Table of Content

Dedication
Acknowledgement
Foreword
Introduction

Chapter 1: G419 – The Purpose
Chapter 2: Abounding in Hope
Chapter 3: Arsenal of Grace
Chapter 4: Knowledge-filled Ministry
Chapter 5: The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation
Chapter 6: The Surpassing Greatness of His Power
Chapter 7: The Parameters of Love
Chapter 8: The Balance of the Spirit in the Will of God
Chapter 9: Your Glory; His Glory
Chapter 10: The Perfect Peace
References
DEDICATION

To CASORites all over the world, you gave me the privilege and platform to lead like never before, my Prayer for CASOR OAU is that you shall live and not die; Your men will not be few and your hands will be sufficient for you.

And to my generation next, we are no longer next, we are NOW, and we are taking over. My prayer for us is that we will ALL FULLY FILL that divine hollow in our hearts. The world awaits us.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

--To my source, my breath, my glorious obsession: the God of the whole earth. I owe you more than acknowledgements, I owe you everything. I can never repay you.

--To my dad, Adeyemi for your leadership instinct that has birthed same in me, and for charting my course through life's meanders.

--To my mum, Ebun for spearheading my growth process and ardently believing in me against all odds. You're indeed a gift.

--To my siblings, Sayo, Sola, Banji and Funke, you were just always there for me, I was so little, but you carried me along still.

--We are no different from the cumulative input of what we have learned, relearned and unlearned. I am grateful to God for the human resources He has placed in my life through books, tapes, videos, and biographies. They are really the mighty men that had me in their quiver. They motivated, inspired and still inspire me. Your wealth of wisdom has left me forever changed and transformed.

--To my mentors and Fathers, Pastor Tolu Moody, Pastor Kolapo Patrick, and Pastor Peter Alabi, for your belief in me, your counsel and show of love. They do not leave me the same. They have carefully shaped me into who I am today. I love you Sirs.

--Pastor Peter, you gave me targets and deadlines. You encouraged me and lent me your relationships. But for you, I would probably still be on chapter three by now, thank God for the push you gave me. I will be eternally grateful.

--To Pastor Olaoluwa Oluwadare, you are simply amazing sir. Thank you for helping with the book design and publishing sir. You made me think outside the box sir. I really honour and celebrate you sir.

--Femi Tiamiyu, Victor Ogbara, Elijah Oyewole, Olumide Ajibola, Lawrence Ige, Michael Odihiri, Julius Akomolafe, Tayo Familoni, Fortune Eriwona, Olayinka Hammed, Olaide Akineye, Olanipekun Emmanuel, Orits Emmanuel, Olapade David, Ewaoluwa Olotu, Akinrimade Bolu, Tomi Okuboyejo, Ijeoma Frank, Ogunniyi Seyi, Odusegun Folarin, CASOR 35, THE PASTORATE, THE COP and all the Ministry Friends and aides I have had through my journey at the Obafemi Awolowo University and beyond. You made it easy for me to be me. Your seed sown is blessed. Space and time will fail me to include the acts and exploits of my Samsons, Gideons, Baraks, and Samuels, Hebrews 11:32. You would always be generals.

--Tobi Adewale, you added a huge brick to this building, thanks for the encouragement and initial editing. You made it your business, may men make it their business to serve you.
--Oniosun Mayode, for typing the manuscript from my journal, you slept off typing sometimes, but you still did it. I love you

--I am grateful for the members, friends and colleagues who I've been privileged to lead from the outset till now. You brought out the silk indeed. Never knew I could be who I am until I met you. May you ever remain fruitful.
Apostle Paul was regarded by the authority of scriptures as a wise master builder, what he built was not an empire or enterprise, what he built by the help of the Holy Spirit was a lasting pattern of ministry for the new creation man and the Church of Christ, this pattern will endure till the coming of our Lord. He achieved this feat by engaging the Spirit inspired timeless prayers, scattered across the new testament books.

The Pauline prayers are prayers that never age, never die, never fade. They are relevant for all dispensations and seasons, for all people and creed, for all situations and circumstances.

They carefully portray the heart of God about the timeless realities of the new creation man. Your life changes radically when God floods your faculties with the intensity of his ever increasing light, and much more fills you with His fullness in an abounding measure. This is the content you stand to collide with in these amazing resource. It applies to everyone.

Damilola has carefully plucked out these strands of eternal realities and demystified them to small bits for your consumption, learning and edification. Do not read this book once, read it as many times as possible and recommend it to others. It ought to be a study guide!

PAULINE PRAYERS has blessed me, and it's more than certain to bless you and millions of others as well.

Enough of praying amiss, Let's join the train of the new creation prayer revolution. Let's get it right and let's get it now.

Dele Osunmakinde

Lagos, Nigeria
INTRODUCTION

Prayer is about the most popular act of service in Christianity, but also one of the most abused as well. People really do not like to learn about prayer, but they love to pray; they do not need prayer teachings, just give them prayer points, and watch them go into action. One thing we need to understand though is that prayer is not a currency in the Spirit, as though we pay God in prayers, and receive our deliveries in answered requests; as though the volume and length of the prayers would pass for the value of the currency. Prayer, really, is like the communication network in the kingdom of God. It is that interface between God and man; it is a bridge that links us to God; it is the deep in us seeking for the deep in God; it is God putting His words in our mouth to effect changes on earth; it is we seeking to know the Father's heart and pursuing it with our faculties; it is bringing heaven to earth; it is we seeking the strength of God in our human frailties and earthly weaknesses; Prayer is the solace for the heart broken, the succour for the down trodden, the garrison for the strong and the threshing floor for the sons. Prayer is man in God and God in man. Prayer is a very huge subject, so mammoth, no book can comprehensively do justice to its nebulous nature.

However, in this book, I will seek to bring to our consciousness the details of some eternal prayers prayed by the great Apostle Paul, the writer of about two third of the New Testament. These prayers, tagged PAULINE, were prayers he constantly prayed for the churches he planted and followed up, the sons he trained and the general assembly known as THE CHURCH. I believe these prayers are some of the most important prayers, if not the most important, any believer can pray for him/herself and the Church at large.

My heart experienced an unusual awakening in the course of reading the epistles of Paul. After voracious and consistent study, I observed patterns in his writings all through the epistles, patterns I knew could not have been coincidental. So I took out time to pull out these patterned progressions of thoughts from these Epistles. Prior to this time, I really had not come across the term “PAULINE PRAYERS”, I had heard about the PAULINE EPISTLES however, but not the PRAYERS.

The Lord spoke to my heart to begin committing these prayers to memory and start praying them consistently for myself, the church (body of Christ) and my fellowship at the time. The results were mind boggling! I discovered over time that there were several others of its kind in the epistles, and in some instances, Paul used phrases that connoted that he did not cease or stop to pray these prayers for the particular churches he was writing to.

This meant to me, that these prayers were not prayers of faith as described in the Bible passages below:

(Mark 11:23 AMP) Truly I tell you, whoever says to this mountain, Be lifted up and thrown into the sea! and does not doubt at all in his
heart but believes that what he says will take place, it will be done for him.

(Mark 11:24 AMP) For this reason I am telling you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe (trust and be confident) that it is granted to you, and you will [get it].

(Mark 11:25 AMP) And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him and let it drop (leave it, let it go), in order that your Father Who is in heaven may also forgive you your [own] failings and shortcomings and let them drop;

Prayers of faith ought to be prayed once, believing that we receive and have the things we believed for. I realised it really could not be placed under any major category of prayer I was aware of at the time, so I stopped to ask what type of prayers they were. I began calling them ‘the PAULINE PRAYERS’, which would find a suitable place in the prayers of supplication. As I consistently prayed these prayers Paul ceased not to pray, my life took a trajectory turn. I began to see things I was not previously exposed to in the scriptures, both from the Old and the New Testament. Just as the psalmist expressed in Psalm 119:18 “…open my eyes O lord that I may behold wondrous things out of the law…” materials and resources began to flow in my direction which exposed me to a deeper and richer understanding of the inspired Word of God. I noticed a rise in my ability to also teach these revelations as a result. These prayers changed my prayer life and opened me up to constant revelations from God’s Word. I understood better the finished works of Jesus and how to gain access to the limitless inheritance I have in Christ. I got comprehensively wiser in the Word, and hence in life.

And so I believe that in all spheres of human endeavour, spanning from the student to the corporate man and woman, the business mogul, the fashionista, family man or woman, your entire life can take a new turn by the commitment to these evergreen prayers of the Apostle Paul. I believe the same and more will happen to you as you take a few days out to read and understand the content of this book. It will literally translate you from the position you are now to where you ought to be in the scheme of things, by the power that is at work in you.

CHAPTER ONE

G419: THE PURPOSE
Probably wondering what G419 means? It is a code that connotes the tenets of this scripture:

(Galatians 4:19 AMP)  My little children, for whom I am again suffering birth pangs until Christ is completely and permanently formed (molded) within you…

I believe this is the purpose of the Pauline prayers. He prayed for the church until there was an unfeigned expression of Christ diffusing from every Christian in the early churches and permeating through the defence that the world system raised up over the centuries. Every member was to be a representation of Christ on earth: in conduct, speech, decision making, ethics, mindset, perspective, perception and identity.

This passage does not mean Christ did not indwell these “children”. It however means that He was looking forward to the time the whole essence of Christ would be fully expressed in one single believer. There ought to be no greater desire a believer should have than to completely express the fullness of Christ.

(Ephesians 4:13 AMP) [That it might develop] until we all attain oneness in the faith and in the comprehension of the [full and accurate] knowledge of the Son of God, that [we might arrive] at really mature manhood (the completeness of personality which is nothing less than the standard height of Christ’s own perfection), the measure of the stature of the fullness of the Christ and the completeness found in Him.

However, this transformation is predicated on the truth of God's Word that reveals that man is a spirit, has a soul and lives in a body.

(1 Thessalonians 5:23 AMP) And may the God of peace Himself sanctify you through and through [separate you from profane things, make you pure and wholly consecrated to God]; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved sound and complete [and found] blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah).

When we become born again, our spirits are quickened, that is, made alive.

(Ephesians 2:1 AMP) AND YOU [He made alive], when you were dead (slain) by [your] trespasses and sins

(Ephesians 2:2 AMP) In which at one time you walked [habitually]. You were following the course and fashion of this world [were under the sway of the tendency of this present age], following the prince of the power of the air. [You were obedient to and under the control of the [demon] spirit that still constantly works in the sons of disobedience
[the careless, the rebellious, and the unbelieving, who go against the purposes of God].

(Ephesians 2:3 AMP) Among these we as well as you once lived and conducted ourselves in the passions of our flesh [our behaviour governed by our corrupt and sensual nature], obeying the impulses of the flesh and the thoughts of the mind [our cravings dictated by our senses and our dark imaginings]. We were then by nature children of [God's] wrath and heirs of [His] indignation, like the rest of mankind.

(Ephesians 2:4 AMP) But God--so rich is He in His mercy! Because of and in order to satisfy the great and wonderful and intense love with which He loved us,

(Ephesians 2:5 AMP) Even when we were dead (slain) by [our own] shortcomings and trespasses, He made us alive together in fellowship and in union with Christ; [He gave us the very life of Christ Himself, the same new life with which He quickened Him, for] it is by grace (His favour and mercy which you did not deserve) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation).

This verse reveals that, that which was once dead in trespasses, the part of us that was quickened, is the spirit and as a matter of truth, this spirit part of us is already in the same state that God's spirit is:

(1 Corinthians 6:17 AMP) But the person who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with Him.

It implies that the moment we receive Jesus into our lives by believing and confessing His resurrection and Lordship, His coming in the flesh, death and burial, we become saved and are joined with the Lord.

(Romans 10:9 AMP) Because if you acknowledge and confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and in your heart believe (adhere to, trust in, and rely on the truth) that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved...KJV

(Romans 10:10 AMP) For with the heart a person believes (adheres to, trusts in, and relies on Christ) and so is justified (declared righteous, acceptable to God), and with the mouth he confesses (declares openly and speaks out freely his faith) and confirms [his] salvation...KJV
That moment, we are indwelt by the perfect spirit of God which will never leave us nor forsake us. This explains why, at times, because people do not know what part of their tripartite nature is being referred to by the scriptures, they misunderstand it. For example:

(1 John 2:20 AMP) But you have been anointed by [you hold a sacred appointment from, you have been given an unction from] the Holy One, and you all know [the Truth] or you know all things...KJV

(1 John 3:9 AMP) No one born (begotten) of God [deliberately, knowingly, and habitually] practices sin, for God's nature abides in him [His principle of life, the divine sperm, remains permanently within him]; and he cannot practice sinning because he is born (begotten) of God....KJV

Here the Word of God refers directly to your regenerated spirit which is created in God's righteousness and true holiness (Ephesians 4:24), which actually knows all things, cannot lie, cannot sin and cannot age. Our recreated spirit is perfect and incorruptible. GLORY TO GOD!

All these are possible because of the redemptive work of our perfect spotless Lamb.

(2 Corinthians 5:21 AMP) For our sake He made Christ [virtually] to be sin Who knew no sin, so that in and through Him we might become [endued with, viewed as being in, and examples of] the righteousness of God [what we ought to be, approved and acceptable and in right relationship with Him, by His goodness].

Wow! What a sacrifice. It means we are exactly as righteous, holy, spotless, and perfect as Jesus is... in our spirits. Yes, that is very true because He took our sins, pain, shame and guilt upon the cross and God the Father poured out His entire wrath and fury upon him and judged all lawlessness and sin once and for all, thereby perfecting forever them that would believe on Him by faith.

(Hebrews 10:11 AMP) Furthermore, every [human] priest stands [at his altar of service] ministering daily, offering the same sacrifices over and over again, which never are able to strip [from every side of us] the sins [that envelop us] and take them away--

(Hebrews 10:12 AMP) Whereas this One [Christ], after He had offered a single sacrifice for our sins [that shall avail] for all time, sat down at the right hand of God,

(Hebrews 10:13 AMP) Then to wait until His enemies should be made a stool beneath His feet. [Ps. 110:1]
(Hebrews 10:14 AMP) For by a single offering He has forever completely cleansed and perfected those who are consecrated and made holy.

We will attempt a little expose on that so that we can further understand our true nature and identity as these would help in our main discuss. So, the spirit is perfect, but the soul or mind is not, therefore:

(Romans 12:1 AMP) I APPEAL to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship.

(Romans 12:2 AMP) Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].

Here, teachers and preachers have erstwhile explained that there are three levels of the will of God. I would beg to differ; God’s will is one and it is good, acceptable and perfect! It is like saying in a bid to describe Greg, to say Greg is tall, dark and handsome and one should say oh wow! That must be referring to three guys: one Greg is tall, the other Greg is dark while the last one is handsome. That would not be accurate, would it? In the same light, the will of God carries these three qualities, yet is one.

All these qualities of the will of God are fulfilled and packaged into our spirit already; our spirit is one with God, remember? However, for our lives to change, be transformed and be translated from the results we got before we became born again to the higher level, something has to happen in our minds, because we only prosper as our soul prospers. 3 John 1:2. Unfortunately, God cannot do that for us. So He beseeches us through Apostle Paul that ‘we renew our minds to the realities of our regenerated spirit,’ and until then, we cannot prosper beyond our thinking, cannot be healthier than our thought pattern, cannot be holier than our thought life and definitely will not reveal Christ to our world. So Paul prayed for the Galatian church, and that he would continue to pray for them until Christ is formed in them to the overflow. The Pauline prayers are the prayers Paul kept praying and interceding with.

**NATURE VS NURTURE**
Every human being is largely a product of two major factors: Nature and Nurture. Nature speaks of what is encoded in the DNA, nurture speaks of what the individual has done with the ability in him. Nature is very determining and essential, but nurture is even much more determining. **There is little help you can offer an eagle who has refused to fly, simply because he has stayed too long with the chickens. He is born to fly by nature, but his nurture has inhibited his inherent ability.** A king will not enthrone his two year old son, because even though he is the heir, as long as he is a child is not different from a slave. Although by NATURE, he is lord of all, but he is put under tutors and guardians for the purpose of NURTURE, until an appointed time. If princes refuse to grow up, they would walk on their bare feet, but if slaves choose to nurture themselves in the creed of royalty, they will ride on horses. The world would not ask who your father is; all they want to see is who is riding on horses, and who is walking. God has called us gods and the scriptures cannot be broken, but may we not die like ordinary men because we refuse the nurture the nature of God in us.

This is the major difference between the Christian who produces results and the one who does not. They have identical nature; none is superior by virtue of pedigree, but guess what? They might live contrasting lives, if one nurtures the nature and the other does not. One knows who he is, but does not stop there; he develops that nature and it becomes part of him. A cub has the ability to roar, and chase the biggest preys by nature, but he will have to grow up trying to roar every day. He might start funny, but he continues anyway, and in no time, his roar threatens a whole forest until he becomes king of the jungle.

**The revolutionary ideas of history are our birth rights; the witty inventions are our heritage, but the unbelievers have carted away with our spoil for centuries because we have refused to be who we are indeed.** We ought to be God's workmanship displaying His eternal wisdom in crafting us into a glorious masterpiece, to the admiration of the world systems, and not leave our goodness to rot and decay through negligence. Woe to they who are complacent in Zion. We are the light by Nature, but we must shine by Nurture, then gentiles will have no choice than to come to the brightness of our rising.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: THE BUTTON FOR ACTIVATION! CONSCIOUSNESS: THE KEY!**

*(Philemon 1:6)* The communication of thy faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good things which is in Christ Jesus..KJV

Now, let me pose a question to you. How many good things are in Christ Jesus? If you attempted to answer that question, then I am sure perhaps you got stuck along the line, because they are countless!

And those good things are locked up in our spirits as well. As a matter of truth, everything in you is good. Halleluyah! However, until we acknowledge these good things, our faith would definitely not communicate much effectively; your health might still be in weakness, your finances might never get better and so on. But the Word says, when we
begin to acknowledge these good things and begin to lay a demand on them, our lives begin to communicate to others more effectively. At this point, when you say “God is good”, people will nod in affirmation because they can see the evidence of this goodness upon your life. Luke 7:35, Matt 11:19b says “…but wisdom is justified of her children”. A wise man once said “no proof, no point; no result, no respect!” For men to glorify your Father in heaven, they have to see your good works.

I say to people, all things are ready, God is not about to prosper anyone:

(2 Corinthians 8:9 AMP) For you are becoming progressively acquainted with and recognizing more strongly and clearly the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (His kindness, His gracious generosity, His undeserved favour and spiritual blessing), [in] that though He was [so very] rich, yet for your sakes He became [so very] poor, in order that by His poverty you might become enriched (abundantly supplied).

He has already given the permission for everyone who believes in the sacrifice on the cross by the perfect Lamb of God to be made rich. Therefore only by faith can we access what God has made available by grace and that is why faith pleases God. It is faith that appropriates everything Jesus came to provide for. For example:

❖ We live by faith

(Romans 1:17 AMP) For in the Gospel a righteousness which God ascribes is revealed, both springing from faith and leading to faith [disclosed through the way of faith that arouses to more faith]. As it is written, The man who through faith is just and upright shall live and shall live by faith. [Hab. 2:4].

(Galatians 3:11 AMP) Now it is evident that no person is justified (declared righteous and brought into right standing with God) through the Law, for the Scripture says, The man in right standing with God [the just, the righteous] shall live by and out of faith and he who through and by faith is declared righteous and in right standing with God shall live.

(Hebrews 10:38 AMP) But the just shall live by faith [My righteous servant shall live by his conviction respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, and holy fervour born of faith and conjoined with it]; and if he draws back and shrinks in fear, My soul has no delight or pleasure in him.

(Habakkuk 2:4 AMP) Look at the proud; his soul is not straight or right within him, but the [rigidly] just and the [uncompromisingly] righteous man shall live by his faith and in his faithfulness.
❖ We walk by faith

(2 Corinthians 5:7 AMP) For we walk by faith [we regulate our lives and conduct ourselves by our conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, with trust and holy fervour; thus we walk] not by sight or appearance.

❖ We are justified by faith

(Romans 3:28 AMP) For we hold that a man is justified and made upright by faith independent of and distinctly apart from good deeds (works of the Law). [The observance of the Law has nothing to do with justification.]

(Romans 5:1 AMP) THEREFORE, SINCE we are justified (acquitted, declared righteous, and given a right standing with God) through faith, let us [grasp the fact that we] have [the peace of reconciliation to hold and to enjoy] peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

(Galatians 3:24 AMP) So that the Law served [to us Jews] as our trainer [our guardian, our guide to Christ, to lead us] until Christ [came], that we might be justified (declared righteous, put in right standing with God) by and through faith.

❖ We are circumcised by faith

(Romans 3:30 AMP) Since it is one and the same God Who will justify the circumcised by faith [which germinated from Abraham] and the uncircumcised through their [newly acquired] faith. [For it is the same trusting faith in both cases, a firmly relying faith in Jesus Christ].

❖ We have access by faith

(Rom 5:2 AMP) Through Him also we have [our] access (entrance, introduction) by faith into this grace (state of God's favour) in which we [firmly and safely] stand. And let us rejoice and exult in our hope of experiencing and enjoying the glory of God.

❖ We fear (revere) God by faith

(Hebrews 11:7 AMP) By faith we understand that the worlds [during the successive ages] were framed (fashioned, put in order, and equipped for their intended purpose) by the word of God, so that what we see was not made out of things which are visible. ???
(Genesis 22:12 AMP) And He said, Do not lay your hand on the lad or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear and revere God, since you have not held back from Me or begrudged giving Me your son, your only son.

❖ We receive the promise by faith

(Galatians 3:22 AMP) But the Scriptures [picture all mankind as sinners] shut up and imprisoned by sin, so that [the inheritance, blessing] which was promised through faith in Jesus Christ (the Messiah) might be given (released, delivered, and committed) to [all] those who believe [who adhere to and trust in and rely on Him].

❖ We wait by faith

(Galatians 5:5 AMP) For we, [not relying on the Law but] through the [Holy] Spirit's [help], by faith anticipate and wait for the blessing and good for which our righteousness and right standing with God [our conformity to His will in purpose, thought, and action, causes us] to hope.

❖ We are by faith

(Galatians 3:26 AMP) For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God through faith.

❖ We pray by faith

(Mark 11:25 AMP) And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him and let it drop (leave it, let it go), in order that your Father Who is in heaven may also forgive you your [own] failings and shortcomings and let them drop.

The list is endless. It is therefore apparent that a believer would live a lower quality of life than the provision of grace available to him, if he fails to acknowledge them in him by faith.

The purpose of this book is to stir you up to begin praying these evergreen Pauline prayers that primarily works on your consciousness which is resident in your mind. The moment your consciousness is awakened to the realities of the spirit, your life would begin to radiate and gravitate to the material equivalent of your most dominant consciousness.

Same applies to health. I believe God has not yet healed his first candidate or patient ever since the resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ. For Him to have done that would
mean Jesus did not pay it all, give it all, or become it all. For God to say “ok now, let me heal Sophia of typhoid” would negate everything that redemption typifies. Sophia however could go to Isaiah 53:5:

...but he was wounded for my transgressions, he was bruised for my iniquities, the chastisement of my peace (health and wholeness) was upon him and with every stroke, I am healed

and 1 Peter 2:24 gives the healing a past tense:

“... you were healed.”

Sophia should begin blessing God for her health and act according to her faith and she would receive her healing. Remember I said we receive by faith?

The kingdom of God is not a place; it is a system, operative in any place, with its headquarters within, Luke 17:20-21. It is therefore evident that the kingdom of God operates by the laws of faith in grace. The Pauline prayers help your consciousness and set the spirit of God in motion to begin working in you, that which is well pleasing in His sight. I believe this with all my heart. My prayer is that as you read on, this book will help stir you to the realities of redemption that would be unveiled and empower you to be all that God has in plan for you.

CHAPTER TWO
ABOUNDING IN HOPE

(Romans 15:13 NKJV) And may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

In this new era of the church, a lot of emphasis is placed on the subject of faith and love which has immensely helped the body of Christ. However, the virtue called hope is a concept that should not be left to live in the shadow of her fellow abiders; after all it is faith, hope and love that abide.

I believe just as the ascending manner of arrangement is, so is the weight of each virtue. Love, as we know is the greatest; hope I believe is greater with faith being great. This is
not a mindless logical conclusion; it is a carefully examined assertion provable by scriptures.

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

Faith is predicated on the presence of hope. If hope is absent, faith is impossible. It is therefore consistent to say that hope births faith. It further implies that I must have believed and hoped that there is a freedom before I could ever take any step of faith towards achieving that freedom. I also believe there will be enough oxygen in the atmosphere, and that makes me act in faith and breathe in. Although this is mere head knowledge, it applies to everything. Abraham against all form of hope believed in hope, therefore he was not weak in faith.

(Romans 4:18 NKJV) For he who beyond hope believed on hope for him to become the father of many nations (according to that which was spoken, "So your seed shall be").

If hope was lost, faith was dismissed. This lays a foundation for this Pauline prayer in our study scripture:

(Romans 15:13 NKJV) And may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

This verse has blessed me immensely, especially in seasons of waiting on the Lord to receive a desired request.

(John 16:24 NKJV) Before now you have asked nothing in my name; ask and you shall receive, that your joy may be full.

God expects us to ask, so that we may receive and our joy would be full. However, He wants to fill us with all joy and peace while we are still believe, which is a rare attitude among believers.

The prevalent attitude in many believers towards God when trusting for something can be described accurately as nagging, aptly characterized by the Israelites in the wilderness. People begin comparing themselves with others who are already in possession of what they desire. The Word says this is unwise.

(2 Corinthians 10:12 NKJV) For we do not dare to rank or compare ourselves with some of the ones commending themselves. But they, measuring themselves among themselves, and comparing themselves to themselves, are not perceptive.
Many others mention it when they come to God in prayer and that is all they ask and confess. EVERYTIME!

You need to come to terms with the fact that God loves you. That reality should so overwhelm you that when you are trusting God for a thing and you are praying this prayer alongside, you would be so filled with joy and peace, even before you see the physical manifestation of your request.

\[(2 \text{ Corinthians 5:7 NKJV)} \text{ for we walk by faith, not by sight…}\]

You should walk in the reality of your desire such that even when it is manifested in the physical, you are not more excited than when you were expecting, because God has filled you with all joy and peace. Glory to God! Remember the essence of these prayers is to mature you until Christ is formed in you.

Here are a few examples of unhealthy mindsets and thought patterns, the Word would help you eradicate:

❖ **UNHEALTHY COMPARISON**

\[(2 \text{ Corinthians 10:12 NKJV)} \text{ For we do not dare to rank or compare ourselves with some of the ones commending themselves. But they, measuring themselves among themselves, and comparing themselves to themselves, are not perceptive.}\]

You are graciously unique and you have absolutely no business comparing yourself with others, whether they be ahead or behind. Anyway this is looked at, unhealthy comparison kills your joy: it either gets you puffed up when you think you are doing better than others or depressed when you feel everyone is doing well except you.

When you begin to stir yourself up with these prayers, such tendencies for unhealthy comparison would fade away. It is unarguable that at times, such unwholesome thoughts are bound to stray into your heart but it is your responsibility to keep putting them under subjection. **You cannot stop birds from flying over your head, but you can prevent them from nesting on it**. You are to guard your heart with all diligence.

\[(Proverbs 4:23 NKJV) \text{ Keep your heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.}\]

❖ **ENVY AND STRIFE**

\[(James 3:16 NKJV) \text{ For where envying and strife are, there is confusion and every foul deed.}\]
In situations when people do not get what they ask for, especially if the motive for asking is selfish or to show off or there seems to be delay, people most likely begin to envy and strive with others in their environment. Joy and peace are heavy weight champions that will knock out envy and strife any day, anytime. It is impossible to move forward and backward at the same time. Similarly, you cannot claim to be filled with joy and be envious or full of strife at the same time, it is not possible! The Word teaches that where envy and strife is, there is confusion and EVERY evil work. Amazing! This is interesting, if you flip it around, you should have something like this “where there is joy and peace, there is direction, clarity, purpose and every good work.” Isn’t that just amazing? It sure is! This prayer would raise your consciousness to the frequency of the spirit in you. Glory to God!

❖ DEPRESSION

When you see depressed persons, it could be so contagious that you almost feel like assisting them in this self-absorbing activity. No one, I say again that no one under heaven has the right to be depressed. It is of the devil. Why does no one have the right? Because God loves every single soul on earth. If that is all you can meditate on, it is potent enough to destroy the bondage depression has put anyone in. Have you ever seen a groom who sees his bride approaching and still stands depressed? Oh yeah! I do not mean a groom who was forced to marry the lady, I mean a groom who has kept himself for the bride, one who hopefully and excitedly awaits the gradual progression of his bride's steps down the aisle of timeless commitment? Have you seen such a ‘depressed groom’ scenario? Why would he not be? Because of the hope of having her all to himself for the rest of their lives; this hope keeps him excited and alive! That's why Apostle Paul says we should comfort one another with the heaven hope. A picture of a desirable future, brings excitement.

In the Nigerian culture, it is generally believed that the groom whose wife is coming should not peep or leap to catch a glimpse of his bride; she will eventually get to him. Now imagine if your level of joy, peace and hope is abounding too through the Holy Ghost, the producer of all healthy emotions Himself. It is practically impossible to be depressed with the Holy Ghost actively at work in a man's life. This prayer quickens your soul and you begin to experience the same reality. What an amazing prayer to pray every day!

❖ GUILT AND CONDEMNATION

Statistics show that guilt and condemnation are major causes of suicide. These two attackers can break down any defence that is not well guarded. Many believers do not believe they are forgiven, talk more loved. All have sinned quite alright, but that was the purpose of the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus: to restore us to our creator and father. He took our place so he could give us his place, his place of
acceptance, authority and royalty. What an exchange! The gospel is the “TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE NEWS”,

(Isaiah 61:1 NKJV) The Spirit of the Lord Jehovah is on Me; because Jehovah has anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;

There is no such thing as condemnation in Christ.

(Romans 8:1 NKJV) There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

(Romans 14:17 NKJV) … for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit

❖ IMPATIENCE

This vice has cut off the line of supply of God to men too often. When people ask from God and answer seems not to be forthcoming, they begin to lose patience and work out their carnal wisdom to get things done. When you trust in the Lord, trust Him wholeheartedly.

(Isaiah 31:1a) Woe unto them that go DOWN to Egypt for help.

Egypt represents man, flesh and his systems. God does not need your assistance to bring about His promise to you. Abraham tried helping God with His promise and gave birth to Ishmael through Hagar, but God was not going to make use of the arm of flesh to fulfil His divine purpose. He made sure it was the dead body of Abraham and the dead womb of Sarah that He used to bring about the seed of promise.

(Psalm 16:5 NKJV) Jehovah is the portion of my inheritance, and of my cup; You shall uphold my lot.”

This means whatever belongs to you is yours and no man can take it out of God’s hand. However, He needs you to trust in Him and not your wisdom or your connection to other men.

(Psalm 33:16 NKJV) The king is not saved by a great army; a mighty man is not delivered by much strength.
Psalm 33:16-18 reminds that your intelligence and strength cannot save you but hoping in His grace and mercy. The Bible also reiterates in Psalms 118:8 that it is better to trust in Jehovah than in man.

God will answer; in truth, He has answered. Just begin rejoicing as though He has, because He has. No matter how long it takes to manifest in the natural, always believe He already has in the spirit and continue rejoicing with joy unspeakable and peace incomprehensible. You can be sure that as you stir yourself up daily with this prayer, your spiritual maturity and growth will richly develop. Sons are not those who get everything their flesh desires; they are those characterised by stability in character and attitude in the face of any circumstance. The Bible states this clearly:

(Philippians 4:12 NKJV) I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound. In everything and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

(Philippians 4:13 NKJV) I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

I could go on and on, but one major thing this prayer did to me and those I ministered it to was that it opened our eyes to the deeper realities of redemption embedded in both the Old and the New Testament. These prayers and some others would displace guilt and condemnation in a man’s life and replace them with righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

CONFESSION

“The God of hope fills me (your name) with all joy and peace in believing, even as I abound in hope through the power of the HOLY GHOST. The Holy Ghost strengthens my emotions; I am not envious, depressed, impatien,t guilt ridden or condemned. I soar high in the spirit with joy and peace fuelled by the Holy Ghost. My response to situation defies logical reasoning. I am made to be above and stay above all things because I am from above. I am above all things through Christ that gives me strength.” Amen
(Romans 15:14 NKJV) And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brothers, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

Some of the radical statements in the Word of God tend to startle a whole lot of Christians, majorly because they do not have an understanding of the spirit, soul and body. For example, the Bible says:

(2 Corinthians 5:17 NKJV) So that if anyone is in Christ, that one is a new creature; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

This statement would rather seem like an exaggeration or a lie to many Christians in our world, or at best they do not want to meditate on it. They just leave it there and hope to see Jesus for explanation, upon arrival in heaven.

How do you reconcile the reality of you being the same height you were before you got born again, after you got born again? You remained as pitch black as you had always been; you remember to the minutest detail, every gross and evil thing you had ever done up until that moment; there was no funny sensation, well maybe you felt convicted and calm for a while but you looked at yourself and just concluded, that perhaps the scripture was directed at your neighbour. Funny, right?

(2 Corinthians 5:17 AMP) Therefore if any person is [ingrafted] in Christ (the Messiah) he is a new creation (a new creature altogether); the old [previous moral and spiritual condition] has passed away. Behold, the fresh and new has come!

The truth is that this verse is as true as any truth you have ever encountered. What I believe to be the missing link is our misconception of what part of us we think is being referred to. That passage refers to our recreated human spirit, which was made alive unto God the moment we gave our life to Christ.

(Psalm 32:2 AMP) Blessed (happy, fortunate, to be envied) is the man to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit. [Romans 4:7, 8]...KJV

This Bible verse says that the regenerated spirit has no guile, not a single blemish, because the Lord has made it clean of any uncleanness and most importantly raised it from death to life.
In the same vein, the Bible also states;

(Romans 15:14 AMP) Personally I am satisfied about you, my brethren, that you yourselves are rich in goodness, amply filled with all [spiritual] knowledge and competent to admonish and counsel and instruct one another also.

Apostle Paul at this point is making an audacious statement. He says that he is more than convinced and persuaded of the brethren in Rome, that they are FULL OF GOODNESS AND FILLED WITH ALL KNOWLEDGE, ALSO ABLE TO ADMONISH ONE ANOTHER. Wow! This is just too good to be true. How could a person be full of goodness? And filled with all knowledge? We must realise at this point that God's Word is accurately inspired, and He is not unnecessarily lavish in word usage. When God says FULL, He means FULL, when He says FILLED, He means FILLED.

To be full of something, means there is no trace or presence of any other substance or matter. If I were to say “I am full of joy unspeakable”, I cannot possibly be sorrowful at the very same time. That would be inconsistent. When a cup is full of water, it means if you have to add another substance, you would have to remove some amount of water from that cup. Thus, when the Bible (the only compendium of God's eternal truth) says you are full of something, you had better believe it. Your spirit is full of God's fullness and filled with all knowledge.

Incredible, but again I say acknowledgement is the button for operation. You need to acknowledge this fullness of goodness and knowledge in your spirit to properly realise its effect in your daily life. Your "normal daily life" will be transformed to the degree that which you meditate on and are conscious of this timeless truth. Before long, you will realise that you hardly ever have time to keep a grudge; you do not even notice when you are offended; you find yourself knowing things you were never taught or perceive things that do not seem to appear to the normal physical senses. Several times I have found myself knowing exactly what the Pastor would preach on before getting to church, know some questions and their answers ever before I am asked, and much more. You are filled with all knowledge, I tell you!

The world yearns for greater manifestations of the goodness of God: in the corporate world, in marriages, friendships, classrooms, churches, communities, hospitals, prisons, the list is endless. Everywhere seems to be “goodness void”. But every believer is actually filled with and full of enough goodness that if the whole world takes it turn to receive from one of us without replenishing, that goodness would never diminish talk less of get exhausted because God is the source of that goodness.

Every human has a cognitive identification of “good” and we go lengths to get good things. Imagine a business owner who operates his business in the fullness of God's goodness which is of course without cutting corners or being dishonest. Imagine if every public officer operated with God's goodness in carrying out his/her responsibility. Just
imagine that the world is full of goodness as much as our recreated human spirits are. Take time out to imagine what the world would look like if men like Adolph Hitler, Idi Amin, Saddam Hussein, Osama Bin Laden and others were all filled with God’s goodness. **A young Christian in the Sub Sahara can change the whole course of the world if he would pay more attention to the goodness in his spirit than the hatred and hostility in his flesh.**

This prayer tells you the reality of your spirit and the possibility of your soul. You can always show goodness to everyone around you, whether you feel they deserve it or not because God loves everybody and wants to show them His goodness through you.

Acting on the reality of the goodness of God in you would bring about a recompense of these three things:

❖ **A GREAT FEELING**

You will wonder how this concerns our subject of discuss. It is observed that the first person to be blessed in giving or doing well is the giver himself. No matter how evil anyone can be, they always feel good when they do good to others. The soul yearns for such feeling of fulfilment every day. Your day ought not to be complete until you do good to someone or some people. Only Christians have this capacity inside their spirit. Therefore, we alone can be naturally good and never get exhausted or tired of doing good.

I say this based on revelation. If someone rubs me on the wrong side after I did him some good, guess what I would do? I will do him some more good. The Bible exhorts Christians Romans 12:21 that they should “…not overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good”.

This charge goes to believers: because we are full of goodness and good is ALWAYS superior to evil, never give evil a reason to feel superior to good. So be like JESUS - when one does evil to repay your good, pay him much more goodness out of the abundance in your spirit. See it as though you have no other alternative and watch how supernaturally you will begin to naturally show goodness. Confess out loud “I HAVE SO MUCH GOODNESS IN ME” Hallelujah!

❖ **GREAT RELATIONSHIPS**

Relationships are very expedient in your walk with God. Imagine if Abraham had no Sarah, Lot, servants or maids around him, how would he have become the father of many nations?

(Proverbs 18:24 AMP) **The man of many friends [a friend of all the world] will prove himself a bad friend, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother….KJV**
People gravitate towards where they are celebrated and not where they are tolerated. Be that one among many discouragers who celebrates people's good and strength rather than emphasize people's wrongs and weaknesses.

(Romans 2:4 AMP) Or are you [so blind as to] trifle with and presume upon and despise and underestimate the wealth of His kindness and forbearance and long-suffering patience? Are you unmindful or actually ignorant [of the fact] that God's kindness is intended to lead you to repent (to change your mind and inner man to accept God's will)?...KJV

We need to be like God. He leads men to repentance through goodness and not harshness. Jesus' reaction to the adulterous woman is an example:

(John 8:11 AMP) ...And Jesus said, I do not condemn you either. Go on your way and from now on sin no more.

His method has always been goodness before repentance. What we have these days is repentance then goodness. The message today is “turn or burn”, whereas Jesus typifies “come and dine”.

We ought to be like our Saviour and create great and lasting relationships by our goodness. Guess who Jesus' friends were? Zachaeus the dubious fellow, Mary Magdalene who was possessed with demons, Mary the lazy bone, Martha the nag. But Jesus focused on their strengths and made them into great personalities in scripture. Celebrate people; do not look down on anyone. If you ever look down on another, let it be for the purpose of lifting him. Think of others more highly than you think of yourself. Someone might ask, why is it only us being asked to be good, can't people be good to me too? Well, people would be good to you too if they could but they cannot because they are not all born again, hence they will not be good. Your spirit is full of goodness waiting to be harnessed.

❖ GREAT IMPACT/ INFLUENCE

Can you mention five people on your fingertips who had and still have great global influence? Let's see: Jesus Christ, Mother Theresa, Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King and let us say Mahatma Ghandi. Guess the common factor among all these. I am sure you got it right – goodness; the pursuit of goodness even at their own peril. Time and space would fail me to mention and detail the account of each of these world icons, but I can speak of my Saviour.

(Acts 10:38 AMP) How God anointed and consecrated Jesus of Nazareth with the [Holy] Spirit and with strength and ability and power; how He went about doing good and, in particular, curing all who were harassed and oppressed by [the power of] the devil, for God was with Him.
Glory to God! Jesus was so full of goodness He could not keep it to Himself; He had to go about doing good. Some of us when we prosper, only our bank accounts and pockets know it; but God is raising a generation that will be hungry to do good. The name Jesus is the strongest brand in the whole world after which is Coca-Cola.

From the stable of Bethlehem to the rivers of Jordan, to the pole in Golgotha and then to the royal right hand; now His Name is imprinted on the hearts of over three billion Christians in the world. What an impact, what an influence! Guess what? He did not say He alone could do well, as a matter of truth, He charged us to do greater good than He did.

(John 14:12 AMP) I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, if anyone steadfastly believes in Me, he will himself be able to do the things that I do; and he will do even greater things than these, because I go to the Father.

Your impact is tied to your goodness, not the docile, potential and passive goodness in your spirit, but the communicated kinetic goodness you express to those around you.

(Luke 18:18-19) “and a certain ruler asked him saying, good master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? · · ·and Jesus said unto him, why callest me good, none is good, save one, that is God”.

That Jesus exhibited "good" and was affirmed by Paul is not debatable. Christians are full of goodness and scriptures cannot be broken. Either of two things is possible: either the Bible is not true or a man can be full of God because only God is good. Selah! You can think about that for a few seconds.

By the process of elimination, we know God cannot lie:

(Hebrews 6:18 AMP) This was so that, by two unchangeable things [His promise and His oath] in which it is impossible for God ever to prove false or deceive us, we who have fled [to Him] for refuge might have mighty indwelling strength and strong encouragement to grasp and hold fast the hope appointed for us and set before [us].

(Numbers 23:19a) God is not a man that he should lie neither the son of man that he should repent· · ·

We are therefore left with only one option: that a man can be full of God.

(Ephesians 3:19 AMP) [That you may really come] to know [practically, through experience for yourselves] the love of Christ, which far surpasses mere knowledge [without experience]; that you may be filled [through all your being] unto all the fullness of God [may have the richest measure of the divine Presence, and become a body wholly filled and flooded with God Himself]
That means no man can show goodness in his own strength or ability

(Psalm 39:5 AMP) Behold, You have made my days as [short as] handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing in Your sight. Truly every man at his best is merely a breath! Selah .... KJV

(Psalm 39:5b) “...verily, every man at his best state is altogether vanity”

It is by the grace and infilling of God that we express goodness. You see why there is so much hate and strife in this world? Man is trying so hard to show what they are not and give what they “have not”. But we can show goodness every day and in every way. Many people around you are “goodness starved”. No matter how much of goodness you have shown before, you can yet show much more because you are taking from God’s reserve of goodness, not yours. Incredible truth!

CONFESSION

I (put your name) am full of goodness. I show goodness and I give goodness. I am full of good. I possess no evil in me. I overcome evil with good every time and in every way. I carry the fullness of God in me and I do not run out of goodness. When people remember me, they remember goodness; for the memory of the just is blessed. I feel great when I do good; I build great relationships doing good and have great impact, doing good. Amen
CHAPTER FOUR
KNOWLEDGE-FILLED MINISTRY

The other part of the prayer says we are filled with all knowledge. Now, this could be particularly confusing to a person who just failed at an interview. He definitely figures that if he is really filled with all knowledge, experiences like that ought to be a thing of the past. However, as previously explained, it is your spirit that is filled with all knowledge not your brain.

According to research, the human brain if properly maximised, would enable an average man recite the latest edition of encyclopaedia word for word, learn 40 languages perfectly, be a professional in 30 disciplines and do some other things all at the same time. But if I may ask, how much knowledge is that in comparison to the absolute knowledge of your spirit? All those things as incredible as they sound, grows pale in the light of the endless things your spirit can do. **Therefore your brain is no match for your spirit in terms of knowledge even while working at its highest potential.** In economics, those who use physical power (body and muscular strength) to achieve a goal are paid the lowest on the economic scale of income; those who use their brain to instruct, organise and influence people are paid higher. Now, how much of earthly cash can be used to reward those who labour with their spirit? Little wonder the Bible says that

(1 Titus 4:8 AMP) For physical training is of some value (useful for a little), but godliness (spiritual training) is useful and of value in everything and in every way, for it holds promise for the present life and also for the life which is to come.

This shows that only God can adequately reward the labour of the spirit both in life and beyond.

Godliness is a spiritual exercise. Romans 15:14 says “…we are filled with all knowledge so as to be able to admonish one another.” Before going further, please understand that the only knowledge referred to as ALL KNOWLEDGE is the knowledge of God.

(Jeremiah 9:23 AMP) Thus says the Lord: Let not the wise and skilful person glory and boast in his wisdom and skill; let not the mighty and powerful person glory and boast in his strength and power; let not the person who is rich [in physical gratification and earthly wealth] glory and boast in his [temporal satisfactions and earthly] riches;

(Jeremiah 9:24 AMP) But let him who glories glory in this: that he understands and knows Me [personally and practically, directly discerning and recognizing My character], that I am the Lord, Who practices loving-kindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth, for in these things I delight, says the Lord. [I Corinthians 1:31; II Corinthians 10:17]
Wow! What a scripture! Paul reiterated this in another fashion:

(Philippians 3:7 AMP) But whatever former things I had that might have been gains to me, I have come to consider as [one combined] loss for Christ’s sake.

(Philippians 3:8 AMP) Yes, furthermore, I count everything as loss compared to the possession of the priceless privilege (the overwhelming preciousness, the surpassing worth, and supreme advantage) of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord and of progressively becoming more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him [of perceiving and recognizing and understanding Him more fully and clearly]. For His sake I have lost everything and consider it all to be mere rubbish (refuse, dregs), in order that I may win (gain) Christ (the Anointed One),

(Philippians 3:9 AMP) And that I may [actually] be found and known as in Him, not having any [self-achieved] righteousness that can be called my own, based on my obedience to the Law’s demands (ritualistic uprightness and supposed right standing with God thus acquired), but possessing that [genuine righteousness] which comes through faith in Christ (the Anointed One), the [truly] right standing with God, which comes from God by [saving] faith.

(Philippians 3:10 AMP) [For my determined purpose is] that I may know Him [that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding the wonders of His Person more strongly and more clearly], and that I may in that same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection [which it exerts over believers], and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed [in spirit into His likeness even] to His death, [in the hope]

The knowledge of God is the ultimate. How do we get this knowledge of God? By giving ourselves wholly to the study of the Word.

(2 Timothy 2:15 AMP) Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analysing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skilfully teaching] the Word of Truth.

(Psalm 119:80 AMP) Let my heart be sound (sincere and wholehearted and blameless) in Your statutes, that I may not be put to shame.
This is the beginning of the knowledge of God enhanced by asking the author of scriptures Himself (the Holy Spirit) to explain the literal, prophetic and contextual meaning of the scripture to you. The word of God teaches that there is a link between grace and the knowledge of God:

(2 Peter 2:2) Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord
(2 Peter 3:18a) “… But grow in grace and in the knowledge of our lord and saviour Jesus Christ”.

Like it was earlier established, this knowledge of the word of God is all the knowledge there can ever be, even when every other thing passes away.

(1 Peter 1:23 AMP) You have been regenerated (born again), not from a mortal origin (seed, sperm), but from one that is immortal by the ever living and lasting Word of God.
(1 Peter 1:24 AMP) For all flesh (mankind) is like grass, and all its glory (honour) like [the] flower of grass. The grass withers and the flower drops off,
(1 Peter 1:25 AMP) But the Word of the Lord (divine instruction, the Gospel) endures forever. And this Word is the good news which was preached to you. [Isa. 40:6-9]
(1 Corinthians 13:8 AMP) Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end]. As for prophecy (the gift of interpreting the divine will and purpose), it will be fulfilled and pass away; as for tongues, they will be destroyed and cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away [it will lose its value and be superseded by truth].

These verses say all other forms of knowledge apart from the word of God would vanish away, but not a punctuation of God’s word will ever vanish because Jesus Himself is the Word of God.

(Revelation 19:13 AMP) He is dressed in a robe dyed by dipping in blood, and the title by which He is called is The Word of God.

Do you now see how ALL KNOWLEDGE refers to the knowledge of God? The text we are considering, Romans 15:14 says “…we are filled with the knowledge of God.” Someone might then ask: for what purpose were we filled with this knowledge? This is so we can admonish one another.
(Colossians 3:16a) Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts unto the Lord.

We can therefore conclude that the purpose of having the knowledge of God’s word in us is to admonish one another. In other words, it could be said that the purpose of being filled with the knowledge of God is to minister to the needs of my neighbour.

**The Purpose of Administering the Knowledge of God**

**◆ TO EDIFY**

To edify means to build up, to encourage. As believers, we are filled with all knowledge so that we can edify one another in faith. At some point or the other in our Christian walk, we will need edification, encouragement; we would need strength to move on, and we would need stamina to stand therefore.

(Acts 20:32 AMP) And now [brethren], I commit you to God [I deposit you in His charge, entrusting you to His protection and care]. And I commend you to the Word of His grace [to the commands and counsels and promises of His unmerited favour]. It is able to build you up and to give you [your rightful] inheritance among all God's set-apart ones (those consecrated, purified, and transformed of soul).

Every Christian needs to be built up, because growth is a never ending process in this kingdom.

(1 Peter 2:2 AMP) Like new born babies you should crave (thirst for, earnestly desire) the pure (unadulterated) spiritual milk, that by it you may be nurtured and grow unto [completed] salvation,

Your growth and build up is one hundred percent dependent on your intake and acting upon God’s Word.

We fellowship with other believers so that we can be edified; because we know the Word of God for that day would give us something to believe in, to hope for, to anchor on, for the numerous circumstances we find ourselves. Matthew 4:4 and Luke 4:4 both describe man’s inability to live by bread alone; he also needs to word of God to survive. What natural food is to the natural body (growth and build up), the Word of God is to the soul of a man (growth and build up).
Outside of God's word, transformation is impossible and proving God's will in its three dimensions is out of context.

(Romans 12:2 AMP) Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].

The word of God reveals to us our true identity and how we ought to be in this world. When a man wants to connect with your human body, he touches your body, when he wants to connect to your soul, he sings, he speaks, paints, demonstrates; but when a man wants to reach out to your spirit, he can only do so by revelation from God's word. That is the only place a believer can find the reality of his spirit and the more he reads, practices and mediates on the Word, the more his soul is transformed to the spiritual image he sees in God's word. The scriptures say that we continually behold our spiritual face in the mirror of God's Word and are transformed from one level of glory to another.

Sadly, there are some folks who, in a bid to preach their own opinions have watered down the potency of the Word and have tried to corrupt it.

(2 Corinthians 2:17 AMP) For we are not, like so many, [like hucksters making a trade of] peddling God's Word [short changing and adulterating the divine message]; but like [men] of sincerity and the purest motive, as [commissioned and sent] by God, we speak [His message] in Christ (the Messiah), in the [very] sight and presence of God.

But we thank God for the incorruptibility of His Word!

(1 Peter 1:23 AMP) You have been regenerated (born again), not from a mortal origin (seed, sperm), but from one that is immortal by the ever living and lasting Word of God.

There are millions of believers today living under the condemnation of Satan through the preaching of fear and guilt in the church. We ought to admonish one another, not tarnish or diminish one another. The pure message of grace will lead sinners back to the cross not through penance but through love and faith which would cause anyone who believes to reign in life through the eternal sacrifice of Jesus on the cross.

(Romans 5:17 AMP) For if because of one man's trespass (lapse, offense) death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive [God's] overflowing grace (unmerited favor) and the free gift of righteousness [putting them into right standing with Himself]
reign as kings in life through the one Man Jesus Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

The word of God builds up and gives inheritance but religion and tradition of men will tear down and give no inheritance but shame, fear and guilt as dividends. Thank God for the edification of God's Word!

**The word of God is the word of Grace and it builds us up and gives inheritance.**

As believers, more time should be spent in studying and mediating on God's word. It is particularly more challenging in the present twenty first century community, where various distractions abound, clamouring for our attention and focus, like the numerous social media platforms. However, the tenets of Proverbs 4:20-23 and Joshua 1:8 remains true; with or without the consideration of the century you live in, the Word of God is eternally true, and it ought to take the dominant space in our hearts.

(Proverbs 4:20 AMP) My son, attend to my words; consent and submit to my sayings.

(Proverbs 4:21 AMP) Let them not depart from your sight; keep them in the centre of your heart.

(Proverbs 4:22 AMP) For they are life to those who find them, healing and health to all their flesh

(Proverbs 4:23 AMP) Keep and guard your heart with all vigilance and above all that you guard, for out of it flow the springs of life.

(Joshua 1:8 AMP) This Book of the Law shall not depart out of your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, that you may observe and do according to all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall deal wisely and have good success.

The word of God edifies, bringing to our consciousness the reality of our recreated human spirit.

❖ **TO PURIFY**

(John 17:17 AMP) Sanctify them [purify, consecrate, separate them for Yourself, make them holy] by the Truth; Your Word is Truth.

(John 15:3 AMP) You are cleansed and pruned already, because of the word which I have given you [the teachings I have discussed with you].
(Psalm 119:9 AMP) How shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed and keeping watch [on himself] according to Your word [conforming his life to it].

It is amazing what having the word can do. **Focus is limiting your distractions to one thing.** For those who have made the word of God their sole obsession, it becomes practically impossible for them to be caught habitually practising sin. The Bible teaches that we are not righteous by the work of our hand but by grace and the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. No act of holiness on our part can make God love us more or less; He has loved us with an everlasting love. God loves the drunkard in your neighbourhood; He loves that prostitute you know. Let me even shock you, God does not love you more than he loved Adolf Hitler. Yes, He loves the whole world. John 3:16 and 1 John 2:2 both reveal that He died, not only for the sins of the believers, but for the whole world also.

Some of us might wonder about the place of the John the beloved? Questions such as: wasn’t he more loved than the other disciples? may arise. I had the same question in my heart in the past but then from further study revealed that Jesus did not actually love John more than He loved Judas Iscariot. The only difference was that John received of this love and invariably was more conscious, practised and placed more demand on it more than any other disciple. As a matter of fact, only in the gospel of John would you find the phrases “John the beloved”, “the disciple whom Jesus loved” etc. He was constantly reiterating to himself that Jesus loved him and sure enough, before long, all other disciples thought he was Jesus’ favourite. Even Peter thought so, because we see that when Jesus talked about His betrayal, no one could ask him about the identity of the one who would betray Jesus, but Peter proposed to John to ask, because he believed Jesus would not withhold anything from “the one whom He loved the most”. But in reality Jesus did not love him more; John simply received more than any of the others the love Christ was offering. He chose against all odds to believe he was loved. God is no respecter of persons and so regardless of the gravity of the sin you have committed, God is so dedicated to loving you just like He loves Christ.

You may then wonder what the essence of purification is since this love is unconditional, since the very act of committing sin does not affect or change the disposition of God’s love towards us as believers. **The reason for right or moral living is NEVER to impress God but to reveal God.** Holiness is a fruit that naturally stems out of your love, fellowship and commitment to God. It is not to make him love you more, bless you more or give you more; it is so that men would see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. This way, you become a true representation of heaven on earth. Wayward living does not reveal the righteousness of God; it rather calls to question your claim of being a Christian. You are already as holy as you can be in your spirit which is the true “you”; you just need to begin expressing it by acknowledging it. When the bible says ...without holiness, no man shall see God, Hebrews 12:14b, He did not mean if we are not holy we won’t get to heaven, NEVER, not so beloved. He meant Follow peace with all men, reveal God, for God
is holy, or else, the world will not see God. When we live wayward and loose lives, based on a misunderstanding of Grace, we stand the risk of not revealing God, for without holiness, people will never see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, they shall be called the children of God, by the world. Holiness is not the password to heaven, righteousness is, however holiness is revealing the righteousness of God. Be holy therefore, for God is holy. It's simply a encouragement for you to be yourself. Glory to God.

The Word of God is always at work in you to make your soul conformed to the identity of Christ in your spirit.

(Romans 8:29 AMP)  For those whom He foreknew [of whom He was aware and loved beforehand], He also destined from the beginning [foreordaining them] to be molded into the image of His Son [and share inwardly His likeness], that He might become the firstborn among many brethren.

The word also tells us we are righteous and also empowers us by grace to live holy. It is our nature to be holy; the “new you” is created in righteousness and true holiness.

(Ephesians 4:24 AMP)  And put on the new nature (the regenerate self) created in God's image, [Godlike] in true righteousness and holiness.

The word begins telling us how to live holy and the major purpose of holy living is so as to properly represent the nature of God to our world. God is simply saying: reflect who you really are!

(Titus 2:11 AMP)  For the grace of God (His unmerited favour and blessing) has come forward (appeared) for the deliverance from sin and the eternal salvation for all mankind.

(Titus 2:12 AMP)  It has trained us to reject and renounce all ungodliness (irreligion) and worldly (passionate) desires, to live discreet (temperate, self-controlled), upright, devout (spiritually whole) lives in this present world,

It is fulfilling to live for God with your body, soul and spirit. As a believer, till you get married, it is expected your body and soul is not joined together with another. **Stop depending on your flesh or will power to live right.** If you have not been living right, latch onto the grace of God, come boldly to the throne of grace and receive as much as you need to live above sin.

When as believers, we begin to preach the word of grace undiluted, then we would indeed begin to pull more people out of the pit, out of shame and condemnation. Right teaching births right believing leading to right behaviour and right living. We stand on the PULPIT
either to pull folks in into the pit we are in ourselves, or pull people out of the pit to stand upon the rock that NEVER fails.

We admonish one another by the Knowledge of God unto purification and right living.

❖ TO PACIFY

(2 Thessalonians 2:16 AMP) Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself and God our Father, Who loved us and gave us everlasting consolation and encouragement and well-founded hope through [His] grace (unmerited favor),

(2 Thessalonians 2:17 AMP) Comfort and encourage your hearts and strengthen them [make them steadfast and keep them unswerving] in every good work and word.

(Romans 15:4 AMP) For whatever was thus written in former days was written for our instruction, that by [our steadfast and patient] endurance and the encouragement [drawn] from the Scriptures we might hold fast to and cherish hope.

After being placed in a position of leadership, I was really unsure of what the “future” held. I felt insufficient, incapable and weak to carry out the responsibilities of leadership. I remember one of those times, God spoke to my heart the very word of Jesus in the Word of God:

(Matthew 28:20 AMP) Teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you, and behold, I am with you all the days (perpetually, uniformly, and on every occasion), to the [very] close and consummation of the age. Amen (so let it be).

I, at that point, did not need any other comfort as tears found their way down my exhausted flesh in awe of God's overwhelming presence. God spoke to me about what He has already said: that He would always be with me, He would never leave me and I knew I could not fail with Him on my side. I am more than a conqueror through Christ. As I began reminding of myself these scriptures, comfort by the Holy Ghost welled up in me and I was more than convinced that my tenure was going to be amazing!

As much as the use of “self-righteous” experiences could help hurting individuals, the provision of comfort to hurting people should be well laced with the truth of God's Word, people's faith should not be found in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.
(1 Corinthians 2:5 AMP)  So that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men (human philosophy), but in the power of God.

God does not expect us to assist him in the supply of comfort, apart from speaking his own Word to those hurting, He says to those burdened and heavy laden, that he would give them rest. Only the words of Jesus can give rest, not our words. Some leaders have made doctrine out of their personal experiences with God; this should not be. Only the word of God can give lasting comfort to the souls of the hurting men.

Prayer is an activity or concept only taught in the dispensation of Grace, because prayer is all about dependence on the one who has all the power and ability and that ability is made manifest in weakness.

(2 Corinthians 12:9 KJV)  And He said unto me, my Grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

(Philippians 4:12 AMP)  I know how to be abased and live humbly in straitened circumstances, and I know also how to enjoy plenty and live in abundance. I have learned in any and all circumstances the secret of facing every situation, whether well-fed or going hungry, having a sufficiency and enough to spare or going without and being in want.

(Philippians 4:13 AMP)  I have strength for all things in Christ Who empowers me [I am ready for anything and equal to anything through Him Who infuses inner strength into me; I am self-sufficient in Christ's sufficiency].

So we are driven to pray when we feel weak and unable to carry on, and we can be sure his Word would comfort us on every side.

(Psalm 71:21 AMP)  Increase my greatness (my honour) and turn and comfort me.

It is my prayer that the Lord will help us to admonish one another from the reservoir of God’s Word in our spirit. Let us learn to use these inspired words to edify, purify and pacify both ourselves and others. When our words do these things, it will minister grace to our hearers.

(Ephesians 4:29 AMP)  Let no foul or polling language, nor evil word nor unwholesome or worthless talk [ever] come out of your mouth, but only such [speech] as is good and beneficial to the spiritual progress of others, as is fitting to the need and the occasion, that it may be a blessing and give grace (God’s favour) to those who hear it.
(Colossians 4:6 AMP) Let your speech at all times be gracious (pleasant and winsome), seasoned [as it were] with salt, [so that you may never be at a loss] to know how you ought to answer anyone [who puts a question to you].

CONFESSION

I (your name) speak the word of God to the edifying, purifying and pacifying of my fellow brethren. I have an inspired word per time to speak to those who are weary. Men and women come from all over to hear me speak the words of God, that it may minister grace to them. I am an oracle of God and I speak only as led by the Spirit and great grace rests upon me and my hearers. Amen
CHAPTER FIVE

THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION

(Ephesians 1:17 AMP)  [For I always pray to] the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, that He may grant you a spirit of wisdom and revelation [of insight into mysteries and secrets] in the [deep and intimate] knowledge of Him,

The epistle of Paul to the Ephesians is one of the most amazing books of the Bible. The peculiarity of that book is that it gives us details of what really happened at redemption, the fulfilment of God's purpose and how our life jointly fits into an eternally orchestrated masterpiece of the glory of God. It is almost impossible, even if you as much as half heartedly read the book of Ephesians, not to get excited and be filled with indescribable joy.

The first chapter of Ephesians talks of how God has already (ever before we were born), blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places; how we were ordained to be holy and blameless before him in love; how that the riches of God's grace has blotted out every form of sin through the efficacy of the shedding of the blood of the spotless Lamb in the person of Jesus; and how we have been forever and eternally saved according to the supreme seal of the Holy Ghost in our human spirit upon believing in the message of the cross by faith. Now I see why the psalmist said that the word of God should be desired than much fine gold. It is incredibly exciting to know that God has finished it all from the foundation of the world. This knowledge should change the course of our lives. However, nothing will seem finished in a person's life when such one does not accept the reality of the completed works of God.

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

(Hosea 4:6 AMP) My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you [the priestly nation] have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you that you shall be no priest to Me; seeing you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children.

We experience glory and virtue, life and godliness through the knowledge of Christ in us.

(2 Peter 1:3 AMP) For His divine power has bestowed upon us all things that [are requisite and suited] to life and godliness, through the [full, personal] knowledge of Him who called us by and to His own glory and excellence (virtue).

(2 Peter 1:4 AMP) By means of these He has bestowed on us His precious and exceedingly great promises, so that through them you
may escape [by flight] from the moral decay (rottenness and corruption) that is in the world because of covetousness (lust and greed), and become sharers (partakers) of the divine nature.

Therefore, based on the predicate of earlier mentioned realities and the endless ocean of knowledge available in God, Paul, inspired by the Holy Ghost reiterates the prayer he ceaselessly prayed for them which theologians would later find as one of the most powerful prayers of all time:

(Ephesians 1:17 AMP)  [For I always pray to] the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, that He may grant you a spirit of wisdom and revelation [of insight into mysteries and secrets] in the [deep and intimate] knowledge of Him,

(Ephesians 1:18 AMP)  By having the eyes of your heart flooded with light, so that you can know and understand the hope to which He has called you, and how rich is His glorious inheritance in the saints (His set-apart ones),

(Ephesians 1:19 AMP)  And [so that you can know and understand] what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power in and for us who believe, as demonstrated in the working of His mighty strength,

(Ephesians 1:20 AMP)  Which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His [own] right hand in the heavenly [places],

(Ephesians 1:21 AMP)  Far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and every name that is named [above every title that can be conferred], not only in this age and in this world, but also in the age and the world which are to come.

(Ephesians 1:22 AMP)  And He has put all things under His feet and has appointed Him the universal and supreme Head of the church [a headship exercised throughout the church], [Ps. 8:6]

(Ephesians 1:23 AMP)  Which is His body, the fullness of Him Who fills all in all [for in that body lives the full measure of Him Who makes everything complete, and Who fills everything everywhere with Himself].

This is just awesome. Now Paul's major prayer point is that God should give them the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. Every other prayer in the
succeeding verses only explains the spirit of wisdom and revelation and what it can do. You might want to ask why Paul is asking God to give us (the Ephesian church in context) what they already have i.e. wisdom and revelation which is in their spirit. Great question! God’s spirit, as listed in His word, is found in the person of Jesus Christ in whom God also has already blessed us.²

(Isaiah 11:1 AMP) AND THERE shall come forth a Shoot out of the stock of Jesse [David’s father], and a Branch out of his roots shall grow and bear fruit.

(Isaiah 11:2 AMP) And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him—the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the reverential and obedient fear of the Lord—

It might therefore look inconsistent to ask God for what we already possess in our spirit.

However, this prayer is not an example of the prayer of faith as exemplified in Mark 11 which encourages us to pray and believe that we have received the answer. The knowledge of God which you only possess in your spirit can do you no more well than those who have not even heard the name Jesus. Paul understood this and prayed to God that these realities in the spirit the Ephesian church, which is potentially powerful, be transmitted into their conscious minds, where it can profit them. This prayer was intended to fan to their consciousness what they already have in their spirit. It is your mind that needs spiritual education, therefore your mind would keep learning from your spirit for as long as you live.

So what does the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of God do? As a matter of truth, the only thing it does is to enlighten your eyes of understanding. The eyes of our understanding being enlightened means there would not be an end to enlightenment. It is a continuous process that will continue until the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The soul would always be in the process of being saved³, so it is an ever increasing illumination of our heart. Understanding here is described as seeing into the details of knowledge.

Understanding produces knowledge that resonates in the heart of the hearer. When you share something with a person and they reply with “I SEE”, does that mean they were blind before? No. It just means that he or she has better understanding and see the reality of the knowledge being shared. For we as believers, we have the spiritual version of every of our physical senses: we have spiritual eyes for vision, spiritual ears for instruction, spiritual nose for perception, spiritual skins for promptings and spiritual taste bud for experiencing the beauty and savour of God.

Now, what does the eyes of our understanding do when we see into the details of the knowledge of Him; what do we see and how does it change our mindset?
HOPE OF HIS CALLING

The first thing revealed here is that we would know the hope of His calling. Here I discovered that it is wrong to say “I know my calling” or ask “what is your calling?” as to mean that we own and possess the call. Apostle Peter made mention of we making our calling and election sure in 2 Peter 1:10, but we should not forget that God is the one who called and elected us. If seen in that context, things begin to get clearer. Romans 11:29 says “…the gifting and calling of God are without repentance.” That means it is God’s call, His gift, His ministry, His purpose. We only answer His call and fulfil His purpose for our lives. But what difference does it make, you ask? His calling, my calling, is it not the same thing? Well, I have seen many people personalise the call of God upon their lives and true to their word, they fend for their ministry with sweat and hard labour. **Whoever does the sending does the funding.** Apart from the show of humility in calling it his calling, it relieves the called from unnecessary labour and hardship.

I tell people that God is not a high school bully who would give you N20, tell you to buy things worth N120 and still return N50 worth of change. When God calls a man, He funds it because it is God’s purpose being fulfilled through the man. My writing this book was never my will or purpose, it was exclusively God's will and purpose which I discovered and ran with. As I delighted in Him, He put His purpose in my heart and I also desired it.

(Psalms 37:4 AMP) Delight yourself also in the Lord, and He will give you the desires and secret petitions of your heart.

This is the fundamental illumination that this prayer gives: it makes you understand His position and your place in the equation. I acted in a stage drama some years ago. The story centred round a man who was constantly being threatened and tormented in his own house by the devil. He began seeking advice from various quarters as to how to get rid of the devil. Some suggested a professor who would intellectually subdue the enemy with numerous quotes of constitutional rights; a boxer who would physically overpower the enemy; an herbalist to use magical incantations. But the devil dealt with them in a very hilarious fashion. Finally, a man suggested Christo (Jesus) to the troubled man who then sought Christo's expertise on this issue. Christo looked quite normal: no swag or panache, no six packs. In truth, the man doubted Christo's ability but decided to give him a try. In summary, the man did not give Christo all the property and the perimeter of his house to guard. He gave him only a small portion, so the devil still came and tormented him in the unreleased portion of the house but did not step into Christo's zone. He gradually increased Christo's portion until he gave Christo everything to protect. That way, the devil could not toy with this man again because Christo was at the heart of everything the man owned. The morale behind that story is that it is safe to consider our calling, ministry and purpose as His. When it is His, we can completely rely on Him for maximum defence and funding.
The next thing to discover about His calling is that it is progressive. That is why it is called hope. Our calling, rather His calling upon our lives is progressive. It is in phases; no man should stay in the place of past glory and achievement. That would make one live in the oblivion of false achievement. No one should stay in the place of past failures as well, as that would depress or discourage anyone to move on, so what do we do?

(Philippians 3:12 AMP) Not that I have now attained [this ideal], or have already been made perfect, but I press on to lay hold of (grasp) and make my own, that for which Christ Jesus (the Messiah) has laid hold of me and made me His own.

(Philippians 3:13 AMP) I do not consider, brethren, that I have captured and made it my own [yet]; but one thing I do [it is my one aspiration]: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,

(Philippians 3:14 AMP) I press on toward the goal to win the [supreme and heavenly] prize to which God in Christ Jesus is calling us upward.

Paul makes it obvious that whether success or failure, as long as they are in the past, he does not consider them. He believed there was much more to be done and he was resolute on not being distracted by the past. No man drives fast while looking at the rear mirror. Progress needs focus that backtracking cannot afford. Are we saying we should not celebrate small successes or learn from past failures? No. In fact, the children of Israel feast and celebrate today because God urged them to always celebrate and make merry even after small successes. However, these successes should never derail us from the future and that is where the hope comes in.

Hope is not found in history but in eternity. Hope pictures the features of the future; to hope is to believe in improvement; to hope is to see beyond now; to hope is to tell of those things that do not yet appear.

(Romans 4:18 AMP) [For Abraham, human reason for] hope being gone, hoped in faith that he should become the father of many nations, as he had been promised, So [numberless] shall your descendants be. [Genesis 15:5]

He saw things others did not see; he heard things others did not hear; he became what others could not become; he became the father of many nations. I can imagine how keen the spiritual sight of Abraham must have been.

(John 8:56) Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day; and he saw it, and was glad.
The Bible says Abraham saw the days of Jesus as accounted in Genesis 22 on the mount Moriah, where he exemplified what God would later do three thousand years down the line.

(Hebrews 11:10 AMP) For he was [waiting expectantly and confidently] looking forward to the city which has fixed and firm foundations, whose Architect and Builder is God.

They kept moving forward. They dwelt in tents because they were not mindful of where they were coming from, for if they were mindful, they would have returned. Rather, they looked for a country, glory to God.

(Hebrews 6:19 AMP) [Now] we have this [hope] as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul [it cannot slip and it cannot break down under whoever steps out upon it--a hope] that reaches farther and enters into [the very certainty of the Presence] within the veil, [Leviticus 16:2.]

Abraham saw into the veil before our High Priest came in flesh.

(Hebrews 6:13 AMP) For when God made [His] promise to Abraham, He swore by Himself, since He had no one greater by whom to swear,

Abraham was not a fan of history but prophesy. He saw into deep and secret things by hope. Hope is that which we need to cultivate so as to progressively fulfil the call of God upon our lives. It is hope that keeps us excited about the things God would have us do on His behalf. That hope is huge, if only we could see into it, and our perspective be changed and our horizons shifted, where we can dare to believe for greater things to be realised in the physical realm.

This prayer opens us up to deeper, richer and higher realms of purpose so when you say, that I may know the hope of Your calling, then God reveals more of His purpose to you. It works on your consciousness to begin to expect more, prepare for more and believe for more. As you do that, more begins to drop in to your heart. God alone knows the extent of your vision, purpose and ministry. He knows the dimensions and does not want you to tabernacle where you have excelled or failed in the past but look forward to a continuing city.

With this prayer, your passion, strength and excitement will be refreshed as you by hope see into the reality of His calling for you through the enlightened eye of your understanding.

THE GLORIOUS RICHES OF HIS INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS
Let us quickly discuss this dimension of inheritance. I am aware that there are some Catholic saints who have the prefix “saint”. However, according to scriptures, a man who gets born again today is as much a saint as Jesus Christ Himself. Now, some would say that is heresy. But before you cast the stone, let us re-establish the fact that every believer in Christ is a saint.

(Philippians 4:21) Salute every saint in Christ Jesus...

As long as we are in Christ Jesus, we are saints because God begins to see us in Christ. Colossians 3:3 says “we are hid in Christ with God”, so you cannot spiritually set me outside Christ. I got into Christ by faith and only unbelief can take me outside of Christ. I do not mean doubt; I mean out rightly rejecting Jesus and His finished work on the cross. So, I put it to you reading this book that you are a saint! Yes you, you are as saintly as Jesus Christ is. Glory to God!

Confess out loud that I am a saint in Christ Jesus. The psalmist assures us that “there’s no guile in your spirit”. God only relates with your spirit so say it loud “I AM A SAINT IN CHRIST JESUS”

**INHERITANCE IN THE SAINTS**

The passage says inheritance in the saints, notice it did not say inheritance among the saints, or of the saints or with the saints, notice the preposition, it makes all the difference, and you have inheritance inside you as a saint.

**WHAT IS THIS INHERITANCE?**

This inheritance simply refers to the gift of the Holy Spirit.

(Acts 26:18 AMP) To open their eyes that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may thus receive forgiveness and release from their sins and a place and portion among those who are consecrated and purified by faith in Me. [Isaiah. 42:7, 16]...KJV

This verse has a five decree mandate.

✓ Opening their eyes
✓ Turn them from darkness to light
✓ Reveal the power of God.
✓ Teach the forgiveness of sin
✓ Teach the inheritance in Christ by faith.
This inheritance refers to the Person of the Holy Spirit which Jesus promised, and is also received by faith when we receive Jesus.

(Ephesians 1:13 AMP) In Him you also who have heard the Word of Truth, the glad tidings (Gospel) of your salvation, and have believed in and adhered to and relied on Him, were stamped with the seal of the long-promised Holy Spirit.

(Ephesians 1:14 AMP) That [Spirit] is the guarantee of our inheritance [the firstfruits, the pledge and foretaste, the down payment on our heritage], in anticipation of its full redemption and our acquiring [complete] possession of it--to the praise of His glory

Galatians 3:14 also says that “we received the promise of the Holy Ghost by faith”. The promise and the inheritance go hand in hand.

(2 Corinthians 4:7 AMP) However, we possess this precious treasure [the divine Light of the Gospel] in [frail, human] vessels of earth, that the grandeur and exceeding greatness of the power may be shown to be from God and not from ourselves.

That treasure in every believer is the Holy Spirit; it is also referred to as the gift of God in us.

(1 Titus 4:14 AMP) Do not neglect the gift which is in you, [that special inward endowment] which was directly imparted to you [by the Holy Spirit] by prophetic utterance when the elders laid their hands upon you [at your ordination].

The person of the Holy Spirit is the treasure and gift of God; He is also the inheritance in the saints. Without Him, there is no beauty to our lives, we have no inheritance in Christ. He is our inheritance.

(2 Corinthians 3:6 AMP) [It is He] Who has qualified us [making us to be fit and worthy and sufficient] as ministers and dispensers of a new covenant [of salvation through Christ], not [ministers] of the letter (of legally written code) but of the Spirit; for the code [of the Law] kills, but the [Holy] Spirit makes alive. [Jer. 31:31.]

THE INHERITANCE FULL OF GLORY

The inheritance of the dispensation of the Spirit is full of Glory. The passage below explains the glory in this inheritance of the dispensation of the spirit:
(2 Corinthians 3:15 AMP) Yes, down to this [very] day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies upon their minds and hearts.

(2 Corinthians 3:16 AMP) But whenever a person turns [in repentance] to the Lord, the veil is stripped off and taken away.

(2 Corinthians 3:17 AMP) Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (emancipation from bondage, freedom). [Isaiah 61:1, 2]

(2 Corinthians 3:18 AMP) And all of us, as with unveiled face, [because we] continued to behold [in the Word of God] as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are constantly being transfigured into His very own image in ever increasing splendour and from one degree of glory to another; [for this comes] from the Lord [Who is] the Spirit.

There was the dispensation of Moses and the law, which was in itself glorious; but relative to the glory of the dispensation of the spirit and ministration of righteousness, it is no glory at all. Halleluyah! In this dispensation of the Spirit, there is liberty and boldness to enter into God's presence and behold the depth of His grace that was covered and kept hidden in the past. The Spirit makes it possible. It is the Spirit that rubs the glory on us and we are transformed from a level of glory to another.

Under the dispensation of Moses and the Law, Moses went up alone for the second time to receive the tablet of stone from the Mount Sinai and when he descended, his face began to shine.

(Exodus 34:27 AMP) And the Lord said to Moses, Write these words, for after the purpose and character of these words I have made a covenant with you and with Israel.

(Exodus 34:28 AMP) Moses was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights; he ate no bread and drank no water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.

(Exodus 34:29 AMP) When Moses came down from Mount Sinai with the two tables of the Testimony in his hand, he did not know that the skin of his face shone and sent forth beams by reason of his speaking with the Lord.

(Exodus 34:30 AMP) When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone, and they feared to come near him.

Now that is so cool. Moses was a superstar; the Israelites were awed by him because he had spent time with God. Although the Bible shows that the reason behind the veil was
not so much as to become unapproachable by the people but in order to hide the glory that was fading because there was no longevity in that kind of glory. It was temporary and sensational. However, in this dispensation, the glory is eternal and completely genuine when it comes from our core being where our inheritance dwells. Three thousand people died at the foot of Mount Sinai to commemorate the beginning of the dispensation of the Law of Moses, but another three thousand people were saved into the kingdom on the day of Pentecost which commemorated the beginning of the dispensation of the Spirit of glory. Halleluyah!

I have seen people go look for the “glory of God”. They pray until they expect to begin to glow and radiate. As much as that is not totally inconsistent with scriptures, as we know that Stephen’s face glowed and Jesus was transfigured, but we should understand the process and dispensation of scriptures, so we do not always judge the spectacular to be supernatural. Moses’ face glowed because it was coming from the external where God appeared to him and the closest to that glory was Moses' skin. It had to glow and shine after externally experiencing the eternal glory of God for forty days.

However, in this dispensation of the indwelling presence of the glorious Spirit of God, the closest to the Spirit of God in our human spirit is our minds, glory to God! So rather than our external faces glowing and going from glory to glory, it is our mind that goes from glory to glory by the Spirit of God in our human spirit. WOW! This blesses and relieves me. It means I do not have to be spooky or weird to be gloriously spiritual; I just need to have the Spirit of God in my recreated human spirit rub off on my mind which gloriously will transform me to the image of Jesus, the Son of God⁶. Halleluyah!

Unlike Moses who was at the mount for forty days, I am totally higher classed.

(1 JOHN 2:27) ···the anointing (Holy Spirit) which you have received of Him (Jesus) abides in you.

This means that the Holy Spirit is with me twenty four hours a day, seven days a week, three hundred and sixty five days a year, for every single day of my life. It looks too good to be true, but it is very true. The Spirit of God dwells in me and I am constantly being transformed from glory to glory. Amen.

THE RICHES OF THE GLORIOUS INHERITANCE

(Ephesians 1:18) ···that we may know the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints

You can call all these terms superlatives as every word here tends to describe the inheritance in the saints but I am also aware that God is not lavish with words. If He uses a word, He means it.
Here, it is established that the inheritance is glorious. It goes further to say that the glory of His inheritance in us is full of riches. Ephesians 3:18 says that a special grace was given to the Apostle Paul to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ. Here again, we realise that the riches are unsearchable. May I say here that he is not speaking in monetary terms though it is inclusive; God is speaking of the spiritual depth of riches that the human soul lives on or that which it ought to live on.

Paul did not mean that he would preach about the hidden gold, silver or hard currency God has kept secret from ages past. The unsearchable riches refer to the depth of knowledge in the core of God being exchanged in the interface of the mind. I will break it down. 1 Corinthians 2 is a chapter of the Bible that we ought to read often because it exposes what this wealth and riches mean. God is a Spirit and does not spend cash. **God runs a system that makes resources available to those who need it in the kingdom to fulfil His purpose for them.** 1 Corinthians 2 speaks of the mystery of the wisdom of God kept secret since before time, but reveals it in this dispensation for our glory. This same knowledge hidden from the wise and prudent, has He revealed to those who love Him by His spirit.

Remember, Paul called the riches unsearchable. Well, he meant unsearchable by the world's standard. Google or any other search engine in the world cannot search into the riches of God's counsel apart from the Spirit of God. If the Spirit were indeed unsearchable, then he (Paul) would not or could not even preach it. The Spirit taught him⁸. So these riches which were described by Paul as unsearchable can only be found by the Spirit of God.

(Proverbs 25:2 AMP) It is the glory of God to conceal a thing, but the glory of kings is to search out a thing. [Deuteronomy 29:29; Romans 11:33.]

If indeed our ultimate desire is for Christ to be formed in us, far above all the ideas of having so much riches in the bank or having immeasurable wealth, our obsession would be to know God, the excellency of the knowledge of Christ. For these unsearchable riches of the knowledge of Christ, you can be like Paul and count all but nothing; all your achievements, awards and degrees, all but nothing or loss, just to attain a spiritual stature in the knowledge of Christ.

Now see all this in context: Paul is praying that the eyes of our understanding being (constantly and continuously) enlightened that we may know the hope of His calling, the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints. What more good can you do for your spirit man than praying these prayers? Rather than investing your time and energy on the bread and meat that perish⁹, learn to drink of the rivers of God's pleasure and be satisfied with the fatness of His house. For only with Him is the fountain of life and in the light of His glorious presence, we see clearly into purpose and destiny.

(Psalm 36:8 AMP) They relish and feast on the abundance of Your house; and You cause them to drink of the stream of Your pleasures.
(Psalm 36:9 AMP) For with You is the fountain of life; in Your light do we see light. [John 4:10, 14.]

For those particularly called into business and the corporate world, this prayer would do you a world of good. Everything seen is made out of things that are invisible. That tells me that people saw through their eyes of imagination the things which had not been hitherto, and then like the spider, they took hold of these intangible pictures and brought them forth to life\textsuperscript{10}. God supplies ideas and dreams that are capable of changing economies and transfer wealth from the hands of the ungodly. The wealth transfer God promised in his Word\textsuperscript{11}, will not happen by robbery. It will happen through God placing in the heart of kingdom entrepreneurs who are determined to expand the kingdom of God by prosperity, mammoth ideas that will radically change world systems.

(Zechariah 1:17 AMP) Cry yet again, saying, Thus says the Lord of hosts: My cities shall yet again overflow with prosperity, and the Lord shall yet comfort Zion and shall yet choose Jerusalem.

It is remarkable how scientists are just finding out what the scriptures have prophesied centuries and millennia ago. When we mingle with the Spirit of God, He teaches us the mystery of the wisdom of God. Wisdom in this context means foretelling the future and that is why the gift of the Spirit which has to do with speaking of things to come is referred to as the gift of the word of wisdom. This prayer therefore creates an interface, an allowance for a deluge of the spirit of wisdom and revelation upon our natural minds. **The emancipation of human society is largely dependent on a burst of the spirit into the human soul, however, momentary.**

There are ideas concealed, patiently waiting for a launching into that depth of God\textsuperscript{12}. Treasures do not lie on the surface; it takes commitment to dig continuously until you hit gold, to fetch resources from the spirit. The man responsible for the design of the very first set of earth moving equipment, R.G Le TOURRENEAU, was only a mechanic who loved God and was very committed to paying his tithe. Soon enough God opened the windows of heavens as promised in Malachi three and the blessing came in form of dreams and visions of earth moving equipment. He employed mechanical and industrial engineers and told them to design the machinery. That was during the Second World War when the United States of America was in need of many of such earth moving machinery. R.G was the sole distributor and producer. Imagine having the United States of America as your client. He pulled down his factories and built larger ones in order to meet up with demand. He was so blessed that he and his wife made a commitment to give God ninety percent of their income, while they kept ten percent.

Now, that is an idea that produced so much wealth that helped in the expansion of the kingdom of God. God is waiting to put powerful ideas in the hearts of the believers. This prayer will open you up to business ideas that will swallow up incumbent world ideas, just like the rod of Moses swallowed that of the magicians\textsuperscript{13}. Glory to God!
CONFESSION

My mind is alert to transmission from the Holy Ghost. I listen and I hear; I hear of the things to come. The riches of the glory of the inheritance of Christ in me has put me in class of pace setters and trail blazers. I expand the kingdom of God through the great prosperity committed into my hands. He has increased my greatness and has comforted me on every side. Amen
CHAPTER SIX
THE SURPASSING GREATNESS OF HIS POWER

(Ephesians 1:19) ⋅⋅⋅and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us ward us who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,

(Ephesians 1:20) Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in heavenly places,

(Ephesians 1:21) far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

(Ephesians 1:22) And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,

(Ephesians 1:23) Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all."

One of the major reasons why God is God is because of His power. God has so much power that if all the armies on earth rally round and attempt to wage a war against God, all He would have to do is to tap a foot, for the earth is his footstool1.

So many times we lose sight of how powerful our God is and meditate on how massive our problems are. Have you ever thought about how big your God is? He has all the powers in earth and in heaven; no one made Him King, yet he enthrones and dethrones kings. If we begin speaking about the greatness of God's power, I am most certain that we would never finish.

Moreover the amazing thing about His power is that it is ALWAYS activated by His Spirit and this Spirit of God is inside our recreated human spirit. In the first chapter of Ephesians, God explains the exceeding greatness of His power towards those who believe. In this kingdom, the power of God only works on behalf of those who believe. The reason why many do not experience the miraculous power of God is because they never believe the testimonies of miracles so it never happens in their life. Remember, one of the key mandates God gave Paul was to reveal the power of God as against the power of Satan.

(Acts 26:18) ⋅⋅⋅in order to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light, and from the authority of Satan to God, so that they may receive remission of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me.

Satan has some power because Colossians 1:13 says “Christ delivered us from the power of darkness⋅⋅⋅” But we must realise that one hundred percent of the power he has was given to him by man. All that power originally belonged to man but the devil subtly but legally collected that power from man in the beginning. This made man helpless and under the control of the devil who became the god of this world. The devil attained that
height because of man’s sin; he capitalised on the righteousness of God who would never go against His word, so God could not retrieve the power man handed over to the devil. However, it takes a man to get the power back from Him. God cannot just dispossess the devil of the authority that originally belonged to man; that would have been unjust. Hence, His eternal was wisdom displayed when he sent the Man, Christ Jesus². **The devil got man's power through man's sin.**

When God removed man from the Garden of Eden³, it was not because God was insecure in His position as God. He did not want man to taste from the fruit of life which was capable of making man immortal, and hence immortal and evil. This reality was too grave for man because man would be sick, poor, full of hatred, envy and all forms of vices but man would not die; the Hitlers and Sadams of this world would still be alive: immortal evil beings.

Therefore, out of God’s love, He took man out of the garden and began relating with him, using the conscience and later, the law just so that man could please God and still be blessed. However, man could not please God because he had the fallen nature.

So God preserved a lot or portion in Israel who would serve as ancestors to the child that would be born. JESUS is His name; he was born of a virgin and the Holy Ghost. Having the seed of God and the body of man: hundred percent man and hundred God. **Jesus was human enough to be a legal occupier on earth and God enough to defeat the sin that man could never defeat.** Remember, the devil became the custodian of the power that originally belonged to man. You cannot enter a strong man’s house to release his captives until you bind that strong man with a stronger power⁴.

Therefore, Jesus having lived a perfect life, fulfilled the law on our behalf and went to the cross to die the sinner's death. Thus, His perfection, holiness and righteousness can be conferred on anyone who believes on His finished work on the cross.

> (2 Corinthians 5:21) For He has made Him who knew no sin, to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

When He died, He went straight to the strong man's house (hell) and by the empowerment of the Spirit, he spoil principalities and power, he made an open show of them, triumphing over them in hell.

> (Colossians 2:15) Having stripped rulers and authorities, He made a show of them publicly, triumphing over them in it.

> (Psalm 68:18) You have gone up on high; You have led captivity captive; You have received gifts for men, yes, for the rebellious also, that You might dwell among them, O Jehovah God.

He then led captive after preaching to them …
(1 Peter 3:19) in which also He went and preached to the spirits in prison,

*** and brought back the keys of hell and death, glory to God.

(Ephesians 1:19) and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us, the ones believing according to the working of His mighty strength

The power responsible for resurrection is the greatest expression of God's power present on earth at any point. It was the most unlikely happening, wrought by the power of the Spirit and that is why the Bible says:

(Romans 8:11) But if the Spirit of the One who raised up Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the One who raised up Christ from the dead shall also make your mortal bodies alive by His Spirit who dwells in you.

This verse implies that if the Spirit responsible for the most powerful event in history of the world, dwells in you, then whatever is wrong with your mortal body is not a match for that Spirit. It is called contrasting incomparables. For example, if I have climbed Mount Everest, what is the ant hill in retrospect? Nothing! The power of resurrection is what makes it possible for you and I to be seated with Christ at the right hand in heavenly places.

The resurrection of Lazarus was far inferior to that of Jesus, even though he had been dead for a longer period. Jesus died, went to the deepest part of hell, fought every evil power you can think of, won, rose again and was glorified. Today, He seats in heavenly places far above principalities, powers, dominion and might; every name, disease, every curse which has been or yet to be is subject to Him.

(Philippians 2:10) that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of heavenly ones, and of earthly ones, and of ones under the earth;

You cannot compare the resurrection of Lazarus with that of Jesus. Lazarus was raised by Jesus and died again at an older age. In the resurrection of Jesus, it is an eternal reality; He will never die again as He lives forever as our great high priest.

Anyone who understands and believes in the power of resurrection has nailed fear for life: Fear of death, failure, sickness, disappointment and depression. This is because whether the name is known or unknown, cancer or hepatitis, asthma or AIDS, Jesus is still far above. Not just above but far above. We have been given that authority; the church now wields the power of attorney to use that power according to the will of God revealed by his Word and no power on earth will be able to stand against us - the church.

(Acts 4:33) And the apostles gave witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power. And great grace was on them all.
When the subject of resurrection is discussed, “GREAT” is the suitable adjective, great power and great grace, all because of the power of resurrection. The reason why Jesus made an open show of the enemy was so that he would never be able to threaten us again, but I guess a lot of believers missed the party. The devil has been forever silenced, he can only intimidate those who do not know about this amazing victory delivered to us by Christ Jesus.

This power highlights the potential power locked up in our spirit man, and urges us to experientially know this power. I remember many years back, I was sick with Hepatitis B+, a terminal liver condition. The doctors said I had few months to live. I lay on the hospital bed at the Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital in Ogun State, Nigeria, for days. While my mortal body deteriorated, the resurrection power hibernated within me. That is the case with most Christians today: they hope they will be fine; they wish they would become healed, while they carry on their inside the Holy Ghost who is the power of the resurrection.

A medical house officer began using me as a guinea pig, asking me various questions to aid his learning. Suddenly, just like it happened on the day of Pentecost, I was stirred up in my spirit. I picked up my Bible which I had not read for days prior to that time and the Holy Ghost directed me to Isaiah 50:4:

(Isaiah 50:4) The Lord Jehovah has given Me the tongue of the learned, to know to help the weary with a word. He wakens morning by morning, He wakens the ear to hear as the learned...KJV

I began speaking to my body, as in this case I was the learned and the weary. In five minutes the terminal disease disappeared; I was healed and I became whole. I did not need a counter diagnosis or lab test to believe God's report.

I have also conquered asthma in my life by the power of the Holy Ghost. I have seen breast lumps disappear in people, virus get vanquished and people set free by the power of the Holy Ghost. It is disheartening to know how many people die untimely because they refuse to acknowledge and wield the power at work in them. We (the church) have no idea how much we can access when we understand our authority in Christ.

My former assistant pastor, Julius Akomolafe preached a powerful message on praise and instructed the church as led by the Holy Ghost to shout unto the Lord. Meanwhile, there was someone in the congregation whose baby sister was in coma back home since the previous day. As she shouted in service that day, the baby came back to life saying “I saw Sister wumi shouting”. That is the power of resurrection at work. HALLELUYAH! Have you ever seen a miracle? Do you want to see and experience more? Pray this prayer loud and believe it with all your heart, as surely as God lives, He would come through for you.
It is not excitement that makes people perform wonders; it is faith!

THE CHURCH HAS THE POWER

Do you know God will not do anything on earth without his church: the church is the body of Christ, who is the head. The church wields the whole power vested in Christ by the delegated authority. We have the power to do the exact same thing that Jesus did do. He declared that greater works shall we do because He goes to the Father. By implication, we would now be responsible for what happens on earth.

(John 14:12) Truly, truly, I say to you, He who believes on Me, the works that I do he shall do also, and greater works than these he shall do, because I go to My Father.

He allows what we allow and reject what we reject, all according to the will of God. Christ's power will not extend beyond the capacity of the church. We are the fullness of Him that fills all in all, if some areas are not filled with God, it is because the church has not grown into that capacity.

James was killed by Herod and because it pleased the Jews; he wanted to take Peter and kill him likewise but this time, the church began offering prayers ceaselessly. Sure enough, angels went to minister help to the sleeping Peter. Could the church have averted the death of James if they had prayed? Well, I think so. The church is the highest authority recognised by God on earth and God waits on us to put the enemy under our feet. Christ has conquered the devil already.

(Hebrews 10:13) from then on expecting until His enemies are made His footstool.

We are to enforce those expectations!

God's authority has been delegated to the church for enforcement. For example, the federal government has given the Police Force a mandate to maintain law and order in the society. However, we do not see the federal government on the road maintaining order; we see the police force, and disobeying them is disobeying the federal government.

So, if there is crime, anarchy and social vices in the society, would it be federal government’s fault or the police force that has refused to enforce law and order in the society? The police force of course. This example is for us to know that the church is as powerful on earth just as Christ is in heaven, we enforce the will of God on earth, and we command the kingdom here on earth.

(Matthew 16:19) And I will give the keys of the kingdom of Heaven to you. And whatever you may bind on earth shall occur, having been bound in Heaven, and whatever you may loose on earth shall occur, having been loosed in Heaven.
Behold, I give to you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the authority of the enemy. And nothing shall by any means hurt you.

The world is the way it is, not because of the evil of the bad, but the silence of the good. You should know that darkness cannot be measured empirically, only light can. That means light's absence is what brings about the default state called darkness. It also means that light has the responsibility to shine. Anytime you see darkness, it was the fault of light. We are that light: we are not shining, but complain of the darkness of the world, we determine that darkness by our complacence. The moment we begin shining, darkness cannot comprehend it.

I think we have prayed for revival for too long, without releasing the power within. You raise a dead man in your office and see if your CEO will not add morning devotion to the company's operational activities. Was that not what Nebuchadnezzar did when the power of God was displayed through the three Hebrew boys? He ordered everyone to begin worshiping their God instead the smaller gods in the land. Revival cannot happen without the church taking responsibility for the power and authority they possess. It is not enough for us to pray; it is for us to stir up the gift of God. Witness the word of God with boldness and see folks healed and delivered. We need to renew our minds in order to release this deluge of the power of God in our communities. That is the essence of this prayer: to make us conscious of our ability. All power in heaven and on earth is given to Christ; Christ comprises the head and the body. Jesus is the head; the body of Christ is the Church. The head gives the order, power and delegated authority, but it is the body that carries out the instructions of the head. The Church is the fullness of the head that fills everywhere with the reality of the head.

...That They May Be One

Furthermore, I would like to stress the place of the unity of the church as this is crucial to manifesting the power of Christ on earth. Jesus prayed for the disciples before He left them and the crux of that prayer was the unity of the body He would leave behind.

(John 17:11) And now I am in the world no longer, but these are in the world, and I come to You, Holy Father. Keep them in Your name, those whom You have given Me, so that they may be one as We are.

(John 17:21) that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be one in Us, so that the world may believe that You have sent Me.

(John 17:22) And I have given them the glory which You have given Me, that they may be one, even as We are one,
The body of Christ today ought not to be divided by skirts, scarfs, jewelleries and traditional doctrines of men. The Bible places emphasis on the love that must be in the body of Christ, as that is what makes functional operation effective.

\textit{(Ephesians 4:16)} from whom the whole body, fitted together and compacted by that which every joint supplies, according to the effectual working in the measure of each part, producing the growth of the body to the edifying of itself in love.

We do not have to agree on every doctrinal belief but there are some common denominators that cut across every part of the body that we find a common spiritual identity.

\textit{(Ephesians 4:4)} \textit{There is} one body and one Spirit, even as you are called in one hope of your calling,

\textit{(Ephesians 4:5)} one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

\textit{(Ephesians 4:6)} one God and Father of all, who \textit{is} above all and through all and in you all.

If we could all lay aside all our differences and agree on the common factors that bind us together, then we would see the expression of Christ's power through the church. God does not look at doctrines; He sees the church as one. When the tower of Babel was being built\textsuperscript{5}, God realised that if left to themselves, the people would achieve whatever they desired because they were united. It would be much more amazing what the church would be able to do with God on our side.

This is a clarion call to the church of Christ, not the denomination started by a man's vision; the Church Jesus insists on building and not the structure a pastor must complete before his tenure is over. This is a call to unity. Let us keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. We are one body and we can do so much more together with God directing us. We are the fullness of Christ. \textbf{It takes the whole container to carry the whole essence of the content}. A torn balloon cannot hold air, no matter how much the air desires to fill the balloon. Only a whole wineskin can hold the fullness of the new wine. We have come to the dispensation where the mountain of the Lord's house, not houses, shall be exalted above all hills and nations from every tongue and tribe will flow into it, not them. For the law shall proceed out of Zion, the city of the living God\textsuperscript{6}.

This prayer can be directed to individuals, organisations and companies, family, church and the nation at large, producing the same result in every application. Your faith
however should never be in the act of praying but in the power made available in the process.

(James 5:16) Confess faults to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous one avails much.

The power in this kingdom is activated by the words of faith; and prayer is that which bring the power to life. It makes tremendous power available.

**CONFESSION**

My eyes of understanding are constantly and progressively being enlightened. I gain entrance into ground-breaking inventions, ideas and innovations. I do not become complacent; I move forward and wax very great. My path shines brighter and brighter. I cannot miss my purpose in life.

I receive and walk in all the glorious riches made available by the inheritance in me. The power of God is at work in me to the overflow; the power of God is at work in my family to the overflow; the power of God is at work in the church to the overflow. The church takes her place; the church is united and the gates of hell cannot prevail against her. Amen
(Ephesians 3:14) For this cause I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

(Ephesians 3:15) of whom the whole family in Heaven and earth is named,

(Ephesians 3:16) that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man;

(Ephesians 3:17) that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

(Ephesians 3:18) may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth and length and depth and height,

(Ephesians 3:19) and to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge, that you might be filled with all the fullness of God.

(Ephesians 3:20) Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

(Ephesians 3:21) to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, forever. Amen.

(Philippians 1:9) And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in full knowledge and in all perception;

(Philippians 1:10) that you may distinguish between things that differ, that you may be sincere and without offense until the day of Jesus Christ,

(Philippians 1:11) being filled with the fruits of righteousness through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God

(1 Thessalonians 3:12) And may the Lord make you to increase and abound in love toward one another and toward all, even as we also toward you,

(1 Thessalonians 3:13) in order to establish your hearts blameless in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints
THE SUPREMACY OF LOVE

It is amazing the length Apostle Paul would go to pray for the Ephesians, Philippians and Thessalonians on this all important subject of love. Why is love an indispensable trait for a believer? Why is love often likened to perfection or holiness? Why, of all virtues, is love the ONLY one epitomised by God? What is the big deal about love? There are many questions on the subject of love, but if they fail to change our perspective on life, then the questions will amount to endless genealogies and old wives’ fables.

From the first stroke of the pen in Genesis, to the last dot of the ink in revelation, it is all a story of love. Every page of the scripture is filled with the intent of God from the beginning, LOVE.

John, by revelation in 1 John, equates God to love. This means that to know God and to grow in Him, one must understand and know the love of God. With that understanding, Paul reverently beckons on the One to whom we owe allegiance that He grants us, according to the unsearchable riches of his glory, the ability to be strengthened with might by his Spirit. Having made such a declaration, the expected is to begin praying for power, anointing and ability to perform miracles on earth.

However, the prayer was made in an attempt to come to terms with the dimensions of God’s love. It was challenging writing this chapter and fervent prayers went up in order to properly sync with the Holy Spirit. Else, how can one begin to elucidate on a concept the Bible refers to as unknowable to the human mind. How can one begin to describe God?

Paul prays that Christ should dwell in our hearts so that we be rooted and grounded in love. This refers to the establishment every believer must have in love. To be born of God is quite different from knowing God. We have a lot of people who are genuinely born of God but have not, since spiritual birth, known GOD.

(1 John 4:7) Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God, and everyone who loves has been born of God, and knows God.

(1 John 4:8) The one who does not love has not known God. For God is love.

Anyone who loves is born of God and Knows God. However, if you do not love, you do not know God even though you might be born of God. Everything about the Pauline prayers challenges and provokes us to the true knowledge and not some mental accent inspired by a preacher.

The ultimate and supreme knowledge of God is the knowledge of love. That was exactly Paul’s prayer for the Ephesian church.
The DIMENSIONS OF GOD’S LOVE

(Job 11:7) Can you by searching find out God? Can you perfectly find out the Almighty?

(Job 11:8) Heights of the heavens! What can you do? It is deeper than hell, what can you know?

(Job 11:9) The measure of it is longer than the earth, and broader than the sea.

(Job 11:10) If He passes through and shuts up, or gathers together, then who can turn Him back?

(Job 11:11) For He knows vain men; and when He sees wickedness, will He not search it?

These are the dimensions of the knowledge of God, which Paul compares with the knowledge of God’s love. It is as high as heaven, deeper than hell, longer than the earth and wider than the sea. What a knowledge!

By the length of it, it continues from everlasting to everlasting;

By its depth, it stoops to the lowest condition, with a design to relieve and save those who have sunk into the depth of sin and misery;

Through its breadth, we may understand its extent to all ages, nations and men.

By its height, it sets us far above, right in the heavenly place and glory.

This kind of love goes to the most obscure race, picks out the last son in the least clan and raises him up to honour, leadership and glory. It goes to the deepest part of hell, brings out of the horrible pit and miry clay, those whom the devil has oppressed for eons, and then He sets their feet on a rock. This God is humble enough to be nailed to the cross; gentle enough to keep quiet in the face of false accusations, but responsible enough to be a high priest of our daily profession. He was Man enough to die and God enough to live forever! All these are dimensions of His love.

How would one know such a love and not be filled with God’s fullness? Access to His fullness comes with the knowledge of His love.

(Psalm 91:14) Because He has set His love on me, therefore I will deliver Him; I will set Him on high, because He has known My name.

By love, we were convicted of sins and offered our lives to God. The most profound verse of scripture remains John 3:16 which graphically and demonstratively relates to us the
extent and intent of God's love. If the church could preach more of the love, if Christians could show more of the love, then we would draw more men to Him.

(1 John 2:2) And He is the propitiation concerning our sins, and not concerning ours only, but also concerning the sins of all the world.

If only we could go farther with open hearts and hands to rescue the lost world; if only we gave them a chance to be elevated to the heavens and taste of the goodness of God, which the saints have been exposed to; if only we could. Can we lift God up and allow Him shower love on every comer? Let it be said that having preached the love of Jesus, men begin to ask: what shall I do to be saved?

There is no power greater than the power of love. It is what causes our faith to work. God moves beyond what our minds can capture in words or thoughts when we activate the power of love. The Holy Ghost's power lies within us and one of His major assignments is to assist us in our love walk. As a matter of fact, He is to love through us. I want to love like Jesus. Just like Jesus.

THE FULFILMENT OF THE LAW OF GOD BY LOVE

We are no longer under the law, where we were spiritually unable to live above sin, but now under grace. However, we still have the Law of God. According to Hebrews 8:10, “...God will put his Laws into our minds and hearts...”

Now, how does God himself fulfil His law through us? He pours out the fullness of His virtue upon us when we get born again.

(Romans 5:5) And hope does not make us ashamed, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us.

The fullness of God's virtue is love and to walk in love is to be perfect.

(1 John 4:16) And we have known and believed the love that God has in us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

(1 John 4:17) In this is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; that as He is, so also we are in this world.

(1 John 4:18) There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear, because fear has torment. He who fears has not been perfected in love.
There is no sin under heaven that can be committed by a person totally influenced by love. Therefore, the charge is that we reveal God by walking in love. The highest representation of God is not by one who performs miracles or has all the nine gifts of Spirit at work in him; the highest representation of God on earth is the one who walks in love.

(1 Corinthians 13:1) Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I have become as sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal.

(1 Corinthians 13:2) And though I have prophecies, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so as to move mountains, and do not have charity, I am nothing.

(1 Corinthians 13:3) And though I give out all my goods to feed the poor, and though I deliver my body to be burned, and have not charity, I am profited nothing.

Walking in love towards God and towards our neighbours is the spiritual litmus test of maturity. The fruit of the Spirit is love.

(Galatians 5:22) But the fruit of the Spirit is: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faith,

(Colossians 3:14) And above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfectness.

This makes us understand that love is indeed the bond of perfection. Our love walk is our major test of spiritual maturity. I know you've raised the dead and cast out a legion of demons, but can you genuinely say sorry even when you are not directly responsible for a fault? Can u stop speaking badly about someone who is obviously bad? Can you go the extra length of forgiving someone who raped you and took advantage of your innocence? Can you?

There is nothing about love that is natural, everything about love and its essence is deeply spiritual. **No one can love and remain carnal. It is a supernatural ability.**

The strength of a man is not shown by how much muscle or achievement he has, but often how much sacrifice his life typifies. Sacrifice is the twin of love; there is no love without sacrifice. We may have seen some movies and read novels which have influenced our perspective of love; little wonder there is more divorce in the world today, the church inclusive. People want to live comfortably, so whenever a challenge rocks their boat, they go in search of a better boat, thinking the problem is with the boat. You must have heard
that the Titanic, the biggest and best constructed water vessel still sank. There will always be an occasion that has the potential to rock our boats. However, it does not have to end in separation, hurt and bitterness. No relationship breaks because of the gravity of the issues, relationship.

Love is perhaps the best selling concept in the world, though many people buy the wrong brand. Love can only be understood in the “God” context. Has anyone told you he loves you before? If he or she does not love God, you had better run. Love is too deep, too wide, too high and lofty to be described as some butterfly in the tummy. Hey! Wake up and smell the coffee. Love is deliberate; it is a choice and it is a discipline.

How I wish you knew how much it cost God to give His only begotten Son just so you and I could live life to the fullest. Oh, you thought it was an interesting idea when God decided to watch as people drove nine inch nails into the hands and feet of His Son? Pierced His side? Spat on his face? Crowned Him with thorns? Tore His skin with metal whips? Jesus’ torture was not for fun. God saw you and I then said to Himself “He is worth every ounce of my Son’s blood”. Regardless of your depth in God, your human understanding cannot fully comprehend how much God loves you. It is beyond words.

THE FIRST EMPOWERS US FOR THE SECOND

The most important commandment is to “…love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with thy entire mind” and the second is like it. Jesus said “love your neighbour as yourself” and that upon these two commandments hang the law and the prophets. What a profound statement.

(1 John 4:19) We love Him because He first loved us.

That means we cannot love God, ourselves and neighbours without knowing that God loves us.
FOUR STEPS TO FULFILLING THE LAW OF GOD BY GRACE

❖ KNOW THAT GOD LOVES YOU

This is actually the only step; every other step flows from this. John hits it right on the head: we can attempt to love, first and foremost because God loves us. So, if we do not know how much He loves us, we could never possibly love not even ourselves. Price is based on value or worth; many of us do not know how much we are worth, therefore, we under-price ourselves and come up cheap.

A lady goes the extra miles to prove her worth or sometimes, sell herself cheap to a guy who cares for her only as much as he does a pair of jeans. He only wears it as long as he feels good in it. Ladies fall victim of this, time and again. This is mostly because they have not an idea of how much God loves them and the price He paid to prove it: on the cross of Calvary. God's love does not just talk, it walks the talk. Once we know what was exchanged on our behalf, we stop paying penance and start seeing ourselves the way God sees us.

The world is love starved. Not family love or erotic love, but the overwhelming agape love, God's kind that is totally selfless. Keep meditating on how much God loves you and watch how your self-worth sky rocket. This would lead to the next step.

❖ LOVE GOD IN RETURN

It is simply automatic that when you understand the extent God went to guarantees the assurance of seeing you in His presence forever, then you need no teacher to teach you how to love God.

(Luke 7:47) Therefore I say to you, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much. But to whom little is forgiven, he loves little...KJV

Now do not be deceived to think that some have sinned more than others going by Jesus' statement. James 2:10 says “…for whoever would keep the whole law and yet offend in one point is guilty of all”, so there is really no big sin, or small sin.

(Romans 3:23) For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

Who wants to be the best sinner that ever went to hell? Sin is not graded on a curve.

However, Jesus' message in Luke 7 was the state of every man's heart; you are as forgiven as much as you THINK you are.

As a matter of truth, if all the world has is one person, and all the sin that one person ever committed was an intention to lie, Jesus would not have suffered any less on the cross.
But our self-righteous mindsets prefers to grade sin on a curve, just like Lamech did in Genesis 4:24. This is why God eventually introduced the law. While not all sins have the same human, social and societal impact, nevertheless as far as God is concerned, He has no chart showing how much consequence each sin is worth. He gave the law to forestall the excesses of man and curb the tendencies of comparison in transgression.

The moment we realise that we were hell bound, regardless of how moral, good mannered we were, it becomes easy to accept our rescue from the enemy through the death of Jesus; then we in turn find it easier to love God.

(Psalm 68:19) Blessed be Lord, who daily loads us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah.

This is the same way human beings tend to become more loyal to someone who once saved their lives and would go extra miles just to appreciate such an individual. Our love to God should never be seen as a payment. How much would you say your eternal redemption is worth? Hell would have to freeze for there to be a material equivalent of your salvation. Paul puts it right in Romans 8:12a “therefore brethren, we are debtors…” Our love is only an outflow of our gratitude to Him for all He has done and is still doing, but ultimately for who He is. He is LOVE. God loves you and if you know that enough, your love for Him would develop at par with your knowledge of His sacrifice.

It is like the story of the young boy whom his mother donated her eyes for when he was much younger. The child grew and was really embarrassed by his mother’s presence in school and public functions because she was blind. She had kept her sacrifice a secret from the child. He grew to resent his mother. He later travelled out of the country, made money and abandoned his mother in the village. Every attempt the mother made to visit the child was met with hostility. Eventually, the woman died of stress and bitterness, but left a note for her son concluding by telling him to take good care of her eyes and the grandchildren. Then he realised how terribly he had treated her while she was alive and regretted his actions. The moral of the story is that, had he known of her sacrifice earlier, he would definitely have treated her much better. We feel more indebted when we know the worth of the sacrifice made on our behalf. The response to the sacrifice of Jesus is love; we love because He first loved us. Hallelujah.

◆ LOVE YOURSELF

This is one area people get more spiritual than the Holy Spirit, more catholic than the Pope and more Christian than Christ. You will hear people say you should not love yourself, to love oneself is selfish and such. We know from the scriptures however that God never ordered us not to love ourselves. As a matter of fact, he does not expect us to love our neighbours without loving ourselves first. The way we treat others is only a reflection of how we treat ourselves. So, you have people who have a hard time forgiving themselves finding it hard forgiving others. Angry people are eighty percent angry with
themselves for being the way they are, and twenty percent angry with people or things who bring out that much hated thing about themselves. In essence, angry people are actually hundred percent angry with themselves. Those who are yet to accept themselves, never get to settle in a relationship. God instructs men to love their wives like their own body; so what happens when one hates his body? He beats his wife, says hurtful things to her and treats her just like he does his body.

**The key to treating people well is to love oneself.** It is out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks; it takes one with practically no self-worth to put everybody down to his/her size with his/her mouth. It takes one who is full and filled with the love of God to show it to others. When you find a set of people who genuinely love people, it is because they genuinely love and have accepted themselves.

*(Philippians 2:3)*  _Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves._

This is a relative commandment in the sense that our estimation of others is relative to our estimations of ourselves. The Word says our love to others should be higher in degree. So for example, if I esteem myself to be worth £5 and esteem my neighbour £5 and 50 cents, I sure have esteemed my neighbour more than myself, however both of use combined still do not worth much.

Like I said earlier, we begin to value ourselves when we know the price paid for our purchase. How dare you devalue what God paid for with His Son's blood? You are worth every ounce of that blood shed by the Perfect Lamb. You are the righteousness of God; angels long to see into the depths of riches and glorious inheritance prepared for you, but God says to them, “this is confidential”. Patriarchs longed for that day but did not see it. They looked forward to the cross, but we look back on it. Based on the finished work on the field of skull, we can live in fullness today because of His sufferings. You have no idea of how much you worth; will Jesus, the Prince of Peace and King of kings say He is going to prepare a place for useless entities? That place would have its streets paved with gold, the least precious stone in heaven! **The full extent of your worth cannot be estimated on this side of the divide.**

So, save up some cash: go to the salon, make yourself a great hairdo, head to the mall for a change of clothing, do not forget the cures - pedi and mani - if you are a lady, cook your best meal, relax, eat then say it out “GOD LOVES ME AND I LOVE ME”. The devil always deletes the “beloved” part of God’s assertion of you. In Matthew 3:17, God declares Jesus as His Beloved Son, but in Matthew 4:3, the devil deletes that important “beloved” to say “if you are the son of God…” Remind the devil every day that God loves you and you love you.

Some folks do not believe they deserve the best, but let me shock you. You do not deserve less than the president of the United States of America, because grace equalises everyone⁴. No matter the status, creed or pedigree, everyone is worth every ounce of the
blood of the Jesus. I know how religion has brainwashed people to believe that they
deserve the lowest estates. It is not selfish to love yourself and it is not pride to call
yourself what God has called you. Pride is when God says you are the apple of His eyes,
and you say “no Lord, my opinion of me is superior than your opinion of me, so Lord, I am
just a worthless church goer trying to get by.” Right there is pride at its peak: exalting
your opinion above God’s Word. True humility is receiving God’s Word about you and
acting accordingly.

◆ LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR AS YOURSELF

Loving yourself becomes carnal and demonic when you add “alone” to it. Loving yourself
alone will lead to self-destruction; but loving yourself is a means to the end of loving your
neighbours. Love is not love until it is shared; life ought to be shared. How many people
want to ride their new cars alone, feast alone and dance alone? The moment you find
someone always dancing alone, just make sure you call the nearest mental health clinic.
Life loses its savour when it is self-absorbing.

When God made the heavens and the earth, He thought, how will I enjoy my authority
without sharing it? How will I enjoy My glory alone? Then He answered in Genesis
1:26-31:

“And God said, let us make man in our image and after our likeness, and
let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the foul of the air
and over the cattle and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing
that creepeth upon the earth…”

God could have maintained His domain in heaven but because He is love and cannot deny
Himself, He created those who would be the object of His passion and love. He chose to
share his authority, power and blessings. We are products of a desire to share; God is not
telling us to do what He has never done. He has loved us with an everlasting love and
expects us to love our neighbours as ourselves.

Loving your neighbour as yourself could minister and witness Jesus to a lost world more
than we ever thought possible. Jesus kept praying for the disciples that God would keep
them together in love, so that the world by them would believe on Him. Love is the
strongest communicator of all time.

Knowing how priceless you are, you can now begin to extend hands of fellowship to those
around you, showing them the love which you have received. You should not love others
based on what you expect from them, but based on who you are: a love being. Giving is
one single trait that exemplifies love the most. God showed us by example when He gave
His Son. What have you given a neighbour to show him you love him or her? Giving is the
highest form of living. It does not have to be a material possession. It could be a simple
smile or laughter. They say laughter is the shortest distance between two people; it is
amazing how much you can connect with someone just by making the person laugh. Make
sure you give something always. Those who do not give, stink, because they do not flow. There is so much love in you; you just need some folks to embarrass with it. Give that word of encouragement, that listening ear, that jacket, that call, that smile. Be at the giving end of life because it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Stagnant water is repulsive; so are stingy people. That is why the mouth smells the most in the morning, because it has spent five to six hours, giving nothing: no entry therefore, no exit. Stench is the result. Loving others does more than bless them, it blesses you much more. You would make a pretty small package if you are all wrapped up in yourself. You have enough love to give because your source is the HOLY GHOST.

So go on ahead and give, love and share. Whatever business idea you have that is not people-oriented is destined to pack up. In the heart of every success is a selfless heart that longs to see people better served, looking and feeling better. Let your life count: love your neighbour as yourself.

◆ LOVE YOUR WAY INTO HEAVEN

No matter how much love you have shown so far, you can still show more. Paul admonishes the Philippians and prays that their love abound more and more. To abound means to increase in a progressive measure. So you can always increase your show of God’s kind of love. The same you find in Thessalonica. But one part of this prayer that excites me is the part that says that “we may be sincere and be without offence unto the day of Christ.”

Philippians also admonishes us to be “filled with the fruit of righteousness which are by Jesus.” It means love cannot be operated in the flesh. Anyone who claims to love but does not know God cannot even love because only God via the Holy Spirit can love through us. Paul prays that we might be filled with the evidence of our righteous nature and the possession and the expression of this fruit are by Jesus Christ himself. He empowers us to be supernatural:

(Philippians 4:13) I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Some people can be really terrible and almost unlovable. People like this will repel your advances to show love. However, you must understand that it is these ones who have the greatest need of love in their lives. Moreover, God is not saying you can show them love by yourself, God is saying that He would be the one doing the work if you make yourself available. As simple as that sounds, it is really one of the most selfless things you would do. As we continue to do as led by Christ, we get accustomed to it. We have to learn to put our body under the spirit.

Holiness, excellence and virtue can only be possible through love. As we keep up the love walk, Christ purges and continues the mind renewal process until His second coming. This means we would love our way to heaven. Now, am I saying if one is not perfect, he cannot be presented blameless before God in holiness? That is not what I mean. Some people
believe that until we attain a level of perfect moral standards, we cannot make heaven. Not so sir! The thief on the right side\(^\text{10}\) had absolutely no chance to renew his mind, to make restitution, or even to attempt living a holy life. Jesus proved that by believing and confessing His name, heaven becomes your destination. However, loving until the day of our Lord gives us confidence to appear before Him on the day of judgment\(^\text{11}\).

**ETERNAL REDEMPTION**

In the early chapters of this book, we have seen how Christ settled the question of heaven and hell when He died on the cross. It is now left to each man to believe on Jesus’ finished work of death, burial and resurrection and earn himself a ticket to heaven. By the same token, although Christ died for all, those who do not believe what He has done for them would end up in hell, not because of how much evil they did on earth but because they refused the Lord Jesus by not believing in Him. Those who would go to hell would go there, not because of wrong doing, but wrong believing. Those who would be in heaven would go there not because of right deeds, but right believing.

\[(\text{1 John 2:2})\] And He is the propitiation concerning our sins, and not concerning ours only, but also concerning the sins of all the world.

\[(\text{John 3:16})\] 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.

How can a God who says He is love ever put anyone whom He claims to love in hell? If you understand how much God loves Jesus, then you would realise that hell is neither hot enough nor is eternity is long enough to fully punish any soul that rejects the love of Christ.

Hate is the other end of love. If you really love someone deeply, you would hate everything that stands to hurt him or her. There is no love without hate. The reason God hated sin so much was because it would send His Son to the cross. By the same token, if a man swears to love a woman, he also makes a vow to detest, fight against and if possible destroy anything that could come against that love or hurt her. Psalm 139 explains it best.

David recounts how much God loves him and how much of reverence, honour and love he has for God. At the same time, he begins to curse and hate those who take God's name in vain, those who despise God. David hates them with a perfect hatred because he loves God with a perfect love. What a concept. If you love your country, you will hate corruption that can erode her economic and political prowess over the years. If you love a dying friend, you would hate the sickness responsible for his predicament.
(Psalm 139:19) Surely You will slay the wicked, O God; and bloody men, depart from me.

(Psalm 139:20) Who will speak against You maliciously? Your enemies are lifted up with vanity.

(Psalm 139:21) O Jehovah, do I not hate those who hate You? And am I not grieved with those who rise up against You?

(Psalm 139:22) I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies.

So, God putting anyone in hell for not receiving Jesus is actually a show of more love. The degree of love determines the degree of rage shown against anything poised to harm that love. Remember the cartoon, Beauty and the Beast? The beast would go any length to kill, destroy anything and anyone standing against the deliverance of the beauty. When you see him in that feat of rage, all you could say is “oh, how he loved her!”. Hell was meant only for the devil and his cohorts. God would love everyone to make heaven, but will only allow those who would not allow the sacrifice of His Son to be in vain, by believing it in their hearts and confessing with their mouths.

Then why do we need to live holy lives and renew our minds, if by mere confessing and believing, we could gain entrance into heaven?

**PROOF OF ELECTION**

God did not save us for heaven alone, but for the earth too. 1 Timothy 4:8 says “godliness has the promise of the life that now is, and that which is to come.” This means we cannot enter into the fullness of what God has in store for us if we do not renew our minds on earth and follow His plans for our lives.

(John 17:3) And this is life eternal, that they might know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

Eternal life does not mean endless life because even those who would end up in hell will never die. However, eternal life is defined in John 17:3 as the knowledge of God and Jesus whom He has sent. Summarily, eternal life is the knowledge of God through His word.

Now you see why not all Christians are living the eternal life on the earth? **Eternal life is a quality of life and not the longevity of time.** Throughout the book of Proverbs, we find that the knowledge and wisdom of God’s Word would give long life, health and wealth to those who study and apply it. So, eternal life is here and now. Stop waiting till you get to heaven before you begin experiencing the will of God on earth as it is in heaven.
The knowledge of God through His Word is the primary producer of eternal life and the Son of God himself is called the Word of God. So this is eternal life: that you may know God, and Jesus whom He has sent. If you really know God, you will not go about messing up and committing sin. The love you now have for Jesus would constrain you and make you holier than you ever were under the law.

Living the God kind of life on earth has the potential of witnessing to the souls of men. Throughout the book of Acts of the Apostles, we see how people got converted to the faith by hearing about and seeing the power emanating from the lifestyle of the Apostles. It is an experience of Jesus that can convert the agnostic and not just the theory of Christ. It is therefore imperative that we live holy, minister the gospel of grace and keep up the good work so as to manifest the abundant life of God. This is the proof of our election.

**REWARD MINDSET**

Another reason why we ought to live the God kind of life on earth is because our reward in heaven is based on our work on earth. Please get this: our entrance into heaven is based on faith in His grace, but our reward in heaven is based our good works on earth. Several scriptural passages make it clear that God has a reward system that would give to every man the requisite reward for his work on earth.

Rewards are not given in heaven based on the volume of work on earth but based on the quality or value of work on earth. God does not reward actions, but motives; not quantity but quality; not volume but value. This is very essential for us to understand. Labour is not enough if not done in love, so on what basis will God reward the saints?

1 Corinthians 3:10) “according to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder ,I have laid the foundation and another buildeth therein. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

(1 Corinthians 3:11) For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

(1 Corinthians 3:12) Now if any man build upon this foundation gold ,silver ,precious stone, wood, hay and stubble; 

(1 Corinthians 3:13) every man's work shall be made manifest ;for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

(1 Corinthians 3:14) If any man's work abideth which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.
(1 Corinthians 3:15) If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss, but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire"

Now this passage of scripture possesses a wealth of information about the reward system of God when we get to heaven. The first thing we discover is that rewards are not equal; it is totally dependent on the work done on earth. No man will be rewarded on mercy but on justice. People need to understand that God will not give a man a reward not worth own work. God is just. However, we must understand what He rewards. In the passage, we see two categories of materials: GOLD, SILVER AND PRECIOUS STONES, then WOOD, HAY AND STUBBLE. What do these materials typify?

❖ **GOLD**

Gold as used throughout the scriptures, especially in Exodus, Leviticus and where the building of the temple was recorded, typically connotes the righteousness of God. Almost all instrument of service in the temple was overlaid with gold. Gold in the Old Testament was a type and shadow of the righteousness of Jesus Christ. No matter the materials used in the temple, God wanted to see the pure and holy Jesus, therefore the instruction was to overlay each instrument with gold. So when God looked at those instruments, He did not see wood, clay or any other thing but gold. We will explain further after describing the typical representation of each building materials.

❖ **SILVER**

Also throughout the Old Testament including the gospels, we discover that silver typifies redemption. When a man sinned or trespassed, the priest would order him to bring an amount of silver to redeem himself. Joseph who was a type and shadow of Jesus Christ used the silver cup to redeem his brothers through Benjamin. Joseph was sold for 20 pieces of silver. Jesus was sold for 30 pieces of silver before His work on the cross.

❖ **PRECIOUS STONES**

Precious stones, according to the context of the references, represent the glory and beauty of God or the excellence of His majesty. Precious stones were used to beautify the king's crown. In heaven, there are an abundant supply of precious stones to beautify thereof. In another context, according to Isaiah 28:16, the precious stone represented Jesus and his qualities.

❖ **WOOD, HAY AND STUBBLE**

These three fall under the same category. They are all products of plants and grass, and the symbolic representation of plant and grass in scriptures is man or flesh. Isaiah 40:6-8 was quoted by Apostle Peter in 1 Peter 1: 23-25 where he said “all flesh is as grass and the glory of man is as flower of grass.” What this means is that grass produced wood, hay and stubble and we know one thing these materials hate to see is fire.
**IMPLICATION**

It is necessary for us to have a good understanding of what God is pleased by. A lot of the instruments in the temple of old were made of wood, especially the shittim wood which was usually overlaid with gold. You see, God is holy and cannot behold iniquity but man is full of imperfections, even at our very best state.

(Psalm 39:5) Behold, You have made my days as a handbreadth, and my age is as nothing before You. Surely every man standing is altogether vanity. Selah.

However, God cannot use an angel to carry out His mandate on earth; He still uses man. God only relates with perfection so He sent His Son who is perfect to die for our sins so that we can have His righteousness. Now when God looks at us, just as in the time of old when He saw the gold on the wooden instrument, He sees Jesus. Just like the wood was overlaid with gold in the old covenant and God saw gold, so am I overlaid with the righteousness of Jesus Christ. I am the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. All God sees about you is your righteousness in Christ Jesus which is by faith in his grace.

Now, we must understand that, based on the content of 1 Corinthians 3, if any man builds on his salvation using physical ability, believing in himself and not God's grace, no matter how much he is able to do, he will not be rewarded much because his work cannot survive the fire of the Lord. Fire either purifies or burns. If we build our lives, ministry and business on the grace of God, based on our love for him, we will do great work on earth. God is not unrighteous to forget and leave unrewarded our labour of love. But as for those who do everything believing in their own self-righteousness and holiness, they will not be rewarded though they would be saved. John 15:5 reminds us that without Jesus “...ye can do nothing.”

**Therefore, as Christians, we ought to understand how God thinks, our spiritual machismo, hours of prayers, days of fast; years of study do not impress God if not founded upon the grace of God.**

You may think that people are doing so much out there without Jesus. In the final analysis, when every man's testimony will be tested, it will all end up in ashes when the fire of God falls upon it.

(John 3:27) And John answered and said, A man can receive nothing unless it is given to him from Heaven.

(2 Timothy 2:20) But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.
(2 Timothy 2:20) If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work.

This scripture also speaks of gold and silver, wood and earth. If a man purges himself from being wood or earth which typifies flesh or self-reliance, he would be a vessel unto honour, which means, a vessel of gold and silver, sanctified by faith in grace, and prepared unto every good work. Only Grace can make us abound and be prepared unto every good work. We were made able ministers by His Grace and mercy, not by our qualification.

This does not change the fact that the woods and earth would also be in the great house (heaven), but if you want to be a vessel unto honour, get rid of your pride and self-belief, and put all your trust in His grace for empowerment to do His work.

So, we see how it is only God's love that can make us holy, full of sincerity and ready for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. I am not afraid in any way about rapture as I know am going with the first flight. God's grace empowers me to act, it humbles me, makes me walk circumspectly, makes me honour and revere God and makes me do good works that will be rewarded. The maturity of our love solidifies the maturity of our work. Agape love is not founded upon any man's effort or will, but on God's abundant grace and gift of righteousness.

Wow! This blesses me. My charge for you today is to forget about the reward and just focus on Jesus and what he has done for you.

**CONFESSION**

I abound in love to my neighbours and those around me. I am filled with the fruits of righteousness by Jesus Christ. My fruits abide in Christ. I am sincere and without offence until the day of Christ. I approve only of the things that are excellent. I am full of confidence concerning the appearing of the Lord with his saints. The church grows in unity, love and power in Jesus name. AMEN

CHAPTER EIGHT
THE BALANCE OF THE SPIRIT IN THE WILL OF GOD

(Colossians 1:9) For this cause we also since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

(Colossians 1:10) that ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful unto all good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;
(Colossians 1:11) strengthened with all might according to his glorious power unto all patience, long suffering with joyfulness.

(Colossians 4:12b) ...always labouring fervently for you in prayers that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God

These Pauline prayers open up the influence of the Spirit of God in our lives in making us fulfil God’s will and mandate on earth.

**THE WILL OF GOD**

What is the will of God for our lives? Usually, the phrase “will of God” has been religiously clichéd to mean marriage partners as if the only will of God for our life is in our choice of partners. Would it then be right to say therefore that Jesus and Paul never fulfilled the will of God as both were not married? We know however that no other two characters in the scriptures undoubtedly fulfilled the will of God for their lives than these two.

So what exactly is the will of God?

(Psalm 40:6) sacrifice and offering, thou did not desire; mine ears hast thou opened; burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required.

(Psalm 40:7) Then said I, Lo I come in the volume of the book it is written of me,

(Psalm 40:8) I delight to do thy will my God: yea ,thy law is within my heart.”

(Hebrew 10:5) wherefore, when he cometh into the world, he saith sacrifice and offering and offering thou wouldest not, but a body thou has prepared for me; in burnt offering and sacrifices for sin, thou hast had no pleasure, then said I, lo I come (in the volume of the book, it is written of me) to do thy will, o God.”

(Psalm 139:16) Thine eyes see my substance, yet being imperfect and in thy book, all members were written, which in continuance were fashioned when as yet, there was none of them.

What is this book being referred to by David? Is it the bible? No, I do not think so. The Bible is the Word of God in letter i.e. Logos representing the whole counsel of God.

David here referred to the book containing the details of our individual lives. It was to this book God referred to when He spoke concerning Jeremiah: “before I formed thee in the belly, I KNEW thee and before thou came forth out of the womb, I sanctified thee and I ordained thee a prophet unto Nations”.1
All the details of Jeremiah’s life were written in that book and God read out the details of Jeremiah’s assignment from that book.

(Galatians 1:15) but when it pleased God who separated me from my mother’s womb and called me by his grace,

(Galatians 1:16) to reveal His Son in me that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood.

Apostle Paul, as much as he was already an adult and persecuting the saints, when he was to recount his conversation and call to the ministry, he confirmed that God had separated him from his mother’s womb to preach the message of grace to the gentiles. When it pleased God as ordained in the book, the time Paul was to start preaching and fulfilling the will of God in that area, God called him and sent him to gentiles.

**WHAT IS THIS BOOK?**

In the gospel according to Luke, scriptures record how Jesus took the torah and read from the book of Isaiah to those in the synagogue. The Bible record that after reading, Jesus closed the book and gave the minister, then said to everyone who listened to Him that “…this day is the scriptures fulfilled in your ear.”

May I put it to you that Jesus was reading His own detail from His own book. The whole Bible has only one central character: JESUS. Revelation 19:13 tells us that JESUS IS THE WORD OF GOD. **It is because Jesus fulfilled, to the last stroke of the pen, every detail about Him in the book, that has given us the liberty to fulfil our God given purposes on earth.**

The same way the Bible is the book containing the purpose, life and ministry of Jesus Christ, there is a book about you in heaven that contains your purpose, ministry and life. The details of that book contain accurately the details of God’s will for your life. Every believer and non-believer has a book with God containing the details of their lives. Jesus, Jeremiah, Apostle Paul are not elites in this league with preferential treatment, NO! We all have our God breathed destinies contained in our book with Him. **It would therefore be foolishness for any man not to walk in the will of God.** It is folly not to know and walk in the will of God for our lives.

(Romans 8:26) likewise the spirit also helpeth our infirmities, for we know not what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself maketh intercession for us with groaning that cannot be uttered.

**The greatest infirmity of all time is ignorance and misunderstanding of God’s will in individual lives.**

Today, people run from pillar to post, trying to make ends meet, knowing fully well that there is nowhere in the world where ends meet. East never meets west, nor can north
meet south. Thus, we are convinced that when God forgave sins, He threw them as far as the east is from the west. Glory to God! People ask questions today about their purpose that only the Holy Spirit can answer: who am I; what should I do, where should I be? They ask friends, parents, everybody around but the Holy Spirit. This is the biggest infirmity in the world. I would rather live two years and fulfill God's purpose than live two hundred years and still be far from the plan of God for my life.

The questions of identity: who am I and where am I from?
The question of purpose: what am I here to do?
The question of destiny: where am I headed?

These are the three most important questions any man can ever answer. Accurate answers to these questions will give more joy and peace than being the richest person in the world.

(John 13:3) knowing that the Father has given all things into his hand and that he was come from God and went to God

(John 9:4-5) I must work the work of him that sent me while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work

Here, we see Jesus fully conscious of whom He was, where he came from, what He was meant to do and where He was going. That is what made Him the Christ we worship today. He lived on purpose for a purpose; He did not live by chance. By age twelve, He was about His Father’s business and when it was time to go, He knew. He lived for only thirty three years and six months but was the most fulfilled man that ever lived. Many people are sixty years old and still searching for the will of God. As we said earlier, a lack of an understanding of people's individual purposes is the greatest infirmity of all time.

DISCOVERING AND FOLLOWING GOD’S WILL

I have heard quite a number of tapes and read a wide variety of books on purpose which have helped me tremendously in my search and pursuit of purpose. Tips like how our personality, gift and talents are pointers to the purpose of God for our lives are very true. I have discovered that while the gifts could be more than one, the calling is just one³. However, the gifts, talents and personalities which vary are not enough to know the calling of God for our lives.

In fact, I have discovered that the more the gifted and talented one is, the more confused a person might be in knowing what to do in life. That alone could cripple any man's motivation to know God's will for him. However, the first thing I want to clarify is that it is
permissible that you do not know the details of God's will for your life. No one has an accurate mental picture of all God has in store for him in life. We have discussed a dimension of this when we looked at the hope of our calling. It is the steps of a good man that are ordered, not the giant strides. The day-to-day decisions and choices make up our journey. So, how do we know without a doubt in our hearts that we are on the right track, doing what we are meant to do per time? That is the essence of the Pauline prayers in Colossians. The most important thing in a man's life is fulfilling the will of God and for this, Paul and Epaphras prayed fervently.

THE MYSTERY OF THE WISDOM OF GOD - 1 CORINTHIANS 2:7-16

From this passage, we get insight into some realities in God. First, we understand that God does not communicate His wisdom in a language understandable by human wisdom. Wisdom in this context does not mean the intellectual wisdom or application of knowledge. It does not refer to the wisdom as propounded in Proverbs.

This wisdom of God speaks of things to come. It refers to being informed or seeing with God, the details of future events and saying it now. It is called the Word of Wisdom in the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit. That is the wisdom referred to in 1 Corinthians 2.

The passage describes the details of the lives of those who allow God have His way. The Bible assures us that eyes have not seen it, ears have not heard it, nor can the ever heart perceive has He has in store for us4. It is God that prepares these things; the details are only received by His Spirit in our regenerated human spirit. He has placed that spirit in our heart that we may know the things which God has finished on our behalf before we even breathed our first.

We can speak this hidden wisdom of God in a mystery, in a language that is not understood by human intellect because the Holy Spirit Himself is the one who inspires the language. We referred to Romans 8:26 earlier which told us that we do not know what to pray for but that the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us in an unknown spiritual language. The succeeding verse then assures us that it is only the Holy Spirit that knows the mind of God and that He prays for the saints according to the will of God. HALLELUYAH!

I might not know the will of God in detail but since the Spirit of God is in me, He lays hold of the realities of God's will in my book so as to bring it to pass on earth. Isaiah 28:9-11 foretold the gift of tongues when it says “precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, there a little, with stammering lips and another tongue, God will speak his counsel to his people.” This was a prophecy of tongues by prophet Isaiah and he said God will lead his people through tongues.

We understand from 1 Corinthians 2:13, that while the Holy Ghost teaches us this language or mystery, He compares spiritual things with spiritual. This is confirmed in Romans 8:27 where the Bible reiterates that the Holy Spirit makes intercession according to the will of God. It means that the Holy Ghost, who knows the details of the will of God
in your book, will compare it with the realities of your life to see if they conform. If not, He makes adjustment through intercession. Thus we then say boldly that “...all things work together for our good.”

This level of confidence and knowledge only comes when we engage the intercessory ministry of the Holy Ghost for us, our families, churches and communities at large. It is therefore expedient that we devote time daily to commune with the Holy Ghost, so as to do proper adjustment and alignment of our purpose in God. That is why Jude 20 says that we ought to build “...ourselves in the most holy faith.” Our most holy faith could be seen as the purest form of assurance. I know I cannot fail because I have prayed according to the will of God; therefore I know all things will work together for my good. **My mind and brain are too small to capture the full extent of my purpose and assignment on earth.**

(Philippians 1:19) for I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer and the supply of the spirit of Jesus Christ

Here we see Apostle Paul confident in the knowledge that all things will work out for his good because of the prayers of the saints and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Let us commit ourselves to supplying the Spirit of Jesus into every area of our life and the church most especially. As we pray these eternal prayers backed up in tongues, it becomes evident that God will make a way, regardless of the situation. Our provision and fulfilment is found only in our place of purpose. The richest men in the world who are still miserable are that way because they have not discovered what to do with their lives. Some try to drown that emptiness in alcohol, sex and all forms of debauchery, but only God can satisfy that longing soul by his Spirit.

Now that we have learned what the will of God means and how to follow it, we must not neglect the place of character building. Speaking in tongues does not build our character in any way, else those who speak in tongues the most will be the most humble and full of love, but that is not always the case. The Bible even admonishes that we should keep ourselves in the love of God, because tongues will not do that.

**SPIRITUAL ORDERING**

The Apostle Paul prayed that the brethren at Colossae be filled with the knowledge of God’s will, with wisdom and spiritual understanding. What really does that phrase mean? Have you ever made a decision without much thought, but discovered later that that is the best decision you could have made in such a situation? That is what I mean. By the time you engage the Spirit of God in making intercession for you, there comes a level of spiritual understanding you would attain, not your carnal intellectual understanding. You will just find yourself in the right atmosphere with right people, poised for the favour and blessing of God in your daily life. You do not have to understand with your mind; you might be laying too much demand on the capacity of your brain. Trust me, the brain is infinitely smaller in capacity and wisdom compared to your spirit. 1 Corinthians 2:14 Says “a natural man cannot grasp these realities because they are only spiritually discerned”.
However, it is not the the spiritual man himself intellectually understands these events. Somehow, the Spirit of God is given permission through tongues to order his steps in the right direction. That is why Colossians 1:10 says that under such an influence, one would almost always walk in a way that pleases God; every work becomes fruitful, and the man continues to exercise himself in the knowledge of God.

Will you not be happy to leave major decisions and even minor ones to the expertise of the Spirit of God? **He knows which company to invest in, what product will break even, what idea the world needs the most, what message the church must hear now!** He knows all things; why not allow Him call the shots? Your life becomes remarkably easier. People ask you, how come you ALWAYS get it right? You simply reply, “I have the Decider in me!” But do not assume you will always understand everything, every time. Engage Him and watch Him lead you to your wealthy place. Even when sometimes you do not “seem” to get it right, understand that with him, all things would work together for good at the end. He is ready to direct your path; lean not on your own casual understanding, in all your ways, business and relationships, acknowledge Him and He shall direct your path.

**THE POWER OF PATIENCE – 2 THESSALONIANS 3:5**

Verse 11 of Colossians chapter one is remarkable as it defies our normal logical thought pattern. “strengthened with all might according to his glorious power unto all patience, long suffering with joyfulness.” There is definitely something wrong with this picture. I thought if God was to strengthen a man with all His might, then that man would become something else in terms of the release of that power. I thought that man ought to be strengthened unto all miracle working, jaw-dropping deliverances and wonders unconceivable etc.

If God’s power and might is on a man, he ought to be performing miracles all around, displaying the power within. However, here the word tells us, He would be strengthened unto patience. Not only that, but with long suffering as well as joyfulness. What a paradox!

Maybe the church has underestimated and wrongly defined patience. That is why it does not seem like a virtue among present day Christians. Nobody wants to wait for anything anymore. We are in a generation of instant noodles, two minutes passport photograph, home delivery, internet banking. Things are remarkably faster these days and the virtue called patience is fast disappearing from our lives. As much we acknowledge the benefit attached to the ease and pace of getting things done promptly, we ought not to operate the things of God with human and technological wisdom.

**The kingdom of God is not a software that can be upgraded every once in a while; it is a system that works through faith and patience.** Nobody wants to wait till marriage before having sex; nobody wants to be faithful in little, but wants to become rich. Without
patience, you could never grow rich. You may suddenly become rich; but just as your wealth was sudden, so shall your poverty be.

However, things that grow remain up. People have no regard for process anymore. We see two weeks courtship leading to marriages nowadays and we complain about the increase in divorce rates. God is not a magician. As a matter of fact, God respects process because He put it in place. No one can ever go through a process without one being patient. Albert Einstein, the foremost inventor, said the reason we have time is so that everything would not happen at once. We need patience and regard for time to appreciate the beauty of God’s work in our lives. “…For He makes all things beautiful in its time”

God’s final destination for you is incredible; He needs to inoculate you and build a staying power in you through the process of waiting. God never calls the qualified, but always prepares the called. He called Joseph since childhood but did not unveil him until Joseph was thirty years old. David, after being groomed from his teenage years, waited for about fifteen years before assuming the position of a king. Jesus invested thirty years in patience before starting His ministry. Patience is needed! Whatever you received without patience, you would lose with impatience.

While studying one day, God told me: “if you ever lost patience, then you never had it”. That intrigued me so I began meditating on that statement and discovered the truth in it. Patience has no lifeline; it has no limit and no breaking point. Patience waits until the promise is seen.

(Hebrews 6:12) that we be not slothful, but followers of them who through patience and faith inherit the promises.

This alone confirms that patience is not passive. The writer of Hebrews admonishes us not to be slothful, but instructs patience. Bishop David Oyedepo of Living Faith Ministries was once asked about the secret of his success. He said that all he has ever achieved is because he has learned to stay on one spot. That definitely did not sound like what the reporter wanted to hear, but that is as true as it gets. Patience is a sign of maturity.

That God has promised is not enough assurance that you will obtain the promise; you must be patient to see its fulfilment. It is through patience you become persuaded; this persuasion is a very strong degree of confidence towards a reality not yet seen.

One of the major differences between Jesus and Adam was that Adam never grew to inherit the promise, therefore did not need patience. He was made man already but “…Jesus grew in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and man” Indeed, there must have been several times Jesus would have loved to perform miracles before John chapter 2, but He kept this phrase in mind “my time has not come”. Why does God place a premium on this virtue called patience?
MATURITY

(James 1:2) my brethren, count it all joy when you fall into diverse temptations;

(James 1:3) knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience, but let patience have her perfect work,

(James 1:4) that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing"

Even in contemporary thinking, adults and children are differentiated by patience. Children do not understand that word; whatever they want, they want it right there and then. So, they throw fits until they get what they want. That is the hallmark of babyhood, being sensual. It should be said however that many adults remain glorified children, especially in the way they seek things from God. Patience knocks out sensuality; it forces you to put your flesh under subjection and discern times by the Spirit rather than just following bodily promptings. Here in the book of James, the Bible says we ought to be joyful when we find ourselves in diverse temptations because, it is an opportunity to put your flesh under subjection and to allow patience have her complete work.

The most glorious obsession of every Christian ought to be to become in deed what you are in nature: conforming to the image of Christ. This growth is not measured by material possession or by one's position in church or even by how much miracle such a person performs. It is determined by the amount of the virtues of Jesus not only possessed but expressed.

(James 1:12) blessed is the man that endured temptation; for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him."

(James 1:14) but every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed"

From here, we can deduce that the temptations referred to in earlier verses are not sicknesses, poverty and failure. Some Christians see these situations as the temptation God tells us to endure and count as joy. God would not tell us to count all joy when we experience the very things His Son gave up his life for. NEVER! It is like saying we should count it all joy when we fornicate, lie, commit adultery, kill and covet. You see, it was the same token that dealt with sin that also dealt with its consequences: sickness, poverty and failure.

It breaks God's heart when people who fall ill or are poor say they count it all joy because of James 1:2. Temptation was defined in verse 14 as the product of our own lusts. Therefore, the fact that you are overcoming temptation means that you are growing in maturity and patience. For example, you are trusting God for a car but the reason is because there are many people whom you would like to emulate who own cars; so you are envious and covetousness. But God is saying wait; your cars will come only at the right
time. Now, if you overcome that temptation of getting a car immediately and choose to stick with God's plan, you become more mature in the things of God. You are becoming a mature child, not just a babe.

(James 1:4) but let patient have her perfect work that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing

You do not allow patience have her perfect work in sickness; else, you would wound up dead. Rebuке sickness, standing on God’s Word; resist the devil and he will flee. Halleluyah! The devil tells people that it is God's will for them to be sick; for their child to die; for them to be poor and all that. But we must be able to stand strong against him, not being ignorant of his devices. It is a lie from the pit of hell to keep believers in bondage.

(2 Timothy 2:3) Thou therefore ensure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

So what about the verse above? Was Paul not talking of hard times of poverty and sickness? NEVER! Again, I say NEVER!

Apostle Paul in this verse encourages Bishop Timothy not to get distracted and hence tempted, but to focus on the assignment God has given him. He would be tempted but should not yield to the temptation of getting distracted. Hardness there means the things you choose to deliberately deny yourself so that you can please The One who enlisted you. As a pastor, for example, you cannot spend all your time watching movies and football matches; you have to pray and study more.

A mentor in faith once said that the moment he knew he was going to pastor, he knew he had to bid farewell to wedding ceremonies, which usually hold on Saturdays. How would he be on the dance floor, or with a full plate of food, and still adequately prepare for service on Sunday? We cannot afford to entangle ourselves with the affairs of this world and please our Master at the same time. We ought not to allow the world systems get into us to the degree that we begin compromising our kingdom standards.

(1 Corinthians 6:12) all things are lawful but not all things are expedient.

The more patience and longsuffering we allow the Spirit of God to build in us, the more mature and perfect we become. James says when patience is through with you, you would want nothing. This means that you will be thoroughly equipped for every good work. Do not be in a hurry, says Hebrews 10:36: “for you have the need of patience, that after you have done the will of God, you might receive the promise”. Live life on purpose, based on the will of God for you. Put your body under subjection and exercise yourself unto patience and godliness.
As we grow in the life of God, our perspectives change. Rather than pray for God to change our circumstances, we begin to discern God’s will in all situations. Thus we rest, assured in His plan for our life.

You will keep repeating the lessons you have failed to learn, especially as someone growing in the things of God, until you change. It is like a brick wall in front of a comrade; he tries to push, but the wall refuses to move. He pushes harder but still ends with the same result. After about four months of constant pushing, he has grown enough muscle and strength, so much so that by the first day of the fifth month, he is able to push the same obstacle away by his developed strength.

You will probably keep experiencing that trial until you develop enough strength in your inner man to overcome it. The problem is not with the wall, but with your strength. Build up some maturity; grow up!

**WITH JOYFULNESS**

Having explained much of this in an earlier chapter, we must emphasize that it is the power of God that produces joy in our hearts; not because of what we have received or will receive but because of who He is. It takes a lot of strength to be joyful. Our joy is not dependent on what we see, but it can definitely affect what we see eventually.

(Nehemiah 8:10) that the joy of the Lord is our strength

(Psalm 89:15) we are blessed for knowing the Joyful sound

Joy is unexplainable. When the devil steals your joy, he has stolen your strength and without strength, you would faint. That way, the devil can hit at your weakest point.

No matter what you might be going through, you will always find a good reason to rejoice and be glad. This kingdom of God is in righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. If you wait for everything around you to be perfect before you can be joyful, then you might wait a long while. But you can stir up yourself in the Holy Ghost and become joyful no matter what circumstances say. There is no holiness in depression and moodiness. But being joyful is the holiest you can ever get; your joy gets the devil mad. The devil is so proud he cannot stand to be scorned. So whenever you feel he is trying to get at you, press on the joy button and begin to draw water from the deep wells of salvation in your spirit.

Jesus leaped for joy and John the Baptist leaped in the womb of Elizabeth. One of the characteristics of Spirit-filled believers is their expression of joy and peace: they are almost always excited. Even if you feel life is unfair and everything seems depressing, you have at least one thing to be joyful about - God loves you! That can knock out any depressive state. Depression is demonic, so always fight against it with the joy in your spirit.
Next time, do not be too quick to judge a man’s spiritual strength. Be careful not to measure strength with outward circumstances. The strongest person might be the one who had to wait for so, you wonder if he has any faith at all. Well, yes they do. Much more than faith, they have all of God’s power and might and abounding joy. Your joy is your strength. I could say that over and again because it is the truth. **You are not sad because things are bad; things are bad in the long run, because you are sad.** The Bible says “all the days of the afflicted are evil, but a man with a merry heart has continual feast.” That means who they are determines what they experience, not vice versa. You want to have a continual feast? Be merry. Joy changes things.

Be glad and make the devil mad. Praise God for He is the health of your countenance. Sometimes you have to talk to your soul, and tell it to hope in God. No matter how deep and bad things get, you will ALWAYS have the lifeline of praise. The Psalmist said, “I will yet praise Him”. You have probably done all but praise. I implore you to yet praise Him. You might have tried to praise Him before now; be encouraged to praise Him more. Let Him rub off on you, then go back to that situation in the countenance of God, and see if that situation will not bow.

**CONFESSION**

I am mature in the things of God. I put my body under, that my spirit may have dominion. I do not lose my patience. I abound in the ever increasing strength of God by the joy in the Holy Ghost. The devil cannot weight me down; I am too heavy to be over powered. I carry the cargo of the Holy Ghost, no demon can depress me. I receive the promise of the Spirit by faith; I learn to wait for my pronounced promise. I am of a merry heart, therefore I have continual feast in Jesus name. Thank you Jesus for your love. Amen
CHAPTER NINE
YOUR GLORY; HIS GLORY

(2 Thessalonians 1:11) Therefore, we also always pray for you that our God, would count you worthy of his calling and fulfil all the good pleasure of his goodness and the work of faith with power,

(2 Thessalonians 1:11) that the name of our lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and LORD JESUS CHRIST.

We have discussed extensively the meaning and import of God counting us worthy of His calling in earlier chapters. What baffles me is the attitude of Christians who try too hard to do the exact opposite of what the verses above say. Believers attempt to please God with the good pleasure of their goodness. You may observe that there is a similarity: God fulfils the good pleasure of His goodness, and then fulfils the work of our faith with His power. What exactly is the connection?

For most believers, they have heard the “you must please God” message for so long, all they see, experience and know is that they must please God with their holiness and then God will begin to answer their prayers and bless them.

They think, if I can attend services more often, if I can get to church earlier, if I can pay more offerings, if I can be more faithful in tithing, if I can evangelise more, then God will shine His eyes on me and bless me. Prepare to be shocked by this radical statement: most people who think like that are not very far from what turned Lucifer into the devil or Satan as we all know him to be. “I” is that word that made him Satan. If you check the account of the fall of Satan in, the predominant pronoun there was “I”.

(Isaiah 14:12) How you are fallen from the heavens, O shining star, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations!

(Isaiah 14:13) For you have said in your heart, I will go up to the heavens, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north.

(Isaiah 14:14) I will go up above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the Most High.

(Isaiah 14:15) Yet you shall be brought down to hell, to the sides of the Pit.

When God sees people who think too highly of themselves, He remembers Lucifer. God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble\(^1\). Thinking highly of oneself simply means full of self; self is actually at the root of pride. Now, Jesus was never angry with sinners
but there was a set of people He always chastised: the Pharisees and hypocrites. As a matter of fact, in Matthew chapter twenty three, Jesus began raining curses on the scribes and Pharisees simply because they had too much confidence in the flesh. We are of the circumcision that worships God in the spirit; we rejoice in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh.

The Pharisees believed they were the most upright and holy; they sniffed for transgression like a shark would sniff for blood. They even seemed to know the law more than Christ himself, how hilarious! They believed God owed them goodness because of their own righteousness. But when Paul, who was one of them, met Jesus, he knew that though he was blameless as regards the law, it was all nothing compared to the excellency of the knowledge of Christ.

So just like the Pharisees, we still have several Christians going about with the mindset that if they could just do more, then God would love and bless them. How wrong they are! The moment we base pleasing God on our performance, we begin a slippery slope of an ever increasing need to perform. So when will God be pleased?

There is a powerful story of two men who went into the temple to pray in Luke chapter eighteen. One is a Pharisee, the other a sinner/ publican. The publican prayed saying he was a sinner and could not even boldly look into heaven while asking for grace and mercy. However, the Pharisee began counting and listing how much he fasts and tithes, even going so far as to compare himself with the publican, trying to show God, how faithful and holy he is. The Bible records that in Luke 18:11 the Pharisee prayed with himself. You see, whenever we believe in our performance, then we begin praying with ourselves, which means our prayers might not even go beyond our noses. God does not listen to self; He resists the proud and gives grace to the humble. Whenever anyone does that, then God says “so why do you need Me”? Grace keeps us running towards Jesus, because He is our source, comforter and strength.

God wants to fulfil the good pleasure of His goodness in our lives and also fulfil the work of our faith in His goodness with His power! The whole earth is full of God’s goodness. He wants to satisfy us with the fatness of His house and make us drink of the rivers of His pleasures.

Sometimes, we human beings believe more in our goodness than God's. What we do not demand from our children because we love them, we believe God would demand from us and still believe He loves us. Only religion can brainwash anybody to believe that. Imagine thinking that though God loves you, He might put cancer in you to teach you a lesson for not praying up to an hour a day or make your daughter die because you fornicated before marriage. These are examples of demonic religious extremism.

The hold of religion sometimes is stronger than the hold of sin. Jesus has dealt with sin and cured the sinner, but a religious person would see to cure himself. Jesus in fact, curses religion and hypocrisy. Where He cursed the fig tree, it was an indication that the tree did not have what it should. It had leaves but no fruits; long prayers but no results;
holiness but no love. He cursed it. Paul describes it as having a form of godliness but
denying the inherent power. God wants us to bask in His goodness, mercy, grace,
loving-kindness and power. He wants our faith based on His goodness rather than our
performance.

Jesus chased traders out of His Father's temple. The Bible records in John 2:14-16 and
Matthew 21:12-13 that they were buying and selling. There is an important point here:
people were buying and selling in the temple, rather than praying. Buying and selling
typifies that they gave something to receive something, and he condemned that activity,
because it is not consistent with the pattern of God for His people. However, what
happens today is very similar to what the Jews did then. Now we see ministers demand for
some things from members so that the member can be healed or delivered. Some even
went as far as selling doves which symbolises the Holy Spirit in Scriptures. These days, we
see people who sell handkerchiefs and bottles of oil for healing, the same thing Simeon
did when he asked to buy the anointing from Peter and Peter rebuked him sharply. You
do not have to sell the anointing in products before you merchandise in the temple. All
you need is begin to believe in your labour as a currency to get what you want from God.
Believe more in your prayers than in His grace; more in your tithe than His mercy; more in
your church attendance than in His loving-kindness, then you become like one of the Jews
buying and selling in the temple.

The church is a place of prayer. What is prayer? It is dependence on God's grace. Only
those who believe in grace really pray, because when we pray the strength of God is made
perfect in our weaknesses, we get vitalised by His ability, while our flesh comes under.

**The church is not a place where we exchange our human labours for God's favours.** The
church is a place where only Jesus' righteousness gives us ALL the right to receive God's
abundant favours. Prayer is, in truth, a provision of grace; it is a platform God has
provided for there to be an interface between our needs and His supply.

1 Corinthians 1:29 reminds us that no flesh can glory in God's presence and that is how it
will continue to be. God wants to bless us according to His goodness and love for us, but
we keep telling Him, no I can handle this, I just need to pray more, fast more, give more,
study more. Sometimes, doing more turns one into a moron. Just be wise and receive His
goodness. No matter how much God wants to bless us, we can limit Him.

**HEREIN IS HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS REVEALED**

(Romans 1:16) I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the
power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jews first
and also for the Greek.

(Romans 1:17) For in it, the righteousness of God is revealed from faith
to faith, as it is written, The just shall live by faith

In the gospel that Paul preached, it was the righteousness of God that was revealed not
the guilt of man or the sin of man. The righteousness of God! What is revealed more in
our churches today? You answer that. The church ought to emphasise His goodness,
redemptive work, love, mercy, compassion, hope of His calling, His inheritance in us, His forgiveness of our sins, His vindication of our charge, His justification of our faith. These and many more ought to be taught in this precious gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul prayed that God would establish the Romans according to the gospel which is the preaching of Jesus\textsuperscript{10}. If Christ is lifted, all men would be drawn to Him.

THE WORK OF FAITH WITH POWER

Only faith pleases God\textsuperscript{11}. If we live to please Him, then we must live by faith. Four times in scriptures it is recorded that the just shall live by faith.

(Hebrews 10:38) Now, the Just shall live by faith. But if he draws back, My soul shall have no pleasure in him.”

Faith in what? Faith in His love and goodness.

Throughout the gospels, we see Jesus going about healing and delivering all that were oppressed of the devil. Some phrases were prevalent: “fear not”, “only believe ye of little faith”, “what a great faith”, “your faith made you whole”, “have faith in God”, “have ye no faith”. Jesus constantly looked at a person and judged his/her faith level. He always knew the faith size of everyone seeking Him for healing and deliverance. What am I driving at exactly? This might seem shocking but God spoke to my heart early in the year 2013. This does not mean it superior to the truths already shared on the subject of faith; it is only a dimension of the limitless truth about faith. However, this truth has set me free and did same for many people who listen to me.

We are not in charge of our faith! What do I mean? We cannot see our faith, increase our faith or even measure our faith. We have the same quality of faith, every one of us\textsuperscript{12}, but the development of our faith is dependent on our use of it. A lot of the time, we concentrate on our faith and how to make it stronger and believe God for bigger things when all we need to do most of the time is look unto Jesus. When I see His grace, love and goodness, my faith rises higher and higher.

I do not know my faith level and I really do not care to know; all I want to see is Jesus.

(Hebrews 12:2) looking unto Jesus the author and the finisher of our faith

Jesus is the subject of our faith not what we believe God for: not the cars, house, the degrees, children or whatever we are believing God for. Jesus Himself is the subject. The Bible calls him the Author and the Finisher of our faith. He sees my faith, knows my faith and measures my faith; all I need to do according to that passage of scriptures is to look at Him continually. That is just awesome!
Now this is the connection: when we meditate on the good pleasure of God's goodness and not on our own failures and shortcomings, our faith rises until the power of God is released in our direction. So for you on the sick bed, stop sulking and thinking about what you could have done wrong to deserve the ailment, but think on the goodness of God; thank Him for the things He has done, for who He is. Just get lost in Him; before you know it, your faith will arise enough to receive the healing and bam! He would fulfil the work of faith with power.

That is why the Bible recommends that we be as children. A child believes his father would get him a bike the moment the father makes the promise. The child then goes ahead to start telling his playmates about the bike his father has promised to buy for him, with so much excitement as though the bike were bought already. What would make a child do that? Is it his robust technical measurement of faith, confession and professions? NO! The boy just believes his father loves him and that his father would not lie. Can you meditate on God's goodness and love towards you and watch God release his power to meet your faith. Faith pleases God, but it is faith in His grace. Rehearsing the goodness of God makes you believe God for more and bigger things just as David rehearsed his victory with the lion and the bear to gain confidence to defeat Goliath which was a bigger challenge.

**GLORY!**

The last concept God would have me expose to you from this Pauline prayer is the ending phrase “...that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ be glorified in you, and you in Him, according to the grace of our God and LORD Jesus Christ”. A lot of people are familiar with this concept of God being glorified in us, but very few can relate with the other part of it: that our name be glorified in Christ. Travesty! Blasphemy! Heresy! Religious people tag an undiscovered truth as blasphemy or heresy. Here we see that Jesus longs to be glorified in us, which is the essence of our relationship with Him. He receives all the glory, because all the glory belongs to Him.

However, God also wants us to be glorified in Him. He hates not to share. He is love. If God has anything, He has shared it with us already, including His glory. Someone might point out Isaiah 42:8 which says “I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images”. That means God does not give His glory to anyone. However, the word used here is “give” not “share”, and in this context, God was referring to idols and other graven images. It is therefore inconsistent, based on this verse, to conclude that God does not share His glory with man. What does Psalms 8:4-6 sound like to you? God crowned man with glory and honour. Wondering how or why God did that? Well, He did and even went ahead to call man a god! What a height of honour.

**You have more grace than you thought, more money than you have, more beauty than you see, more wealth than you own. You are more than this!** I know the Bible says without
Jesus, we can do nothing, but bless God, I am never without Christ, so I can do all things. I can be the best, I can be the head. God honours me. God is not threatened by sharing His glory with me, and I am not conceited in receiving such glory. With humility, I receive the crown of glory and honour, whenever and wherever God chooses to glorify me. Jesus became our shame so we can be forever lighted. We are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works. The real glory belongs to the Workman not the workmanship, but we the workmanship cannot be left out of the glory. Our responsibility however, is that we always see Him as the source of our glory, not our diligence, performance or beauty. God gives grace and glory to those who are righteous in Christ Jesus. Hallelujah.

Venture into that business, write that song, preach that sermon, paint that art, sing that melody, rehearse and play that instrument, glory is waiting for you right there. The glory is not yours; you are just expressing it.

These days, we see people try to form a façade of humility, by declining names associated to praise or glory, and we admire their meekness. There's no strength in denying weaknesses, and there's no humility in denying strength. Quickly, let me tell you that pride is not only arrogance, but also low self-esteem, because the baseline is self. Whether one is arrogant or has a low self-esteem, the idea is that both are proud and self-absorbed. One thinks more highly of himself, the other thinks lower of himself; the key word is self. They are like ends of the same stick: PRIDE. Our esteem should be in what God calls and how He sees us. We have no identity of our own, at least not one worth remembering. We were a people going nowhere to happen. We were deep, down and dirty until God stooped low, took us out of a horrible pit and set our feet upon a rock. We owe everything we are and could ever be to Him.

When God calls you mighty man of valour, you had better believed and run with such an identity. A typical “humble” Christian would say, no Lord, I cannot possibly be mighty, and he would give God enough reason for Him to change His mind, just like Gideon did. But thank God, He does not change; so what He has called you, you are. The height of humility is receiving with meekness the engrafted Word and believing it, without an opinion of our own to contend with the truth of God’s Word. Let your identity be found in the divinity.

The job of the workmanship is to show the glory of the Workman, and the Workman on the other hand has no choice but to be proud of His workmanship. Your glory awaits you in your place of calling and assignment. Discover what your energy has been eternally reserved for; that is where your glory is. Stop running the rat race. There is more than enough for everyone who knows his own domain and masters it. Have you ever seen a fish struggle to swim? Or a monkey complaining of climbing? If you judge a fish by its ability to climb, it would live all its life believing it is dumb. There is a place called “your high place”; it is a high and lofty place and it is meant for you. Your glory is His glory; His glory is your glory.
About a year ago, after preaching a powerful sermon on grace, everyone complimented me on how blessed they were by the message. Then the announcement was made that the audio file of the message after the program would be available after the program. Suddenly, I felt somehow about that. I was thinking that they ought not to have magnified what I did by telling people to get the messages; that it was unnecessary, the whole accolade given to the ministration. Then I heard God tell me to keep quiet. He said I had no right over His glory. He said for me to reject the glory would be putting myself in the position as the owner. In the eyes of the world, my attitude of “oh, poor me, what have I done, it is nothing, you do not have to get the messages, you do not have to shout about it”, would look very typical of a meek and humble man.

That day, I learnt a new definition of humility. When one grows in humility, one has trained himself to only respond to the opinions of God 2cor 10:18. At that level, criticisms or compliments from men do not move us as much. Every compliment or criticism should be handled maturely, else, one runs the risk of either being deflated or inflated. Our esteem is in God and what He calls us. We are His workmanship; men can afford to admire the workmanship, carry it and behold its beauty, but we must always remember that it is the Workman they are really celebrating and not us, a piece of wood. A man of God especially must learn how to handle praise and criticism well. There is glory awaiting you. Soar high and reach the heavens.

CONFESSION

I am the loved of the Lord. He works powerfully in me to will and do of His good pleasure. God receives glory through my life, even as I am glorified in Him, in Jesus name. Amen

CHAPTER TEN
THE PERFECT PEACE

(2 Thessalonians 3:16) Now may the God of peace Himself, give you peace always, and by all means. The LORD be with you all

I have come to terms with the fact that the best things in this world are not material objects. Not everything that can be counted, counts, and not all things that count can be counted. The most important things in life are the intangibles, and people go the extra mile just to have a form or a sense of the intangible. Some ladies do everything but deliberate suicide, just to feel beautiful, when God already labelled them “good”. Some leaders embezzle as much as they can, just to have a sense of security, forgetting that there is no security in security; our only security is in God. Ladies throw themselves at guys just to have a feel of love; people sell all they have to undergo a surgery that promises bodily peace.

Life is really about the intangibles. Some of the most powerful feelings every man constantly hopes to get is that of fulfilment and peace. Every leader, mother, father, worker and mistress is in pursuit of fulfilment. Incidentally, this can only be found in God. There are CEOs who are mentally disturbed and commit suicide because they thought that attaining the summit of their careers would give them that sense of fulfilment and peace, only to discover that the inner void was even wider. They try to drown such nagging uneasiness with alcohol, drugs or sex but the void becomes even wider.

Is it really hard to discover and admit that only God supplies lasting peace and joy? There is the story of the ancient Roman Empire where Emperor Nero crucified and burnt alive, any professed Christian on a stake at the Amphitheatre just to entertain the crowd. It is told that the Christians would be so joyful, even as they hung upon the stake, facing death. Not just some facial smiley or anything but they sang so loudly and joyously, the Emperor Nero would close his ears and shout “why do they always sing?” It is reported that for every Christian hung upon the stake that died, at least seven more people gave their lives to Christ. What made the Christians so attractive? It was their quality of joy and peace. It transcended the terrestrial; it was a celestial glow. People did not understand but wanted to have a feel of it.

(John 14:27) “Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you, not as the world giveth do I give unto you, let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid “

What a gift! Jesus did not leave a Cadillac, His Italian suit or his many twitter followers for His disciples when he was to ascend to glory; He gave them His shalom. What a blessing.

Romans 14:19 “For the kingdom of God is not in meat and drink, but in righteousness, peace and joy in the holy ghost”
It has been scientifically proven that a large percentage of sickness and disease is as a result of stress, even the world disease means DIS-EASE: lack of peace or ease. You will attract fungi, virus and bacteria when your mind is not stayed on God.

(Isaiah 26:3) You will keep in perfect peace, he whose heart is stayed on you, because his mind is stayed on you.

What you need for sleep is not pill but the ‘gospill’

(Psalm 3:5) I laid me down and slept, I awoke for the Lord sustaineth me

(Psalm 127:2d) for so, He giveth His beloved sleep

Glory to God! You cannot buy peace in the market. Money cannot give it, alcohol cannot, sex cannot; nothing and no one can. It is not a cliché; money can buy a house and waterbed but will not get you a home and good sleep; it can buy you a car but cannot buy you safety; it can get you connection but not relationships; it can earn you reputation but not respect; money can do many things but not the real things.

However, everything money can and cannot do, God can do, even much more. One of the ways He does that is by supplying you His peace. There is nothing on earth like the peace of God. It does not matter what you are passing through, the peace of God can see you through. The Bible describes this peace and says it passes every level of human understanding; the peace of God makes life worth living. The prayer here says may the God of peace Himself, not an angel, not another man but the Prince of Peace Himself, give you peace, always: twenty four hours a day; seven days a week and three hundred and sixty five days a year.

That is just powerful! By every means in the sense that there is never going to be a situation so bad, a mess so deep, a mountain so high that God cannot supply His peace. Incurable diseases have been healed by simply meditating on God's peace that He supplies within. IN-CURABLE means only curable from WITHIN. IMPOSSIBLE means I'M POSSIBLE. Stop worrying about things. Jesus cannot be in your boat and you would sink; not with Jesus. You can transfer the peace of God in your spirit into situations.

Jesus simply said “peace be still” and the storm listened to His voice. You too can transfer peace to your body, finance, relationship and your home. If the disciples could transfer and withdraw their peace, what makes you less? Nothing! You can give peace to a whole community. In Esther 10:3, we see Mordecai speaking peace to his Jewish seeds and descendants. You can transfer peace by speaking; be not dismayed, only believe that there is calmness in your spirit so do not be the first to be perturbed in any situation. Do not rush to acting, engage the peace of God and get a divine perspective on the situation. Paul was arrested and was meant to be tried in the presence of Caesar in Acts 27 but then a storm arose. Guess what? Everyone was scared and fearful, apart from a Jesus-assured
prisoner. He (Paul) was the one who encouraged and assured them of safety. What a peace. The prisoner giving freedom and peace to his captors!

My prayer for you is that in every way and by all means, you will experience the God kind of peace in Jesus’ name. Always having peace does not mean everything around you would be perfect but it means that in every situation, you will have perfect peace and in a short while, your peace will rub off on the situation. Only God can give peace, just fix your gaze on him.

(Psalms 57:7) My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed; I will sing and give praise.

**WORSHIP IS THE KEY**

One thing that is peculiar to the PAULINE PRAYERS is WORSHIP. You would notice a progression of thanksgiving and praise either before or after the prayer, or sometimes, both before and after. Those are not formalities. I have seen a lot change in my life just by worshipping. Our perspectives are bound to be altered the moment we get close to God in worship. **Revelation is based on proximity.**

The Psalmist said in Psalms 34:3  “magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt His name together.” For a while, that scripture seemed more to me like an insult to God. I mean why would anyone magnify the Lord, is He not big enough to be seen? You only magnify micro-organisms with magnifying lens, not my big God? Later I discovered that, what that scripture mean is that we should come closer to God. When you come closer, you see better, you know better, you feel better. There is nothing as awesome as the presence of God. Everything is productive in that presence. Dead things come back to life in that atmosphere. Remember the rod of Aaron budded just by constant exposure to the Father of Lights.

(Hebrews 9:4) having a golden altar of incense, and the Ark of the Covenant overlaid all around with gold, in which was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tablets of the covenant.

Your life can take a drastic turn when you choose to worship. It is a selfless activity; it has nothing to do with you and everything to do with God. You can get lost in the awe of His presence. I receive words, songs and great melodies when I worship. God longs to inhabit our praises; He wants to fellowship with you. Come closer and see well. You want to know more about God? Then draw closer to Him. He is available to everyone who calls upon Him. He is right inside you and wants to tell you things that will blow your mind. **Jesus is the only obsession worth having.** He is the loftiest idea in literature; the highest personality in philosophy; the fundamental doctrine of true theology; the basic energy in science; the centrepiece of civilisation; the anchor of the earth; the holder of all degrees; maker of all decrees; do you know Him? Sir Isaac Newton said gravity explains the motion
of the planets; but it does not explain who set the planets in motion. That is my king: He sets the planets in motion. You need to know him. The Pharisees could not stand Him, yet they could not stop Him; Pilate could not fault Him; Herod could not kill Him; death could not hold Him; hell could not contain Him; the grave could not keep Him. The tomb is empty and Christ is risen! Risen to continue His intercessory ministry! From the beginning of the beginning, till now and forever, He lives just for you. Before the beginning, He longed to have you; after the fall, He came to save you; right now, He lives forever to seal you. Can you spend some more time with Him? He is actually all you have and all you will ever need. He is before all things and by Him all things consist.

Create an atmosphere of worship every day and see more of God's splendour in your life. His glory rubs off on you and you carry His countenance. He is the master of the universe. Just reach out and see Him for yourself. Get lost in Him and find every other thing you have been looking for. HalleluYAH!

If you are yet to give your life to Christ, the bible says you do not have any right to the inheritance of the saints, and all these benefits imbedded in the kingdom of God cannot be yours to enjoy. But do not worry, you can get saved right now, right where you are, simply by believing and confessing, and bam!! The greatest miracle of your life will happen. Are you ready? Just repeat these words out loud and believe them:

Heavenly father, I come before you today, I acknowledge my sin, and I receive your forgiveness, come into my heart, and be my Lord and Saviour. I believe Jesus came to the earth, I believe He died, I believe He rose again and I believe He ascended into glory. Because of this, I'm assured of eternal life. Thank you sweet Holy Spirit. I receive your infilling presence into my life, come and take me over. AMEN

If you prayed that prayer, please look for a Bible believing Church, where the Word of God is taught, be a committed members and fellowship with the saints. Study your bible and pray regularly, and watch God turn your life around. I love you! See you at the top

DO THE WORD

(James 1:22) but be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourself”.

An average mind retains only about twenty percent of what is read. If not visited again, the mind eventually forgets almost all of it. It takes constant contact and meditation on the things you have read in any book to make it indelible in your memory Heb 2:1. More important than knowing the Word is doing the Word. The words written to you were
inspired. The book is anointed because it is God’s word in a form. It has been an awesome experience, writing this book and taking you along on the journey with me. I hope you enjoyed the ride.

Please do well to learn the prayers prayed by the great Apostle Paul and commit yourself to praying them as often as you can, possibly every day. Do not think you can pray by your strength; always depend on He who helps our infirmity in prayer. Remember that the fervent prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available to him.

The understanding you have received from this book will make your prayers more potent. Please give God the next three months of your life in commitment to these prayers and watch yourself grow to a new level in every area of your life.

CONFESSION

The Lord of peace Himself gives me peace always and by all means, I do not fear or fret. My confidence is in God; I will be moved only when God is moved, I will be shaken only when God is shaken. My stability is in God. I have placed the Lord before me always. He is at my right hand of focus, I shall not be moved. Halleluyah!

I love and celebrate you greatly!

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About the Author

Damilola Oguntunde is a teacher of God's Word. He is a song writer, playwright, and public speaker. As an undergraduate, he was the Pastor of the Christ Ambassadors Students' Outreach, Obafemi Awolowo University, a campus fellowship that has over five
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**About the book**

The Pauline Prayers is a book that espouses the depth of God's wisdom imbedded in the New Testament Prayers of The Apostle Paul. It laces its texts with basic teachings of the doctrine of grace and brings you to the consciousness of your identity in Christ to the intent that Christ be formed in you.

In this book, you will know more about

~ The dimensions of God's love
~ The surpassing Power of God
~ The Arsenal of Grace
~ The reality of the recreated human spirit
~ Hell, the ultimate proof of God's Love
~ The Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation
~ Your identity in Christ

And much more

You really do not want to drop this resource until you are fed by its content.