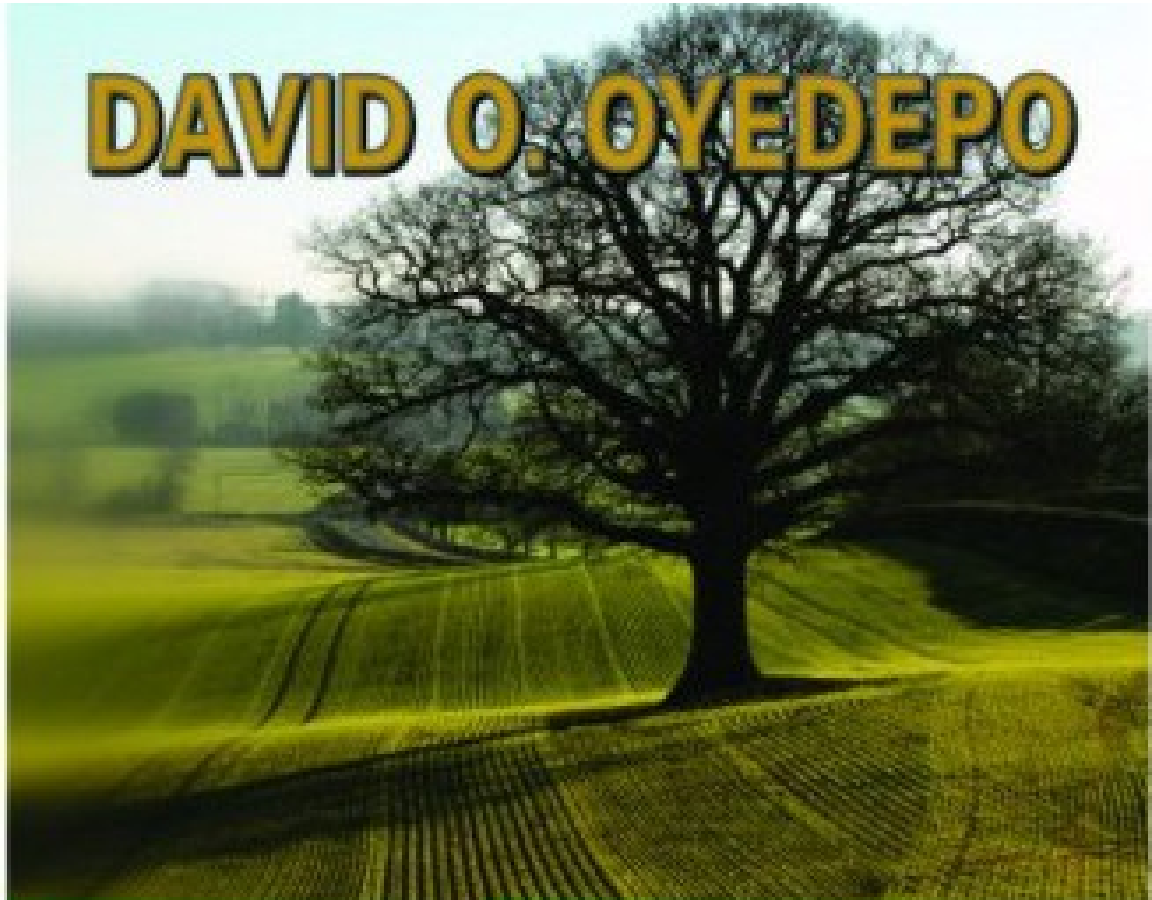


DAVID O. OYEDEPO



Walking
In
Wisdom

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Wisdom**

David Oyedepo

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Introduction: Now Take Delivery!

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

**Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:
Colossians 1:12—13**

We live in a world of darkness, but God has delivered us from the power of darkness and has translated us into the kingdom of His son, into the kingdom of light. It is light therefore that will deliver your inheritance into your hands.

I believe that the light you have encountered from this book will bring an end to all your struggles with darkness. The wisdom of God we have been discussing is not common place. As you deeply desire an access into it, I believe no obstinate issue will remain on your path, for this wisdom is able to overturn mountains by the roots.

You need supernatural wisdom. It will consolidate your walk of purity with God and establish you in the peace of God. This wisdom also guarantees awesome direction into the high places of life, and quickens your mental system, causing it to produce outstanding results.

Death answers to this wisdom, and destruction is kept at bay by it. Supernatural wisdom has its way wherever it appears. So, expect to begin to flow in the reality of it, and walk in absolute liberty, in Jesus name.

I'll Pray For You

I curse every form of corruption on your mind right now!

Receive a fresh baptism of wisdom from above!

Light will shine on your path from heaven today!

God will make you of quick understanding!

You will always know the next profitable step to take!

Heavens ideas will bellow on you, and a new day will dawn on your life!

Receive quick understanding, mental excellence and surpassing intelligence!

The wisdom that enthroned Daniel in Babylon will enthrone you in this country!

A new day has come for you!

Peace, in Jesus name!

Note

¹ Men of Destiny (Peter Master: The Wakeman Trust; London, 1968.)

² Men of Destiny (Peter Master: The Wakeman Trust; London, 1968.)

³ Ibid.

Chapter 1: The Wisdom Era Of The Church

To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord Ephesians 3:10—11

God is building up a glorious Church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing. It will be one without blemish, much respected and to be reckoned with; a Church that has practical dominion in all areas of life. It will be a Church in charge! The purpose for building up Zion is for the ultimate appearing of Jesus. Until Zion is built, scriptures tell us He will not return.

Psalm 102:16 says:

When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory.

This gives us an insight into the agenda of His return. The Church must have come to the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ before His appearing. That is why Jesus is committed to building up the Church, and the instrument He will be using is that of wisdom.

Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established: Proverbs 24:3

Wisdom is therefore very crucial to the end—time programme of God.

By It The Church Will Reign

The Lord shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. Psalm 110:2

A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength. Proverbs 24:5

God's strength is wrapped up in His wisdom; and if He will send the rod of His strength into Zion, it means that He will cause the Church to rule in the midst of her enemies by the rod of wisdom.

Let me give you a practical example of what I'm talking about with this testimony:

"Before the end of 1994, I noticed that one of my son's testes was swollen. I called my wife to see it. Immediately, we went to the clinic. The doctor's verdict was that it would have to be corrected by surgery. My heart almost failed, because I had thought it was a mere infection.

We found out that such surgery was going to cost us about 20,000 naira. When we got home, my wife told me that if we agreed to that surgery, it would be the greatest mistake we would ever make. She suggested that we look unto God to perform the healing. I believed her and agreed with her. We prayed and laid hands on him and continued to confess our healing covenant with God.

Yet, there was no change; rather, the swelling increased. It was then that the Lord spoke to me to go and look for a book on divine healing. I went to a christian bookshop, and to the glory of God, I came across this book written by Dr. David Oyedepo, *Keys To Divine Health*. I told myself I won't go anywhere, that I was taking two days off to read the book.

On the first day, I read it and read it again. On the second day, I told God that all I needed was just one key with which to deal with the situation. And to the glory of God, the Lord led me to pages 23—26. I sat down and read it, and I discovered that my problem was Satan, the tormentor, that Satan was the one tormenting my son.

So I called in my son, and told him to lie down. Then I said, 'Satan, I command you, come on, appear before me right now.' Then I asked him, 'When this body was created in 1991, were you part of the creation?' He said, 'no'. I asked him again, 'When this body was created, was he created in your own image?' He answered that he was created in the image of God. I further asked him, 'Was he created with this sickness?' He said no! So I commanded him, saying, 'Satan, now take your things and get out of this house, in Jesus name!'

I then turned to the condition (the swollen testis), and said, 'Look, I have dealt with your commander—in—chief. Now, I curse you, wherever your root is located; wither from your root and die!' And within one week, it disappeared. That was the end of it! Praise the living God!"

Madueme, E.

Halleluyah! Through the display of the wisdom of God, this brother brought the demonic installation in the body of his son to its knees! Oh yes, the Church will teach principalities and powers a lesson this end—time, through diverse insights into the deep things of God! With God's wisdom, you will toy with death as if it were not real.

Why? Because God has destined the end—time Church to demonstrate His manifold wisdom, exercising dominion on the earth (Ephesians. 3:10).

That means, no matter the number of demons connected to your problem, God's wisdom can knock them all out. Jesus cast out evil spirits with His Words (Matthew. 8:16); and you know that His Word is His Wisdom. So, He knocked out evil spirits with His wisdom. In your home, for instance, God's wisdom can give you a knock—out victory over any satanic influence operating there, if you care to put it to use.

A sister shared this moving testimony on the potency of the wisdom of God. She said: "I worship the God of heaven, Who has sent you by this commission to liberate and set me free. My husband brought in a woman and furnished one wing of our duplex for her in the name of a "business partner".

As a result of this, he started maltreating me, together with his whole Family; to the point that I became like an outcast. It was during this period of dejection that I came across your book, *The Mystery of the Anointing Oil*.

I read that book in 10 minutes and came across a wonderful testimony of a woman who was in the same problem with me. So I told the Lord, 'If You are truly the God of my Lord Jesus Christ, and You have sent this man to write this, and this testimony is Your handiwork, then cause the same to happen in my life'.

I bought a bottle of olive oil, prayed over it myself and headed straight for Owerri, and from there, to my village. I anointed the entrance and the bedroom, where they were doing their evil acts; and that was it!

The very next day, the woman came back from London and stepped on that anointing and that was the beginning of her doom! There was no more agreement between her and my husband.

Today, I give glory of God; she ran away from the house, leaving all her belongings behind. Just three weeks ago, she stole my husband's three million naira and the police have now declared her wanted. Shame has become her portion. Indeed, you are sent and I am a beneficiary!"

E. N. (Mrs.)

It Will Make Life Pleasant For You

**Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.
Proverbs 3:17**

Life can be pleasant when you begin to operate the wisdom of God. It can become so pleasant that you don't know the meaning of problems any longer. Even when a difficulty comes your way, this wisdom tells you it's not beyond you (1 Corinthians. 10:13).

It enables you not to magnify a problem that God calls common. The wisdom of God assures you that God will not suffer you to be tempted beyond that which you can bear; but will with the temptation provide a way of escape for you.

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it. 1 Corinthians 10:13

That's why you can handle any situation, no matter how difficult! You can deal with every circumstance no matter how terrible! Can you imagine going into a primary one class and you are tested on a simple mathematical sum like one plus one, and you start crying? Why should you cry, when you know the answer to the question?

Do you keep crying in front of a locked door when you hold the key in your hand? No! That is how God sees every challenge you are confronted with. He sees it as being as simple as one plus one.

Friend, no situation is above you when you are operating God's wisdom. So, tell yourself "I can make it!" God calls those situations of your life common. If you call them special, you are making God a liar, and it is impossible for God to lie!

A sister once told me that she had no womb. She had done every test necessary and it was confirmed. I was invited to their home and here was the woman and her husband crying like babies – when you see a man and his wife crying, it must be a serious matter! But I received a powerful inspiration

from *John 10:10*, that says:

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

I opened up and told them that every manufacturer has a spare parts store for his products; so, God must have a spare womb for her in His spare parts store in heaven. I prayed, asking that a spare womb be sent from heaven, and nine months later God visited them with a baby boy!

The moment problems know that they are not recognised as important, they leave you alone. For instance, no matter how hard sickness may want to attack my body, it would be insulting itself by coming to me. Why? God, by the operation of wisdom, has given me an understanding of how to knock it out!

God's wisdom guarantees pleasantness and peace.

It's Your Access To The High Places

The ways of God, which is the wisdom of God, is also your access to the top. When you begin to operate by those ways, you find that you become distinguished on the earth. God so lifts you that even the sinners acknowledge that you have left them behind. By reason of the proofs you hold in your hands, they will have no choice but to come and learn the ways of God from you.

For instance, by the time they don't hear the noise of quarrelling and fighting in your home anymore, and they see your Family smiling and prospering, they will come to ask what your secret is.

That is the reason, I believe, why the world is neck deep in problems today: so they can recognise where the answers are – in the Church!

And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. Isaiah 2:2—3

That means God is committed to expounding His ways to His people this

endtime. And as He does, He will also cause their covenant colours to emerge, thereby commanding great attention among the sinners. Understanding the ways of God therefore will make you outstanding on the earth.

One morning, at 7a.m., the Holy Ghost said to me, "Go to church." So I came to church and met a former Islamic stalwart, who told me how he started coming to our church. He said, "Last Thursday somebody had a problem and I directed him here and his life changed. Another person had a similar problem, I directed him here, and in no time his life changed too. So, I decided I had to come also, and on Sunday, I gave my life to Christ. I just want you to pray for me."

He was such a prominent member of their group, that some of his group members were at the gate inquiring of him.

Friend, wisdom will establish you on the high places of the earth, and bring you to prominence. It is a principal tool God will use to establish the Church this end time, and as you plug into it, you too will be established!

The Virtues Of Wisdom

It Is Pure

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure... James 3:17

Jesus Christ, the wisdom of God, asked the Jews of His days confidently: "*Which of you convinceth me of sin?*" (**John 8:46.**) He was too sure of His walk of purity. Later it was said concerning Him,

**And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?
Matthew 13:54**

It follows therefore that the wisdom on display in His life was rooted in purity. That is why to operate God's wisdom, you must be pure, because the wisdom from above is not cunning or crafty, it is pure and open. Those petty things you engage in like bitterness, strife, envy and other works of the flesh are the things that hinder you from operating in the same frequency of wisdom as Jesus did.

Iniquity is a destroyer; you must destroy it before it destroys your destiny

in God. Don't feel comfortable with any sinful habit, because the end of sin is death (Galatians. 6:7,8).

Remember, **Ezekiel 18:4** says, "*The soul that sinneth, it shall die.*" That means the nature of God in you, which should find expression in the display of wisdom, dies when you give in to habitual sinning, and you take on the nature of the devil which expresses itself in devilish wisdom – cheating, lying, distorting facts, etc.

You have a glorious destiny in God, don't let sin corrupt it. The cheapest way to live clean is to deal immediately with any satanic habit you notice manifesting in you, with the blood of Jesus.

It Is Peaceable

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable... James 3:17

The wisdom from above also ensures that you enjoy supernatural rest. It releases to you peace of mind, peace in your body, peace in your place of work, peace everywhere!

Kenneth Hagin tells the story of a time during the second world war, when everyone would run into a tunnel for refuge during bombings. But, there was this old woman who was not seen in the tunnel. Fearing she had been killed, the others were astonished when they saw her a few days later just having a nice time.

So, they asked her, "Where were you during the bombing? Why didn't we see you?" And she answered, "There is Somebody keeping me, who neither sleeps nor slumbers. So there's no reason why two of us should be awake!"

Some people probably got killed while they were running around, but she was at peace! That's supernatural wisdom giving the enemy a knock out! When peace becomes established in your heart, you give God room to intervene in your life and situation.

That was the principle Jesus, the wisdom of God, operated by when He was fast asleep on a pillow in the midst of a raging storm! He understood that except He was at rest, divine intervention was not in view.

The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace. Exodus 14:14

Be still, and know that I am God... Psalm 46:10

**Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still,
and see the salvation of the Lord with you... 2 Chronicles 20:17**

These go to show that God's wisdom, which is peaceable, guarantees divine interventions.

We are in the wisdom era of the Church, and I see God doing remarkable things through us, if we care to embrace these virtues of wisdom.

Chapter 2: The Beginning Of Wisdom

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever. Psalm 111:10

The fear of the Lord is a basic requirement for any Christian wishing to triumph in life. It is also of vital importance to anyone who desires to register in the school of wisdom. The man, who walks in the fear of the Lord, has automatic access to supernatural wisdom. This is where to begin from in your quest for wisdom.

Look at Joseph in chapter 41 of Genesis, wisdom lifted him to a position of authority, and he became a ruler in the land of Egypt.

And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art:

Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.

And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt. Genesis 41:39—41

But he enrolled in the school of wisdom by possessing the fear of the Lord. He said, "*... how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?*" (**Genesis 39:9.**) And also, "*...For I fear God*"(**Genesis 42:18**).

Daniel also arrived on the scene and would not defile himself with the king's rich food; therefore, God lifted him. Any man can be distinguished and enthroned on the earth today, if he will part ways with sin. Purity is what gives you access to the instructions of wisdom which lead to your distinction on the earth.

What man is he that feareth the LORD? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose.

The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will show them his covenant. Psalm 25:12,14

When Jesus came, the Bible said concerning him, that men marvelled at His wisdom, and exclaimed, "What wisdom is this!". But that was because He did not toy with sin. That way, Jesus fulfilled the primary condition necessary to register in the school of wisdom: the fear of the Lord.

As long as He possessed it, He was a man in charge! The life of God had a free course in His Spirit, soul and body, making it impossible for Him to be under any form of physical, mental or spiritual attack.

Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than my enemies: for they are ever with me. Psalm 119:98

God's wisdom makes you wiser than sickness, poverty, failure, stagnation, etc; and when a man is wiser than his enemy, he cheaply knocks him out!

That is why the enemy strives to corrupt you with iniquity, to ensure that you don't get wiser than him, so he can keep oppressing you. Wisdom takes you to the realm of exploits, victory and outstanding success; but it is only accessible by the fear of the Lord!

The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will show them his covenant. Psalm 25:14

Divine wisdom demands "divine" sanctity.

Let Go Of Sin

Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favour. Proverbs 14:9

Everyone that mocks at sin is a fool and ends up in mockery. You have a glorious and enviable destiny which you cannot afford to sink with sin. Sin is a sinker, it can sink the destiny of a man like lead in water. Sin is also as dangerous as poison. In other words, it is a destroyer!

Look at Samson. He was born a prophet, called while he was conceived in his mother's womb. He grew and became a mighty warrior, yet he fell down

flat. Sin destroyed him. He was slain by adultery!

What about the man Solomon? He was an embodiment of wisdom in the Old Testament; yet his wisdom was corrupted through immorality.

But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites. 1 Kings 11:1

Solomon's wives turned his heart away from the Lord, the Source of his wisdom, and his wisdom was converted to folly. So at the end of his journey on earth, everything was vanity to him (Ecclesiastes. 1:1—2). Sin is a destroyer. Its victims end their lives in regrets.

The principal reason Jesus came is to remove the millstone of sin tied around the neck of humanity. Remember that when you tie a millstone to anything and drop it in a river, it sinks. To enable it float again, you would need to remove that millstone. But as long as it remains fastened to that object, it remains at the bottom of the river.

Now that Jesus has removed the millstone of sin from off our necks, we can get back on top! We can go up in life operating the wisdom of God.

And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding. Job 28:28

Sin Deadens The Mind

I once heard T. L. Osborn say, "When you sin, something in you dies." That was the lot of Adam after the fall. Although he was the man who had single-handedly named all the animals, when he sinned his mind became darkened, so he used leaves as clothes to cover his nakedness.

Leaves! That was strange, because it was a well known fact that Adam was walking in the same mental realm as God. He had the mind of God. Yet, the moment sin came, his mind was corrupted and could no longer function at its original frequency.

We are in the wisdom age of the Church; there is therefore a need to walk in purity, to safeguard the sanctity of the mind.

Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die. Ezekiel 18:4

Chapter 3: The Workings Of Wisdom

All life's problems are mathematical in nature. Just as you would need to work out any mathematical problem, you can work out the solution to any knotty situation by operating the wisdom of God. That wisdom cheaply delivers miracles to you. It can overturn any mountain by its roots and cut out rivers from any rock!

I'll start this chapter with **this amazing testimony** written to me by a brother. "You have literally led us from the point of begging and lack, to financial rest round about. We went through a lot of financial hardship from 1993 to 1996. I have changed jobs without solution; we have met men, but to no avail. Rent, food in the home and responsibilities to our dependents were all outstanding.

But early this year, my wife and I sat down, and drew up a plan to get out of our financial bondage. We decided on the least offering to give per service, paying tithes of all received, and participating in kingdom investments. We gave our colour television to make up for our monthly kingdom investment for the year 1996; and we gave items out to the house of God, as we were led by the Holy Spirit.

These givings were coupled with the message on holiness and breaking of curses done early this year. We forsook sin and decided to deal honestly. Our miracle began when God touched a man to give us one million naira to go into a joint venture with him on a profit—sharing basis! We went straight into exporting forest products, which is thriving very well now. We were yet to recover from this blessing when we won a job in one of the government quarters, which gave us a huge profit.

Also, somebody sent us 10,000 U.S. dollars for business, also on a profit—sharing basis. This reminded me that the first 50 dollars that ever came to me in 1996 was sown as a seed.

Our lives have changed; there's now no more reproach, but honour!"

S. A.

That Family was at zero level financially, yet they were giving. That is supernatural wisdom in operation. It always works! Let me show you how this wisdom works.

Locate And Act On The Word

And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 2 Timothy 3:15

The Word is God's wisdom. He has delivered it into our hands to work out our salvation using the instructions contained in it. As a man complies with those instructions, solutions to all questions of life begin to come his way. That's heaven's strategy for an easy life.

Some years back, one young woman came running to our house worried. Her marriage of several years had just collapsed. When she narrated what had happened to me, I said to her, "Get back home, fall on your husband's neck and say, 'Honey, I missed you badly.'"

God's wisdom says your desire shall be towards your husband. When it isn't, you're not walking in wisdom, but in folly. So go and demonstrate that scripture."

She returned home and did as she was instructed and called a few hours later to say their second honeymoon had begun.

The wisdom of God appears foolish to the natural man, but that foolishness is still wiser than the wisdom of men.

Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 1 Corinthians 1:25

However wicked a man may be, if his wife can genuinely submit to him, she will win his heart. By applying herself to the demands of God's Word, she will disarm the forces of wickedness at work in him. The Word is the answer book to all situations of life. It is God's manifold wisdom. All you need to get solutions from it is to sit down and locate scriptures relevant to your case and work your way from there.

Remember, I said life's problems are mathematical in nature, and every mathematical problem can be worked out. Therefore, whatever your situation,

there is a solution in the Word; all you need is to work it out.

...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. Philippians 2:12

The great man of God, Kenneth Hagin, had been bed—ridden for years. He was reading the scriptures someday, and came to Mark 11:23—24. The Word sank into him, and from that solid depth, he acted. He spoke the word and stood on his feet; the mountain of paralysis disappeared, and he that was billed for death rose up! He has been up for over sixty years now! Indeed, wisdom is better than strength!

If sickness knocks on your door, don't panic; settle down and organise scriptural arsenals and launch a counter—attack on that adversary. It will flee.

That's how to walk out on the devil! Satan cannot place sickness on you until you receive it from him. How do you receive it? You sense an unusual rise in your temperature, and rather than resist it, you announce to a friend, "I have a fever." So it settles on you.

...let the weak say, I am strong. Joel 3:10

It will interest you to know that even in a situation where my body is vibrating, I am never tempted to say, "I am sick." Rather, I bind the fever—causing demon, and I am free. That's a vital secret in operating the wisdom of God. Acting on God's Word is wisdom, and wisdom will overturn any mountain by the roots, no matter it's size (Job 28:9).

When I came to Jesus, I came with tuberculosis. I had already undergone all the necessary medical treatment, but to no avail. After my new birth, I went on an adventure into the four gospels. I read them over and over again and imbibed all the miracles Jesus performed; and as I did that, a holy anger rose up in me. Then I went to Him and said, "Lord Jesus, if it is true that you performed all those miracles, if they did not lie against you, then heal me." I held on to Him that night and I was completely set free!

The wisdom of God is creative in nature. ***Psalm 104:24*** says:
O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.

By His wisdom, he created all things. That's why I know that the wisdom that created the world can create your own world too. For instance, there's nothing missing in your body that by applying God's wisdom cannot be instantly recreated. Nothing stolen that God's wisdom cannot replace, just as the

case was with the couple who had been unable to have a child.

God's creative force is embedded in His wisdom, so that the things that are not in place in your life can be put in place by the creative ability of wisdom.

The Lord by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens. Proverbs 3:19

The wisdom that established the heavens can establish your life too. Someone wrote me a letter recently, and I call it a psalm of victory; it shows the power of God's wisdom in establishing lives:

"The month of April was really my month of rainfall! I have never experienced such in my life. Due to obedience to what you've been teaching us, I'm enjoying the fullness of God.

In March, I had triple promotions! On April 2, I was blessed with 15,000 naira. On April 11, I was again blessed with 15,000 naira. On April 12, I bought a plot of land in my village. On April 15, I was blessed with 1,500 naira. On 25th, I was blessed with 10,000 naira!

I don't play with my tithe, because I can't tie down my destiny. Instead of paying the normal amount, I always increase it.

However, what surprised me most was that even in my sleep I was praising God! So when I woke up this morning, before going to the office, I danced very well and at about 3 p.m. today, someone blessed me with 8,000 naira!

God is wonderful! There has been no struggle for anything at all this year. Things come with ease for me.

There was another piece of land which somebody wanted me to buy at 35,000 naira. He said I could take it, even if I didn't have the money to pay for it now. But I told him we don't buy things on credit in my church. When he insisted and said I should pay any amount that I could afford, I gave him 12,000 naira cash, promising to pay the balance on Friday 2nd of May. This is the Lord's doing!

I am also into rental services by the help of God, without looking up to any man! I give Him the praise. I didn't dream of all these achievements at this age, but by words that I keep hearing on this mountain, my spirit is highly lifted."

O. O.

Connect With The Spirit

This wisdom is not ordinary, so the ordinary mind cannot comprehend it. It is with your spirit that you come in contact with God's wisdom; your spirit then gives directives to your mind. So, for you to contact the wisdom of God, your spirit needs to be linked with the Spirit of God.

Understand This First

God is a Spirit and He made man in His image, so man is essentially a spirit possessing a soul and dwelling in a body. When man fell in Eden, he was disconnected from God — the spirit part of him that made it possible for him to make contact with God was snuffed out. Man then began to operate as a two—dimensional being — body and soul.

However, when Jesus died, He reconnected as many as believe in Him back to God. The spirit of man that had long packed up was quickened again, and life came surging back into it.

And so it is written, the first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit. 1 Corinthians 15:45

Now that you are born again, you are made a living spirit; the communication line between you and God is now open. You can therefore communicate freely with God, the Father of Spirits. You do this by linking up with the Holy Spirit, and drawing out secrets from God's depth, which will bring solutions to every crisis area of your life.

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man but the Spirit of God. 1 Corinthians 2:9—11

So, you need to engage the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the things that have been freely given to you by God. The Holy Spirit is then the One Who communicates with you, dropping the answers to your questions into your spirit.

You may ask, "Why does He not speak to my mind? Why does He communicate with my spirit?" It's quite simple; lives communicate at different levels. Monkeys communicate with monkeys, sheep with sheep, goats with goats, and in like manner, God, who is a Spirit, communicates with your spirit. If it's goat to goat, sheep to sheep; it also has to be Spirit to spirit!

The mission of your spirit therefore is to collect secrets from the Holy Spirit and deliver them to your mind for action!

For instance, before entering into ministry, I noticed that the greatest problem confronting ministries was financial supplies. I saw pastors going from place to place asking for financial assistance. Several had come to me, so I knew this to be the case.

However, I knew I could not do what others were doing. So, I said to myself, "There must be another way of doing this, that will make it noble." So, I went in search of it! Taking a book with me and my Bible, I locked myself up in a room for three days, reading, studying and communicating with Heaven.

Then suddenly, my spirit was illuminated by the Holy Spirit and I located the secret! When I found the key to financial prosperity, I came out and declared with all boldness, "I can never be poor!"

...When thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off. Proverbs 24:14

When you come in contact with the secrets of winning, you win automatically!

So, Sit Down

**For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?
Luke 14:28**

Supernatural wisdom is available for the taking, but you must first sit down to arrange the Word and books relevant to your area of need. Then you contact the Holy Spirit, the revealer of secrets, to reveal to you the needed

solution to your situation.

There's no short cut to it. Your situation has a solution by the wisdom of God. All you have to do is apply yourself to the demands of the Word, engaging the help of the Spirit and you'll be free!

Chapter 4: Wisdom For Strategic Warfare

The Christian race is accompanied with warfare. It is as normal to Christianity as breathing, eating or sleeping is to human existence. Christianity therefore does not exempt you from warfare; rather, it gives you a covenant edge over the opposition. That is why *1 John 5:4* says:

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

God recognises oppositions as real, but He wants you reassured that you can overcome them. So, warfare should not be viewed as strange. It is not. It is rather an opportunity to demonstrate our fore—ordained victory.

Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place. 2 Corinthians 2:14

However, the difference between success and failure in warfare is wisdom. It is the thin line of demarcation between victory and defeat. In the conflict between sickness and health, poverty and wealth, wisdom is the deciding factor.

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. Proverbs 4:7

How is this so? Because success in any battle is a function of the strategy employed. Remember the Gulf war of 1991? The allies defeated the forces of Iraq on the basis of strategy.

God has made provisions in the scriptures for our eternal triumph over the satanic forces of hell, but we need to apply God's wisdom to see that what has been wrought in the spirit realm becomes a reality here in earthly places (Ecclesiastes. 9:18).

There is a path which no fowl knoweth, and which the vulture's eye hath not seen: He putteth forth his hand upon the rock; he overturneth the mountains by the roots.

He cutteth out rivers among the rocks; and his eye seeth every precious thing. He bindeth the floods from overflowing; and the thing that is hid bringeth he forth to light.

But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding? Job 28:7,9—12

The wisdom of God has the ability to expose the traps of the enemy. It is also capable of damming the flood of evil before it does damage to anything that is ours. It is powerful enough to overturn mountains by the roots and put checks on death and destruction! In essence, it has the ability to exercise authority over death and all agents of destruction.

This then makes it clear that it is wisdom we need more than strength or anything else in the battle against the forces of wickedness.

The prophet Isaiah re—echoes this truth in *Isaiah 43:1—2*. He said:

But now thus saith the Lord that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine.

When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee.

First, he points out the reality of warfare, when he says "When thou passest..."; Then he exposes to us God's will, which is "fear not." I believe that God commands us not to fear because the wisdom of God is available to ensure we pass through the rivers unhurt.

This wisdom, that could divide the flames of fire in the time of the three Hebrew boys, will ensure a thoroughfare for you in the midst of any fire. So, fear not! You can defeat the devil in that challenge of your life.

Wisdom Strategies

Identify The Enemy

A clear picture of who the enemy is needs to be painted, because except you

can identify your enemy on the battle front, you will fight as one beating the air.

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 1 Peter 5:8

That means you don't have many adversaries, just a principal one — the devil. It is the devil who is behind those obstacles of your life. He is the one causing the floods to swell, threatening to flush you out. He is the arsonist lurking behind the fires of your life. He is the tormentor, the one behind all afflictions, the catalyst behind plagues and all types of diseases. He is the master strategist behind the woes of humanity (Genesis. 3:15). But he can be subdued!

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. James 4:7

By submitting yourself to the demands of God in His word, you easily resist the devil and he, without choice, flees from you. If Job had known who was behind his afflictions, he would have been free the same day they started. But Job thought it was God, and Satan took advantage of his ignorance to torment him the more.

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

Therefore, all you need to do is ask the Lord to open your eyes to the provisions for victory in His Word and you will stay on top of all situations.

The Word

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: Matthew 7:24

Therefore also said the wisdom of God... Luke 11:49

The Word of God is the sword of the Spirit; it is God's wisdom for the defeat of the adversary in warfare. Anytime you're confronted by any negative circumstance, reach out for your sword, and your victory in that conflict is guaranteed.

If a strange person knocks on the door of a trained fighter in the night, the first thing he would reach out for is his weapon. As long as his weapon is in his hands, he can launch a counter—attack on the enemy.

I remember some time ago when some armed men invaded the house of my neighbour, (and he happens to be a trained gunslinger). He simply switched off the security lights, climbed up his tower and pulled the trigger on the leader of the team, blowing his head off!

Many people, rather than fighting by the Word, sit around, bemoaning their lot. But you don't sit down with problems, you rise up in a fight against them! The enemy's strategy is to get you beclouded, so that you don't know what weapon to use in combat. But, effective warfare begins with an insight into the word of God.

Some people believe that time heals all wounds, but the passage of time does not equal solutions to any problem. Time does not heal all wounds. Problems require a conscious search for solutions to tackle them.

Take a G. C. E. candidate, who has failed his examination and refuses to re—write them. Can he now be said to have passed them because he has waited for things to sort out themselves after ten years? No! He may be sixty years old, but his age cannot substitute for pass marks.

A wise man once said: "When you rise up, your obstacles sit down." Therefore, until you rise up to those challenges of your life, and confront them by the Word, they won't give way of their own accord. All the wisdom you require to knock Satan out in your life circumstances is the Word of God.

Go For Understanding

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. Proverbs 4:7

Wisdom comes with hearing the Word of God. It however, goes beyond it to understanding. Inside the Word is all you would ever need to subdue all forces of darkness. but how much exploits you do is hinged upon your understanding of what is in the word.

In a church, for instance, every one hears the same message, but not everyone gets the same result. Why? Because they are at different levels of understanding.

There was a man in Acts chapter 8, called the Ethiopian Eunuch. He was a religious man who had come to Jerusalem to worship. But because he lacked understanding of what he read, they were like parables to him. That was why the first thing Philip asked him was, "*Understandest thou what thou readest?*" (*Acts 8:30.*)

Why? Because his understanding of scriptures was the gateway to his destiny. Friend, you cannot believe what you don't understand. Understanding is what triggers off faith.

Faith

The next wisdom strategy to apply against oppositions is faith. Faith is God's wisdom against the devil.

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

What is faith? It is taking God at His Word. It is believing what God has said by acting on it. It is acting on the Word of God. Once you take hold on God's Word and act on it appropriately, you have disarmed the devil. **1 Peter 5:9** says:

Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

The word "steadfast" means firmly fixed or established; constant, resolute, steady. It also means continuously. So, God is saying resist the devil continuously in the faith, acting on the Word against his plans, and he will flee. Therefore, faith is the answer to all the fiery darts of the enemy. Remember **1 John 5:4** says:

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

Therefore, every time you reach out for the Word, squeeze faith out of it, because God's Word never produces until it is believed (Hebrews. 4:2). And

how do you squeeze faith out of the Word? You get it by meditation.

Just as digestion brings out the nutrients in the food you eat, meditation squeezes out the nutrients in the Word. As you meditate upon the Word, the Holy Ghost begins to teach you; He begins to expound the Word to you, bringing you illumination.

But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him. 1 John 2:20,27

Friend, it is as the Holy Spirit drops into you the revelation of the Word that faith is stirred up in your heart. Therefore, profit from the Word is released by faith.

Faith is walking in the consciousness of spiritual realities. It is no guess work, it is operating in the light of God's Word. So also, wisdom is walking in the light of the Word. so wisdom is equal to faith, and faith to wisdom.

Present Your Case

Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified. Isaiah 43:26

The next wisdom to apply in dealing with the situations of life is prayer, that is, presenting your case to God. This type of prayer is not the tearful, mournful type. It is the prayer of faith (James 1:6).

You say to Him, "Father, Your Word says such and such concerning my situation, and the scriptures cannot be broken. Therefore I stand on Your Word for total victory, in Jesus name."

God expects you to present your case to Him, justifying why you need divine intervention. So, "Produce your cause and bring forth your strong reasons", and you will be free. Friend, you can get God committed to your case like the [woman in this testimony](#):

"In February 1996, I was wearing glasses quite all right, 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 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 would 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 Xray 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 ran down to the church with the X—ray. 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., the Bishop 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, but I couldn't do it. Now, over to You.' I stayed there long enough to say all I wanted to say to Him, 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 will 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.

So, God's wisdom for strategic warfare begins with the Word (mixed with faith in your heart), before you present your case to God.

Address The Situation

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. Mark 11:23

Now that you have been justified by your prayer to God, your next wisdom strategy is to address the situation. While addressing the situation, please understand that you are talking to the situation, not to the Lord. This is where many Christians miss it. They fail to understand that no matter how strong the faith they possess, the situations of life remain until they are challenged.

I remember a few years ago when our first son was cutting teeth and was feverish. I was told it was a normal occurrence with children, but spiritually, I knew it ought not to be. So, I sat down and searched God's Word to see if there was any place where it was written, "When thy children bringeth forth their first teeth, they shall be feverish." But I could not find anything of the sort!

Rather, I saw in Psalm 127 that children are a blessing from the Lord. And in Proverbs 10:22, it is written that the blessings of God maketh rich and He addeth no sorrow or fever to it!

Therefore, I concluded that anytime you see fever, the enemy is at work there, and God says He will contend with them that contend with me and save

my children (Isaiah. 49:25). So drawing strength from the Word I had located, and injecting faith into it, I presented my case to God, then I confronted the mountain, and it was overturned by the roots!

As a proof of this, subsequently, none of our children while cutting their first teeth was attacked with fever. Each time I would look at them and say, "Son, you are a gift of God, a blessing from heaven; and the blessings of the Lord maketh rich and He addeth no sorrow or fever with it."

Friend, address those negative situations of your life in faith, and they will respond to you. Launch the offensive and watch them bow to you.

Reinforcing Your Authority

However, there are certain mountains that prove to be adamant. They stare you hard in the face and refuse to bow. What do you do if you're confronted with such?

Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?

And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting. Matthew 17:19—21

It begins with faith, that is why Jesus said, "Because of your unbelief." But there are certain "mountainous" problems that will require a reinforcement of your faith. "This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting."

Thus, faith coupled with prayer and fasting is like the three—fold cord described in Ecclesiastes 4:12, which is not easily broken.

Friend, this chapter should have provided for you an understanding on how by walking in God's wisdom you can overturn mountains by the roots and bind the floods from overflowing you. You should by now know how, by applying wisdom, you can divide the flames of fire and challenge death and destruction. All you need do now is to accept full responsibility for those situations and apply yourself to the strategies outlined, enforcing your liberty.

Chapter 5: The Seat Of Wisdom

For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:16

Every car has seats. The seats are arranged in such a way as to accommodate a particular number of people and to give comfort to the passengers. Imagine, for instance, the lot of a car without seats? The driver may be a professional of several years, but he still needs where to rest his weight comfortably to drive the car. The seat of a vehicle plays a vital role in the functionality of the car.

Wisdom too needs a seat, a place from which to operate. The mind is the seat of wisdom. In this chapter therefore, I'll be discussing the place of the mind in our walk in wisdom.

You Have A Sound Mind

Before you got born—again, you had a natural mind. This is to be expected since you were a natural man.

But after you gave your life to Christ, 2 Corinthians 5:17 says old things are passed away and all things are now new. That means you became a new man, no more natural but supernatural. You also had a natural mind, but after your encounter with the mystery of new birth, it became a sound mind or a supernatural mind.

A sound mind is a gift from God to the redeemed. First Corinthians 2:16 tells us that this sound mind is also the mind of Christ. It is not just a lucky mind, but the Creator's mind.

There was a time darkness was upon the earth, the earth was without form and void; but the Creator's mind went into operation, creating the beauty we see today. That mind gave shape to the shapeless world and filled the void with plenty.

And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good... Genesis 1:31

You have that same type of mind! That means you have the creator's mental capacity. The mind you possess can give shape to your life and fill your emptiness with treasures. It can overcome and destroy all forms of darkness. That shows us the calibre of mind a redeemed man possesses. You have what it takes to make things happen, so you cannot be stranded. That mind you possess is not common, but peculiar. Therefore, you can produce uncommon and peculiar results. You are indeed a man to be envied!

Friend, we are in the age of the display of divine wisdom. But you cannot have a place in it without a mind functioning at Christ's frequency. For instance, our ministry has never had a moment of crisis, because it is not administered by a common mind. My Family has not experienced a moment of tension, because it's not headed by a common mind.

Christ in whom is hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge says I have His mind (Colossians. 2:3). Therefore, in my mind is hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge — and that is the truth of it!

When your mind begins to function at Christ's frequency, you'll be able to obtain supernatural results the way Christ did. Jesus displayed so much wisdom that men were astonished and said:...

**whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?
Matthew 13:54**

Thus, wherever that wisdom is in operation, mighty works are the proofs — that is mighty and outstanding results. Such results as would secure the ovation of men, remarkable evidences that cannot escape the attention of men, but commands their awe and respect! That's a peculiar mind at work!

The Projection Dimension

Your mind is the compass of your destiny. It gives direction to your life for, "*... As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he*" (**Proverbs. 23:7**). The mind is where matters are weighed. You use it to think over issues, and reason out what next step to take in life to arrive at where you are going. The mind is also where solutions are found to difficult situations through the process of reasoning and analyzing.

In addition, it is responsible for the storage of memories and projections. The projection dimension is where many people get stranded. Projection means shooting forward.

An aspect of projection is dreams. A dream is a mental picture of a desired

end. I am not referring to the night dreams you have after having eaten excessively, no. A dream helps you paint a picture of your desired end and supplies you with inner energy to accomplish it.

Consider those fellows in Genesis chapter 11. They set their minds to build a tower "whose top may reach heaven." Ambition was the force behind this super human project. God, however, knew that they were capable of doing it, because they had painted a picture in their minds and that picture had supplied the inner drive with which to pursue its execution.

And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them which they have imagined to do. Genesis 11:6

If God had not intervened they would not have surrendered. Therefore any assignment or mission is accomplishable once those concerned can catch a picture of the desired end.

Ever before I got married, I knew I was going to have a blissful married life. God's Word showed me that marriage is honourable. It showed me that two are better than one. It showed me that it is not good for man to be alone.

I reasoned it out in my mind, that if I was not a fighter as a bachelor, marriage should take me further away from it. Besides, I saw in the character of Jesus something that made me optimistic. He was literally married to the 12 apostles (we are his bride), but in spite of their divergent characters, he was still able to put up with each of them and accomplish his mission.

I then reasoned that if Jesus could cope with such characters, it was not impossible to have a blissful marriage. To the glory of God, for the over one decade that we have been married, I have enjoyed a hitch—free, tension—free marriage!

But it did not happen by chance. I saw it in the scriptures and I programmed my mind towards its manifestation. In essence, I had caught a dream of a hitch—free marriage even before I got married; and because God is committed to granting our expectation, He granted me mine!

Remember Abraham? God told him:

For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever. Genesis 13:15

God did not expect Abraham to see all that was to be his with his physical eyes. He was expected to form a mental picture of a desired end. If you see

nothing, you will get nothing. But when you locate any treasure in God's Word and create a mental picture of it in your mind, no matter how impossible it may seem, you can have it.

When I say I cannot have an accident, it is no empty boast. It is a boast well anchored on the divine provisions for my protection. Jesus was wounded and bruised for my sake, so I would not suffer wounds and bruises! Besides, He has put His angels in charge over my protection (Psalm. 91:11).

If you cannot imagine Jesus in an accident wreck, why should I be found in one? These truths have become so ingrained into my spirit man that nothing moves me in all my travels. Before I set out on a journey, I already see myself arriving. It is so wonderful!

Before our ministry began in 1983, I had designed all the administrative set up. I saw them in my mind's eye before they became a reality. A sophisticated printing press for the ministry was priced as far back as 1983! We had no money at all for it then. But in 1993, we saw the establishment of a giant press, where all our books and other evangelistic materials are produced!

That's the power of dreams! The signs and wonders you are expecting in your life are possible if only you can open up your mind to picture their arrival. When they finally arrive in your hands, they will come so effortlessly.

Dreams are destiny boosters. To be without them is to sign in for doom. Dreams are also crucial because they help you set goals. For instance, it is unimaginable to play football on a pitch without goal posts! You will never have a winner, because goals cannot be scored and a winner cannot be determined.

Many who are failures in life today are so because they don't have goals. So, they keep whiling away time because they don't know exactly where they are heading for. Dreams help you to set mental goals.

Please understand this very clearly: wisdom is knowing how to handle issues in order to make them produce your desired results. Your mind is the seat of wisdom, where you process information for action.

You have a dream, which is a mental picture of a desired end. Having formed the picture in your mind, you then translate that picture into goals — "a mark or an end toward which effort is directed, an aim or a purpose". Once you can translate your dreams into action, you are definitely heading for dominion.

Martin Luther King Jr. is quoted as saying, "If you don't have a purpose for living, you are not fit to live." You should be able to ask yourself where you are heading for in life; why you were created, what you are on earth to accomplish.

When these have been ascertained, you put your mind to work and

imagine your access to where you are going. Dreams help to make the pursuit of your purpose in life more resourceful.

It's A Dreamers' World

We live in a world where only dreamers count. Most people who have accomplished extraordinary feats are dreamers. They dreamt of their inventions long before it came to be. Nobody arrives at a future of greatness he did not dream about in his "today". For instance, any young person you find in the Nigeria Defence Academy is dreaming of a day he would be decorated as a general in the army. You cannot ask him what he is doing in the Academy today; he knows that already!

The same thing obtains in medical schools. The young medical undergraduate only dreams of when he will emerge as a celebrated surgeon. Everyone who ever became a celebrity in the secular world rode on the wings of dreams. It will work much more for the Church.

But you find that there are too many Christians without dreams. They think Christianity excuses them from dreaming. but as children of the covenant, we have limitless possibilities. You can go as far as you choose to.

And the Lord said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward; Genesis 13:14

It's time for Christians to become dreamers, and not just stop there, but to believe in their dreams; then dominion in life is certain.

The scriptures make it clear that God has a great future for you, but you must dream it today to encounter it tomorrow.

The most fascinating dreamer in the world was Joseph. No prophecy went ahead of him telling him that he would be the head of his Family. But Joseph was a dreamer, and his dreams secured for him a glorious future. That's why I often say, "To be dreamless is to be doomed."

And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more. Genesis 37:5

You will notice that Joseph's dream stirred up jealousy among his

brethren, but he would not be dissuaded. He believed in his dream, so he declared it. The dream angered his brothers but Joseph kept dreaming and kept on proclaiming it. Why? Because once you catch a dream, you cannot but speak of it.

Perhaps if you only heard it, you have an opportunity to doubt; but when you have seen it, it is settled, nobody can persuade you otherwise. That's why the apostles, in spite of the threats by the elders of the Jews, said:

For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard. Acts 4:20

Whatever you are afraid to proclaim is simply because you have not seen it. You may have heard it preached; but hearing is not enough, you must see it. That is how to set a pace for a victorious destiny.

Let business men use their minds to paint pictures of success in their businesses, and it shall be so. Let the career person imagine himself at the top echelon of his career, then he will not remain at the bottom. Let the weakling catch a dream of living in perpetual strength and health, and he cannot be weak again. That's how to get God committed.

Joseph's dream brought him to the throne in Egypt. If you too can catch a dream of good health, wealth, peace, joy, success, you will ascend your own God—given throne.

Kingdom Dreams

The singular reason why God frustrated the dream of those building the tower of Babel in Genesis 11 was because it was not God—centred. Every selfish dream is doomed before its execution. But when the expansion of God's kingdom is the reason for your dream, God is excited and undoubtedly committed to the accomplishment of that dream.

Consider Hannah. She had bemoaned her ill fortune, grumbling and accusing God. But when she put God first, her greatest dream was fulfilled.

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. 1 Samuel 1:11

As she pledged to give God the son He would bless her with, God answered her prayer and also added to her many more children. A kingdom dream without doubt secures all other dreams; it ensures that all your other dreams come true!

Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart Psalm 37:4

Cast Down Evil Dreams

Dreams are potent forces in establishing the destiny of a man. Right dreams have a positive effect on any man's future, but watch a man with evil dreams, he soon becomes a captive of evil.

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:
(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; 2 Corinthians 10:3—5

When the imaginations of your heart tend only to evil, when the dreams of your mind are contrary to the truth revealed in the Word of God, watch it, Satan is laying a trap for you.

All anti—scriptural imaginations are strongholds of the enemy designed to pull you down. Similarly, scripture—based imaginations are your covenant strongholds. You should know that as a covenant child, if you have positive dreams, you can go very far in life.

Some people claim to have "the gift of dreams". According to them, whatever they see, good or bad, is their lot. As a result, the enemy has trapped and boxed them in. A man dreams that his child fell sick, so he wakes up panic—stricken and begins to run helter—skelter. That is the foothold Satan was looking for to afflict their health! Job said:

For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me.

I was not in safety, neither had I rest, neither was I quiet; yet trouble came. Job 3:25—26

God responds to the thought of your heart (Ephesians. 3:20), whether negative or positive. **Sometime ago**, aboard an aircraft, the pilot began to make negative announcements concerning the state of the plane. All I said to myself was, "I don't have any problems, I will just arrive in my bedroom if any thing happens." That was the picture I painted and carried in my mind; I believed it, so I was calm.

Interestingly, an unbeliever was aboard the same flight, and later told me after we landed that when he looked up and saw me he became calm. That was because, according to him, he knew something would take me to safety.

So he concluded that if anything went wrong, he would "dive" to where I was and hold on to me, so that whatever evacuated me from the plane would evacuate him also!

Deep within me, I could not imagine myself involved in an air crash. I thought to myself that if Jesus were aboard the same flight, He would not crash. To me, it was an opportunity to arrive home without the use of a taxi! That is wisdom at work, and it works anyway! We landed safely and God received all the glory.

Many are mental captives, but you can free yourself by casting down imaginations that are contrary to the truth revealed in the Word of God. Every contrary thought is a trap of the enemy, and must be cast down. But you do not stop at casting them down, you also have a responsibility to fill up your mind with the Word of God. It is with that Word therefore that you pull down all negative imaginations.

For instance, I was away in America for an engagement, when one night I had a dream and saw myself in a coffin about to be buried. I reacted while still asleep and said, "Satan, you must be very stupid, because it is written, there is no wisdom nor counsel in the grave where thou goest. No one sees himself in the coffin and stays there!" With that I knocked off that negative dream.

Perhaps your wife is in labour and the enemy accosts you with negative images of the likelihood of complications or death. Simply stand your ground and cast down the negative imagination by the Word of God. Declare, "It is written, You shall serve the Lord your God and He will bless your bread and water, and take sickness away from your midst. None shall be barren or cast their young." (Exodus. 23:25—26).

Your wife will definitely return from the labour room with her baby. This applies to any other area of challenge; by applying the Word of God to that situation, you cast down negative imaginations.

When **Proverbs 4:23** says, "*Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life*", it means that for you to have continuous victory over

negative imaginations, you must stock up your heart with scriptural information, otherwise known as revelations.

This is crucial, because the information you open up for, determines the type of imaginations you have, whether positive or negative. When you give God's Word pre—eminence in your meditation, you constantly imagine the positive, and as a result, you always have victory!

Chapter 6: Activating Your Mind

**Wherefore I put thee in remembrance, that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.
2 Timothy 1:6**

It is one thing to have a gift and an entirely different matter to put it to use. On my office desk, for instance, I have a sophisticated computer system that can handle quite a number of things. But because my knowledge of computer is very little, it produces very little for me because it can produce only to the degree to which I understand and utilize it.

You need to know how to put your mind to use, how to harness the potentials that have been lying fallow; so that it can produce maximally for you.

We used to have this local bell in schools in those days. You would have to pull at the rope attached to it to make a clanging sound. That sound was what alerted the entire village that it was time for school. Children would then come running to school, since few people had clocks in the villages. However, until the bell was rung nobody knew it was school time.

Similarly, inside you is the gift of God, and I would have you know that God's gifts are without repentance (Romans. 11:29). Once He has given a gift, it's irretrievable.

But like my computer system and that school bell, until you stir up that gift of God inside you, it remains dormant! As I often say, "You must 'sound' your mind for it to become sound." Therefore, your mind has the potential to command attention, but until you 'sound' it, like the bell, it cannot make you an attraction on the earth.

It's A Pool Of Bethesda

Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches.

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.
John 5:2,4**

Your mind can be likened to the pool of Bethesda, which was loaded with healing virtue. But until the water was troubled, the virtue that was capable of healing all manner of diseases was not released to liberate the multitudes that lay there daily. There is substance loaded in your mind that can make you the envy of your generation. It is loaded in there, but until you stir it up, those virtues cannot flow out to bless you and your world!

As a matter of fact, there are some thorny situations you might be going through, that if you will sit down and trouble the virtues stored up in your mind, a solution will emerge.

Remember 1 Corinthians 10:13 says there is no temptation that is beyond your ability to handle; but in every temptation a way of escape is provided to help you overcome it. However you need to sit down and think through to a way of escape. Once you do, your miracle will become manifest.

A young man had just completed his national youth service programme and was looking for a job. According to his testimony, in the month of May, which was prophetically declared as the month of prosperity, he contacted some light from the teachings in our church.

He heard among other things — "Living without working is dying without knowing. Until you work, nothing works. Where there's a will, there will be a way. What you need to succeed is insight, not capital; and the insight you need demands your humility. Until they mock you, God won't make you. If you despise the days of little things, you will never see great days."

With these statements, he felt he did not need more scriptures to prod him into productivity. He went to an aunt of his and asked her to help prepare coconut for him to start selling in the market. Later, he added a teaching job that fetched him twenty naira daily!

As he stayed faithful on his job, God located him and when he was sharing the testimony, he had become a manager in a company! By putting his mind to use he located a way of escape out of joblessness to gainful employment.

E. W. Kenyon, a man blessed with strange depths and insight said, "Make your brain work. It will sweat, but it will improve. It will develop until you become the envy of the people around you."

All men are equally endowed with a mind. But all are not exploiting it the same way, so the results cannot be the same.

Stirring It To Produce

As mentioned earlier, your mind does not produce simply because it is lodged in your head. No, you provoke it to produce! Remember it's the same mind that Christ had that you have, the very same type. But for it to produce outstanding results that will leave mouths agape in amazement, you must "charge" it up. How do you get the battery of your car to generate power? You charge it up! The same thing goes for the mind. For it to produce maximally, it must be charged. In the days of Daniel, king Nebuchadnezzar had a dream and forgot what it was. But the king wanted to be reminded of the dream and told its interpretation. He summoned his astrologers, men he had employed to give him direction, and they said to him:

And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can shew it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh. Daniel 2:11

"A rare thing"! The astrologers acknowledged that no mortal man could gain access to such a mystery except it was revealed by the God of heaven. That means a time will come on planet earth, when men would accept that without the intervention of God certain solutions cannot be obtained. It has begun already.

When Daniel appeared before the king, he was not nervous, because he knew beyond doubt that every question has an answer with God. How then is the mind activated to produce supernatural results?

Go Before The Lord

Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions.

That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

Daniel 2:17—19

Daniel went before the Lord because the inspiration he needed could only come from above. Remember that whatever comes from God is superior to the best on the earth. It is from above, so it is above all (John. 3:31).

That was why Daniel requested for some time to go before the Lord. He knew that God knows the hidden things of darkness. He remembered that all things lay bare before Him and no secret escapes His all—seeing eyes. So he ran to God, and in verse 20, Daniel was rejoicing, because the secret had been delivered to him!

When you are confronted with knotty issues that cannot be solved by common sense, but by operating "heavenly" sense, you need to connect with God in prayers. As Daniel and his colleagues confessed:

But as for me, this secret is not revealed to me for any wisdom that I have more than any living, but for their sakes that shall make known the interpretation to the king, and that thou mightest know the thoughts of thy heart. Daniel 2:30

They admitted that their supernatural result came from standing in God's presence.

Friend, when you understand this strategy, your struggles will end. You will stop running helter—skelter, because you will always know the way out of every difficulty.

In this type of prayer, you are not "bombarding" heaven's gates, but inquiring from God the way to go. I call it meditational praying, because you are not before Him asking for things, but rather seeking His will on certain issues or seeking divine direction.

Personally, when I need to know what next to do or what next step to take, I go before Him in worship. I worship Him in my understanding, then in tongues, and then I keep quiet, waiting. I worship again if I do not hear anything, pausing intermittently, until He answers me.

That is how to get at the ways of God. When you cry and "bombard" heaven, you are asking just for the demonstration of His power, His acts. But when you have His ways, you can make things happen over and over again; you are definitely in charge. His ways disclose to you the "how" of things.

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

Thank God you have the gift of a sound mind, but it must be quickened in

God's presence, as you engage in meditational prayer. *James 1:5—6* says: *If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.*

You do not need to run helter—skelter when you're confronted with challenges; rather, you need to run to God. One all-important condition for receiving from God mentioned in the scripture quoted above is faith.

But let him ask in faith...

That was Daniel's winning ticket — faith. He could confidently say, "Give us time and we will show the king the interpretation of his dream" (Daniel. 2:16). He was not doubting, he knew for sure. He was not going to try God out; he was going, trusting. I often say, "Those who try God live in trials, but those who trust Him live in triumphs."

Friend, there is an answer for every question of your life. You need not be stranded. You need not continue to grope about in darkness; there is light available for you. Once that light comes flooding into you, all the dark areas of your life will be lightened up.

So, go to God in confidence. Tell Him, "Lord, your gifts and callings are without repentance. You have given me a sound mind and I need to discover the way out of this situation. Show it to me, Lord." And I know God will answer you. If things are not working for you as they ought to, do not criticize and run down those for whom things are working. *James 4:2 says, "...Ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not."* Once you ask, you are guaranteed of a response. Remember, *"He that asketh receiveth" (Matthew. 7:7).*

Friend, you have an asset in that mind you possess. You can easily become a star, a man to be envied; but you must take time out to stir it up to produce.

Notice that I have not mentioned secular education as a means of stirring up your mind to produce. It is not an oversight. Why? Because no matter how much secular education you acquire, it cannot match the inspiration from above. No! When you are heaven—inspired, you go on a flight to realms where ordinary men cannot catch up with you.

One man who will ever remain a celebrity for opening Christians up to the power of the mind is Norman Vincent Peale. He wrote the book, *The Power of Positive Thinking* way back in 1952. In 1992, forty years after, they gathered to celebrate the book's anniversary. Fifteen million copies of that book has been sold!

Norman Vincent Peale also wrote 44 other books in his lifetime, all of them best sellers! He passed on in 1993, after seventy—one years in ministry!

Please understand that there is coming a wave of mental revolution in the body of Christ, that will humble the world. Rulers of the world system will come in search of us for solutions to thorny scientific, political and economical issues. So, let's take time out now to encounter light from God's presence.

Possess A Desire To Learn

**Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.
2 Timothy 1:6**

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15

The second avenue for provoking the potentials in your mind to produce is by the act of learning. Learning sharpens your mind. As you read books written by other men of God, you rub minds with them as it were, and with time, your "dull" mind becomes sharp.

Somebody once said that two things that affect the destiny of a man either negatively or positively is the books he reads and the company he keeps. Kenneth Hagin said he never met Smith Wigglesworth, but he read all the books written about him until he wore out the pages and then, as he puts it, "Something jumped upon me."

Kenneth Hagin is today operating under Smith Wigglesworth's type of unction. Hagin's ministry was also re—enforced by E. W. Kenyon's books. Those books became for him major resource materials.

Friend, by studying, you are stirring up the gift of God in you, to make it produce. You are sharpening your mind with sharper minds, to refine it.

For instance, the first time a man comes from the suburb to the city, he is naive and has a village outlook. But keep him in the Government Reserved area and you will suddenly find his former naive looks giving way, and a transformation occurring. That is environmental conditioning.

The books you read also create an environment of enlightenment for you.

Look at Daniel. No book on wisdom is complete without reference to him, because he was one of the most gifted men in terms of mental prowess. Yet you can trace his exploits to the books he read.

In the first year of his reign I Daniel understood by books... Daniel 9:2

This goes to say that reading sparks off understanding in the mind. There is a man called John Hagee. He only recently published a book on Bible prophecies, outlining fourteen events that will precede the coming of Christ and seven others that will follow it.

As I read his book, I sensed God's wisdom resting heavily on him. You get the feeling he is speaking from an entirely different realm. However, I know that such detailed information does not only come from inspiration, but many times from a great deal of perspiration. You need to launch consciously into the deep to dig out such quality materials.

You need an insatiable appetite for knowledge. You must crave to undertake adventures into depths of knowledge to keep your mental system sound.

Paul was undoubtedly a very gifted man. But he did not rely on his gift alone; he sharpened his mind by what I call "heavyweight" studies. He said in **2 Timothy 4:13:**

The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books but especially the parchments.

Please understand that no matter what you are confronted with today, no matter the size of the challenge, it is not beyond you. God has provided a way of escape; all you need is settle down and discover the way out.

Sometime ago, our last daughter was on the brink of death. So, I went into my office, locked the door and said to myself, "Surely, there is a way out of this situation." I then located the book of Prophet Isaiah, who to me is the most valiant warring prophet of the Old Testament. After contacting certain insights from it, I rose up confident that the battle was over and that was it!

Friend, one powerful insight can shatter whatever darkness is hovering around you. But no one can undertake such studies for you, it is a personal responsibility. We still refer to Daniel and Paul today, even though they have been gone hundreds of years now. Why? Because readers are leaders. You can never lead successfully in any area of life until you are a successful reader. Men

of renown are men with a passion for knowledge.

By Impartation

**Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.
2 Timothy 1:6**

God has invested great gifts in certain men, and has ordained that such graces be transmitted to those who desire it through the laying on of hands. Deuteronomy 34:9 says that Joshua was full of the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid hands on him. Therefore Joshua's mind was provoked to produce.

All preparations had been concluded for our ministry to commence when God said to me, "My son, I will not have you go up into ministry until hands are laid on you, in accordance with Deuteronomy 34:9." He went ahead to tell me who to contact for the impartation and I obeyed.

About eleven years later, I was out ministering somewhere and when we finished I rode in the same car with the Chief Judge of the state who said to me, "Brother David, where did you get that electric brain from?" That is the effect of impartation!

Look at Elijah and Elisha. After Elisha received the grace of God at work in Elijah through impartation, Jordan and every other barrier of life gave way to him, and it was so obvious that the spirit of Elijah rested upon him.

Right Company

He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed. Proverbs 13:20

Relationships play a vital role in the sharpening of your mind. For instance, you may know what God has deposited in you, but unfortunately your group of friends may not be a source of encouragement.

If you lack the courage to pursue your goals because you are in the midst of wrong company, you may never realise them.

This is not a joking matter. Many destinies have been ruined as a result of

wrong company and association. I believe that this was one principal reason why Jesus prayed all night before selecting his disciples (Luke. 6:12). He wanted to be sure He got the right men who could reason along the same frequency with him.

**Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. 1
Corinthians 15:33**

Wrong company actually blocks your access to God's ultimate for your life, as it did Abraham's. Remember how when God called him, he took Lot of his own volition and Lot later became a thorn in his flesh. Maybe it was Lot who proposed that they go down to Egypt when the famine was on. Thus, until Lot departed, Abraham could not see clearly. He had been blinded by Lot.

Once a relationship does not bring you positive additions, particularly in your reasoning, you are not safe. There is no toeing the middle line. It is much better to walk alone than to walk with men of unlike minds.

Please make a careful appraisal of your relationships, else what looks "cheerful" today may become "tearful" tomorrow.

It is true that ***Ecclesiastes 4:9*** says, "*Two are better than one.*" but it cannot be just any two people, but two people who can benefit from each other. A relationship where the reasoning faculty is better developed, where each one is motivated to take giant steps, spurred on to achieve greater feats for the kingdom of God. That is what friendship should do for you.

Chapter 7: Discovering Your Potentials

The greatest discovery in life is the discovery of self. It is knowing who you are, and what you are here on earth for.

That is the discovery of self. Please understand that you are unique. You are not a common person; rather, you are peculiar. It does not really matter how many people look like you, nobody else can be you. That explains why as close in resemblance as twins are, they still have different finger prints. Creation is as detailed as that!

The uniqueness of your person should also tell you that you have a unique destiny. God has a plan in place from the foundation of the world concerning you. He has already mapped out what you should accomplish on the earth. He has already formed in His mind an expectation about you. That is why ***Jeremiah 29:11*** in the **Revised Standard Version** says:

For I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Therefore, know that you are a creature of destiny, not of chance. All you need, however, is to make a personal discovery of God's plan for your life and pursue it. A wise man once said, "You don't decide your destiny, you discover it." That is true, because a product does not determine its purpose, the manufacturer does. God is our manufacturer and we are His products. Therefore, our purpose has been determined by Him; all we need do is to discover it.

You cannot make a mark on the earth until you discover your God—ordained purpose and walk in it.

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 1 Corinthians 2:9

The above scripture affirms that God has great things prepared for you when you are accepted in the beloved. But for those things to become manifest, you have a responsibility to discover them.

Discover What Is Within

Every human being has a treasure within. That treasure, when exploited, determines each man's placement in life.

For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

Matthew 25:14—16

The man in this parable gave talents to all his servants. The first man traded with his and multiplied them. The second man traded with his and gained two more, but the last man dug a pit and buried his talent. Jesus said, *"For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country."* Thus signifying that what occurred in this parable obtains also in the kingdom of God.

Therefore, every believer has divine abilities inside him, but what becomes of his destiny is in his discovery and subsequent exploitation of his abilities.

A pointer to your divine abilities is discovering what gives you the utmost joy when you are engaged in doing it. What do you do with the least effort, but which excites and provides you the necessary motivation? Sometimes you may be doing something which you have an interest in, but which you are not gifted for. You thus find yourself struggling with it but accomplishing very little.

When you locate the treasure of God within you, you will not need to struggle at all; it will flow naturally out of you. I am not talking about your qualification, because sometimes your qualifications can trap you into pursuing a career for which you are not gifted. rather, I am saying that there is something inside you that can make you the star God intends you to be.

For instance, there are some people who are simply cut out for business, anything sells in their hands. But they have found themselves in careers where there is no buying and selling. So, such people are frustrated and are under undue pressure.

Others have strayed into ministry. They keep sweating and struggling, but

because God hasn't called them to preach, they do not have the corresponding grace to get the job done.

According to Ecclesiastes 9:10, and based on the covenant, anything you do will prosper. So, you can actually get by doing whatever your hands find to do. But you cannot make a mark on the earth until you locate God's unique purpose for your life. This is practical application of wisdom.

There Are Gifts And Callings

For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance. Romans 11:29

The word gift is translated from the Greek word "charisma", which means "divine gratuity, a spiritual endowment, a free gift". And calling is from the word "Klesis", which means an invitation. In other words, a gift is put inside you by God for trading, and as you discover and develop it, your destiny is secured. But a calling is a vision or an assignment from God.

Both gifts and callings weigh the same before God, but you have a responsibility to make it sure (2 Peter. 1:10).

Let me mention at this point that God's calling is not based on natural abilities, but on predestination. Remember Moses, who was the pastor of the three million congregation in the wilderness? He was a stammerer, although the assignment he was called for required oratory skills. God calls based on His eternal purposes.

You Need Direction

If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct. Ecclesiastes 10:10

One of the benefits of wisdom is direction. Wisdom will show you which way to go. It will tell you that you are not created to roam about on the earth. Wisdom will lead you to a discovery of the plan of God for your life.

There are many people, who in God's agenda are meant to reign on the

earth, but who are still held in chains, because they have not discovered their gifts or located their calling.

There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, as an error which proceedeth from the ruler:

Folly is set in great dignity, and the rich sit in low place.

I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth. Ecclesiastes 10:5—7

So many destinies have crashed because of lack of direction. Parents often make the tragic mistake of teleguiding their children into studying courses for which they have no interest and flair for. So, the child spends a better part of his life battling to pass, when he could have been soaring high effortlessly elsewhere.

Parents, listen: "Don't sit on your children's destiny. You are not their creator. God is, and the prerogative to determine their course in life is His alone!"

I met someone sometime ago in America who had received a call into ministry some ten years earlier, but who had not responded, because he could not approach his father to tell him about the call. He is still struggling through life where he is, doing what he is not called to do. Some people constitute clogs in the wheel of progress of others. Please beware!

Friend, don't let anyone dash your destiny; not physical or spiritual parents, and not older and seemingly more experienced men either. Be willing, however, to discover the treasures hidden in you. Someone once said that for every step you take in life, at least 20% of the people around you will not see it the way you see it.

It was said concerning Jesus in *John 2:24*:

But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men,

Jesus did not commit Himself to men, or else He would have made a shipwreck of His faith. But today you find that many Christians are overtly committed to men.

There is no way a man can know everything, because man is limited in insight. But we have an all-knowing and all-wise God, who has access to

eternal facts. At best, man has access to natural facts; but God knows the end from the beginning. It is therefore better to be connected to the all—knowing God.

Wisdom demands that you sit down and locate the treasures of God inside you. A wise man said, "Find out what you truly love doing and build your daily agenda around it." What you love doing becomes a clue to the gift of God in you.

Chapter 8: The Wisdom Of Identity

Let every man abide in the same calling wherein he was called. Art thou called being a servant? care not for it: but if thou mayest be made free, use it rather.

For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant. Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God. 1 Corinthians 7:20—24

God has deposited great treasures in you, locating it is discovery. However, until you identify with those treasures, you cannot make a mark on the earth.

There is a need to abide by your gift or calling. Identity is what I call the second pillar of wisdom. It is identifying with your discoveries, no matter what. It is sticking to your gift or calling.

An understanding of the subject of identity is of utmost importance, because it is the crux of the problem many Christians are facing today. They have made outstanding discoveries about themselves, but they fail to stay by those discoveries until they begin to speak.

**And the Lord answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it.
Habakkuk 2:2**

When I first began teaching faith, it was not popular. To many, it was a bad subject. We were called fake preachers. We were torn apart on many pulpits. I had the opportunity of losing my identity as a result of the persecution, but I refused to compromise my stand, because my identity is my strength. To me, anyone was free to preach on any subject, but I would not shift my ground for any reason whatsoever.

Psalm 16:11 says:

**Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy;
at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.**

Friend, you can only have pleasures when you have located the path for your life and identify with it. Once you do, you will find that you are neither under pressure nor are you stressed. Rather, you are satisfied and full of joy.

Many years ago, someone asked Billy Graham's associate why he did not start his own ministry. He answered, "I'd rather be number two in God's plan than be number one in my own plan." His destiny was tied to that divine placement.

If he had moved out, perhaps he would have eternally lost the place God had reserved for him in the body of Christ. Why? Because it is not a question of natural abilities such as eloquence, but a matter of calling.

**Art thou called being a servant? care not for it: but if thou mayest
be made free, use it rather. 1 Corinthians 7:21**

God's rating of a man weighs more than that of men. Look at the case of Moses and Aaron for instance. Moses was a fugitive, whereas Aaron was a free citizen. Aaron was also eloquent, a man of words; but Moses was a stammerer. Aaron was the elder, Moses the younger.

When God was looking out for a man to lead His people, He chose the one who was less qualified — Moses. It took an understanding of the wisdom of identity for Aaron to serve under Moses.

I believe it was not Moses who spoke directly to Pharaoh; I believe he instructed Aaron on what to say. Yet Aaron did not let his second position bother him, because that was where his star would shine.

There is a wise man, Jerry Savelle, by name, who was pastoring a struggling church. God told him to close down and go and serve under Kenneth Copeland. He left the church he was pastoring and became a staff in Copeland's ministry. But he found his place in God, and today, he has a thriving ministry of his own.

Stay wherever God has placed you and enjoy being there, because that's where your star will shine. You cannot make a mark on the earth until you identify with your discovery. For instance, I am not more fulfilled now than I was fourteen years ago, because I cannot imagine any other thing I would rather do than preach the gospel. I enjoy my job and I will not give anything in exchange for it.

Some are struggling in pursuit of a career for which they have no flair. Perhaps that is their area of discipline (they have a certificate to show for it), but they are not cut out for it, so they never become authorities in that area, they never become stars. But take that same man, give him some capital to start a business, and you will see him do excellently well in it.

To many, their certificates are their pitfalls. You might be wondering how a graduate of Agriculture can become a spare parts dealer. But that's where his star would shine (Ecclesiastes. 8:1).

You must never allow the fear of what people will think of you rob you of your place in destiny. Refuse to compromise or sell off; otherwise, you will end up the loser.

Identity is where your strength lies. God has caused me to come across many great men, but I will not do things the way they do. I will only do the things God has sent me to do the way He has instructed me to do them. Today, they have come to accept and respect my individuality.

I have been to North America several times, but nobody can make me talk like an American. They cannot talk like me, so why should I talk like them. I often say humorously that no matter how I talk like an American, I can never be one, so what is the point of losing my identity to somebody else!

Also, I have come to appreciate the fact that the differences in colour is only skin deep. When a white man needs a spare kidney, that of a black man will do. That means colour is only superficial; the real man is within!

Beware Of Comparison

For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise. 2 Corinthians 10:12

You are unique by creation. By accepting and embracing your uniqueness, you are securing your destiny. One point at which many people miss it is in the area of comparison. When you start comparing yourself with others you are not wise.

For example, your friend begins a business and you know you have no flair for business, but you jump into it all the same (and become a concern to everybody), all because if he can do it why not you? That is how many, who are by destiny assets in the kingdom, have become liabilities.

Friend, you are only your best when you are in God's place for you. Remember that you have only one life to live, so let your eyelids look straight before you. Do not be ashamed of God's gift in you, or His calling. Turn your back to the comments of men and abide by your discovery; it will soon speak.

Joshua, The Minister

And Moses rose up, and his minister Joshua: and Moses went up into the mount of God. Exodus 24:13

Joshua was a mighty man of valour. He was chosen to be the commander—in chief of the armed forces of Israel. Later on, however, we were told that Moses brought him to work under him as his aide. He became known as Moses' minister; mind you, the word "minister" means steward. But Joshua was content to wait on his master. However, when it was time to choose a man to set over the assembly, God chose him.

Friend, you do not have to experience an identity crisis. Staying wherever God has placed you is the only way to protect your destiny in God. Identity is God's wisdom for ascending your throne in life. It is His tool for realising your place on earth. Don't compromise it!

There Will Be Persecution

Let me mention at this juncture that not everybody will agree with you. Many will not. You may never be commended for pursuing your discovery, but do so nevertheless. Do what God has instructed, no matter what people feel about it. You may be mocked, but those who mock you today will sing your hosanna tomorrow.

When I heard God say to me, "Go and make My people rich," I was alone. To let the opinion of men dissuade me would have been foolishness. When I heard Him, I went all out in my pursuit of that instruction. Today, many wealthy men have been raised as a result of compliance with that commission. Remember, where you are now may be small, but your later end will greatly increase. So, stay where God has placed you, and you will have cause to rejoice in the future.

Chapter 9: Tenacity

Let me introduce you to the next pillar of wisdom — Tenacity. It is defined as holding fast; sticking stiffly. I define it as uncompromised commitment.

Tenacity is a necessary ingredient to add to discovery and identity, because until you are unwaveringly committed to your discovery, you do not have a guarantee of accomplishment. You must come to a point where you are so committed to a course in life that it becomes all you are living for.

Jesus said:

...My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. John 4:34

He was so committed to His mission that it became like food to Him. As He did, He became an eternal star — someone who outlived His time.

Friend, the world will only pay attention to you to the degree to which you pay attention to your work. Accomplishment also obeys the law of seedtime and harvest. To reap it, you need to sow the seed of commitment.

Look at Apostle Paul, a man of unwavering commitment. He said concerning himself:

For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! 1 Corinthians 9:16

He bound himself with an oath to stay faithful to his calling. Even when he was put in prison, he held fast to his calling without a sense of shame (Romans. 1:16). Paul was like the proverbial grain of wheat which falls to the ground and dies, but soon begins to yield much fruit (John. 12:24—26).

He was deadly committed to his calling, so he became fruitful in life. Commitment is the highway to honour. There is no substitute for it!

I remember making a vow when God called me into ministry, that no man serving in the vineyard part—time would outrun me in the race. I reasoned that

I have 24 hours on the job, whereas a part—time minister has only about twelve; so I should be able to produce more than him. It may sound like pride to you, but I was setting a pace for quality input into my job.

If you are running a kiosk, you should be so committed that people see you there early in the morning, welcoming customers with a smile. That way, it will soon become a supermarket. It is lack of commitment that makes a man sleep until mid—morning before going to his place of business. Nobody rises that way.

At the onset of our ministry, I remember that by seven in the morning, I would be in my only suit and be on my way to work. My co—tenants always thought I was a lawyer, because I would not return until late at night. Commitment!

No amount of prayer is a substitute for commitment. Fasting will not take its place either. You only make your calling and election sure by "unshakeable" commitment.

I believe one reason why many givers are not as blessed as they should be because they are lazy. What God blesses is the work of your hand. When you are a hard worker, you provide a channel for Him to release your blessings.

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 1:3

This generation of Christians need an appreciation of the place of commitment in realising their God—given goals. Commitment to God is only foundational; what makes a man is his commitment to his gift or calling.

For instance, God spoke to me to start a Bible School, which would raise the foundation of many other ministries. God had spoken, true. But I still needed to visit other Bible institutes to find out how they were being run.

My investigations revealed how many could not really pin—point what their mission was. So, I sat down to define the mission of the school and to draw up a corresponding curriculum. The result is that eight of the courses are not taught anywhere else in the world! Commitment will bring you to great heights; it will distinguish you.

Joseph was committed to his work in the prison and he became a Prime Minister. Commitment is wisdom, and wisdom enthrones (Proverbs.8:15).

One man who was identified as one committed to a course is Martin Luther King Jr. He was so committed to his course, that he almost single—

handedly fought racism in America and won. He is remembered most for this remarkable statement: "If you can't fly, run. If you can't run, walk. If you can't walk, crawl. By all means keep moving."

No committed man is ever stagnated. You always make progress with commitment.

Chapter 10: Versatility

The last pillar of wisdom we would be considering is Versatility. To be versatile means to possess the ability to turn freely; that is, many—sided ability or something which is capable of many uses.

Your mind, for instance, is versatile; it is capable of many uses. All you require is to engage it strategically for maximum productivity. But there are factors that enhance versatility.

Planning

Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established:

And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches. Proverbs 24:3—4

Planning is the fundamental way of being versatile in your pursuits in life. It is also a smart way to obtain results. Many Christians who are still grounded today, though they have discovered their gifts, have identified with their discoveries and are unwaveringly committed in its pursuit, are so because they are poor planners.

A wise man said, "failing to plan is planning to fail." Planning therefore is God's wisdom for increased productivity.

For instance, since our ministry started, we have never squandered all our income; there has always been money brought forward into the new year. Also in my home, my wife is an excellent planner. Right from when we got married, food never finishes in our home, because she makes sure the money I give her is judiciously spent. Smart planners always obtain results.

Every enterprise is built by wise planning...

I believe that if Christians become covenant planners, the world would not

be able to contain us; we would simply take our world by storms! What is the use of wanting to rent a shop of 200,000 naira, when all you have is 20,000 naira? To make matters worse, you claim God spoke to you! That is not God, it is the devil setting a trap for you.

Your cash should determine the type of shop you rent, not vice versa. It is your budget that should control your purchases, not your purchases your budget.

In another instance, a man wants to buy a pair of shoes which costs twice his income. That is not a need, it is a want. Your desires should be within your income. I often say that there is always a shoe that matches the size of your pocket. So, go to a shop where shoes are sold for 10% of what you earn, and buy from there. That is how to live long!

Through wisdom is an house builded...

On the other hand, husbands who give their wives money they know cannot meet the needs of their Family are being grossly unfair to their wives. They are shylocks! As a husband, give what you know would be sufficient and leave your wife to plan how to spend it, using her God—given wisdom.

Some men, even though they know how little they have provided, make matters worse by making unrealistic demands. He wants turkey, omelette, pork and ham, whereas the money he gave is sufficient only for animal skin!

When my wife asks me what I want to eat, I tell her to give me whatever she has prepared. I am too busy to think about what to eat. But this places a responsibility on her to ensure that nothing finishes in the house, and to plan within the available resources.

Men who cannot believe their wives, but spend the time they should invest on their business, cross—checking the prices of food items in the market are dangerous men. If you cannot trust your wife, you are not a trustworthy person yourself; nobody should believe you.

Friend, planning makes life easy. Remember also that you have a covenant responsibility to your children, so put them into your monthly budget. They are not born to suffer. All our children have monthly allowances, so that their needs are taken care of. From their allowances, they pay their tithe and give offerings.

These are some ways to put that versatile mind of yours to work. You don't have to live in crisis. By engaging your mind, you can walk out of problem and emerge in bright colours.

Therefore, I advise that you create a place in your house you call

"Thinking Corner". Go there, sit down with paper and pen and begin to plan how to make the best of your days, your time, your money, etc. If you are able to think through, you will inevitably end up a success.

Get At The Facts

Any enterprise is built by wise planning, becomes strong through common sense, and profits wonderfully by keeping abreast of the facts. Proverbs 24:3—4 (TLB)

A fact is a truth, reality or a real state of things. There are natural, technical and spiritual facts. A natural fact is a truth pertaining to nature. For instance, the sun rises in the east and sets in the west — that is a natural fact. A technical fact, on the other hand, is a truth pertaining to art or applied science. For example, electrical facts. But spiritual facts are superior to all, because whatever is from above is above all.

We have seen natural and technical facts producing outstanding results. Then you can imagine what spiritual facts will produce! That is why men who are linked up with spiritual facts effortlessly excel in all areas of life.

I often say that all candidates in an examination have an idea, but only those with the relevant facts score fat marks. Facts make you stand out!

Unfortunately, however, few Christians are interested in gathering the facts on their jobs, businesses, Family life or even ministry. But your job cannot be "fatter" than the facts you have access to.

For instance, someone who wants to begin a business ought to have practical facts on what to deal in, where to find the goods, what time of the year they sell fastest and best, what profit he should expect to make and how to beat others in the open market. It is not just buying and selling. The success of your business depends on the facts you have collated.

Many pastors need to be pastored, because they don't have any facts on pastoring. They think it only entails flipping through the pages of the Bible and preaching messages. But pastoring involves administration too. So he keeps struggling, because pastoring is not solely a function of the degree of the anointing, but also a function of wisdom for proper administration.

Another instance is on financial prosperity. You do not prosper simply because you are a giver, no. There are other facts you need to have to ensure that your giving produces. One of those facts is that God expects you to give according to what you have. He knows your financial position per time, and does not ask you to give to a point where you become a borrower or beggar.

Some people even borrow to give. No, you need to locate the facts on prosperity and you will go flying!

Every fact you locate and apply puts you in control of life's circumstances. They put you in charge that the devil is permanently kicked out of your life. Friend, you need to be in touch with what it takes to triumph cheaply in life, and that is facts!

Reason Your Way To The Top

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: Isaiah 1:18—19

Reasoning is godliness! Godliness simply means god—like—ness. Therefore, reasoning is a quality of God. There was a time when some Christians advocated that the ability to reason was of the devil. Reasoning is of God and should be utilised by Christians. Jesus, for example, succeeded through actively engaging His mind. He always knew what to do, so He must have had cause to think through issues.

No man can make reasonable results without reasoning. You must be prepared to set time aside, sit down and "lay your cards on the table." Ask yourself what you should do to multiply your capital base, your profit margin, etc. Your brain can do more than a million things if you will task and make it work.

I often say that you do not need more capital; all you need is a "capital" sense. Thank God you have it; so go and make it work! Remember that you have the mind of Christ and if Christ could not be trapped in a crisis, neither should you, if you stir up your mind through reasoning.

One man who reasoned his way out of suffering was the prodigal son. He came to himself one day, sat down and arranged the relevant facts before him. He analysed his present position and designed a technique to get out of his quagmire. He listed out the total number of servants his father had and estimated the quantity of food they ate annually and how much went to the dogs. Then he picked up a pen and wrote down his findings. He arrived at the logical conclusion that home was his best bet out of starvation.

When it dawned on him that he could not simply appear before his father looking bewildered and dumbfounded, he resolved what to say upon arriving at

home.

**I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee,
And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.**

And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him. Luke 15:18—20

I often wonder where the devil was when he sat down to work out his liberty? Friend, the devil is not your problem! Imagine the case of a man who sits down with 10,000 naira in his hand, not knowing what to do with it. When he must have spent more than half of it, he would then start "believing God" again.

You can reason your way to your throne in life. Friend, you can build a tower through qualitative reasoning. Sit down and count the cost, settle down and organise the materials for your tower.

For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?

Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him,

Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Luke 14:28—30

You can get the best out of the covenant, you can produce the best result in life. You have what it takes, so put your covenant mind to work. You will make it.

Chapter 11: Wise Men Are Winners

For the Lord giveth wisdom...

**He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous...
Proverbs 2:6—7**

**I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty
inventions. Proverbs 8:12**

Christianity is a walk in wisdom, contrary to popular beliefs. The Church had in time past thought that being born again meant the stagnation or total redundancy of one's mental faculties.

But from the above scriptures, we discover that God Himself gives wisdom; and He gives it to the righteous. God, by wisdom, created the heavens and the earth and has also given man this same wisdom to create his world.

Statistics show that more than half of the scientific inventors were Christians. The industrial revolution in Europe came in the heels of the enlightenment of the Church, and so we find that most of the inventions came through regenerated minds — Michael Faraday (electricity), James Clerk Maxwell (theoretical physicist), Sir Ambrose Fleming (pioneer of power), are a few of such inventors. In contemporary times, we have Ben Carson, a world famous neuro surgeon. Through inspiration and devotedness, he found a new and better way to neuro surgery. He is a surgeon with gifted hands, who has performed unimaginable and very dangerous brain operations in the world.

At 22 he performed a brain surgery, and at 23, he separated a set of siamese twins, who were joined at the head and brain. His specialty in high risk cases earned him the title of World Best and Famous Neuro Surgeon at the age of 32. He is the Director of Paediatrics Neuro Surgery and a medical nobel laurette.

Below are brief biographies of some other Christian inventors.

Sir James Simpson (Discoverer Of Chloroform)¹

On his first day as a medical student, Simpson took his place with the

spectators round the operating table. There were no clean antiseptic walls, gowns or masks in those days, and worse still, there were no anaesthetics. A patient was brought into the room, pale with terror, and laid on the table. The assistants held her down firmly and a bowl was put in the right place to catch the blood.

Then Liston, his black gentleman's suit protected only by a small apron, took up his knife, and with Simpson taut and horrified, he plunged the knife into his patient. Terrifying screams rent the air, and buried deep into the mind of Simpson a longing to see the end of consciousness and suffering in surgery.

So brief was the medical training in those days that Simpson qualified as a member of the Royal College of Surgeons at eighteen. For a time, he assisted the village doctor at Bathgate, then returned to Edinburgh to take his Doctor of Medicine degree and to stay as an assistant member of the hospital staff. He earned £50 a year, and took every opportunity for research work. In fact, he spent all his energies on getting honours, and they soon came his way.

Because of the success of his research work, he was elected the Senior President of the Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh when he was only twenty—four. But even while the laurels were being bestowed, he was beginning to feel an undercurrent of dissatisfaction and unrest in his life.

"Yesterday was my twenty—sixth birthday, and what a fearful waste of time is summed up in that little numeral...it is awful to think how such a small fraction of time out of these twenty—six years has been employed as it ought to have been. I am always sad on my birthday and yesterday sadder than ever. It was one of those days, those fitful days of gloom, in which the past appeared to me as almost lost, and the future as a labyrinth of vexation and disappointment."

Simpson was asking himself, "What is life for?" But his hopes and ambitions were too active for such a fundamental question of life to vex him for long. He believed in this world and he believed that his work would win success and happiness. That was all there was to it.

Then, in 1846, the news came from America that a successful anaesthetic had been discovered — ether. Within months, Robert Liston had tried it in Scotland, but the dangers and disadvantages of ether were too great and a more satisfactory anaesthetic had to be found.

Simpson joined the struggle to find the answer, and through the summer and autumn of 1846 he and his helpers tried drug after drug, sniffing, tasting and recording the effects on themselves. Eventually they tried chloroform. The local chemist suggested it in the first place, but failed to produce a bottle.

With typical impatience, Simpson immediately obtained some from

another town, but when he examined it he shook his head rather dubiously. "After seeing such an unvolatile liquid, I despaired of it."

The bottle lay untouched for a few days until one evening, Simpson decided to try it as a long shot. His helpers, Dr Duncan and Dr Keith, set out three tumblers, Simpson poured a little into each one, and then they breathed the fumes deeply. For a moment there was no effect, then Dr Keith began laughing loudly, Duncan danced round the room like a child and Simpson felt very, very drunk. Suddenly, all three lost their senses and collapsed. They had found their better anaesthetic, and in no time it was introduced to the operating theatre to be hailed as a resounding success.

Simpson first tried chloroform for a mother in labour. She was so excited about the less painful birth that she named her baby girl Anaesthesia!

The famous doctor was urged to repent of his sins before God and to trust only in Christ's death for salvation. No one who earnestly seeks Christ in repentance is ever turned away, and by Christmas 1858, James Simpson knew that he was a changed man — a newly—converted Christian.

His whole attitude to life changed. He found that he possessed a new understanding of God, and of His Word — the Bible. He could pray feeling fully as never before, and God answered his prayers. He felt a deep certainty within that God had made him His child, and he wanted above all else to serve Him and know Him more.

Henry J. Heinz (Heinz Foods)²

Heinz was the eldest boy of a Family of German immigrants. To Henry Heinz, Jesus Christ was the Lord of heaven and earth; above and beyond, yet everywhere; in the Heinz household and in the lives of his parents.

Heinz said in later years, "In living for the Master and serving Him, something have been incalculably helpful and I turn with grateful heart to the teaching of my mother. Many of her sayings ever stand guard around my thoughts and influence my actions."

As the firstborn of their eight children, Henry's parents hoped that he would become a church minister, but he was so successful and indispensable in the garden, and later in the Family business, that nothing ever came of it. He was only ten when his gardening activities led to his selling a wheelbarrow— full of vegetables round the village every day, and at twelve he was growing enough to load a horse and cart. Even at this age he could react with speed and effectiveness to adult—sized problems.

In 1869 (at age 25), he took a plot of land, two rooms and a cellar to begin the production of bottled horse radish. The trouble with fresh horse radish was its preparation. Washing and grating it was worse experience than peeling onions. But Heinz put an end to this painful household chore by turning out bottles of ready—grated horse radish by the thousand. His product was an instant and spectacular success.

While the firm grew — with all its attendant problems, Heinz still found time to run his local Sunday School. He prepared meetings, led the worship of the children, taught and gave spiritual counsel with an affection which was seldom forgotten by his "scholars."

As he devised new manufacturing processes, evolved sales methods and concocted recipes, the firm saw rapid expansion. Extra land was acquired, new factories erected and an even greater variety of products introduced. Premises must be the cleanest everywhere and the buying of raw materials and the selling methods must be absolutely straight and fair.

H. J. Heinz was one of the first few American companies to introduce staff welfare facilities.

The founder insisted that the firm provided staff with dining rooms, locker rooms, dressing rooms, gymnastics, swimming pools, uniforms, free hospital and dental treatments, free life insurance and further education facilities. The result was that few people ever left the sprawling Heinz empire at Pittsburgh. At the centre of it all, Heinz remained in the words of one of his executives — "a monument of inner peace."

Throughout his life, he continued to be very active as a Sunday School Superintendent, giving very considerable financial support to Sunday School work in numerous churches. For 25 years, he helped to build up and run a statewide organization for the encouragement of Sunday School work and participated in many special campaigns to visit homes and encourage people to attend church. He also sponsored the promotion of Sunday School in such faraway places as Japan.

At the time of his death in 1919, Heinz's firm had 6,523 employees, 26 factories, 227 offices and other premises and 100,000 acres of farmland. The obituaries published fairly reflected his own order of priorities in life: "Henry J. Heinz, churchman, philanthropist, manufacturer..."

The Dean of Pittsburgh University said, "The real passion of his life was his religion." Henry Heinz made it clear what he meant by religion in the preface of his last will and testament as "... the most important item...a confession of my faith in Jesus Christ as my saviour."

Daniel Defoe (Author of Robison Crusoe)³

Daniel Defoe, being conscious of his wasted past and yet believing God would fulfil a promise made in the Bible, "I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten," strove to be as active as possible in Christian work for 15 years of his later years in life.

The Lord did bless his later years, so much so that subsequent generations were to associate his name with the books he wrote, which bore a testimony to the covering power of the saviour. The once vain social climber had become a humble genuine and warm person, concerned for the eternal souls of those around him.

All the knowledge of the Bible and of the Lord so long covered up by the years took on new relevance after his conversion and rapid progress in his walk with God. His tongue went to work in personal witness: explaining to others the change which had taken place in his life.

The books he wrote included: *The Family Instructor* —Which broke all sales records and which King George 1 read regularly to his children; and *Robinson Crusoe* — his best known novel, in which he described his personal conversion to Christ most graphically.

A number of further novels followed: *The Life, Adventure and Piracies of the Famous Captain Singleton* (another best seller, which also had a conversion message written in it).

The Misfortunes of the famous Moll Flonders, The Remarkable Life of Colonel Jack and The Fortunate Mistress – all constitute his remarkable writings; and all had underlying repentance and conversion themes.