



The Power At Work In The Christian

Tofunmi Akinyemi

THE POWER AT WORK IN THE CHRISTIAN

Complimentary copy from the
author. God BLESS ;
Akinyemi.
17/08/24.

TOFUNMI AKINYEMI

The Power at work in the Christian

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In Celebration of the 21st. Anniversary of “The Maranatha Commission”. **TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!!**

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The Power at work in the Christian

Is Presented

To: -----

By: -----

On: -----

“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know... what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe....” Ephesians 1:17-19 (Emphasis mine).

DEDICATION

Specially and lovingly dedicated to all the “Princes and Princesses” of “the King of kings” in all the nations of the world!!! The Almighty God our Father will continually use us to win more souls for the Kingdom; and uphold us all till the end in JESUS CHRIST's Name, Amen.

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SPECIAL APPRECIATION

I offer my heartfelt praise to the Almighty GOD for the salvation of my soul; and His preservation in the race. I thank Him for His amazing love, immeasurable goodness, kindness, mercy and faithfulness; and for His Victory and Glory!!!

“Praise the Lord!

Praise God in His sanctuary;

Praise Him in His mighty firmament!

Praise Him for His mighty acts;

Praise Him according to His excellent greatness!

Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet;

Praise Him with the lute and harp!

Praise Him with the timbrel and dance;

Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes!

Praise Him with loud cymbals;

Praise Him with clashing cymbals!

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.”

Psalm 150:1-6.

Daddy, I am eternally grateful!!!

Your daughter by grace,

Princess Oluwatofunmi Akinyemi.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I immensely thank the Almighty GOD for the gift of life, the treasured privilege to be His child; and be usable of Him. Thank You, Daddy, for helping me to write this book. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!!

I am very grateful to my husband, Kola, and all our children; for their unflinching support over the years. Our reward shall be sweet at the coming of our Commander-in Chief; even our Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST.

I thank the Ministry's Staff and all who have supported the Ministry over the years. Your support is really appreciated so, please, don't relent. The Almighty God will surely reward our labour of love in JESUS Name, Amen.

Also, gratitude is due to the Heart of Words, U.K. for the cover design; Esthom Graphic Prints, Ibadan, for the printing work; and all who have added value to my life along life's path. God, bless you all in Jesus Name, Amen.

"Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory forever and ever." 1 Timothy 1:17.

Tofunmi Akinyemi (Mama Jochebed)
Aluru, Ondo State, NIGERIA.

PART ONE

THE BLESSED TRINITY

CHAPTER ONE

THE ALMIGHTY GOD

The Almighty God is the Creator of heaven and earth; and all therein, including mankind - the crown of His creation!

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth... God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”
Genesis 1:1, 27 & 28.

✦ The Power at Work in the Christian

The uncreated Creator!

God is the uncreated Creator of the entire Universe! He is Self-existent; that is, He exists by Himself!

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God." Psalm 90:2.

God is Almighty

The Almighty God is:

- ◆ **Omnipotent**; that is, He is all-powerful! *"For with God nothing will be impossible."* Luke 1:37.

God owns all the Power in Heaven and on earth; and His authority is effective in all realms – heaven, earth and under the earth!

- ◆ **Omnipresent** - God is present everywhere at the same time!

"Can anyone hide himself in secret places, so I shall not see him?" says the Lord; "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the Lord." Jeremiah 23:24.

✦ The Almighty God

- ◆ **Omniscient** – God knows and sees all things in the whole wide world! Therefore, His judgement is just and very reliable.

"And there is no creation hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to Whom we must give account." Hebrews 4:13.

- ◆ **The Final authority over situations!**

The Almighty God has the final say over all situations and circumstances!

"Who is he who speaks and it comes to pass when the Lord has not commanded it?" Lamentations 3:37.

- ◆ **The Judge of all.**

"... God the Judge of all..." Hebrews 12:23.

God is the Honourable Chief Justice of the entire Universe; and He is the just Judge!

He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are justice. A God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He." Deuteronomy 32:4.

↻ The Power at Work in the Christian

God is unequalled!

There is none like God; none is comparable to Him! The Almighty God says of Himself:

"To whom will you liken Me, and make Me equal and compare Me, that we should be alike? ... For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me." Isaiah 46:5 & 9b.

God is Unquestionable, yet Kind!

God does as He pleases in His Entire Universe; and no one can question Him.

"Whatever the Lord pleases He does in Heaven and on earth, in the seas and in all deep places." Psalm 135:6.

However, He does not oppress mankind with His Power; because God is infinitely good, kind, merciful and loving. Alleluia!

"As for the Almighty, ... He is excellent in power, in judgement, and abundant justice; He does not oppress." Job 37:23.

↻ The Almighty God

God is the Unconquerable Warrior

"... The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle." Psalm 24:8.

The Almighty God is the great Warrior Who cannot be conquered by anyone! God can use circumstances, or any of the things He created to fight and win His battles.

"... The great, the mighty God whose name is the Lord of hosts." Jeremiah 32:18.

God is Holy

"... Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory." Isaiah 6:3.

The holiness of God means that God is perfect and without sin; in fact, He cannot sin! God is completely good; He cannot make mistakes or do evil.

"... There is no iniquity with the Lord our God...." 2 Chronicles 19:7b.

God's holiness can also be seen in the sense that He cannot behold evil.

"You are of purer eyes than to behold evil, and cannot look on wickedness...." Habakkuk 1:13a.

✦ The Power at Work in the Christian

All the other attributes of God emanate from His holiness; that is, God's holiness makes Him loving, kind, just, wise, merciful, faithful and gracious etc.

God is the President of His Universe

The Almighty God is in control of His universe; and He rules over all. *"The Lord has established His throne in heaven, and His kingdom rules over all"* Psalm 103:19.

God's reign is eternal

God's rule does not end. *"... His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and His dominion is from generation to generation."* Daniel 4:3b.

God is Ageless

The Almighty God is ageless. *"And God said to Moses 'I AM WHO I AM' ... thus shall you say to the children of Israel. I AM has sent me to you."* Exodus 3:14.

God is Immortal

The Almighty God does not die; and cannot die! God is alive forevermore! *"... from everlasting to everlasting, You are God."* Psalm 90:2c.

God lives in timelessness!

"For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in

✦ The Almighty God

"... with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."

2 Peter 3:8.

God is a Consuming Fire!!!

"We see one of the descriptions of the nature or character of God in Moses' exhortation to the children of Israel to be obedient to God.

"Take heed to yourselves, lest you forget the covenant of the Lord your God... for the Lord your God is a consuming fire," Deuteronomy 4:23 & 24.

In the New Testament, believers in Christ are also admonished to have reverential fear for God; and live to please Him.

"For our God is a consuming fire." Hebrews 12:29.

In view of the above, we see that as much as God is very loving, merciful and long-suffering, He will not by any means compromise His holiness; sin will surely be judged....

Please, be reminded that:

"It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Hebrews 10:31."

Tofunmi Akinyemi in the Book "The Knowledge of God" (pp.85 & 86).

God is Love

The Almighty God is Love! God is the perfect example of Love; He has selfless, unconditional love for mankind!

"... God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins." 1 John 4:8-10.

God's Love in Action

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

It was this love that made God to send Jesus Christ, His only begotten Son to die for the sins of the world; to save mankind from sin.

"Do I have any pleasure at all that the wicked should die? Says the Lord God, and not that he should turn from his way and live?" Ezekiel 18:23.

Have you responded to this gesture of love from the Almighty God? Have you received His Love Gift for the salvation of your soul? If yes, please keep going for Jesus Christ till the end of your life.

If you have not received God's Love Gift, this is not good. It is very impolite for you to be indifferent, or refuse the Love Gift from the Almighty God! Therefore, now is the time to embrace God's precious Gift! (See Chapter 18 for details).

In Conclusion

As we continue on life's journey, it is wise to:

- ◆ Get connected to this Almighty God through Jesus Christ.
- ◆ Live one's days in the fear of God.
- ◆ Daily live in obedience to Him.
- ◆ Put our trust in Him completely; He is Almighty and faithful!
- ◆ Tell others about Him: and how great He is!

✦ The Power at Work in the Christian

- ◆ Always give Him quality praise, worship and thanksgiving.

"You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory, and honour and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."

Revelation 4:11.

✦ CHAPTER TWO

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Second Person of the Godhead; being God-incarnate! That is, while physically on earth, Jesus Christ was God in the bodily form *"For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily."* Colossians 2:9.

The word "Christ" means "the anointed One"; which means Jesus Christ is the anointed One. He is also called "the Messiah", meaning the Saviour.

Jesus Christ's Divinity

- ◆ The Word became flesh

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God..."

us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” John 1:1 & 14 (Emphasis mine).

The Almighty God is the Word Who had been from the beginning (John 1:1); and this Word became flesh as the only begotten Son of the Father (John 1:14).

Please note: The above verses also show that Jesus Christ had been with God from the beginning; and He is one with God (John 1:1& 14).

- ◆ God-incarnate

As above-mentioned, while physically on earth, Jesus Christ was God-incarnate. In Jesus Christ, the Almighty God took on a human body *“For with God nothing will be impossible”* Luke 1:37.

Also, one of the Names given to Jesus Christ ever before He was born was *“... ‘Immanuel’, which is translated, ‘God with us.’* Matthew 1:23 (see also Isaiah 7:14). Therefore, we can safely say Jesus Christ in His bodily form was *“God with us”*.

- ◆ His sinlessness

The Lord Jesus Christ was sinless *“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, so that we might*

become the righteousness of God in Him.” 2 Corinthians 5:21.

The Lord Jesus Christ is described as a High Priest who is *“... holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners...”* Hebrews 7:26.

Also, the Bible says that Jesus Christ *“... was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”* Hebrews 4:15.

Jesus Christ's Humanity

The humanity of Jesus Christ was established through His coming into the world in the flesh (John 1:14); that is, Jesus Christ was fully human when He took on the bodily form. However, He still retained His divine nature. He is also referred to as the *“Son of God”*.

- ◆ His Birth

The birth of Jesus Christ was predicted years before He was born. *“... Behold the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”* Isaiah 7:14.

He was born of a virgin as foretold (Luke 2:1-7); was dedicated in the Temple on the eighth day (Luke 2:21).

- ◆ Physical Growth and traits

Our Lord Jesus Christ grew up physically like every other child. *“And the Child grew and became strong in spirit,*

filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him." Luke 2:40.

Also, like every other human being, our Lord Jesus Christ was hungry (Mark 11:12); tired (John 4:6); wept (John 11:35); slept (Mark 4:38); compassionate:

"But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd." Matthew 9:36 (Emphasis mine).

- ◆ The empathetic Saviour

As above-mentioned, Jesus Christ is very compassionate; therefore, He can identify with our feelings when we are weary, discouraged, tired; or when we weep.

"Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus Christ the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathise with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin." Hebrews 4:14 & 15 (Emphasis mine).

The purpose of Christ's Coming

Jesus Christ was born to save mankind from the afflictions and penalty of sin.

"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved" John 3:17.

"And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world." 1 John 2:2.

Salvation through Jesus Christ

The Almighty God in His Wisdom and mercy has perfected the plan of salvation for mankind through Jesus Christ. The Bible says:

"... repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations" Luke 24:47.

"And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among people by which we must be saved [for God has provided the world no alternative for salvation]." Acts 4:12 (AMP).

Jesus Christ died and was buried!

"... Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried," 1 Corinthians 15:3 & 4a.

After the death of Jesus Christ on the Cross, He was buried *"...in a tomb that was hewn out of the rock, where no one had ever lain."* Luke 23:53.

A big stone was rolled over the tomb where our Lord Jesus was laid. Furthermore, the tomb was securely sealed; and heavily guarded by soldiers.

"... they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard." Matthew 27:66.

Jesus Christ rose from the dead!

"... He rose... the third day according to the Scriptures" 1 Corinthians 15:4.

Yes, our Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead!

"...In spite of all the "precautions" taken by the Jewish religious leaders to forestall the resurrection of Jesus Christ, He arose from the dead on the third day according to the Scriptures. Death could not hold Him in the grave! The King of Glory arose! ALLELUIA!

The Empty Tomb!

The women who came with spices to anoint the Body of Jesus Christ were astonished, and at the same time joyous about what they saw. An angel has rolled away the stone and sat on it.

"... the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay." Matthew 28:5 & 6.

The tomb was empty! Jesus Christ has risen! ALLELUIA!

The validity of Christianity

The empty grave is a symbol of triumph for Christianity. The resurrection of Jesus Christ validates His Person, His teaching, and of course the Christian faith. Therefore, the salvation message is reliable and very worthy of acceptance."

Tofunmi Akinyemi in the book "The Knowledge of God", pp. 23 & 24.

Jesus' post-resurrection period

After the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead *"... He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.*

After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once.... He was seen by James, then by all the Apostles...." 1 Corinthians 15:4-8.

Christ's Ascension and Glorification

Jesus Christ ascended into heaven (Luke 24:50-52); and is glorified to be seated at God's right Hand in the heavenly places! There, Jesus Christ is exalted far above all the wicked forces of darkness; and every name that is named in all ages. (Ephesians 1:19-21).

He has been given the most excellent Name; His Name is above all other names! All "knees" must bow to the Name of Jesus Christ! (Philippians 2:9-11).

Jesus Christ is the Christian's Advocate (1 John 2:1); Shepherd (John 10:11); and Intercessor (Hebrews 7:25) etc.

Jesus is coming Soon!

When our Lord Jesus Christ was ascending into Heaven:

"... behold two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven." Acts 1:10 & 11 (Emphasis mine).

Our Lord Jesus Christ Himself confirms His second coming by saying:

*"... "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen..."
Revelation 22:20.*

Exact time Unknown!

The exact time of Jesus Christ's Arrival is unknown! "But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only." Matthew 24:36 (Emphasis mine).

Since the exact time of Jesus Christ's arrival is unknown, Christians are to live each moment as if Christ is coming that very moment; so that one will not be put to shame at His arrival.

"Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming.... Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect" Matthew 24:42 & 44.

The Grand Prize-giving Day

There is going to be "the Grand Prize-giving Day" at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ! He is coming with rewards in His Hands; to give per how faithfully we have lived and worked for Him!

"Behold, I (Jesus) am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to give each one according to the merit of his deeds (earthly works, faithfulness)." Revelation 22:12 (AMP).

In Conclusion

Are you ready for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ? To be ready is to genuinely repent from sin; ask for God's forgiveness; accept Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour; and keep going for Him till the end of your life.

If backslidden, quickly repent from all besetting sin now! No matter how deep you have gone into sin, if you are sincerely sorry, God will not cast you away. Ask God to forgive you; and rededicate your life to Jesus Christ. Live the rest of your life for God's glory.

"And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies Himself, just as He is pure" 1 John 3:3.

✠ CHAPTER THREE

THE PERSON AND MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Godhead; and One with the Almighty God and our Lord Jesus Christ. That is, the Almighty God, the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are One.

The Holy Spirit operates in the fullness of the Power of God Almighty; and is often referred to as the Spirit of God. He works in perfect oneness with God and our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit had existed with God before the foundation of the world.

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form

and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters." Genesis 1:1 & 2 (Emphasis mine).

The Person of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is a Person and not a "force" or "thing"! Therefore, it is very wrong and a big insult to use "it" for the Holy Spirit!

"Please, note that in the Scriptures, "He", "Who", and "Himself" are used to refer to the Holy Spirit. This shows that the Holy Spirit is a Person and NOT a thing, or a force. Some of the Names He has been called includes – the Comforter, Guide, Teacher and Spirit of God."

Tofunmi Akinyemi in the Book "The Knowledge of God" (pg.32).

Further Descriptions of the Holy Spirit

As above-mentioned, the Holy Spirit is a Person. Therefore, He can speak to implore, instruct, guide, correct and reveal things that will happen in the future etc. Our Lord Jesus Christ says:

"... the [a] Helper (Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor – Counsellor, Strengthener, Standby), the Holy Spirit, whom the Father

will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will help you remember everything that I have told you."
John 14:26 (AMP).

The Bible has records of the Holy Spirit's guidance to Christians. For example, Apostle Peter was instructed by the Holy Spirit to follow Cornelius' messengers to him. Peter said, "*Then the Holy Spirit told me to go with them, doubting nothing....*" Acts 11:12.

Also, the Holy Spirit has emotions. He can be grieved when a Christian commits sin; or have a continuous sinful lifestyle. This is very dangerous, hence the Bible's admonition:

"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by Whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." Ephesians 4:30.

The Holy Spirit can do as He wills. For example, concerning the distribution of spiritual gifts to Christians, the Bible says:

"But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills." 1 Corinthians 12:11.

✦ The Power at Work in the Christian

The Holy Spirit has the mind of God. "... For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God. For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God." 1 Corinthians 2:10 & 11.

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit is both to those who are born again; and those who are yet to become born again.

(i). To the Saved

This refers to all who have truly repented from sins; and received Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Saviour. To this group of people, the Holy Spirit is our all-round Helper in the Christian race.

The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit lives in all children of God (those who are genuinely born again and living for Christ); and dwells with them. Those not yet born again cannot have the Holy Spirit because they don't even see nor know Him; not to talk of having Him. Our Lord Jesus Christ says:

"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth – whom the

✦ The Person and Ministry of The Holy Spirit

world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you." John 14:16 & 17.

The Holy Spirit interacts and fellowships with Christians to empower, guide, teach, help, comfort, correct, strengthen and sustain Christians in the race.

"However, when He, the Spirit of truth has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak of His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak, and He will tell you things to come." John 16:13.

Indeed, the Holy Spirit is the All-Sufficient Helper to the Christian!

(ii). To the Unsaved

This refers to those who are not yet born again. The work of the Holy Spirit is to touch their hearts to convict them of their sins. This is for them to see their need for repentance, genuinely repent; and receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

"And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of

This means that, it is the Holy Spirit Who convicts the unsaved of their sins; and make them see the need to be born again. That is, He is the One Who touches the hearts of the unsaved to see the need to repent from sin; and surrender to Christ Jesus as Lord.

How to relate with the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is the Helper that we Christians cannot do without on the Christian journey. It is therefore very important to relate with Him correctly for our welfare; both in this world and in eternity.

The Christian is to be aware of the Presence of the Holy Spirit with us and in us; and honour Him through a life of holiness.

"... do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's." 1 Corinthians 6:19 & 20 (Emphasis mine).

Christians are to regularly keep in touch with the Holy Spirit on the Christian journey by:

- ◆ Continually depending on Him for the Power to successfully run the Christian race; and work in the Kingdom to fulfil God's purpose for our lives.
- ◆ Regularly fellowshiping with Him in the studying and meditation on the Word; and in prayers. These sustain us in the Christian race; and provide maximum benefit from the Ministry of the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ Trusting Him to touch and convict the hearts of the people we preach to.
- ◆ Also, trusting Him to help us nurture and disciple converts; and Congregation members (for those who are Pastors).
- ◆ Seeking His guidance and direction before making decisions and choices; and before taking actions on all issues of life.
- ◆ Having implicit trust in Him and obeying His guidance; that is, giving Him thoroughfare in our lives and situations.
- ◆ Offering quality praise, worship and thanksgiving to Him; and the Blessed Trinity.
- ◆ Returning all the glory to Him for His Ministry in us and through us; and thanking Him for His Ministry in the world; and generally, in Christendom.

Beware of Sin!

Christians should stay away from sin because it defiles, breaks our fellowship with the Holy Spirit our Helper; and thereby robs us of the needed grace for the race! Except one quickly repents, sin brings destruction in the end!

Therefore, if a Christian errs, one should not gloss over it; but quickly repent and ask for God's forgiveness. This restores the Christian to fellowship with the wonderful Holy Spirit.

"... If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world." 1 John 2:1 & 2.

However, this is not a license for the Christian to keep toying with sin; as this will be an abuse of God's grace!

"... Should we continue in sin as a habit so that [God's gift of] grace may increase and overflow? Certainly not! How can we, the very ones who died to sin, continue to live in it any longer? Romans 6:1 & 2.

In Conclusion

We are to constantly stand in awe of the Holy Spirit; and be careful not to grieve Him through sin. Let us always remember the Bible's admonition which says:

"And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by Whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." Ephesians 4:30

⊕ CHAPTER FOUR

THE SYMBOLS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

There are many symbols used in the Bible to describe different things and persons to give us a clearer understanding of them. For example, Christians are referred to as "the body of Christ" to teach us the importance of unity in diversity (See 1 Corinthians 12:12-27).

Also, our Lord Jesus Christ is referred to as the Lamb because of His atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world:

"... in the midst of the throne... stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, ... the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb... and they sang a new song, saying... You were slain, and have

redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation." Revelation 5:6-9 (Emphasis mine).

The Symbols of the Holy Spirit

There are some symbols used in the Bible to describe the Holy Spirit. This is to give us a better understanding of His Person and Ministry.

"... Mentioned below are some of these symbols and what each tells us about the Person of the Holy Spirit!

- ◆ DOVE

"And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My Beloved Son, in You I am well pleased." Luke 3;22.

The dove is usually referred to as "the sheep of the bird world" because of its gentle disposition. The dove also has a very sympathetic nature. The Holy Spirit is gentle, very sympathetic and comforting.

- ◆ OIL

"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were

oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him." Acts 10:38.

Oil is usually used to anoint. It is either to equip/set apart for service; also, to break yokes or to heal.

Therefore, The Holy Spirit as oil anoints, breaks yokes and gives all-round healing; whether physical, emotional or spiritual healing. ALLELUIA!

- ◆ FIRE

"Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit..." Acts 2: 3 & 4.

Fire refines and makes pure; for example, when raw gold passes through fire, the dross is removed and it becomes brighter and more beautiful. So also, the Holy Spirit is Fire! He refines and purifies the believer thereby removing one's spiritual dross. He subsequently sets us ablaze in God's love so that we can come out brighter and better Christians!

- ◆ WIND

"Now when the Day of Pentecost has fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there was a sound from

heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting... and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit...." Acts 2:1-4.

"The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from or where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." John 3:8.

The wind is powerful and clears off everything in its way or on its path! As wind, the Holy Spirit blows off the chaff of our lives; and the dust it has gathered, so that we can come forth better and cleaner.

Also, as wind, He has the power to strengthen, equip and assist us to forge ahead in the Christian race. What a great privilege! That the powerful Holy Spirit condescends to live in mere mortals, and also be all we need to cope in the wilderness of this world. It's a great privilege indeed!"

Tofunmi Akinyemi in the Book "The Knowledge of God" (pp.39-41).

There are other symbols used in the Bible to describe the Holy Spirit; and two of these are:

◆ RIVERS OF LIVING WATER

Our Lord Jesus Christ says:

"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, Whom those believing in Him would receive;" John 7:38 & 39.

In the above verses, Jesus Christ describes the Holy Spirit as "rivers of living water".

It is often said that "water is life". Water is very important for the survival of mankind, animals and plants. When a person or animal is dehydrated, or a plant lacks water, their survival is threatened!

This means that water is needed to stay alive physically; and for plants to spring forth and grow. Likewise, the Holy Spirit is needed for spiritual survival and well-being; and to bring forth spiritual rebirth and growth.

In the physical, water is useful for drinking, washing, cleaning, irrigation, and power generation etc. Also, water is important as a coolant and to fight fires.

This implies that in the spiritual, the Holy Spirit causes the new birth in the sinner; and Christian growth in

✦ The Power at Work in the Christian

those already born again. He continually “washes” and “cleanses” Christians (as the need arises) from the spiritual dirt of sin through the Word of God.

As Water, the Holy Spirit refreshes and restores Christians in the wilderness of this world. He puts out the “fire” of lustful desires and all forms of deadly passion; and gives power to Christians to live victoriously over the flesh, satan and the world.

◆ THE SEAL

The Holy Spirit is referred to as the Seal for Christians. When a person genuinely repents from sin and receives Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Saviour, he/she is sealed with the Holy Spirit.

“In Him you also, when you heard the Word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, Who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory.”

Ephesians 1:13 & 14 (ESV) Emphasis mine.

PLEASE NOTE: The word “it” in the above quoted verses is used to refer to “our inheritance” of eternal life in the

✦ The Symbols of The Holy Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit as a Seal on the Christian is a symbol of God's ownership of him/her; that is, God owns the Christian.

This is comparable to when you buy a book and you write your name on it to show that it's yours; so also, God seals the Christian with the Holy Spirit to show that he/she is owned by God and therefore, belongs to God.

2. Also, God's Ownership means that the Christian is set apart unto God for holy living; and thereby separated from the world and his/her old sinful lifestyle.

In addition, the fact that Christians are sealed with the Holy Spirit implies that **the Christian is:**

3. Forgiven, cleansed and accepted by God.
4. A child of God with access to all the privileges of the Fatherhood of God. In the same way that a seal is put on an important letter/Certificate to authenticate it; so also, the Holy Spirit seals the Christian to confirm, or show that we are truly children of God!
5. Guaranteed of the future inheritance of eternal life if one lives for Christ till the end.

The Presence of the Holy Spirit in the Christian can be said to be a mark on him/her to warn the wicked forces of darkness “No Trespass”!!! This guarantees the Christian's all-round protection from satan and his cohorts; if Christians stay away from sin!

A seal is put on a very important parcel to ensure it is firmly packaged, safe and untampered with. In the same way, the Holy Spirit seals the Christian to keep him/her “intact”; and protected from being “tampered” with!

As the Christian continually remains on the path of obedience to the Holy Spirit till the end, he/she is sustained in the race; until the fullness of time for our eternal bliss in Heaven!

“... the Holy Spirit of God, by Whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” Ephesians 4:30

The Characteristics of the Holy Spirit

In view of the above symbolic descriptions of the Holy Spirit, we can safely say that the Holy Spirit is:

- ◆ Gentle, very sympathetic and comforting.
- ◆ The One Who sets free from sin; and helps a person to repent and accept Jesus Christ as Lord

- ◆ The Source of Power for the Christian. He is the One Who anoints Christians with the power to successfully run the Christian race; and do the Kingdom's Work.
- ◆ The Rivers of Living Water Who flushes out all spiritual toxins of sin from the Christian's life as the need arises.
- ◆ The all-round Healer (Physically, Emotionally and Spiritually).
- ◆ The One Who breaks all yokes; and sets free from all satanic bondages/afflictions!
- ◆ The Refiner and Purifier; thereby burning off all our spiritual dross to make us shine and beautiful for Christ.
- ◆ The One Who blows off all the “spiritual chaff and dust” of a Christian's life, to enable one become a spiritually cleaner and better Christian.
- ◆ The One Who authenticates Christians as children of God; that is, the Holy Spirit is God's mark of Ownership on us Christians.
- ◆ The Christian's “Security” from being “tampered” with; if one continues to abide in Christ till the end of one's life!

In Conclusion

As the Christian cooperates with the Holy Spirit by continuing in holy living till the end of his/her life, He daily keeps us sustained in the race; and takes us safely "Home" at last!

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen." 2 Corinthians 13:14.

PART TWO

**BE FILLED WITH
THE HOLY SPIRIT**

CHAPTER FIVE

WHO IS A CHRISTIAN?

A Christian is a person who has genuinely repented from sin and received Jesus Christ as personal Lord and Saviour; and continues to live to honour Christ by living in obedience to God till the end of his/her life.

“And He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again”
2 Corinthians 5:15.

The Bible describes the Christian in different ways to show who we are in Christ; and the newness of life (Holiness) we have been called into. Some of these are:

- ◆ A new creation in Christ

“... If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things are passed away; behold all things have become new” 2 Corinthians 5:17

✚ The Power at Work in the Christian

When a person becomes truly born again, he/she has renounced the old lifestyle and has become spiritually regenerated; having new desires which are godly and God-glorifying.

- ◆ A child of God

"...As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His Name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." John 1:12 & 13.

Christians are Princes and Princesses of the King of kings; courtesy Jesus Christ!

- ◆ A Pilgrim

"Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul." 1 Peter 2:11.

God wants the Christian to live holy and therefore warned us against every form of sin/defilement. Christians don't have a permanent stay here on earth; and how the Christian lives now will determine one's eternal destination - whether Heaven or hell.

✚ Who Is A Christian?

- ◆ The Temple of God

"Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy Him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are." 1 Corinthians 3:16 & 17.

Christians are the Temple (or "dwelling place") of God and His Holy Spirit. This "Temple" is holy; and must be constantly kept holy by abstaining from sin! Doing anything that will "dirty" God's abode brings "destruction" over one's life.

- ◆ An ambassador for Christ

"Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us; we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God." 2 Corinthians 5:20.

An Ambassador is a Representative of his/her country in a foreign land. The Christian is Christ's Representative on earth; to live for Christ and lead others to Christ.

- ◆ God's special and holy person; a royal priest
"... You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of

Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light.” 1 Peter 2:9.

The Christian is set apart for holiness; one is now “God's property” and this must not be defiled or misused in anyway!

“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.” 1 Corinthians 6:19 & 20.

◆ A member of the Body of Christ

The Christian is a member of the Body of Christ and therefore, is expected to live for Christ; daily honouring Him through a life of obedience to God.

As members of the Body of Christ, Christians are one in Christ; and are to be united in Christ.

“For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many are one body, so also is Christ... you are the body of Christ, and members individually.” 1 Corinthians 12:12 & 27.

There should be no discrimination or disunity; but rather, we are to love and care for one another in Christ Jesus.

“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free - and have all been made to drink into one Spirit... there should be no schism in the body, but that the members should have the same care for one another.” 1 Corinthians 12:13& 25.

In the light of all the above, we can see that God's estimation of the Christian is very high; so also, His standard for us. As Christians, we are expected to daily live in obedience to God till the end of our lives.

A Backslider?

Perhaps you have given your life to Jesus Christ before now and thereby a member of Christ's Body; but you know you are not faring well spiritually. It is either you are gradually drifting back; or has fully gone back into your old sinful lifestyle!

This is a very dangerous state for a Christian to be as it makes you very vulnerable to satanic attacks in this world; and sends you to hell in the end except you quickly repent now! This is not to frighten you dearly beloved; but rather to make known the dangers of toying with sin.

Please, be reminded that "... *whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him.*" Ecclesiastes 10:8 (KJV).

Therefore, urgently flee for your very precious soul now! No matter how deep you have gone into sin, if you are sincerely sorry; and will come to God in genuine repentance "... *He will have mercy... He will abundantly pardon.*" Isaiah 55:7.

Therefore, repent from all besetting sins, ask God to forgive you, rededicate your life to Jesus Christ now; then henceforth, live the rest of your life in conformity to the Holy Bible – God's Word.

In Conclusion

Everything about the Christian is to continually be to the glory of God, Who redeemed us with the precious Blood of His only begotten Son. The Christian can no longer live to please "self" as this will bring spiritual death.

"Therefore, brethren, we are debtors – not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live." Romans 8:12 & 13.

CHAPTER SIX

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Our Lord Jesus Christ appeared to some of His disciples at one time or the other after He rose from the dead. During one of such encounters, He instructed the disciples:

"... not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father "which, ... you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit..."Acts 1:4 & 5 (Emphasis mine).

The promise of the Father was: "... *On My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.*" Joel 2:29.

Also, John the Baptist who was the fore-runner of Jesus Christ spoke thus to the people about the Messiah:

"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." Matthew 3:11 (Emphasis mine).

From the above Bible verses:

- ◆ There is John's baptism by water unto repentance; though physical baptism without an inner change of heart cannot lead to conversion; and so, cannot bring Salvation.
- ◆ There is the Holy Spirit's baptism of power and fire! This is what this Chapter is about.
- ◆ The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is for those who are regenerated - "the disciples"; God's "menservants" and "maidservants".

Please note: The Holy Spirit lives in all Christians (those who are truly born again and living for Christ). Our Lord Jesus Christ says:

"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth... He dwells with you and will be in you." John 14:16 & 17.

To show that Christians belong to Him, the Almighty God "...also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee." 2 Corinthians 1:22.

In John's baptism by water, one is fully immersed in flowing water (River Jordan); and then brought out of water. This is to respectively symbolise that the Christian is dead to sin; and now alive unto God.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

This can be simply explained to mean that the Christian is "immersed" in the Holy Spirit (Rivers of living Water; John 7:38 & 39a); and come out of the experience more empowered for righteous living and service to God.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit takes the Christian to a higher level of empowerment for usefulness in God's Hands! Therefore, Churches ought to consistently teach and encourage Christians to yearn for the Holy Spirit's Baptism.

A cautionary Remark

Christians (that is, those who are truly born again and therefore indwelt by the Holy Spirit) who are not yet baptized by the Holy Spirit are not in any way “inferior” to Christians who have experienced the Holy Spirit's Baptism.

This is because all who are truly born again have the Holy Spirit living in them and so are not at all inferior to any; also, they belong to Christ and therefore “... are complete in Him....” Colossians 2:10a.

However, Christians who are yet to be baptized in the Holy Spirit ought to yearn for the Holy Spirit's Baptism; because the experience brings the Christian to a higher level of empowerment for service and holiness.

Pre-conditions for the Holy Spirit's Baptism

As earlier mentioned in this Chapter, one must have been genuinely born again to be qualified for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Also, Christians are expected to maintain a consistent growth in Christ through a life of obedience to God.

This means that after one is saved, holiness is very imperative to being baptized in the Holy Spirit.

The early Disciples

The early disciples were commanded to remain in Jerusalem until they receive the promised power; before going out to fulfil God's purpose for their lives.

“... You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
Acts 1:8.

“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.” Acts 2:1 & 3.

When the early disciples were baptized with the Holy spirit, there was the physical manifestation of speaking in tongues.

“Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they... began to speak with other

tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

Acts 2:3-4 (Emphasis mine).

Also, in Acts 10, while Peter preached the Gospel to Cornelius' household (people who were Gentiles), they too were baptized with the Holy Spirit, with the evidence of speaking in tongues!

"While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the Word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God..." Acts 10:44-46 (Emphasis mine).

In Acts 19, Paul ministered to some disciples in Ephesus. "And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied." Acts 19:6 (Emphasis mine).

Power for Service and Holiness

On the day of Pentecost, when the early disciples were baptized with the Holy Spirit, they were spiritually empowered; and boldly went about with the Gospel of

our Lord Jesus Christ. They were used of God for soul winning; and the deliverance of those being oppressed by the devil.

Afterwards, as above-mentioned, some were baptized in the Holy Spirit in Acts Chapters 10 & 19. They all spoke in tongues; coupled with the worship of God by some, while some prophesied.

Still Relevant today

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is still very relevant to Christians today. In fact, Christians throughout all ages need the baptism of the Holy Spirit like the disciples of old.

Our Lord Jesus Christ assures us that God will give us the Holy Spirit; He says if earthly fathers know how to give good gifts to their children:

"... much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him." Luke 11:13b.

The Holy Spirit's baptism helps Christians to be more useful in the Kingdom by impacting the world for God! Also, our prayer life receives a boost!

“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.” Romans 8:26 & 27.

Please, be reminded that salvation and consistent Christian growth are non-negotiable prerequisites to being baptised in the Holy Spirit.

This is very Important

As earlier mentioned, the Christian who is yet to be baptized with the Holy Spirit should be thirsty for being baptized. They should pray to God Who is ever willing to baptize His Children with the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13b).

Christians who are already baptized with the Holy Spirit; and those that will still be baptized must ensure that the power received is not allowed to be dormant; but fully utilized for service in the Kingdom!

We ought to be like the early disciples who were completely sold out to God's Work. Therefore, we

should allow God to use us to win and disciple souls; and as instruments of deliverance for those under satanic bondages.

To remain spiritually aflame

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and mind and with all your soul and with all your strength [your entire being].” Deuteronomy 6:5 (AMP).

The Christian needs to keep going for Christ till the end; therefore, to remain spiritually fiery and effective after being baptized in the Holy Spirit, the Christian must continue to abide in holiness in all aspects of his/her life.

Beware of the love of money

The Bible says:

“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows”. 1 Timothy 6:10 (Emphasis mine).

The love of money (and not money) is the root of all evil. When a Christian is greedy for money, he/she will hotly pursue it at the expense of pursuing God; thereby waxing cold spiritually.

“No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon”. Luke 16:13.

In conclusion

As the Christian continually abides in holiness till the end, you will experience a constant infilling of the Holy Spirit; thereby equipped with more of God's grace to fulfil His purpose for your life, and make Heaven in the end.

✦ CHAPTER SEVEN

THE INFILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The infilling of the Holy Spirit can be simply explained to mean how the Holy Spirit “occupies” all the “empty” spaces of a Christian's life; to empower him/her for service and holiness.

As Christians, we are to allow the Holy Spirit to take full control of our lives; giving Him “thoroughfare” in one's life, by obeying Him as He guides us in the Christian race.

Our Lord Jesus Christ (God-incarnate) while in the bodily form was Spirit-filled. This was not because He needed to overcome sin (remember, He was sinless—Hebrews 4:15); but to fulfil His purpose on earth!

"Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit... was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.... Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee.... with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out." Luke 4:1, 14 & 36b (Emphasis mine).

Also, it is written:

"... God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him." Acts 10:38.

Be filled with the Spirit

As earlier mentioned in this Chapter, our Lord Jesus Christ Who was God incarnate while in the Bodily form was Spirit-filled to fulfil purpose; much more, Christians need to be filled with the Holy Spirit to fulfil God's purpose for our lives.

The Almighty God wants Christians to be filled and refilled with the Holy Spirit as we run the Christian race, so that we can be continually "refuelled"; and not grow weary. The Bible says:

"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil ... And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit." Ephesians 5:15-18 (Emphasis mine).

The word "circumspectly" has been defined as:

"Cautiously; with watchfulness every way; with attention to guard against surprise or danger."

(KJV Dictionary. *Definitions from Webster's American Dictionary of the English Language. 1828).

This means that Christians are admonished to be watchful; to live cautiously and vigilantly. Also, to be Spirit-filled; and be under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

A drunkard is alcohol-filled; and so is affected and controlled by alcohol in his thoughts, behaviour and utterances; Christians are to be Spirit-filled; so, we can be affected and controlled by the Holy Spirit- in our thoughts, behaviour, utterances etc.

The early disciples

The early disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost; and thus, were equipped with power to fulfil God's purpose for their lives.

“When the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place... Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit....” Acts 2:1-4.

Our Lord Jesus Christ says:

“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” But this he spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive....” John 7:38-39a.

From the above verses, we can see that the “flow” (of the Holy Spirit) is a continuous one like a river. Christians need to be filled and re-filled as we continue the Christian journey, not just once but continually.

Please Note: The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a one-time event, but the infilling of the Holy Spirit is a continuous one.

Also, we can safely say that the early disciples must have been continually Spirit-filled and refilled; hence they could sustain the tempo of the great exploits they did for God, even at the peril of their lives!

Christians in all the ages

The infilling of the Holy Spirit was not only for the early disciples; but also for Christians in all the ages.

“And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh... And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days....” Acts 2:17 & 18.

“...The power and benefits of the Holy Spirit are available for every Christian throughout the Church age. That is the entire period of time between Christ's first coming (or more precisely surrounding His resurrection, return to heaven and sending the Holy Spirit) and His second coming.... This, of course, includes the time in which we now live.”

Footnote on Acts 2:18, on page 2023 of the “Fire Bible”.

The Purpose of the Holy Spirit's Infilling

The Almighty God has a purpose for everything He equips Christians with; and this includes the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

God wants us to be Spirit-filled for His glory in our lives; and for the Kingdom's benefit. That is, through the

infilling of the Holy Spirit, the Christian is empowered to live holy; and equipped for service.

The infilling of the Holy Spirit is for Christians to be adequately equipped to:

- ◆ Have victory over the flesh, satan and the world.
- ◆ Record a steady spiritual growth; and a closer walk with God.
- ◆ Spread the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- ◆ Passionately pray for the salvation of souls.
- ◆ Break the yoke of sin; whether in our own lives or the lives of others.
- ◆ Bring glory to God.
- ◆ Prepare us for a blissful eternity.

In Conclusion

In view of all the above, Christians ought to increasingly desire to be continually Spirit-filled; that is, to be filled and refilled until we safely get "Home".

It is very important for the Christian to consistently experience the infilling of the Holy Spirit. This way, one will consistently have the power to live holy, be relevant in affecting lives for God, fulfil God's purpose for our lives; **FINISH STRONG**; and make Heaven at last!

✦ CHAPTER EIGHT

THE SIGNS OF THE SPIRIT'S INFILLING

The Christian that is filled with the Holy Spirit is empowered to live righteously; and passionately work for God. The lifestyle of the Spirit-filled Christian can be described with these words – holiness and service; and some of these traits can be broken down as follows:

- ◆ **Confidence in God.**

When the Christian is filled with the Holy Spirit, you have great confidence in God that there is no room for anxiety. One will have an implicit trust in His ability to help and uphold us in the changing seasons of life.

- ◆ **The joy and peace of God**

The Christian who is Spirit-filled will have real joy; and therefore, will flow in ceaseless praise, worship and

thanksgiving to the Almighty God. Also, he/she will have inner peace, even in the face of trials and persecutions.

- ♦ **Humility**

The Spirit-filled Christian will be humble; and give God all the glory for all his/her accomplishments. This is because you know you are what you are by the grace of God. Also, one will be ready to learn from other Christians, even if younger in age, or in the faith.

- ♦ **Teachable spirit**

This will make one to receive godly correction, rebuke and constructive criticism with good grace. Any of these could be from:

- (i). God our Father

“My son, do not despise the chastening of the Lord. Nor despise His correction; For whom the Lord loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights.” Proverbs 3:11 & 12.

- (ii). Fellow Christians

“Let the righteous strike me; it shall be a kindness. And let him rebuke me; it shall be an excellent oil; let my head not refuse it....”
Psalm 141:5a

- ♦ **Love and kindness**

The Christian who is Spirit-filled will show God's love towards all; though without compromising holiness. Such a Christian will be kind and considerate interacting with others.

- ♦ **Forgiving Spirit**

The Spirit-filled Christian will find it easy to forgive those who offend him/her, knowing that one is not perfect; one can offend others too; and more so Christians have been forgiven much by God. Above all, because God wants to forgive those who sin against us.

“For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your heavenly Father forgive your trespasses.” Matthew 6:14-15.

- ♦ **Expanded Prayer Life**

The Spirit-filled Christian becomes increasingly more prayerful; and his/her prayers become more comprehensive to include others. That is, his/her prayers are not centred on self alone; rather he/she intercedes for others – the unsaved, other Christians, Church, the government; and the larger Society etc.

✦ The Power at Work in the Christian

◆ **Unabating burden to impact lives for Christ**

The Spirit-filled Christian will consistently have a strong burden for souls to be saved, disciplined and firmly established in Christ. He/she consciously looks for and seizes every opportunity to make Christ known to the unsaved; and be spiritually value-adding to fellow Christians.

◆ **The fruit of the Spirit**

Some of the other character traits of the Spirit-filled Christian are selflessness, mercy, self-control; in fact, the fruit of the Spirit as recorded in Galatians Five will manifest in such a life.

"... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." Galatians 5:22-24.

◆ **Manifestations of God's Power**

In Acts Chapter six, Stephen was one of the seven appointed Elders; *people "... full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom..."*(Acts 6: 3). Therefore, we can safely say that like Stephen, the Spirit-filled Christian will be:

✦ The Signs of The Spirit's Infilling

- ◆ Full of power and faith – Vs.8a.
- ◆ Used of God to do great wonders and signs – Vs.8b.
- ◆ Full of wisdom – Vs.10.
- ◆ Radiating the glory of God - Vs.15.

In Conclusion

The infilling of the Holy Spirit is a continuous process and not a one-off experience. Christians must continually desire to be filled and refilled until we safely get "Home".

✚ CHAPTER NINE

THE BENEFITS OF THE SPIRIT'S INFILLING

There are many spiritual benefits derivable from being filled with the Holy Spirit and some of these are listed below:

1. Power for victorious Christian living

We are strengthened against temptation, i.e. we have power to be victorious over temptations and live a life pleasing unto God.

2. A deep and unabating burden for the Kingdom's Work

This was the type that Apostle Paul had that he declared:

“For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel.” 1 Corinthians 9:16.

3. Passionate Commitment to Evangelism

The early disciples gave expression to their hearts' burden for the Kingdom's work by being completely sold out to Evangelism. They used every opportunity to preach the Gospel; even at the risk of their lives! For example, Paul said:

“From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of water, ... in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, ... besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.” 2 Corinthians 11:24-28.

4. Prayerfulness and Divine Guidance

When filled with the Spirit, the Christian will be strengthened to pray; and receive divine guidance on

different issues of one's life and the Kingdom. For example:

- (i). The Christian will be guided as to decisions to make in each aspect of one's life – from the simple day to day decisions, to very important ones like the choice of a life partner, career choice, home-building etc.

If single, the Holy Spirit's infilling will help the Christian to choose aright; thereby laying a solid foundation for a glorious and blissful Marriage.

To the married who is Spirit-filled, the needed grace to build a God-glorifying Home will be abundantly supplied; despite the inevitable challenges of Marriage.

- (ii). Another example was the encounter of Peter with Cornelius. Cornelius was a godly man together with his household.

“There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of what was called the Italian Regiment, a devout man and one who feared God with all his household, who gave alms generously to the people, and prayed to God always” Acts 10:1 & 2 (Emphasis mine)

✦ The Power at Work in the Christian

When Cornelius the Centurion sent for Peter, ordinarily, Peter being a Jew wouldn't have gone to the house of a non-Jew (Acts 10:28); however, the Lord showed him a vision where he was told not to despise what God has cleansed (Acts 10:9-15).

“While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him “Behold, three men are seeking you. Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them.” Acts 10:19 & 20 (Emphasis mine).

5. Open doors for ministry

God entrusts doors of Ministry to the Spirit-filled Christian; that is, openings to be value-adding to the lives of others in the light of eternity. For example, God opened opportunity for Peter to reach out to Cornelius with the gospel. Cornelius' messengers told Peter:

“... Cornelius the centurion, a just man, one who fears God and has a good reputation among all the nation of the Jews, was divinely instructed by a holy angel to summon you to his house, and to hear words from you... Peter went away with them, and some brethren from Joppa accompanied

✦ The Benefits of The Spirit's Infilling

This led to the salvation of souls and the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Cornelius' household, relatives and friends.

“While Peter was still speaking ... the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.” Acts 10:44-46.

6. Power to preach the Word of God.

God anoints Christians with the Holy Spirit to be empowered to preach God's Word to the unsaved.

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:4.

After the infilling of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4), Peter's sermon in Acts 2:14-36 was powerfully delivered in the Holy Spirit's Power so much so that when the people

and the rest of the apostles, men and brethren, what shall we do? Acts 2:37.

7. Boldness to preach the Word of God

After being filled with the Holy Spirit, the formerly timid Peter who denied the Lord Jesus Christ three times (Matthew 26:69-75) could boldly preach Jesus Christ in Acts 2:14-37.

The other disciples of Jesus Christ also boldly proclaimed the Gospel due to the infilling of the Holy Spirit. *"And when they had prayed, and the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the Word of God with boldness."* Acts 4:31.

8. Anointing to do exploits for God

Being Holy Spirit filled will make the Christian to do great exploits for GOD. Many miracles were wrought by God through the early disciples, e.g. Peter and John were used by God to heal the blind man at the Beautiful Gate (Acts 3:1-10); healing of Aeneas through Peter (Acts 9:32-35); and the raising of Dorcas from the dead (Acts 9:36-43).

Also, Stephen *"... full of faith and power did great wonders and signs among the people."* Acts 6:8.

9. God's grace

◆ To work for God with the right motive

The Spirit-filled Christian will be able to work for God out of love and not for material enrichment or self-aggrandisement. This was why Peter could resist the money offered by Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8:18-23).

◆ To always give God all the glory

The infilling of the Holy Spirit will help the Christian to be humble and give all glory to God for what He uses one to do. He/she will always point people's attention away from him/herself to God as the Doer of the work. The response of Peter when the lame man at the Beautiful Gate was healed readily comes to mind here

"Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch... greatly amazed. So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we have made this man walk... the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus... And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong...." Acts 3:11-13; 16.

Also, when Peter went to the house of Cornelius: "As Peter was coming in, Cornelius met him and fell down at his feet and worshipped him. But Peter lifted him up, saying, "Stand up; I myself am also a man." Acts 10:25 & 26.

10. Spiritual Insight and revelation

The infilling of the Holy Spirit gives to the Christian a deep understanding of Scriptures; and brings out diverse spiritual lessons from it that ordinarily would have been impossible.

Also, a Spirit-filled Christian can have ability to discern situations; and thus be equipped to handle it correctly to the benefit of all e.g. this ability was seen in the life of Apostle Paul (Acts 16:16-18).

Paul was used of God to deliver the young girl that was possessed with the spirit of divination. The young girl was delivered from the spirit of divination which would have been impossible if Paul could not discern.

11. Unity is fostered among Christians

- ◆ To be in one accord (Acts 4:32)
- ◆ Pray in one accord (Acts 4:23-31)
- ◆ Live together in one accord (Acts 4:32-37).

"Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and one soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he possessed was his own, but they had all things in common." Acts 4:32.

12. Peace amid persecutions and trials!

Peter's imprisonment (Acts 12:1-19) is a typical example of being peaceful during trying moments.

- (i). Peter was imprisoned and guarded by two soldiers and he was still able to sleep! "... that night Peter was sleeping, bound with two chains between two soldiers; and the guards before the door were keeping the prison." (Emphasis mine).

The Almighty God sent His angel to deliver Peter in answer to the prayers of the Saints. Glory to the Awesome God!

- (ii). Paul and Silas' imprisonment (Acts 16:16-40) They were beaten (Acts 16:23), and their legs ir stock (v.24); and they still worshipped and sang praise to God!

"But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of

the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.”(Acts 16:25& 26).

Their joyous hearts during trials is a result of the Holy Spirit's infilling; and this brought deliverance to others!

13 .The work of the Kingdom prospers

When Christians are filled with the Holy Spirit, the Church prospers spiritually and numerically; thereby expanding the Kingdom of God on earth!

“Then the Churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.” Acts 9:31.

14. God's Holy Name is glorified

The Name of the Almighty God is glorified in our individual lives; and in the Body of Christ generally.

“Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, To God our Saviour, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever, Amen.” Jude 24 & 25.

✦ CHAPTER TEN

HOW TO SUSTAIN THE SPIRIT'S INFILLING

The Almighty God wants Christians to be filled with the Holy Spirit; not just once, but continually as we run the race.

The continuous infilling of the Holy Spirit will strengthen us to live victorious Christian lives; and make us constantly effective in doing great exploits for God. For the Christian to constantly have the infilling of the Holy Spirit, there are steps we need to regularly take; and some of these are:

(1). Be continually thirsty for righteousness.

The thirst for righteousness can be said to mean a desire for more of the Holy Spirit's infilling; or desire for

more of His influence in one's life. When Christians hunger and thirst for righteousness, the Bible's assurance is that "... *they shall be filled.*" Matthew 5:6 (NKJV).

"Blessed [joyful, nourished by God's goodness] are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness [those who actively seek right standing with God], for they will be [completely] satisfied." Matthew 5:6 (AMP).

(2). Continually abide in Holiness

The Christian must continually live holy by staying away from all forms of sin. For example, in plumbing works, a water pipe must be rid of all blockages for water to freely flow through it. In the same way, the Christian must get rid of all "spiritual blockages" in his/her life so there will be a free flow of the Holy Spirit's power in and through one's life to bless others.

Therefore, to sustain the infilling of the Holy Spirit, the Christian's life must be constantly kept "clean"; it must be free from all "spiritual blockages" of sin; for example, the Bible says:

"Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. And be kind to one another,

tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." Ephesians 4:31 & 32.

Also, we are admonished in the Bible to "*Abstain from every form of evil.*" (1 Thessalonians 5:22). This is very important so that we do not grieve the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30); and thereby diminish His flow and influence in our lives.

However, if we err, we should quickly and genuinely repent; and ask for God's forgiveness. The Word of God tells us:

"My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world." 1 Peter 2:1 & 2.

Please Note: The above provision is not a licence to toy with sin; as this will be an abuse of grace! "*... Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?*" Romans 6:1 & 2.

↔ The Power at Work in the Christian

We should keep a short account with God about sin by refusing to harbour any unconfessed, or secret sin. “He who covers his sin will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.” Proverbs 28:13.

As the Christian abides in holiness, you give the Holy Spirit unhindered flow in you and through you. Also, you will see God increasingly depositing into you more of His grace to fulfil His purpose for your life.

(3). Have the fear of God throughout your days

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all those who do His commandments....” Psalm 111:10.

The fear of the Lord is:

- ♦ Reverence for Him
- ♦ Obedience to Him.
- ♦ A true commitment to Him - in fulfilling His purpose for our lives.

As Christians, we are to be continually aware of God; knowing that He knows all our thoughts, conversations, actions and motives for all we do or say.

↔ How to Sustain The Spirit's Infilling

“O Lord, ... You know my sitting down and my rising up; You understand my thoughts afar off... And are acquainted with all my ways.”
Psalm 139:1-3.

Please Note!

The fear of the Lord will make:

- ♦ The Christian who is single to keep him/herself pure, undefiled by any form of sexual sin, or perversion; and not to be unequally yoked in friendship/Courtship.
- ♦ The married Christians to be faithful to his/her lawful spouse (in thoughts, motives, words and deeds); and will not defile one's marital bed through adultery, or any sexual perversion. All married Christians are to handle their Homes as a Ministry unto the Lord; a beautiful “Flower Garden” that must be carefully watered, tendered and nurtured for it to bloom, blossom and shine for God's glory. A glorious and God-glorifying Home requires all the above; and prayers, time, wisdom and utmost devotion.
- ♦ All Christians to “carry” Christ Jesus to their Schools. Colleges. Universities; to their work

places/businesses, life's vocation/endeavours; in the Church, their Christian Homes and Ministries—by ably representing Christ through a life of hard work and integrity. In fact, all Christians (young and old) are “fulltime Ministers” wherever we are planted. We are to continually live holy; daily shining for Christ to the Glory of God our Father!

This fear of the Lord will also:

- ◆ Restrain the Christian (single or married; young or old) from reading any spiritually unhealthy book/magazines; or from watching any “dirty” films etc.
- ◆ Forbid the Christian from visiting any ungodly site on the internet; nor be involved in any chat that is ungodly and thereby spiritually unhealthy.
- ◆ Make the Christian not to harbour any immoral posters/pictures in his/her home or room; nor on one's cell phone, computer etc.

In view of the above, we can safely say that the fear of the Lord will help Christians to live holy; and thereby sustain the infilling and refilling of the Holy Spirit in one's life.

(4). Allow the Word of God to rule your life

To be constantly full of the Holy Spirit, let the Word of God be the final authority in all your decisions and aspirations in life.

“Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Psalm 119:105.

The more a Christian submits to God's Word, the more of Jesus Christ (the Word from the beginning) you have in your life; the more of the influence and infilling of the Holy Spirit you will constantly experience.

(5). Regularly appraise your Christian life

Christians are to regularly have a sincere and objective appraisal of our Christian race to ensure we are still on track; that one is still living according to God's Word.

“Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves....” 2 Corinthians 13:6.

The purpose of a sincere self-examination is to find out areas of our lives that do not measure up to God's Biblical standard. *“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit” Galatians 5:25.*

As the Christian finds out areas of one's weaknesses and continually cooperates with the Holy Spirit to work in us for the needed change; one keeps getting filled and refilled by the Holy Spirit.

(6). Keep Busy for God

We are to keep busy using our Spiritual Gift to advance the Kingdom's business; especially evangelism/discipleship, which is God's Heartbeat! The souls won should be properly followed up so they can stand firm for Christ; and go out to win others for Christ(Matthew 28:18-20).

(7). Abide at your duty post

As you keep busy for God, ensure that you are in the specific area God wants to use you; refuse to be distracted into something else, nor try to "copy" another Christian!

It doesn't matter what others are doing, what "seems" popular, or acceptable to men; but what God has "gifted" you to do in His Vineyard. The Almighty God will only supply you grace to function effectively in the Spiritual Gift He has given you.

And whatever you do through the influence of the Holy Spirit will reach the hearts of men to bless them; and make them a blessing to others. This increases the Holy Spirit's influence and constant infilling in one's life.

(8). Be contented with your Spiritual Gifts

It is not just enough to "abide" at your Duty Post, it is equally important to stay there contentedly to use your Spiritual Gifts for Christ.

The Almighty God in His infinite wisdom has given variety of Spiritual Gifts to Christians; and all these Gifts are very important for the progress of God's work on earth. This means, each Christian's Spiritual Gift is needed in the Body of Christ; none is inferior to others!

The Bible says:

"If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where would be the smelling?... those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary." 1 Corinthians 12:17 & 22 (Emphasis mine).

In the light of the above, the Christian is to operate within GOD's gift for his/her life; that is, don't covet another Christian's Spiritual gift! Your specific Spiritual

· *“A bitter state or hatred induced by another having something more than oneself.”* urbandictionary.com

· *“Wanting what someone else has and resenting them for having it.”* vocabulary.com

From the above definitions, envy arises from a feeling that another person (in this case, a fellow Christian or Minister of God) has “achieved” more than you; or wishing that you are the one who has what another has achieved.

These negative feelings are often accompanied by bitterness towards the person being envied. Also, one may become critical of the person; or speak evil of him/her! The Bible warns Christians against envy:

“... laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking... if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious.” 1 Peter 2:1 & 3.

Envy defiles and destroys! It destroys one's spiritual, physical and emotional health; and restrains the move of the Holy Spirit in a Christian's life. It sends to hell in the end, except one quickly and truly repents.

However, when the “spiritual blockage” of envy (and any other besetting sin) is removed, the Holy Spirit is

given thoroughfare in one's life. This increases the influence of the Holy Spirit in the Christian's life; and one gets filled and refilled by Him.

(11). Beware of Pride!

Pride is satanic and destructive! It was pride that made satan to fall from his former position. Therefore, Christians should refuse to harbour “satan's destructive property”! The Bible says:

“Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord...Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” Proverbs 16:5 & 18.

When success begins to attend our ways as Christians - whether in our careers, businesses, or Ministries; or we are having a deeper knowledge of God and a closer walk with Him, we should refuse to be puffed up! Christians should always know that we are what we are by the grace of God and therefore, return all the glory to Him.

Christians ought to be very careful and humble as God uses us to bless lives. It is very important to point people's attention away from ourselves unto the Almighty God who is the Doer of the work; remembering that we are mere instruments in the Hands of the living God.

✦ The Power at Work in the Christian

Also, Ministers of God should refuse to be deified or “worshipped”; Worship belongs to God! (See Revelation 19:10; 22:9).

When a mere mortal receives “worship” from fellow mortals, he/she is putting oneself in the position of God in the lives of others. This pitches one against the Almighty God; and gets one into trouble with Him! Please, be reminded that:

“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” (Hebrews 10:31); “For our God is a consuming fire.” Hebrews 12:29.

Therefore, in everything Christians do for God, we should always return all the glory to Him. This honours God. It will make Him to keep using us for His glory; and continue to sustain the infilling and refilling of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

(13). Keep an evergreen Relationship with God

Build up a vibrant relationship with God by constantly spending quality time in His Presence in:

- ◆ The study of the Word
- ◆ Meditation on God's Word.

✦ How to Sustain The Spirit's Infilling

- ◆ Prayers and fasting; supplications and intercessions.
- ◆ Praise, thanksgiving and worship.

It is also very important to:

- ◆ Daily live in obedience to God
- ◆ Consistently and passionately attend to “the Great Commission” – Evangelism and Discipleship.
- ◆ Participate in Corporate Christian Fellowships.

As you constantly spend quality time in God's Presence, His glory rubs on you; and your life is continually refreshed and refilled with the anointing of His Holy Spirit!

(14). Expect the Second Coming of Jesus Christ

No day should pass without the Christian thinking about Christ's second coming; this will help us to daily live each moment as if Christ will come that very moment. This is very important; more so that we don't know the exact time of His arrival (Matthew 24:36).

In Conclusion

As you constantly focus on the Holy Spirit and yield to Him, you allow more of His influence in your life; and

become continually Spirit-filled and refilled. This will make Christians to be full of the Holy Spirit's power for holiness and service. We shall thus be equipped to fulfil God's purpose for our lives; and make Heaven at last!

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” 1 Corinthians 15:58.

✚ CHAPTER ELEVEN

THE DANGERS OF RESISTING THE HOLY SPIRIT

Definition of key words

The following words have been used in this Chapter as follow:

- ◆ Danger: “The possibility of something unwelcome or unpleasant happening”. Oxford Dictionaries.
- ◆ Resist: “refuse to go along with; refuse to follow, be disobedient.” Vocabulary.com

In view of the above definitions, this Chapter is about the possibility of unpleasant happenings to a person due to refusal to go along with the Holy Spirit's conviction, or instruction on life's path.

✦ The Power at Work in the Christian

As earlier mentioned in this book, the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Trinity. His Ministry is both to the unsaved and the saved.

To the Unsaved

The Holy Spirit is the One Who can touch the heart of the unsaved and bring such to genuine repentance. That is, He convicts the sinner about the need to repent, give his/her heart to Jesus Christ; and receive Him as Lord and Saviour.

To the Saved

To the Christian, the Holy Spirit is the Guide, Helper; and the Source of Power to run the Christian race successfully to the end. The Holy Spirit as our Helper keeps working on us so that we can grow in our Christian lives, have a closer walk with God; and become increasingly Christ-like.

To achieve the above, the Holy Spirit can speak to a Christian's heart to convict him/her of a sin that needs to be repented of. He can allow some situations in a Christian's life to point attention to his/her weak areas that need to be worked upon.

The Holy Spirit's guidance to Christians

The Holy Spirit can wake up the Christian at night to pray; or prompt one to pray at any other time of the day.

✦ The Dangers of Resisting The Holy Spirit

He can instruct the Christian to pray and fast for oneself, somebody else, Christendom, on specific issues etc.

Also, the Holy Spirit can guide the Christian to take a step in certain situations of one's life; or to go give the salvation message specifically to somebody; or give warnings to an individual, or the Church etc.

Resisting the Holy Spirit

When a person (saved or unsaved) refuses to obey the promptings of the Holy Spirit; either for conviction, instruction or guidance, one is resisting the Holy Spirit. Such is refusing to cooperate with the Holy Spirit to fulfil His Ministry in one's life; and this is very dangerous! For example:

- ◆ If the Holy Spirit is convicting a sinner to repent from sin and such keeps procrastinating or hardening his/her heart, the person is resisting the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ If the Holy Spirit convicts a Christian of aspects of his/her life that needs to be worked upon to be more Christ-like; and the Christian ignores such promptings and continues to be self-willed, he or she is resisting the Holy Spirit.

✦ The Power at Work in the Christian

- ◆ When the Holy Spirit wakes up the Christian to pray at night; or burdens one for prayer at any time at all; instructs one to fast and pray; or to go and share the Gospel; and any of these is ignored, it is resistance to the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit's Proactive Promptings

There are times that the Holy Spirit may wake up the Christian at night to pray; to undertake fastings and prayers, either for oneself, others, or for Christendom; or offer quality thanksgiving, praise and worship to the Almighty God etc.

When the Christian obeys the Holy Spirit's leading, one is happy and fulfilled; one may later find out that some calamities or afflictions have been averted! Also, obedience to the Holy Spirit gets us more intimate with Him; and helps us to record a steady Christian growth.

In answer to the Holy Spirit's prompted proactive prayers, Christians have received God's miraculous deliverances from sudden deaths and destructions; satanic attacks and afflictions; sicknesses; costly mistakes etc.

You may be able to relate to some of the above-mentioned experiences in the Christian race. You can

✦ The Dangers of Resisting The Holy Spirit

imagine what might have happened if proactive prayers had not been offered to cancel all evil schemes! TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!!

Sealed with the Blood of Jesus Christ

All testimonies are sealed with the precious Blood of Jesus Christ; and so are non-reversible in the Name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Grieving the Holy Spirit

As mentioned earlier, when we don't flow with the Holy Spirit's instruction, we are resisting Him; and this grieves Him! God says in His Word:

"... do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption." Ephesians 4:30.

Grieving the Holy Spirit can cause avoidable negative consequences or disasters!!!

Death lies ahead!

There are many dangers a person (saved and unsaved) exposes oneself to by resisting the Holy Spirit, and some of these are:

To the unsaved

- ◆ The person has a prolonged stay in sin thereby extending satan's access to his/her life to "steal, kill and destroy" (See John 10:10a).
- ◆ Such misses out on the abundant life provided by Jesus Christ (John 10:10b).
- ◆ The one resisting the Holy Spirit's conviction to repent will become hardened in heart.
- ◆ Hell fire in the end except such repent.

To the saved

The Christian resisting the Holy Spirit:

- ◆ Sinks deeper into a sinful lifestyle.
- ◆ Loses his/her moral sense (sense of right and wrong).
- ◆ Feels increasingly comfortable in sin.
- ◆ Gradually slides back into the world.
- ◆ Brings shame and evil-speaking against the Name of God.
- ◆ Limits the move of God in one's life.
- ◆ Is unable to impact lives for Christ; nor fulfil God's purpose for his/her life.

- ◆ Will be guilty of the blood of those his/her life ought to bless.
- ◆ Will harvest Spiritual death; and hell fire in the end!

In Conclusion

Indeed, resisting the Holy Spirit is very dangerous, both in this world and the hereafter. It will bring avoidable physical or spiritual disasters except one quickly repents while one is still alive; and subsequently surrender to His conviction, instruction or guidance.

CHAPTER TWELVE

THE POTENTIAL RISKS OF NOT BEING SPIRIT-FILLED

Definition of Terms

- ◆ Potential:
 - i. “Having the power or being capable of happening”
yourdictionary.com
 - ii. “That which is possible” dictionary.com
- ◆ Risk: “Expose (someone or something valued) to
danger, harm, or loss.” en.oxforddictionaries.com

In view of the above definitions, the phrase “potential risk” is used here to mean:

“The possible danger, harm, or loss that may happen to the Christian who is not Spirit-filled”.

Life's Greatest Goal

Every serious-minded Christian values his/her Christian race; because one's life and eternity hang on this! How well (or otherwise) a Christian runs the race will determine one's quality of life here; and in eternity.

The serious-minded Christian's utmost desire will be to run the race well, do great exploits for God, fulfil God's purpose for one's life, FINISH STRONG; and make heaven at last!

To fully achieve the Christian's life's goal, he/she must be filled and refilled by the Holy Spirit Who is the Christian's Helper in the race (John 14:16 & 26; NKJV).

The more the Christian is filled (and continually refilled) by the Holy Spirit, the less the "empty space" to be occupied by the flesh and its lustful desires!

This means that the more Spirit-filled (and continually "Spirit-refilled") a Christian is, the more he/she will be able to live holy; and render quality service to God in fulfilment of God's purpose for one's life.

Also, the more victorious he/she will be on the Christian journey; the more Christ will increase and the Christian decreases. The more fulfilled the Christian will be; the

more God's Holy Name is glorified in and through the Christian; and the more rewards awaits one on that Grand Prize-Giving Day (Revelation 22:12).

Much is at stake!

In the light of the above, it is obvious that the Christian who is not Spirit-filled (not to talk of being continually "Spirit-refilled") has so much at stake; such that should challenge one to eagerly and strongly desire the infilling (and continuous refilling) of the Holy Spirit in one's life.

Nature abhors a vacuum

It is often said that "nature abhors a vacuum"; this is an idiomatic expression which means: "If there is a gap, something will fill it." idioms.freedictionary.com

Spiritually Applicable!

We can apply the above-mentioned idiom to spiritual things to explain spiritual truths. When a Christian is not full of the Holy Spirit, it may be expected that the "empty spaces" will be filled by carnal desires; that is:

"Things related to the needs of the physical body rather than the Spiritual body; of the flesh and physical world as in a desire for food, sexual gratification and material possessions." Urbandictionary.com

Please Note: As earlier mentioned in this book, all who are genuinely born again are indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Therefore, the Christian who is not yet Spirit-filled is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, but there are still “empty spaces” (filled by the flesh) yet to be surrendered to the Holy Spirit to fill.

A Vehicle on low fuel

The Christian who is not Spirit-filled is like a vehicle with very little or no fuel in it; he/she cannot go far in the Christian race.

For Christians on “low fuel” who are still “managing” to be in the Christian race, it cannot be long before the “fuel” finishes and they become “spiritually grounded”; except such is “fuelled and refuelled” by the Holy Spirit!

Potential Risk Analysis

This is to further discuss the possible risks a Christian may experience if not filled (and continually being refilled) by the Holy Spirit. Some of these are:

- ◆ A gradual “Spiritual dryness” in the wilderness of this world. This is because he/she is not filled with the Holy Spirit Who is the Living Water; eventually, “spiritual dehydration and fainting” become inevitable!

- ◆ Inability to fulfil one's potential in Christ.
- There will be “little” compromises here and there with sin. Such Christian will be slowed down in the race by the weight of besetting sins. This will pave the way for eventual backsliding; except one quickly repents and forsakes a careless lifestyle.
- ◆ For those who are “Pastors”, there is the tendency to resort to gimmicks and human wisdom in the “service” of God. Some may resort to occultism to simulate the demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit. This will lead to hell in the end except such quickly repents genuinely!
- ◆ Shallow understanding of the Word of God because the Holy Spirit Who is the Author of the Bible is not fully in control of one's life. This will lead to “spiritual mal-nourishment”, spiritual sickness; and spiritual death in the end except one quickly repents!
- ◆ Gradual and eventual Backsliding may set in; and in extreme cases, apostasy (to fall away from the truth of God's Word and Biblical standard); except such Christians quickly retrace their steps and give the Holy Spirit full control of their lives.

In Conclusion

In view of all the above, Christians ought to strongly desire the infilling and continual refilling of the Holy Spirit throughout our Christian journey. Thus, we shall be consistently spiritually renewed for holiness and purpose fulfilment. As we abide in Christ till the end, we shall gain eternal life.

PART THREE

**REIGNING WITH
CHRIST JESUS**

⊕ CHAPTER THIRTEEN

CHRISTIANS ARE CARRIERS OF GOD'S POWER

As earlier mentioned in this book, the Christian refers to one who is genuinely born again; and daily living to honour Christ till the end.

The power at work in the Christian is the exceedingly great power of the Almighty God; the Creator of Heaven and earth; and all therein. He created all things including mankind by the Word of His mouth! It is this same power that raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead!

“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of

✦ The Power at Work in the Christian

Him, the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know... what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead..." Ephesians 1:17-20a (Emphasis mine).

The Exalted Christ

The mighty power of God raised Jesus Christ from the dead and highly exalted Him; and made Him to sit at God's right Hand in the Heavenly places. It is the place of honour, power, authority, Victory and Glory!

"... the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in that which is to come.

And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the Church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills

✦ Christians are Carriers of God's Power

all in all." Ephesians 1:19-23 (Emphasis mine).

This mighty power:

- ◆ Raised Jesus Christ from the dead! (v.20a).
- ◆ Seated Jesus Christ at God's right Hand in the Heavenly places (v.20b).
- ◆ Positioned Him far above all principality, power, might, and dominion; and every other name, not only now but also in all ages! (v.21).
- ◆ Put all things under the feet of our Lord Jesus Christ; and made Him to be the overall Head to the Church (v.22).
- ◆ Made Jesus Christ the All-Sufficient One to the Church, His Body (v.23).

Christians are Carriers of Power!

The power of God that wrought all the above-mentioned is the same exceedingly great power that is at work in Christians. Yes, the exceedingly great power of the Almighty God is at work in Christians.

The power at work in the Christian is the same which raised Jesus Christ from the dead. This means that

Christians are carriers of real power; yes, real power, that great and mighty power of the Almighty God!

All the power that makes God to be God is the power at work in the Christian. The provision of this exceedingly great Power has been made available to Christians; courtesy Jesus Christ.

Limitless Possibilities

There is no end to what Christians can achieve through this exceedingly great power and authority at our disposal; as long as it is in accordance with the will of God for us, His Church and our generation.

This power at work in the Christian is immeasurably great that it can do very much more than we can ever think or ask for!

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”
Ephesians 3:20 & 21 (Emphasis mine).

It is not surprising therefore that the Bible says:

- ◆ *“Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever*

you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”
Matthew 18:18.

- ◆ *“And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ... they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”* Mark 16:17 & 18.
- ◆ *“Most assuredly I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.”* John 14:12.
- ◆ *“You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.”* 1 John 4:4.

Activate the Power!

Christians have a provisional readiness of this exceedingly great power; and there is the need to “activate” it to experience its reality.

The activation of this very great power is through faith, a life of holiness; and of course, being continually Spirit-filled as we run the race till the end.

Therefore, the Christian should consistently live in obedience to God till the end; and be continually filled

and refilled by the Holy Spirit. Thus, Christians will be sustained in our privileged position in Christ Jesus in the heavenly places; equipped to live victoriously and do great exploits for God.

Please Note:

Be reminded that the Holy Spirit is the Doer of the work, Christians are mere instruments in His Hands; hence, we should always sincerely return all the glory to God!

It is then this great power can continually be at work in us and through us; to respectively ensure all-round victory in our Christian journey, make one a blessing to generations; and make Heaven at last.

In Conclusion

As we run the Christian race, we should be conscious of this exceedingly great power at work in us; and ensure we permanently key into it through:

- ◆ Being continually Spirit-filled.
- ◆ A life of holiness till the end.
- ◆ A very stubborn faith in God Almighty.

“Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuse the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.” 2 Corinthians 2:14.

✚ CHAPTER FOURTEEN

CHRISTIANS ARE REIGNING WITH JESUS CHRIST

The word “Christians” refer to all who have genuinely repented from sin and embraced God's plan of salvation for mankind through Jesus Christ; that is, they are born again.

Saved by Grace

All Christians were sinners saved by grace; courtesy Jesus Christ!

“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.” Ephesians 2:8 & 9.

The Christian's privileged position

Due to God's great love and mercy, Christians are raised together with Jesus Christ; and made to sit together in the Heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

"... God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses , made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."
Ephesians 2:4-7 (Emphasis mine).

The Almighty God in His great power raised us Christians from the deadness of sin. God raised us together with Christ; and made us to sit together at God's right Hand in Christ Jesus. Some of the spiritual implications are:

- ◆ Christians are made to be spiritually alive through Christ Jesus.
- ◆ Christians are in Christ Jesus at the right Hand of God Almighty.

- ◆ Christians are far above satan and all his wicked spirits!
- ◆ All the forces of darkness are under our feet! Alleluia!!!
- ◆ God's grace towards Christians is exceedingly rich.
- ◆ God is kind towards us in Christ Jesus.

Yes, Christians are in Christ Jesus at God's right hand in the Heavenly places; this is a privileged position indeed!

The privilege to be in that place of honour, power, authority, Victory and Glory is courtesy Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. Christians therefore have nothing to glory in; rather, all the glory goes to God forever!

Christians are Reigning with Christ

It is written in Ephesians 1:19-23, that our Lord Jesus Christ has been exalted to the right Hand of God in the Heavenly places.

At God's right Hand, our Lord Jesus Christ is far above all principality, power, might and dominion; and all name in all ages! Also, everything is under His feet; and He is

↔ The Power at Work in the Christian

As above-mentioned, Christians are raised together with Christ; and are made to “... *sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.*” Ephesians 2:6 (Emphasis mine).

In view of all the above, we can confidently say that Christians are reigning with Christ; and are kept secure in the Heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

Yes, Christians are reigning with Jesus Christ because we are privileged to “... *sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.*” Ephesians 2:6 (Emphasis mine); at the right Hand of God. This implies that:

1. Christians are in dominion over all the wicked forces of darkness because they are under our feet; and we are far above them in Christ Jesus!
2. Christians are no longer subject to the oppressions and victimisations of satan, the enemy of our souls!
3. Christians are equipped, strengthened, and enabled to live in victory over sin.
4. All forces of darkness are subject to Christians in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ; the name above all names! It is written:

“Therefore, God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every

↔ Christians are Reigning with Jesus Christ

name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
Philippians 2:9-11 (Emphasis mine).

Christians shall reign with Christ forever!

As the Christian abides in holiness till the end of one's life (whether our end on earth is a result of Christ's second coming, or it is death that closes our eyes); we shall reign with Christ eternally!

“And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads.... And they shall reign forever and ever.” Revelation 5:3-5 (Emphasis mine).

In Conclusion

As Christians, we are to stand firm for Christ till the end. This will make us to enjoy all the privileges of reigning with Him in this world; and of reigning with Him in eternity, where we shall forever be with the Lord!

✚ CHAPTER FIFTEEN

THE CHRISTIAN'S AUTHORITY IN CHRIST

As earlier mentioned in the preceding Chapter, Christians (those who are truly born again and living for Christ) are reigning with Jesus Christ, because we are sitting "... together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus." Ephesians 2:6 (Emphasis mine); at the right Hand of God. This is a position of exceedingly great power and authority; a place of Victory, Glory, dominion and honour!

This privileged position confers on Christians the authority to be in dominion over all the wicked forces of darkness headed by satan; because we are far above them in Christ Jesus!

A Necessary Clarification

It is very important to note that all authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18). Therefore, our authority of dominion over satan and all evil forces is courtesy Jesus Christ.

Our Lord Jesus Christ wrought Victory for Christians because of the finished work of Calvary; therefore, we have nothing to glory in. All the glory belongs to God Who counted us worthy in Christ Jesus. The Almighty God says:

"I am the Lord, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another...." Isaiah 42:8.

Therefore, as God demonstrates His Power in us and through us, we must never arrogate to ourselves any glory; rather, it should always and sincerely be "To God Be the Glory"!!! This is very important.

Rescued from the forces of darkness

The Almighty God *"... has rescued us and has drawn us to Himself from the dominion of darkness, and has transferred us to the kingdom of His Beloved Son, in whom we have redemption [because of His sacrifice, resulting in] the forgiveness of our sins [and the cancellation of sins' penalty].* Colossians 1:13 &14 (AMP).

Defeated Powers!

The devil and his cohorts have been defeated through the finished work of Calvary; so, Christians are dealing with a bunch of defeated spiritual foes! Our Lord Jesus Christ:

"... had disarmed the rulers and authorities [those supernatural forces of evil operating against us], He made a public example of them [exhibiting them as captives in His triumphal procession], having triumphed over them through the cross."
Colossians 2:15 (AMP).

Refuse to be "cheated" any longer!

Please, note that as much as possible, the devil will want to keep Christians in ignorance of his fatal defeat at Calvary; also, of who we are in Christ; and the glorious privileges we are entitled to through Christ.

In situations where the Christian is aware of who he/she is in Christ and the attendant privileges, the devil will want to keep one in fear and unbelief. This is to enable him (the devil) perpetually harass Christians, enslave one to sin; and bring destruction in the end!

However, satan cannot successfully do any of the above-mentioned without the Christian's cooperation.

✚ The Power at Work in the Christian

Therefore, it is left to you and I as Christians to key into all we are in Christ Jesus; and continually enjoy the attendant privileges!

Enforce the Victory of the Cross

Let us constantly remind ourselves that we are in Christ Jesus in the heavenly places at God's right Hand; that place of Victory, Glory, honour, dominion and authority! There, we are far above satan and his team!

Also, the forces of darkness are subject to us Christians in the Name of Jesus Christ (Philippians 2:9-11). Therefore, we should apply the Victory of the Cross against them as the need arises on life's path.

To remain in Dominion

For the Christian to remain in our privileged position in Christ at God's right Hand, he/she must:

- ◆ Refuse to be enslaved by sin again; by daily living in obedience to God.
- ◆ Be armed with God's Word which is "the Sword of the Spirit" (Ephesians 6:17b).
- ◆ Have a very stubborn faith in God and His promises; even when it "seems" most "unreasonable" to do so!

✚ The Christian's Authority in Christ

- ◆ Disallow satan from intimidating, harassing and oppressing him/her any longer!
- ◆ Beware of Spiritual pride! Be humble; and refuse to take part, or all of God's glory in whatever God uses us to accomplish. All glory must always go to God our Enabler.

Thus, Christians shall continually abide in Christ at God's right Hand in the heavenly places. There, we are reigning together with Christ; and so, in dominion over all the wicked forces of darkness!

Be bold, Rejoice and Enjoy!

The exceedingly great power at work in us has equipped us to live in dominion over satan, the enemy of our souls! This should embolden us, gladden our hearts; and encourage us to maximally enjoy our walk with the Lord.

In Conclusion

As the need arises in our Christian journey, we are to confidently and forcefully enforce our spiritual authority over all the works of the devil; whether in our lives, or that of our loved ones, in the Body of Christ; and the larger society.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

THE CHRISTIAN AND SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Our Lord Jesus Christ did not lure us with sweet words into the Christian race. He made it clear to us that challenges are part of the package of the Christian life.

*“Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for my sake and the gospel's who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time – houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, **with persecutions** – and in the age to come, eternal life.” Mark 10:29 & 30 (Emphasis mine).*

Also, our Lord Jesus Christ says:

"... In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." John 16:33

The Christian race

Living for Jesus Christ is a spiritual battle against the wicked spiritual forces of darkness.

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places."
Ephesians 6:12.

These wicked spiritual hosts headed by satan are the enemy of our precious souls. They put stumbling blocks before Christians so that we can fall. Their deadly spiritual mission against Christians is to cause us to sin against God and thereby displease Him.

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy" John 10;10a.

Glory to God for sending Jesus Christ to rescue us from the attacks and oppressions of satan. Jesus Christ says:

"... I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."
John 10:10b.

Challenges are inevitable

As earlier mentioned, our Lord Jesus Christ has hinted us that challenges are part of the Christian walk.

Christians do face trials, temptations, persecutions and different forms of challenge along life's path. There could be intense spiritual attacks against us – in our lives, homes, ministries, careers, businesses, health; or against our loved ones; that at times, we feel overwhelmed and discouraged.

"Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy." 1 Peter 4:12 & 13.

The Apostles faced challenges too!

The Apostles experienced many persecutions and trials – beatings, stoning, imprisonments etc. They looked up to God for grace and were sustained in the race.

"We are hard pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed -- always carrying in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body." 2 Corinthians 4:8-10.

The Almighty God who sustained the Christians of old is able and willing to sustain us too, because He cares about us. God has promised:

"Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me." Psalm 50:15.

Our Weapons of Warfare

- ◆ The Name of Jesus Christ

There is power in the Name of Jesus Christ; and this power is effective in all realms – heaven, earth and under the earth! The Name of Jesus Christ is a very potent weapon in spiritual warfare; and Christians have been given the full authority in that Name, courtesy Jesus Christ.

"Therefore, God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above

every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:9-11 (Emphasis mine).

- ◆ The Blood of Jesus Christ

"As Christians war against the arch-enemy, we should constantly be armed with the precious Blood of Jesus Christ. The Blood is a very powerful spiritual weapon against satan and his team ... Therefore, in our prayers and intercessions; and with implicit faith in God, we should regularly apply the Blood of Jesus Christ against satan concerning our lives, Christian race, ministries, spouses, children, parents, challenges, needs etc.; and do the same for our brethren... the Blood of Jesus Christ neutralizes the power of darkness; provides a realm of divine power that shields and protects Christians against all satanic attacks and afflictions. Thus we ... stand in dominion over the works of satan and all the forces of darkness. Alleluia!!!"

Tofunmi Akinyemi in the book "The Sleeping Giant – A Call to an Urgent Spiritual Reawakening, pp. 128-130.

◆ Thanksgiving, Praise and Worship

Remember to give God quality praise, worship and thanksgiving during and after the storm is over. Doing these during storms shows implicit trust in God's ability and willingness to help us; and He will always show up to our rescue.

Whenever God rescues us, we should give Him all the glory because, He will not share it with anyone. As we do and live holy, God will continue to fight and win all our battles for us to the praise of His Name, Amen.

Tips for Victory over Challenges

1. Be encouraged in the Lord

During trying moments, satan tries to steal our peace and joy; brings discouragement, depression, self-pity and a feeling of hopelessness etc. However, like the Apostles of old, we too can be strengthened against satan's attacks as we look up to God.

- ◆ Give God all your cares

The Bible says: "*Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.*" 1 Peter 5:7.

- ◆ Have implicit faith in God

In simple child-like faith, we are to cast our challenges unto God in prayers and leave them there.

"Now this is the confidence we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him." 1 John 5:14 & 15.

It is very important to note that there are some challenges that may require us to combine our prayers with fasting! "*However, this kind does not go out except by prayer and fasting.*" Matthew 17:21.

2. Embrace the strength of the Lord

The Bible is full of spiritual prescriptions on how to be strengthened in the Lord; and some of these are:

- ◆ We are to spend time to study **God's Word** for encouragement, strength and guidance.

"For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures may have hope." Romans 15:4.

Please, be reminded that **the Word of God** is the "**sword of the Spirit**" (Ephesians 6:17b) to fight against satan and his hosts. In Luke 4:1-13, our Lord Jesus Christ (God incarnate) used God's Word to defeat satan; we (mere mortals) cannot afford to do less.

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- ◆ We should live a life of **obedience to God** to be victorious in spiritual battles. Holiness is a **spiritual “breastplate”** that shields us from satanic attacks! (Ephesians 6:14).
- ◆ Faith, yes, **implicit faith in God** is a **spiritual shield** to *“quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.”* (Ephesians 6:16).
- ◆ Keep doing God's Assignment (**Evangelism/Discipleship**) despite your challenges; be sincerely and passionately committed to fulfilling God's purpose for your life. This is a **sure protection for your feet** on the Christian journey. (Ephesians 6:15).
- ◆ Firmly **hold on to your salvation**; it is a **spiritual “helmet”** for your head (Ephesians 6:17a). Please, don't backslide because of challenges! It just not worth it; remember, there is no protection for the back among the lists of the whole armour of God!
- ◆ Also, be armed with **watchfulness and perseverance** (Ephesians 6:18b).
- ◆ **Intercession** for all the “saints”—that all Christians will have grace for the race; and for ministers of God, that God's Work will prosper in their hands (Ephesians 6:18b & 19).

✦ The Christian and Spiritual Warfare

For the whole armour of God, see Ephesians 6:10-19.

The Spiritual dividends of Challenges

- ◆ Like gold that has passed through fire, the “dross” of our Christian lives is burnt off. We shall be more refined to show forth the beauty of Christ Jesus our Lord. This will bring more souls to the Lord.
- ◆ One will be a source of comfort to other Christians facing challenges; and a blessing to generations.
“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” 2 Corinthians 1:3 & 4 (Emphasis mine).
- ◆ Above all, God will use all our challenges, trials, persecutions; even our failures (if we have truly repented from them) to work together for our good in the light of eternity.

“And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who were the called”

according to His purpose.” Romans 8:28 (Emphasis mine).

- ◆ In the end, one will make heaven where there shall be no more challenges, where there will be real joy; and where we shall forever be with the Lord!

“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” Revelation 21:4.

- ◆ **More than Conquerors**

“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.” Romans 8:35-37 (Emphasis mine).

In Conclusion

As we keep going in the Christian race without wavering in our faith in God, His peace will pervade our hearts; even during our challenges. Our Lord Jesus Christ says:

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14:27.

The peace of God will keep us calm and strengthened; even during the period of challenges. If we don't turn back from following God; and we trustingly cling to Him till the end, one can never be put to shame - both in this world and eternity!

⊕ CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

GOD GIVES VICTORY AND GLORY

As mentioned earlier in this book, the Christian life is full of challenges which at times could be very overwhelming and discouraging. There are times one gets confused; and wonders why things are the way they are.

At times, we wish God would expressly put an end to the challenges, but their tenures seem “prolonged” than we think; or feel we can bear! We earnestly desire that God would give us a new song and wonderful testimonies; but our situations “seem” to remain the same!

Sometimes, we are so “filled to the brim” that we are convinced if help is not urgently forthcoming, we would

The Life line

The Almighty God has given us many promises in the Bible to assure us of His help in every aspect of our lives; and none of these can fail! Therefore, to be sustained in the challenges of life, we must firmly hold on to God's promises.

“For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.” 2 Corinthians 1:20.

Dearly beloved,

Perhaps you are at the centre of life's storms now; and it seems it will drown you! Maybe you are in the scorching “heat” of the changing seasons of life and you are getting weary; or you are in the valley of anxiety and depression - and all seems hopeless; please do not despair, nor be discouraged.

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, even though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; though its waters roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake

with its swelling... The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.” Psalm 46:1-3 and v. 7.

The Almighty God is the Lord of hosts, and He is terrible in battle and unconquerable! He will arrive for your help in the nick of time! He will never come too late; therefore, please, patiently wait for Him and be full of hope.

In Conclusion

In our trials, it is very important that we remain steadfast in the race and have an unwavering faith in God.

As we do, we shall overcome all our challenges; and sing a new song unto the Almighty God “... who gives us victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:57); and Who makes His glory to be seen upon us! (Isaiah 60:2).

Yes, God will give Victory and Glory!!!

“Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ ...” 2 Corinthians 2:14a.

✚ CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

HOW IS IT WITH YOUR SOUL?

Dearly beloved of God, greetings in the precious Name of Jesus Christ. How are you; and how is it with your soul?

This is a very important question that needs to be quickly answered! Yes, a quick answer is needed so that you can take the necessary action before it is too late; because delay can be very dangerous!!!

It is also very important to be truthful about the situation of your soul. Remember, one can deceive man, but God cannot be deceived because He knows all things.

*“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God.
Everything is naked and exposed before His*

eyes, and He is the One to whom we are accountable.” Hebrews 4:13 (NLT).

Ask again, how is it with your soul? Is it well with your soul?

Perhaps you are wondering how you can be sure it is well with your soul? The answer is, you need to receive the “Love Gift” specially packaged for you by the Almighty God Himself!

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16.

Unwrapping this Love Gift!

The Almighty God wants to establish and maintain a personal relationship with you; and give you eternal rest with Him at the end of life's journey. However, to enjoy God's Love Gift, the issue of sin must first be settled. The Bible says:

“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23.

Sin pays deadly wages into a person's life and eternity!

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23.

To receive God's Love Gift and avoid reaping sin's deadly wages, a person must come to the realisation of his/her sinful state, be sincerely sorry for them; and truly repent/forsake such sins.

God will abundantly pardon

No matter how deeply a person might have gone into sin, if one comes to God in true repentance and ready to forsake the sins, God will not cast you away.

“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: Let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.” Isaiah 55:7.

Act now!

If you are not yet born again, this is very dangerous. Repent now and give your life to Jesus Christ before it is too late.

“... Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.” 2 Corinthians 6:2b.

Perhaps you are thinking the Christian life is a very difficult one; and that you will “loose” the “enjoyment”

↻ The Power at Work in the Christian

of somethings if you give your life to Jesus Christ. Yes, you will lose somethings; but they are things worth loosing! This is because they are those things that can destroy you and send you to hell in the end!

“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” Mark 8:36 & 37.

This means that your soul is much more precious and valuable than all the riches of the world put together! Indeed, a life without Christ is an immeasurably unprofitable venture!

“Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” Acts 4:12.

“Repent, therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.” Acts 3:19.

“He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.” Hebrews 28:13.

↻ How is it with your Soul?

To be born again:

1. Acknowledge your sins; genuinely repent from them.
2. Confess your sins to God; and ask for His forgiveness.
3. Be sincerely ready to forsake your sins.
4. Invite Jesus Christ into your heart as your personal Lord and Saviour.

Jesus Christ says:

“Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.” Revelation 3:20.

If you sincerely took the above steps in simple child-like faith, God no longer sees you as a sinner. He has forgiven you all your sins, no matter how plenty they were. You are now born again! Congratulations!!!

For tips on how **to continue in the Christian race, please, read “Now that you are born again” in the Appendix.** Once again, Congratulations and GOD BLESS.

A Rededication needed?

Perhaps you have been born again before now; but you know deep down within you that you are not doing well spiritually. You know you are in a backslidden situation that if Jesus Christ comes now, you are not ready for rapture. This is a very dangerous situation for a child of God.

Please, **repent and rededicate your life to Jesus Christ now!** *"... for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming."* Matthew 24:42. No matter how deep you might have gone into sin, if you are truly sorry and repentant, the Almighty God won't cast you away. He will cleanse, forgive, and restore you.

"The highway of the upright is to depart from evil; he who keeps his way preserves his soul." Proverbs 16:17.

JESUS IS COMING SOON

(Revelation 22:12)

THE APPENDIX

NOW THAT YOU ARE BORN AGAIN

Congratulations on your decision to truly repent from your sin and receive Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Saviour; that is, you are born again! This means you are saved from the dangers and punishment of sin. You are now a child of God!

"... As many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name; who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." John 1:12 & 13.

What a great privilege to be a child of God; the Prince or Princess of the King and kings! Congratulations!

Assurance of Salvation

It is very important for you to firmly believe that God has forgiven you your sins. Therefore, you should no

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feel guilty or sad over your past; yes, your past because "... if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17.

The Almighty God assures us that:

"I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; And I will not remember your sins." Isaiah 43:25.

Also, the Bible says: *"As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us." Psalm 103:12.*

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9.

The Help of the Holy Spirit

When a person becomes truly born again, the Holy Spirit comes to live in him/her; to guide and help one in the Christian race. Our Lord Jesus Christ says:

"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever – the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither

✦ Now That You Are Born Again

sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you." John 14:16 & 17.

"However, when He, the Spirit of truth has come, He will guide you into all truth; ... and He will tell you things to come." John 16:13.

Therefore, be assured that the Holy Spirit is with you and in you; to help you, both in the good and challenging seasons of life. He will help you to run the Christian race successfully to the end, if you don't turn your back on Christ.

Please, keep going for Christ by continually obeying the Holy Spirit, your Helper. Once again, Congratulations on your decision to be born again.

Tips on Christian Growth

Salvation is the beginning of a life-long journey with Christ Jesus. God wants you to grow in your new relationship with Christ; and here are some tips on achieving this.

- (1). Please, get your own copy of the Holy Bible; a daily devotional that is based on the true Word of God, and a notebook to jot down the lessons you learn

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- (2). Read your Bible every day; study it, and meditate on the lessons learnt.

“As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the Word, that you may grow thereby.” 1 Peter 2:2. (See also Joshua 1:8).

- (3). Obey God's Word. God says, *“If you love Me, keep My commandments.”* John 14:15. (See also John 15:14).

- (4). Pray every day. *“Pray without ceasing.”*
1 Thessalonians 5:17.

- (5). Fellowship with other Christians where the undiluted Word of God is preached.

“And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near.” Hebrews 10:25(NLT).

- (6). Share with others how they can receive God's Salvation Gift. Our Lord Jesus Christ says:

“... All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son

✦ Now That You Are Born Again

and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things I have commanded you; and lo I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.” Matthew 28:18–20.

That is, tell other people the need to repent from sin, and receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. This is the Assignment Jesus Christ gave to all His disciples throughout the ages. Failure to do this very important Assignment is disobedience to Jesus Christ our Saviour!

A child who fails to do his/her School Assignment will not be commended by the Teacher. Our Lord Jesus Christ cannot be happy with a Christian who does not preach the Gospel. The Bible says:

“... give them warning from Me. When I say to a wicked person, 'You will surely die,' and you do not warn them or speak out to dissuade them from their evil ways in order to save their life, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood.

But if you do warn the wicked person and they do not turn from their wickedness or from their evil ways, they will die for their

sin; but you will have saved yourself.”
Ezekiel 3:17–19 (NLT).

Indeed, “... *he who wins soul is wise.*” (Proverbs 11:20);
because such preserves his/her own soul!

(7). Expect the second coming of Jesus Christ; living
each moment as if Christ will come that very
moment. “*And everyone who has this hope in Him
purifies himself, just as He is pure.*” 1 John 3:3.

*“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and
the love of God, and the communion of
the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.”*
2 Corinthians 13:14.

THIS BLESSED ME!

The article below blessed me and I am sharing it here
unedited. I pray it will bless you; and make us all a
blessing unto generations in Jesus Name, Amen.

Your Best Response to a Spiritual Attack

By Dr. Hal Seed (website: PastorMentor.com)

“If you're in the Kingdom, you're in a battle. That battle
can be initiated by people or circumstances. It can
attack your reputation, your finances, your health, or
your family. But because of your position in the
Kingdom, there's always a tie to the spiritual world. Paul
says,

*“Our struggle is not against flesh and blood,
but against the rulers, against the
authorities, against the powers of this dark
world and against the spiritual forces of evil
in the heavenly realms”* (Eph. 6:12).

If that's the case, then maybe the best place to start in
resolving whatever is coming against you is in a warfare
prayer.

THE BELIEVER'S WARFARE PRAYER

In the early days of New Song, I felt spiritual pressure constantly and some sort of threat to the church's existence daily.

Someone handed a printed prayer to me by seminary professor Victor Matthews called, "The Believer's Warfare Prayer." I never met Dr. Matthews, but his prayer has contributed significantly to my ministry.

I prayed his prayer out loud, verbatim that first day and the spiritual pressure I was feeling abated. The pressure returned the next day, so I prayed it out loud again. I found that every time I prayed the prayer, I felt relief. It was like the Lord and I were pushing back Satan, claiming territory and victory.

I began to pray the prayer daily. This went on for years.

As New Song grew and our members matured, more and more people were lifting me up in prayer, so that I began to experience their "prayer shield." I prayed my Warfare Prayer less often. I didn't seem to need it as much.

Then, a few years ago, New Song appeared on the Outreach 100 Fastest Growing Churches list.

✦ This Blessed Me!

seemed to paint a target on my back. The church and I have experienced spiritual attack over the last two decades, but never like this.

Proverbs 15:22 tells me that plans fail for lack of counsel, so one day I went to see a counselor. You know what she told me?

"You should remember that these attacks you're experiencing have a spiritual basis to them."

Good call! I dug out my Believer's Warfare Prayer and began praying it again. It's helping. A lot.

Every Christian leader I know feels attacked, discouraged, disparaged or hopeless from time to time. Leaders are pro-active, so we start by addressing the symptom of our problem, but it makes sense to go deeper and attack the root.

The Believer's Warfare prayer is a sound spiritual exercise. God can hear our inner-most thoughts, but Satan can't. I find that praying it out loud has a two-fold benefit: God hears and responds, and demons hear, and flee.

My encouragement to every believer who feels

back in a smooth place, and then to pray it weekly or monthly thereafter. **The prayer takes six to eight minutes to pray out loud, and it's well worth it** (Emphasis mine).

I pray the prayer exactly as written. When I stumble over a sentence, I reread it accurately. **Words matter, and Victor Matthews was a genius. His prayer is an excellently-crafted, well-rounded, Biblically-based prayer that contains crisp theology** (Emphasis mine).

Now What?

Why not pray it right now? Then ... copy so you can pray it often.

BELIEVER'S WARFARE PRAYER

(To be read aloud)

Heavenly Father, I bow in worship and praise before You. I cover myself with the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ as my protection. I surrender myself completely and unreservedly in every area of my life to You. I take a stand against all the workings of Satan that would hinder me in my prayer life. I address myself only to the True and Living God and refuse any involvement of Satan in my prayer.

(I command Satan, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, to leave my presence with all of his demons. I bring the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ between Satan and myself.)

Heavenly Father, I worship You and give You praise. I recognize that You are worthy to receive all glory and honor and praise. I renew my allegiance to You and pray that the Blessed Holy Spirit would enable me in this time of prayer. I am thankful, Heavenly Father, that You have loved me from past eternity and that You sent the Lord Jesus Christ into the world to die as my substitute. I am thankful that the Lord Jesus Christ came as my representative and that through Him You have completely forgiven me. You have adopted me into Your family; You have assumed all responsibility for me; You have given me eternal life; You have given me the perfect righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ so I am now justified. I am thankful that in Him You have made me complete, and that You have offered Yourself to me to be my daily help and strength.

Heavenly Father, open my eyes that I might see how great You are and how complete Your provision is for this day. I am thankful that the victory the Lord Jesus Christ won for me on the Cross and in His Resurrection

has been given to me and that I am seated with the Lord Jesus Christ in the heavenlies. I take my place with Him in the heavenlies and recognize by faith that all wicked spirits and Satan himself are under my feet. I declare, therefore, that Satan and his wicked spirits are subject to me in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am thankful for the Armor You have provided. I put on the Girdle of Truth, the Breastplate of Righteousness, the Sandals of Peace, and the Helmet of Salvation. I lift up the Shield of Faith against all the fiery darts of the enemy; and take in my hand the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. I choose to use Your Word against all the forces of evil in my life. I put on this Armor and live and pray in complete dependence upon You, Blessed Holy Spirit.

I am grateful, Heavenly Father, that the Lord Jesus Christ spoiled all principalities and powers and made a show of them openly and triumphed over them in Himself. I claim all that victory for my life today. I reject all the insinuations, and accusations, and the temptations of Satan. I affirm that the Word of God is true and I choose to live today in the light of God's Word. I choose, Heavenly Father, to live in obedience to You and in fellowship with Yourself. Open my eyes and

show me the areas of my life that do not please You. Work in me to cleanse me from all ground that would give Satan a foothold against me. I do in every way stand into all that it means to be Your adopted child and I welcome all the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

By faith and in dependence upon You I put off the old man and stand into all the victory of the Crucifixion where the Lord Jesus Christ provided cleansing from the old nature. I put on the new man and stand into all the victory of the Resurrection and the provision He has made for me to live above sin.

Therefore, today I put off the old nature with its selfishness and I put on the new nature with its love. I put off the old nature with its fear and I put on the new nature with its courage. I put off the old nature with its weakness and I put on the new nature with its strength. I put off the old nature with all its deceitful lusts and I put on the new nature with its righteousness, purity and honesty.

In every way I stand into the victory of the ascension and glorification of the Lord Jesus Christ, whereby all the principalities and powers were made subject to Him. I claim my place in Christ as victorious with Him over all the enemies of my soul. Blessed Holy Spirit

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pray that You would fill me. Come into my life, break down every idol and cast out every foe.

I am thankful, Heavenly Father, for the expression of Your will for my daily life as You have shown me in Your Word. I therefore, claim all the will of God for today. I am thankful that You have blessed me with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. I am thankful that You have begotten me unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. I am thankful that You have made a provision so that today I can live filled with the Spirit of God with love and joy and peace, with longsuffering, gentleness and goodness, with meekness, faithfulness, and self-control in my life. I recognize that this is Your will for me and I therefore reject and resist all the endeavors of Satan and his wicked spirits to rob me of the will of God. I refuse in this day to believe my feelings and I hold up the shield of faith against all the accusations and distortion and insinuations that Satan would put into my mind. I claim the fullness of the will of God for my life today.

In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ I completely surrender myself to You, Heavenly Father, as a living sacrifice. I choose not to be conformed to this world. I

✦ This Blessed Me!

choose to be transformed by the renewing of my mind, and I pray that You would show me Your will and enable me to walk in all the fullness of Your will today.

I am thankful, Heavenly Father, that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, to the casting down of imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and to bring every thought into obedience to the Lord Jesus

Christ. Therefore, in my own life today I tear down the strongholds of Satan and smash the plans of Satan that have been formed against me. I tear down the strongholds of Satan against my mind, and I surrender my mind to You, Blessed Holy Spirit. I affirm, Heavenly Father, that You have not given me the spirit of fear but of power and of love and of a sound mind. I break and smash the strongholds of Satan formed against my emotions today and I give my emotions to You. I smash the strongholds of Satan formed against my will today, I give my will to You, and choose to make the right decisions of faith. I smash the strongholds of Satan formed against my body today, I give my body to You recognizing that I am Your temple. I rejoice in You mercy and goodness.

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Heavenly Father, I pray that now and through this day You would strengthen and enlighten me, show me the way Satan is hindering and tempting and lying and distorting the truth in my life. Enable me to be the kind of person that would please You. Enable me to be aggressive in prayer and faith. Enable me to be aggressive mentally, to think about and practice Your Word, and to give You Your rightful place in my life.

Again, I cover myself with the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and pray that You, Blessed Holy Spirit, would bring all the work of the Crucifixion, all the work of the Resurrection, all the work of the Glorification, and all the work of Pentecost into my life today. I surrender myself to You. I refuse to be discouraged. You are the God of all hope. You have proven Your power by resurrecting Jesus Christ from the dead, and I claim in every way this victory over all Satanic forces in my life. I pray in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ with thanksgiving. Amen.

© Victor Matthews, Emeritus Professor of Theology at Grand Rapids Baptist Seminary.

Blessings!

Hal Seed (website: PastorMentor.com)

✦ This Blessed Me!

Dr. Hal Seed is founding pastor of New Song Community Church in Oceanside, CA. In the past five years, New Song has seen over 5,000 people make first time decisions for Christ. Hal is the author of Future History: Understanding the Book of Daniel and End Times Prophecy, Jonah: Responding to God, I Love Sundays, The Bible Questions, as well as The God Questions. Each of these books is being used in small groups and church-wide campaigns around the country.

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Prayer by Victor Matthews, Emeritus Professor of

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6. A Place of Beauty and Satisfaction
7. Ibugbe Ewa ati Itelorun (Yoruba version of 6 above)
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22. The Sleeping Giant (A Call to an Urgent Spiritual Reawakening)
23. The King, the Saviour and the Comforter (For children and Youths)

INFORMATION ABOUT THE MINISTRY

The Maranatha Commission is a non-denominational/inter-denominational Christian Organisation committed to the propagation of the Gospel of our Lord JESUS CHRIST. To achieve this, we currently offer the following services:

- ◆ Evangelistic Outreaches
- ◆ Family Harmony Crusades
- ◆ Children and Teens' Concerns
- ◆ Youth Mentoring
- ◆ Free Counselling Services
- ◆ Sale of Bibles, Christian Literatures, CD's, Gift items etc.
- ◆ Publication of Christian Books and Tracts.

MARANATHA BIBLE CLUB: for children and youths. Meeting Time is 4pm – 5pm every Saturday at the Ministry's premises. **THIS IS FREE.**

LIFEGATE CRECHE: for Baby-care and Playgroup services **at moderate fees.** We provide a physically and

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spiritually healthy atmosphere; a place parents can restfully keep their children while away to work.

Invitations from Churches and Christian Organisations.

We accept invitations from Churches, Christian Organisations and Fellowship Groups to give Talks; conduct Seminars for youths and children; also on Youth Work, handling Children Ministry; and on the Christian life generally.

HELLO THERE!

If you have been blessed through reading this Book; or you have just been born again; or just rededicated your life to Jesus Christ, we will be glad to hear your testimony (See Contact details below).

Are you burdened, troubled, confused, or traumatized? Perhaps you are beaten, battered, and shattered; and you need an empathetic and non-judgemental listener?

Perhaps you want to know about God's plan of salvation for mankind; or you are thirsty for more of God?

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Please, feel free to talk to us at:

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TMC: Preparing Souls for the Soon-coming King.

'The Power at Work in the Christian' is about the great provisions and privileges available to the Christian; courtesy Jesus Christ. It challenges Christians to key into all we are in Christ; and maximally enjoy Christ's abundant life as we run the race Home.

The Christian is further challenged on holiness and a thirst after God; Evangelism and discipleship; prayerfulness and a stubborn faith in the Almighty God; and a total dependence on the Power of the wonderful Holy Spirit.

'The Power at work in the Christian' warns against resisting the Holy Spirit, calls the unsaved to genuine repentance; and the backslider to a return to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Christian is encouraged to continually thirst for more of the Holy Spirit for constant 'Spiritual Rehydration' in the wilderness of this world; until one safely gets 'Home'.

This Book is a sequel to my previous one 'The Sleeping Giant (A Call to an urgent Spiritual Reawakening)'; and will ignite a fresh fire in you to fulfil God's Purpose for your life! MARANATHA!



Oluwatofunmi Temiloluwa Akinyemi (Mama Jochebed) is a Princess of the 'King of kings', having received Jesus Christ as her personal Lord and Saviour. She is God's instrument in propagating the same Gospel that brought Salvation to her soul; and daily longs for a closer walk with God.

A Sociologist and an alumna of the University of Lagos, Nigeria; she was a very active member of the Lagos Varsity Christian Union (LVCU) while on Campus.

After graduation, she served in old Sokoto State under the compulsory one year National Youth Service Corp (NYSC) Scheme in Nigeria. She was the Prayer Secretary of the 1982/83 set of the Nigeria Christian Corpers' Fellowship (NCCF).

A former employee of the Ondo State Teaching Service Commission, she voluntarily retired in June 1996 in obedience to God's call on her life.

Tofunmi has a very great burden in her heart for the salvation of souls; and for such to be firmly rooted in the Lord Jesus Christ through effective discipleship plans. She fulfils this vision through 'The Maranatha Commission'; and has been privileged to minister in different Church denominations and Fellowship Groups. 'The Power at work in the Christian' is her 24th Book.

Tofunmi is married to Kola, and their union is wonderfully blessed. This testimony is sealed with the precious Blood of Jesus Christ.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!!

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