians. 4:13). And He has designed Zion as the development centre.

So many barren women have become joyful mothers of children, just by applying the things taught in Zion. All manner of ailments have been healed and the dead raised, as sons and daughters of Zion caught certain words and did exploits with them.

It is impossible to make it in life without responding positively to the demands of God. The farther you are from Zion, the farther you are from signs and wonders. However, when you get addicted to Zion, someday you'll explode in signs and wonders like Philip and Stephen.

Watch those who don't service their cars regularly, they are the ones whose cars are always needing to be pushed in the rainy season. The boys that help to push the car charge them highly and sometimes insult them.

The spiritual parallel of this is obvious: you cannot afford to miss service, or you are giving the devil licence to deal with you. Service is

God's means of keeping your spiritual system functioning, in order to build you up to a point where you explode in signs and wonders.

Chapter 14:

Safeguards For The Miraculous

We have examined 12 connections that would cause you to walk gallantly into realms of the miraculous. But powerful as each of these connections are, there is what to do and what to avoid, in order to stay on the wavelength of the miraculous. Just as once saved is not always saved, you need to maintain your walk in the miraculous. Here are some safeguards.

Watch The Company You Keep

Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. 1 Corinthians 15:33

Wrong company disconnects you from realms of the miraculous. You cannot keep ungodly friends and expect to have godly manifestations; that would amount to making a mockery of God, and God cannot be mocked. You must be cautious in your choice of friends.

He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed. Proverbs 13:20

Once you keep company with anti-miracle people, they will destroy your faith in the miraculous. They do not see things the way you do, so if you keep walking with them, you will soon be blinded to what you claim to see now.

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 not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. Psalm 1:1-3

If you want to live as a sign and maintain the flow of the miraculous, you must be careful where you stand, with whom you walk and whose counsel you operate with. You can't walk with wrong people and have right answers.

When Paul, a man of great encounters, said evil communications corrupt good manners, he must have been speaking from a first-hand

experience. There are people you walk with today, that except you part ways with them, your walk with God will never be prosperous.

I used to have a very close friend many years ago, who did not appreciate my commission. One day, he began to tear down the ministry God gave me in his preaching. That was the last day we had anything to do together.

We had been so close that when my wife was to have our first son, he was the one who took her to the clinic. Yet, because I am conscious of the fact that only those who walk with the wise are wise, I cut off from him. Friendship is not by force, but by choice.

Can two walk together, except they be agreed? Amos 3:3

Walking with someone you do not agree with is unwise. For instance, you might be praying and he would be mocking you, when you study the Word he laughs at you, you love your wife and he mocks you for it! That kind of friendship will be to your destruction. Don't sell your birthright to wrong company.

The Bible says in Isaiah 6:6 that it was in the year that king Uzziah died that Isaiah saw the Lord. Some of the friends you keep represent king Uzziah in your life.

If you don't disconnect from them, you can never "see" God. You should not be somebody's friend just because you like his face. No, friendship means much more than that.

I have had occasion to walk certain people who were trying to pollute my spirit out of my house. After all, the house is mine! There are certain pastors who will never preach in our church, no matter how anointed they are, because their character is suspect.

Some people have not experienced the purity God demands because they have refused to separate themselves from the corrupt company they keep.

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive

you, 2 Corinthians 6:17

God instructs you to come out from among them or He will reject you. And if God rejects you, neither will those friends accept you. That was the experience of the prodigal son. Where were his friends when all his money was exhausted? They must have given him a wrong address, so he could not locate them again. After the devil stripped Adam and Eve naked, he went his way.

Some of the people you call your friends are enemies of your destiny, so cut off from them immediately.

And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. Acts 4:23

The disciples always returned to their company, so you too must have your own company – a group of people that see things the way you see them and believe in what you believe in, people who look forward to the same kind of things you do.

Find out if he loves the Lord as you do? Is he interested in the expansion of the kingdom? Does he do the Word of God? If you find such a person, he will motivate you to walk in the miraculous.

A young man shared his testimony in church one day. According to him, the previous day a friend had come to his house and said, "There's nothing in this anointing oil thing." The things he heard dampened his faith. Little did he know that the attack on the anointing oil was a plan of the devil to cause problems in the near future. While in the classroom the following day, a lady fell down and stretched out. Everybody in the class fled, but this brother rushed to her side and prayed for her.

After praying for sometime and there was no response from the lady, he went for his bottle of anointing oil, and forcing her mouth open, he poured some in. Shortly after, the lady was revived! If he had spent a few more days with that so called friend, he would have lost complete confidence in the ability of God to heal through the anointing oil.

Be Sensitive

After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.

For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.

And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. John 5:1-5

The emphasis here is not in whosoever stepped in, but who stepped in first. Those who did were sensitive enough to see the angel just as he stepped into the water. They probably sat by the pool, with their fingers inside the water and plunged in to collect their miracles as soon as they saw the angel arrive. Some others had been there for years, but sat under a tree somewhere, waiting for who would help them.

The fact that there was healing virtue in that pool is undeniable. People were coming and going away healed, but that man remained there permanently, because he lacked the required sensitivity to encounter signs.

Every time God's Word is going on (either being preached or read in a book), the miracle pool is being troubled and sensitive people step in and collect their miracles. Men of action are men of manifestations.

When you move at the instance of any revelation, you never lack manifestation. You don't need anyone to help you. All you need is, "God said it, I believe it, that settles it!"

In those days when I was a victim of tuberculosis, I had a very severe attack one night at about 1:30 a.m. I came out of my room, stood on a rock and said, "Jesus Christ, if it is true that You did all the miracles written in

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, then I have had enough of this thing." And that was the end of it.

I was responding to the truth I had drunk in from the gospels. I stood up that same day and took delivery of my miracle. Only smart people are go-getters. It takes spiritual smartness to maintain the flow of signs.

I sleep, but my heart waketh: it is the voice of my beloved that knocketh, saying, Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled: for my head is filled with dew, and my locks with the drops of the night.

I have put off my coat; how shall I put it on? I have washed my feet; how shall I defile them?

My beloved put in his hand by the hole of the door, and my bowels were moved for him.

I rose up to open to my beloved; and my hands dropped with myrrh, and my fingers with sweet smelling myrrh, upon the handles of the lock.

I opened to my beloved; but my beloved had withdrawn himself, and was gone: my soul failed when he spake: I sought him, but I could not find him; I called him, but he gave me no answer.

The watchmen that went about the city found me, they smote me, they wounded me; the keepers of the walls took away my veil from me.

I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, if ye find my beloved, that ye tell him, that I am sick of love. Song Of Solomon 5:2-8

This emphasizes the importance of quick response, sensitivity and spiritual vigilance, in maintaining the flow of signs in one's life. Every time a word strikes in your heart, stand up and act on it immediately.

The Bible tells us in Revelation 3:20, that God stands at the door of our heart, knocking with an insight from His Word. If you delay you may be denied, so strike when the iron is hot!

Remember the testimony of the man that suffered from typhoid fever for nine years? He discovered what to do from reading the book, ***The Healing Balm***; but he wanted to postpone taking action. But suddenly a voice came to him, saying, "Do it now!" He then cursed typhoid fever with his legs crossed, and according to him, something dropped off him immediately!

Friend, the Holy Ghost operates mostly on sudden frequencies. On the day of Pentecost, He came suddenly. In the house of Cornelius, He also came suddenly upon the Gentiles. If His manifestations are on sudden frequencies therefore, it takes highly sensitive men to cash in on them.

We have lost too many things to insensitivity. If we know what God is saying per time and cash in on it, then we will keep on commanding signs and wonders. God is always on the move, if you are not sensitive, you will miss what God is set to do.

It is time to put motion to the revelation you have received, so you will have a revolution. Those things that have struck you as you read this book are the things that, if you hold fast to and operate by, heaven will place a seal of approval on.

Your explanations irritates God. You are a son of manifestation, everything is supposed to respond to you. You are created to make things work, stop making excuses!

Do you really want signs and wonders to follow you? Then be sensitive to the move of the Spirit. Remember, what happened in Acts 3. Peter was sensitive enough to know that was the lame man's day of a miracle.

There's a great day ahead for you, but you require spiritual sensitivity to walk into it. Stop looking for pity, the world is waiting for your manifestations. Get angry at those negative situations around you, you are up to it now. Stop waiting for miracles; if you wait you will waste, now is your time.

Don't Give Room To Fear

Fear is not a psychological state, it is a trap of the enemy. Fear is a spirit (2 Timothy. 1:7). It is the complete opposite of the Spirit of boldness and faith. It brings men into captivity.

When Satan was looking for a way to afflict Job, he introduced fear into his heart. The moment he gave in to fear, he lost his victory (Job 3:25). Spiritual blindness is a major reason for the fears that come upon us and take us captive.

Elisha's servant in 2 Kings 6 was afraid because he saw horses and chariots that were out against them. But Elisha was relaxed, because he saw better. When his servant's eyes were opened, he saw the mountains filled with horses and chariots of fire! So don't give in to fear, it can rob you of signs and wonders.

Have A Miracle Mind

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he... Proverbs 23:7

It takes miracle thoughts to command and maintain the flow of signs. You can't think obstacles and have miracles. You can't think impossibilities and expect possibilities. Often, many people allow thoughts of impossibilities to becloud their minds.

They ask, "How can this be? You see, I want to be very practical. After all we live in a world of realities, so we have to deal with facts. Now tell me, how do you think I can build a house under these harsh economic circumstances?"

That man carries obstacle thoughts, yet he is looking for miracles. The two don't go together. Look at Abraham, the Bible says concerning him:

And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah's womb:

He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God;

And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. Romans 4:19-21

His age had no place in his mind. Although he and Sarah were both past childbearing age, his mind was closed to all negative factors. He refused to consider those things that could cause him to stagger. Rather, he chose to consider the ability of God, His omnipotency. Abraham judged God faithful, so he became the "father of faith".

His confidence in God made him to be persuaded that what God had promised, He was also able to perform. Abraham believed that whatever

God said was good enough for him.

No one can maintain the flow of miracles without a miracle mind. The woman with the issue of blood had this miracle mind I'm talking about, and that was what turned her captivity. She thought her way through to her miracle.

A victim of negative thoughts was the Syrian general, Naaman. In **2 Kings 5**, we are told that this man, although a great man, was a leper. The king of Syria sent a letter to the king of Israel, saying, "***Now when this letter is come unto thee, behold, I have therewith sent Naaman my servant to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy***" (verse 6).

He got to Elisha the prophet, who without coming out to see him, instructed him to go and dip himself seven times in the river Jordan and be cleansed. But instead of being excited, he was offended.

But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said, Behold, I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper. 2 Kings 5:11

Many are in trouble today, and yet are offended at the truth, just like Naaman was. The enemy has polluted their minds in order to punish them. Naaman's problem was his negative mind. It was against his destiny, until his servants said:

...My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?

Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean. 2 Kings 5:13-14

His thoughts stood in his way to his miracle. Thoughts are so powerful that they either make you or break you; but they never leave you neutral.

Also in 2 Kings 7, there was a man who lost out of abundance because he was a victim of impossibility thoughts.

Then Elisha said, Hear ye the word of the Lord; Thus saith the Lord, To morrow about this time shall a measure of fine flour be sold for a shekel, and two measures of barley for a shekel, in the gate of Samaria.

Then a lord on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God, and said, Behold, if the Lord would make windows in heaven, might this thing be? And he said, Behold, thou shalt see it with thine eyes, but shalt not eat thereof. 2 Kings 7:1-2

His thoughts hindered him from partaking of the miraculous. Perhaps he thought within himself, "I am in charge of the food supply in this country. I can't be deceived by this 'bush' prophet." He lost out of partaking in the miraculous because nobody thinks impossibility thoughts and yet experience possibilities. No one thinks obstacles and has miracles!

After we had our first son, the doctor said he had jaundice. But I said, "He does not have jaundice." The doctor replied, "You mean I don't know my job?" I insisted, "My son cannot have jaundice!" And the matter ended there. It would interest you to know that I was too busy to examine his eyes. That's a miracle mind.

Renew Your Mind

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. Romans 12:2

Since no one commands the flow of miracles without a miracle mind, you need to renew your mind, or else you remain a victim of obstacles. Paul said:

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Philippians 2:5

This injunction is pertinent, because all the mighty acts that Jesus did came by the operation of His mind. Remember how He fed the 5,000. It was written concerning Him, "***And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do.***" Jesus had a fertile mind, so the miraculous attended to Him naturally.

It is impossible to operate the mind of Christ and the world not mind you.

Consider Jesus

**For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.
Hebrews 12:3**

You are always considering something at every point in time. The mind is never completely empty. It is time to consider the abilities of God, rather than the situations of life. Anytime you are fainting in your mind, it is because you are considering the negative situations of your life.

Fainting in the mind leads to staggering in the legs. If Abraham did not stagger, it was because he was always considering God's ability to handle his case. That was what had him settled and prevented him from fainting, and his legs from staggering.

Think On These Things

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Philippians 4:8

This is the New Testament thinking syllabus. It makes us understand that there are certain things one must never think about and others he must think on.

Let me ask you, "Do you want to walk in realms of the miraculous? Do you want miracle finances, miracle health, miracle jobs, a miracle home, a miracle business, miracle babies?" Think on these things then!

Every time your mind appears to be wandering off, call it to order! Don't conclude that it is impossible to make it in Nigeria, or wherever you are. It is those negative thoughts that are hindering you from making it here. God has great plans for you, that's why He said:

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Proverbs 4:23

If the woman with the issue of blood spoke within herself and was healed, you must be careful what you say within yourself. If you are saying, "I cannot be sick" or "I cannot be poor", you are programming yourself to encounter miracle health and wealth.

The Canaanite woman in **Matthew 15:21-28** had a miracle mind. She was too set for her miracle to be stopped. All the apostles attempted to, but she would not be stopped. At her importunity, Jesus said, "**O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt.**"

No matter how hard you pray, until you think right, you cannot live right. Until you think great, you will never become great. Until you think miracle thoughts, you will never have miracles.

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