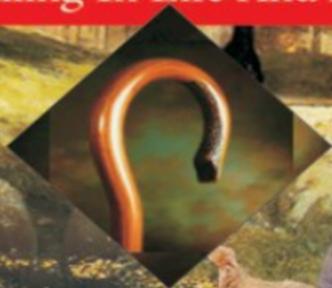


MAKING FULL PROOF OF MINISTRY

Understanding And Maintaining
Your Calling In Life And Ministry.



Paul Enenche MD

MAKING FULL PROOF OF MINISTRY

Understanding and maintaining your
calling in life and ministry

By

Paul Enenche MD

Copyright 2015 Paul Enenche

Smashwords Edition

Smashwords Edition License Note

Thank you for downloading this ebook.

This book remains the copyrighted property of the author, and may not be redistributed to others for commercial or non-commercial purposes. If you enjoyed this book, please encourage your friends to download their own copy from their favorite authorized retailer.

Thank you for your support.

Content

[Introduction](#)

[Part One](#)

[Full Proof](#)

[The Man Of God](#)

[Processed By Scripture](#)

[Thoroughly Furnished](#)

[Part Two](#)

[Before God](#)

[The Minister's Judgment-1](#)

[The Minister's Judgment-2](#)

Part Three

The Sent Of God-1

The Sent Of God-2

The Outcome

The Solution

Part Four

The Times We Are In

Uncontrolled Passion

Itching Ears

Addiction To Fables

The Seven Keys To Making Full Proof Of Ministry

Endure Hardness

Do The Work Of An Evangelist

Fulfill Your Calling

Fight The Good Fight

Run The Race

Finally: Keep The Faith

Very Very Important

About The Author

Other Titles By Dr. Paul Enenche

INTRODUCTION

WHAT DOES IT REALLY MEAN?

But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. 2Timothy 4:5

The Apostle Paul taught, directed and gave many useful instructions to Timothy, his Son in the Lord. Much of such teachings bordered on the Minister and the Ministry. Among other pieces of

advice he gave to Timothy was, “Make full proof of thy Ministry.” But what does it mean to make full proof of Ministry and what does it take? That is what this book is all about.

To make full proof of Ministry refers to, but is not limited to the following:

1. To give a full account of your calling.

Did God call you? Account for it.

2. To provide sufficient evidence to the world that you did not send yourself.

Proof is evidence. Provide sufficient evidence to men and demons that you did not send yourself.

3. To justify your abandonment of other pursuits of life.

To make full proof of Ministry is to justify the reason why you left your profession to preach the Gospel. It is to justify why you decided to abandon your career as a lawyer, academic, professor, and businessman or woman, in order to preach the Gospel. Justify it.

In other words, if you are not ready to justify the reason why you are not running after the things that the world is running after, then you are a waste of project. You have to justify the reason why you use your leisure to study the Bible when others use their time to do other things.

4. To make full proof of Ministry is to erase every doubt concerning the genuineness of your calling.

There are a lot of Ministers whom people have doubts about. Now, if you

say God called you, and the people say it is not true, erase such doubts concerning your call. Erase every doubt about the genuineness of your calling into Ministry. Whether the people doubting you are your brothers, sisters, friends or enemies, erase such doubts as far as your call is concerned. That is what it means to make full proof of Ministry.

5. Making full proof of your ministry means, to confirm fully that you are truly called of God.

That means to show to the world that you are not running an ambition; to show that you are not running a personal decision. Show to the world that you are running a vision from heaven. That is, make a full proof of your Ministry.

The five points of explanation above are intertwined in a way. Each seems to explain the other because they are inter-related and bring out the same truth, though in different ways.

This book will open your eyes to understanding and maintaining your

calling in life and Ministry. The simple prayer you will have to pray, as Jacob once did, is, “Lord, I want my proof to be full. And I am not going to have anything less than the fullness of the proof.” And the Lord shall grant your request in Jesus’ Name. Amen!

PART ONE

But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. 2Timothy 4:5

CHAPTER ONE

FULL PROOF

Oh, fill me with Thy fullness, Lord

Until my very heart o'erflow

In kindling thought, and glowing word

Thy love to tell, Thy praise to show.

--P. Armes

*But watch thou in all things, endure
afflictions, do the work of an*

*evangelist, make full proof of thy
ministry. 2Timothy 4:5*

I have noticed that the Bible did not say, “Make proof of your Ministry.” No! It says “Make full proof of your Ministry.” In other words, it is possible to have proofs that are not ‘full’; proofs that are not complete; proofs that are not strong enough to erase doubts. It is possible to have some proofs, but they are not strong

enough to end arguments; they are not strong enough to change an opinion.

I like to drive home this thought with an illustration using four glasses of water. The first glass contains water to a certain level. The second glass contains much more water than the first, but not full. The third glass contains more water than the second but is still not full. Finally, the fourth glass has water filled to the brim.

The first glass has water as a proof, but is not full. The second is more than the

first but is still not full. The third is almost full, but is still not full. The last glass is full. Many people have proofs in ministry, like the level of the third glass of water. No doubt, some things show that they are called of God, but such proofs are too scanty to change another's opinion. They are too shallow to erase doubts.

There are proofs that are half way. Actually, they are proofs, but there is still allowance for other things. You know, the glass that is half full still has allowance for other things: doubts,

enemy hostilities, confrontations and question marks. But God is saying, “My plan for you is that the proof should be full.”

So the one prayer you should pray as a Minister of God is:

Lord, I want my proof to be full.

I am tired of one-quarter proof.

I am tired of half proof in Ministry.

I am tired of three- quarter proof.

Lord, I am not going to have anything less than the fullness of the proof, in

the Name of Jesus.

CONSEQUENCES OF INCOMPLETE PROOF

When your proof is not full, what are the consequences? Three things:

1. The world does not take you seriously.

The reason our generation has not taken us seriously is that the proof is not full. Sometimes, even herbalists (Juju

priests) also see some of the things we see in our lives and Ministry.

2. Satan is not threatened.

When your proof is not full, Satan is not threatened by your Ministry. He knows you do not have enough proof.

3. The pull of people into the Ministry is not strong.

Nothing compels the attention of the multitude like proofs. When the proof is not strong, the pull is not strong. You see, Jesus Christ had a fully proven

Ministry, so everywhere He went, the crowd and the multitude gathered.

PROOF POWER

Think about a man like Moses who walked in the full proof of his Ministry. The Ministry of Moses was proven in every direction. When Dathan, Korah and Abiram rose up against him, he said: “If you people die the death of normal people, or you are visited by normal visitation, then God did not call me” (Numbers 16:28-30). That is proof. He said, “The only way we can test whether

I am fully called of God is that you are not permitted to die normal deaths.” He said, “If the earth should open its mouth and swallow you alive, then it is confirmed that I did not send myself.”

Now, when last did you make such a declaration?

Someone once went to the Prophet Elijah and said, “O Man of God, the king wants you.” And Elijah said, “If I be a Man of God, then let fire fall...” He used the situation to confirm who he was and ended all argument.

What Elijah was saying in essence was, “If the fire falls, I am a Man of God. If the fire does not fall, then I am not of God.” And the fire fell and destroyed one hundred and two people. That is proof power. That is what is called full proof.

One day, Paul the Apostle was on a journey to Rome with about two hundred and seventy people on board. And when there was a very terrible storm, he stood up in the midst of the people and said, “Sirs, let none of you trouble himself. The angel of God whom I serve and

whose I am stood by me last night, and he guaranteed that we shall arrive safely. So there shall be no loss of any man's hair, except I am not here. No one who is journeying with me is permitted to scatter in this ocean, except I am not here" (Paraphrase). Note the words of the Apostle here: "The angel of God whose I am and whom I serve..." (Acts 27:23-25)

If you have paid attention to the words of Moses, Elijah and Paul, you will notice a common characteristic they share - CONFIDENT ASSURANCE. These

people did not speak like they were guessing. They did not speak like they were presuming. They did not speak like they were uncertain. They were confident. They were certain. They had a bold assurance of what they were talking about. They knew it was going to happen as they said it. They had proof power. They could make full proof of their Ministry at any time.

If there is anything a pastor or a Minister of God should cry for, it is, “Lord, I need a full proof of Ministry.”

Some Ministers have proofs in some areas and they are settled. The average pastor sees some financial supplies and is settled. The church just bought a new hall and got a few new chairs. Pastor is living fine and is not starving. That, to him, is a proof of the calling of God. Yet, there is no transformed life in that church; there are only decorated sinners. It is like a corpse saying, "Change my clothes and leave me in the coffin."

The pastor is driving a nice car. He is living well. He is not starving. He is sending his children to school. People

are paying tithes and giving offerings but his preaching lacks the power of conviction - that primitive conviction that made the Word of God through the Apostle Peter to strike the hearts of people. That life transforming power that makes an Indian hemp smoker become a preacher is lacking, and yet the pastor has some proofs. The challenge is not that there are no proofs, but that the proofs are too scanty to make any sense.

The sick and the oppressed continue to go to the presence of God with sickness

and oppression and the Man of God is helpless as far as their case is concerned. If the people so need that help, they have to go to other places to look for it. The reason is that the man lacks sufficient proofs to help them. As a result, so many children of God have become itinerant worshippers.

The church has a beautiful auditorium and other nice things, but the worshippers are dead and helpless. The one with masturbation is there still masturbating. The one with homosexuality is there still committing

the act. The one with lesbianism is there wallowing in her lesbianism. The Indian hemp smoker is still smoking. They just attend church and return the same.

In such a church, there are ancestral spirits and witchcraft oppression tormenting the people but there is nothing done to help them. There is a nice church and a good man of God, but the proof is incomplete.

Make full proof of your Ministry is the command of God.

Some Ministers have proofs in other areas but have very terrible financial burdens. People are almost afraid of attending church because of financial pressure and burden. How can the Owner of the universe send you on assignment and then cause you to go and beg? One of the most shameful things in our generation is the begging of Pastors and Ministers in the Name of God. Whether it is television or roadside begging, begging in the Name of God is an insult on the personality of Elshadai, the Mighty Breasted One, Who has no

need of nothing. You need financial proofs as a servant of the Lord.

When proof is lacking, it is as if God has called or sent you out to kill you.

Some Ministers have other proofs, but they cannot deal with the devil. Any witch can stand up, look into their face and tell them anything and go free. There is something called judgmental proof. There is the rod of judgment that rises to kill occultists, kill unrepentant native doctors and slay witches and wizards. But because the rod of judgment is

scarce, people can rise and say anything against God, and talk anyhow to the man of God, and go scot-free.

Can you imagine Elijah being spoken to like that?

Can you imagine Paul the Apostle being spoken to like that? No! The Apostle Paul would not take it. When Elymas, the sorcerer, tried it, Paul blinded him in a moment. He said to Elymas, "...the hand of God is upon you...." (Acts 13:8-11)

Do you remember what the Apostle Peter did to Ananias and Sapphira?

(Acts 5:1-10)

Please understand this: Most of us are not struggling in Ministry, because there is no proof at all, rather because the proof is not full. People can testify that God called us, but the proof is not full.

We do not lack impact - national and generational - because of lack of proof; we lack impact because the proof is not full. That is why, in a country with many preachers and pastors, there are still rotten situations.

“Oh Lord, I want to run a Ministry with full proof - convicting power proofs, signs and wonders proofs, judgmental proofs, miracle working proofs, massive financial proofs and proofs in every dimension. I do not want even 80 percent proof; I need a 100 percent confirmation that I did not send myself.”

Some time ago, someone passed by one of our churches. Then the Holy Ghost said, “Look right!” She did. The Lord said to her, “Look at that church. That

church is My house. Go and build it.”
She drove past.

On her return, the Holy Ghost said, “Look again,” and she looked. Then the Holy Ghost said, “Go and build it.” On the spot, she stopped by and asked for the pastor of the church. When she saw the pastor, she said, “The Holy Ghost asked me to build this church.” She dropped one million naira and said, “Let me have the building plan.” She does not worship with our church. The Holy Ghost asked her to build the church.

Someone else came and said, “The Lord said, wherever I am doing a major project, I should build Dunamis Church there.” Major projects are now in three major cities of Nigeria: state capitals; ancient capitals. And he said, “Give us the building plan, and tell us the kind of structure you want. Within six months, the building will be handed over to you; that is, from foundation to completion.”

You see, God did not call anyone into Ministry to kill him. Make full proof of your Ministry!

CHAPTER TWO

THE MAN OF GOD

*Nothing between, Lord, nothing
between;*

Let me Thy glory see,

Draw my soul close to Thee,

Then speak in love to me

Nothing between, Nothing between.

-J. Mountain

*All scripture is given by inspiration of
God, and is profitable for doctrine, for*

reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. 2Timothy 3:16-17, emphasis mine.

Now, who is qualified to make full proof of Ministry?

A careful look at 2Timothy 4:5 which we saw in the preceding chapter, will show that it is actually a continuation of the discourse in 2Timothy 3:16-17.

So the person who will be given full proof of Ministry is the Man of God.

That is the first thing you will note. The person who gets the full proof of Ministry is the Man of God. But the question is: Who is the Man of God?

First, it should be made clear that not every pastor is a Man of God. There are many pastors, but there are few Men and Women of God. There are many preachers, but few Men of God. There are many evangelists, but few Men of God. God does not just assist preachers to make full proof of Ministry. He does not just assist pastors, evangelists, and

teachers to make full proof of Ministry;
He assists the Man of God.

WHO IS THE MAN OF GOD?

That is the question! Who is the Man of God?

Now, when we say, Lazarus of Bethany, what does that mean? It means Lazarus who originated from Bethany. When we say, Joseph of Arimathea, we mean Joseph who originated from Arimathea.

So who is the man of God? The man of God is the man whose origin, vision and Ministry is God. The Man of God is the

man whose vision, Ministry and calling originated from God. His origin is God, and his address is God. If you want to locate him, find God. The truth is, there are men today whose visions and Ministries originated in themselves. And I will not be surprised if there are such people reading this book.

It is very easy to say, “My Ministry, my members, my church or my work.” And you know it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks. You see, if it is not your own, you cannot say, “My own, my church, my work or my

members.” If it is not your own, you will not so term it. And when it becomes your own, God is excused from it.

The point is that there are people whose visions originated from themselves. There are also people whose Ministries originated from the instrumentality of people. People pushed them into Ministry. Either that someone prophesied them into Ministry or they were trying to be like someone else who is in Ministry. They did not hear from God themselves.

Someone can say something like, “We grew up in the Lord together. We were in the same fellowship. We were together in the university, etc. He is a pastor now; I can be a pastor too. In fact, in those days I preached better than he did.” Those are people who went into Ministry by other people.

The Man of God is a man whose origin is God and who took his bearing from God.

SENT FROM GOD

The Bible says, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.” John 1:1-6, emphasis mine

Please take note of the first part of the sixth verse, “There was a man sent from

God...” There was a man sent – not BY GOD – but FROM GOD. He was sent from God. What does this mean? If he was sent by God, it would mean God said, “Please go and do something for Me.” But if they say he was sent from God, it has the same connotation like he was sent from Venezuela. He was sent from Benue State. He was sent from Lagos. He was sent from Cross River State. That would mean he lived there before he came to pass a message. So, after he delivers the message, he returns to his residence. He was sent from...

It appears, as it were, that many of us are SENT BY GOD and not FROM GOD. We have a message to deliver on behalf of God, but our residence is not God. The man that makes full proof of Ministry is the Man of God, sent from God, and resides in God.

OWNED BY GOD

Again, what does the phrase MAN OF GOD mean?

Look at the analogy of saying, “That is the house of Paul. That is the house of David. That is the car of Godwin.” In

each case you are describing these things in the possessive. The house of Paul or that of David means the house Paul or David owns. Godwin's car means the car belonging to Godwin. In the same vein, the Man of God is the man owned by God. That is, he is the property of God. The man has ceased to own himself. He is the property of God. He belongs EXCLUSIVELY to God.

The man of God does not live for himself. He has no say in his life and Ministry. He is under the direction and

control of God. This is the man that makes full proof of Ministry.

You know that a house has no agenda of its own. And I am sure you have never seen a car driving itself. So the Man of God is the man whose personal ambition and agenda have died. He no longer has a personal ambition. He no longer has a personal agenda. He is completely left to the dictates and direction of God.

On the contrary, there are so many preachers today who own themselves

and the Ministry. They call themselves pastor, evangelist, teacher, preacher, etc.

“Lord, I do not want to be a preacher. I do not want to be a pastor. I do not want to be an evangelist or a teacher. I want to be a Man of God and I want You to own me. I want You Lord. I want my bearing to be from You. I want you to give me direction.”

CONNECTED TO GOD

The third meaning of “Man of God” can be illustrated with this: My finger is part of my hand; and my hand is part of my body. In the same way, the sleeve of my suit is part of my suit. So, the Man of God is inextricably connected to God. The phrase Man of God is the expression of commitment to relationship. The Man of God is united and connected to God. He is one with God. The Bible says, “He that is joined to the Lord is one spirit” (1Corinthians 6:17).

You know, when Elijah met Ahab, he said, "...the Lord God before whom I stand..." (1Kings 17:1). What that means is, "Me and God are together. As I am talking to you, He is with me. You cannot see Him, but He is here. I am standing with Him. I am not talking to you in the energy of my flesh. I do not visit His presence; I live there. Other people pray to see God; but I live with Him."

Notice that the phrase, "Before God whom I stand," is present tense not past - "I stand." While many people bother

about how many hours they could pray in a day, prayer is a natural part of the Man of God.

The Man of God is the man who prays as if he is breathing. He prays like he is drinking water. Worship, intimacy, relationship with God, for him, is not an incident but an atmosphere. It is not something he goes into and comes out of; it is an atmosphere.

The Man of God is not the man who prays because it is time to preach. The

fact is that most pastors do not pray until it is time to preach.

The Man of God is not the man who studies the Bible only when it is time to preach. Most preachers do not study the Bible for themselves anymore. They only study to look for what to preach.

Get this: When the real Man of God appears, people feel God. They sense God when they see him. They feel God when they encounter him. They experience God when they meet with him. They can hear God's voice inside

his voice. When they look through his eyes, they can see God.

Reinhard Bonnke said, one time he went to a shop in South Africa. And the shop attendant looked into his eyes and began to weep profusely. Then Reinhard asked, “Lord, what happened?” And the Lord said, “I live inside you and I look through your eyes at times. When someone encounters Me in your eyes, he cannot stand it.”

MORE THAN PREACHERS

Beloved, I do not want to be a preacher, a pastor or a teacher. I want to be so connected to God that demons cannot stand me. I have experienced a little measure of it, but I want to see more.

I was in London, England and a Muslim receptionist in a hotel where I was to be checked in looked me in the eyes and said, “I want what you have. Tell me about God.” She never saw me before or knew where I came from. She said, “Tell me about God.”

I was in a car shop in New Jersey, United States of America, and a man walked towards me and said, “You are a Man of God; can you tell me about it?”

Sometime ago, I stopped by a filling station to buy fuel, and a mad man left where he was and came to where I stood; and he went on his knees and lifted up his two hands. That incident has happened three times at three different places.

The same thing happened when our driver drove our car to the filling

station. I was not in the car; but a mad man came and knelt in front of the car and lifted up his two hands. Something was in the car that attracted the mad man to lift his hands in submission.

Real Men of God are the ones that will change our generation; not just preachers and pastors. Elijah did not say, “If I be a prophet;” he said, “If I be a Man of God.”

Declare:

O God, I do not just want to be a preacher; let me be that man connected

to You.

You are my shield.

You are my covering.

You are my stability.

You are my foundation.

Take me to the place You are.

The secret place is where I want to be.

CHAPTER THREE

PROCESSED BY SCRIPTURE

Take my will, and make it Thine:

It shall be no longer mine;

Take my heart – it is Thine own:

It shall be Thy royal throne.

--Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. 2Timothy 3:16

The person that will make full proof of Ministry is the person processed by Scripture. Now, the primary purpose of Scripture is not for preaching. The primary purpose of Scripture is for training. The preparation of the people of God is the purpose of the Scripture.

So Scripture's assignment is to work on the Man of God.

2Timothy 3:16 shows three things we must take note of:

1. The Scripture is a gift from God.

The moment you have this mentality and you know that the Bible was given to you by God as a gift, the more impact it has on your life and destiny. The Scripture is a gift.

2. The Scripture is inspired.

The word inspire means, to breathe (the breath of God). The Amplified Bible

says, “Every Scripture is God-breathed.” What that means is that the Bible carries the breath of God. So to be in touch with the Word is to be in touch with the life of God. And the more revelations you get out of the Bible, the more like Him you become; because the Scripture is His breath.

3. The Scripture is profitable.

The Scripture delivers profits. You do not know what you are losing by distancing yourself and your Ministry from the Word. Every Man of God or Pastor that is far from the Book is a loser - a loser in Ministry - for the Scripture is profitable. Profitable means it is guaranteed to offer increase. The Scripture is guaranteed to increase the anointing, results and miracles.

Understand this: One verse of Scripture you understand will move the anointing you are operating in, to another level. One verse of Scripture that will light

upon you will move the miracles you see in your life to another level. One verse of Scripture seen in light will move the financial supplies of your Ministry to another level. One verse of Scripture from which you receive revelation will make you a terror to the kingdom of darkness. It is profitable. It generates increase for you.

I have seen light in my life and Ministry from one level to another: whether in the anointing, miracles, signs and wonders, financial issues or whatever. I have seen light from Scripture that made it possible

for me to step into a greater realm. And I see you stepping in there, in the Name of Jesus!

THE FOUR-FOLD ASSIGNMENT OF SCRIPTURE

1. It is profitable for doctrine.

The word doctrine is instruction. The Bible is given to instruct and to teach you what to do. Scripture's assignment is to increase your knowledge in various realms of God. It sponsors instruction.

And I can assure you that the difference between the results of two pastors is what they know.

There is something Billy Graham knows that others do not know.

There was something Oral Roberts knew that others did not know.

There is something Pastor Enoch Adeboye and Bishop David Oyedepo know that others do not know.

Just one light made them to rise. That is always the difference. If only we can see the same things, we can see the same

results; and our assignments would be easy.

Now, those who do not understand will say, “The man is lucky. God really favoured him.” I have realized that even favour is a product of revelation. “Good understanding bringeth favour and the way of transgressors is hard” (Prov. 13: 15) So, favour is a product of understanding or revelation.

The Scripture comes to offer you instruction, and the instruction is to prepare you for Ministry.

2. The Scripture is for reproof.

The Greek word used here is conviction. What that means is that Scripture's assignment is to intensify your conviction. It is to solidify your faith. It is to enlarge or increase your conviction and bring you to higher realms of exploits.

About twelve years ago, I saw the Scripture that says, "He that heareth you heareth me" (Luke 10:16). I had basked in that revelation and it was boiling in my spirit. Not long after, they brought to

our church, a young man, the only son of his mother, who had become mad. They had chained him with four padlocks. And about three people brought him.

I was moving around our church with that light of Scripture in my spirit when I saw them. And, crying, the woman said, “Excuse me sir; my son, my only son has ran mad.” The people held the young man. Then I looked at them and said, “Leave him!” And they looked at each other sore afraid. Then they left him. Next, I said, “Loose him!”

No prayer had yet been offered at all and the people were wondering, “Loose who?” They looked at each other again and then, “Well, if you say we should loose him, we will.” So they unlocked the first, second, third and fourth padlocks; and they unwound the chain, waiting for what would happen next.

The man’s hands bled because of injuries caused by the chain, and I said to him, “Sorry.” He responded with a “Thank you sir.” Then he adjusted his clothes. I told him to kneel down and he did. I told him to lift his hands and he

did. Then I said to him, “Say after me: Jesus, I give myself to you! I am free! I cannot be mad! Thank you Jesus! Amen.”

After he had repeated those words after me, I said to him, “You are free; stand up.” And I said to his mother, “Mother, take your son. Bye!”

A pastor that was with me asked: “Sir, what just happened? What did you do? What was the mystery?” Then I told him: “I just saw a passage that the demon that cannot reject His voice cannot reject my voice. It says ‘He that heareth me

heareth Him;’ that means, inside my voice is His voice. I just saw that Scripture, and I came out with light.”

The level of your faith is a product of the level of your light. Higher light in the Scriptures equals higher faith. And God wants to take you to a realm of higher light in every passage of Scripture you study.

Someday I was in the office and I read that the Apostle Peter walked through the streets of Jerusalem and sick people were healed. He was not even aware of

it, but people were healed left, right and centre. I told myself that maybe the first day he passed by, a blind person who sat by had his eyes opened suddenly.

When Peter passed to the temple the next day, probably, people who sat by, had their infirmities healed suddenly. So I believe they told others, and they too came and waited for him to pass. There were no handbills and no television or radio adverts. When Peter passed again, all of them may have jumped up and screamed as they received healing. But Peter did not even wait to take

testimonies, because for him, it was a normal occurrence. He went his way to the temple.

When I saw that, I was angry in my spirit: “What is this shouting for people to get healed? What is this sweating?” So I stepped into the service that day with light.

When it was time to preach in the healing and deliverance service, with the light I had encountered, I stood at the altar, and said, “Praise the Lord! People have just been healed in their numbers.

The presence of God just flooded the church and healed people. Check yourself. If you are healed, run to the front.” They began to come out en-masse. Then I said, “Wait! I did not say you should come out if you need prayer. I said you should come out if you are already healed.” They rushed out en-masse, with all manner of testimonies, because light came.

Let the Scriptures become an open book for you. The reason you are not interested in reading it is that you have not been able to see revelation from it.

The sweetest book on earth is the Bible, if only God can open it for you.

If the light of God's Word can come on you, you will enjoy it yourself, before you even think of preaching to someone else. I have read all manner of manuals, and have seen that the Bible is still the sweetest book on earth. I studied medicine, with all manner of names, but the Bible is the sweetest book. The challenge is that it is covered and needs to be unveiled. The letter killeth; but the spirit giveth life (2Corinthians 3:6c). Once the Word is unveiled and you begin

to see it, you will never want to stop reading it.

3. The Scripture is for correction.

You want to be the Man of God whose proof is full? You must come severally to the point where the Scripture speaks to you and corrects you. You must get to the point where you have to change the way you do certain things; because you just saw something from the Bible.

For many pastors, the Bible does not speak to them. They read the Bible very well but they hear the Bible speaking to

someone in the church. They read the Bible and rather imagine how it would come out when they preach it.

You must come to the point where the Word speaks to you personally and consistently.

One day, I came across the passage where Samuel said, “God forbid that I should sin against God in ceasing to intercede for you” (1Samuel12:23). I said, “Ah! So it is a sin for the pastor not to pray consistently for the flock.” That is not a preaching topic; it is correction.

Learn to say, “Lord, here am I; is there something you want to tell me today out of this Scripture? I am available.”

4. The Scripture is for instruction in righteousness.

That word instruction is actually chastisement unto righteousness. The Greek word is “*padeyah*”, which means chastisement. It is like beating someone that has erred.

You must come to that point in your life where you open a Scripture and it looks as if God is whipping you. Sharp rebuke;

that is, God literally lashes you using the Scripture. If you have not come to any such point in your life, it means your preparation is not ongoing.

The man that will make full proof of his Ministry is the Man that is processed by Scripture.

CHAPTER FOUR

THOROUGHLY FURNISHED

*I am ready for service for Thee, dear
Lord,*

Here am I, send me

*I am willing to be what you'd have me
be*

I will go where you want me to go.

-J. Lincoln Hall

*...That the man of God may be perfect,
thoroughly furnished unto all good
works.*

2Timothy 3:16

Perfect and thoroughly furnished used in 2Timothy 3:16 are construction terms. When an architect says a house has been perfected, he means it has been finished and furnished. Those are construction terms.

So, the man that will make full proof of his Ministry is the man that is complete; the man whose training in the hands of God has been completed.

Now, this is the problem: Many people rushed into Ministry before God finished with them. God was still working on them and they rushed into Ministry. God was trying to prepare them and they rushed into Ministry.

ELIJAH AND ELISHA

Consider the preparation of Elisha to take over Elijah's Ministry. The mantle

of Elijah fell on Elisha twice. When Elisha was ploughing the yoke of oxen, the mantle fell on him. Then when Elijah was being taken up to heaven, the mantle fell again. The first mantle was not the mantle of preaching. It was not the mantle of 'Go and print handbills or business cards.' The first mantle was an indication of interest: "I am interested in using you if you are ready."

Many people ran into Ministry with the first mantle.

It took twenty-one years before the mantle fell again for Elisha to step into Ministry. Now, what was he to do in the period between the first and the second falling of the mantle? He was to get prepared. That was 'preparation' stage.

That you lay hands on someone and he falls under the anointing does not indicate a call into Ministry. That you prayed and you saw light does not mean God has called you into Ministry. That you have the gift of prophecy is not a call into Ministry. That you lay hands on the sick and they recover does not mean

you are called into Ministry. Every believer is meant to lay hands on the sick and they will recover.

You know some people went by these manifestations. Before God could finish working on them, they had already gone into Ministry. You know how terrible it is? It is as terrible as a pilot who started flying before he finished training. He started flying the aircraft before he was certified or cleared. Such a pilot is not only destroying himself but everyone on board.

Also imagine a medical student who just finished third year and has experimented with a few dead bodies in anatomy. Imagine if such a person says he has enough experience to be a surgeon and steps out of medical school in third year. Then he launches himself to work and begins to ask for people with appendicitis to operate upon or ask for pregnant women to handle. That would be a butcher, a killer.

Many pastors in Ministry today are like uncertified pilots or unqualified medical

practitioners. They are destroying themselves and those who come along.

Pray Today:

Lord, complete me.

It is possible that I rushed.

It is possible that there are departments of my life that the training was not complete.

Lord, please, I do not want to be lacking in any aspect of my training.

Lord, complete me.

You know how terrible an uncompleted building is? It is a shame and reproach to the owner. The truth is that many Ministers' training and construction in God has not been completed. They stepped into Ministry in that state, bringing shame to the Name of Jehovah by their Ministerial lifestyles. You know how inconveniencing it is to live in an uncompleted building. Wires are everywhere; the floor is very hard; the building is not complete. That is how inconveniencing it is for many of the people in various churches.

To my knowledge, Nigeria has the highest population of pastors who have no business with Ministry at all. But they are on the altar. When they talk, you know. When you look at them, you know: This one is after money. Lack of employment is what gave him the call. Lack of what to do gave him the call.

One day, I went to our Papa in the Lord, Bishop David Oyedepo, and I said: “Sir, you said before you went into Ministry, God asked you to go to Baba Adeboye to lay hands on you for the impartation of wisdom; because you needed wisdom

for Ministry. When I was about to start, I did not hear such instruction; so I did not go to anyone for the impartation of wisdom specifically. Sir, could you lay hands on me now? It is never too late to be right.”

At another time, I went to my mentor again, and I said to him: “Sir, someone laid hands on me sometime. They were bad hands. I do not like those hands. Please, could you unlay it?”

“Lord, complete me. Lord, I need to be completed. I am aware that there are

things in my life that are not there yet.”

Now, how is it that you do not know how to hear from God, yet you stand up to tell people about God? Who did you hear from? You do not need to be a prophet to hear the voice of God. But as basic as that is, you cannot be speculating with people's destinies.

FURNISHED

You need to be completed. And when you are completed, the next thing is to be furnished. Take that word literally, that

the Man of God may be thoroughly furnished.

Thoroughly furnished connotes the idea that it is possible to be scantily furnished. Thoroughly furnished means, there is no unfurnished area. That the Man of God may be thoroughly furnished is to be furnished with the various graces, endowments, abilities, wisdom, organizational capabilities and different areas of furnishing in the Ministry. That will make the Man of God fulfill full Ministry. It is the same as the first

illustration of making full proof of Ministry.

There are some Ministers whose lives and Ministries have no furnishing. So people go there but they cannot sit down. You know that when people visit someone's house and there is no chair, they stand for a while and then go. The same thing happens with Ministry.

Furnishing is your capacity to coordinate the people God brings. When it is lacking, the people cannot stay. So the people come to the church; but because

there is no furnishing in your life and Ministry, they stand for a while and then take off. You may have some level of anointing but there is no crowd; no one is sitting down.

For some other Ministers, there is some level of furnishing, but it is not thorough, so they stop at a certain level. No matter how much publicity they do, the people that will come will be the same number. The reason is that the accommodation they have in their spiritual life, the spiritual capacity for their Ministry can

only accommodate that number of people.

To make full proof of Ministry, you need to be thoroughly furnished.

Part TWO

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the

truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

*But watch thou in all things, endure
afflictions, do the work of an
evangelist, make full proof of thy
ministry. 2Timothy 4:1-5*

CHAPTER FIVE

BEFORE GOD!

*Lord, speak to me, that I may speak
In living echoes of Thy tone;
As Thou hast sought, so let me seek
Thy erring children lost and lone.*

--P. Armes

*I charge thee therefore before God, and
the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge
the quick and the dead at his appearing
and his kingdom; Preach the word; be*

*instant in season, out of season;
reprove, rebuke, exhort with all
longsuffering and doctrine. For the
time will come when they will not
endure sound doctrine; but after their
own lusts shall they heap to themselves
teachers, having itching ears; And they
shall turn away their ears from the
truth, and shall be turned unto fables.
But watch thou in all things, endure
afflictions, do the work of an
evangelist, make full proof of thy
ministry. 2Timothy 4:1-5, emphasis
mine.*

I want to bring to the attention of every reader, two things that are required for a Minister to know or possess in order to make full proof of his Ministry.

Paul said to Timothy: “I am giving you a charge before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead” (Paraphrase, emphasis mine).

What is the meaning of the word before? What Paul meant was, “I want you to understand that you are in front of Someone as I write to you. You are before or in front of God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The meaning of that to every Minister is, first, in order to make full proof of your Ministry, you must understand that the eye of God is on ‘the Minister and the Ministry.’ That is the first thing to understand. By implication, Paul was saying to Timothy, “I am giving you a charge, an instruction, and an admonition, in front of God. Timothy, you must understand that you do not exist for yourself, but you are in front of God.”

The question you may want to ask is: “What difference will that make in my

Ministry?” Well, every time you take the microphone to speak, you are in front of God, whether you are conscious of it or not, whether you operate in that realm or not. Anything that made you accept to enter into Ministry has implicated you for the oversight of God.

‘IN FRONT’...OF GOD

The Bible says in the book of Hebrews 4:13,

Neither is there any creature (including any Minister) that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and

opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do. (Emphasis mine)

Your preaching will be affected, if you are actually conscious that every statement you utter is in front of God. Never you imagine that you are on your own! You are in front of God.

O how seriously we would take the matter of souls - the vast multitude of human beings on their way to a hopeless eternity, if we are sure, that as we stand in Ministry, God watches. As the thought

occurred to me, it became a little frightening.

O how seriously we would take the matter of preparing the saints, the people of God for eternity if it ever occurred to us that the statements we make are in front of God. Do you imagine the kind of serious minded approach you would give your Ministry when you are conscious of the fact that you are in front of God? How about what comes out of your mouth?

Let it be clear to you pastor, that your mode of operation since you started Ministry has been in front of God. All things are naked before Him with whom we have to do. If you knew for sure that God is watching, standing beside you, with what intensity would you prepare the message? If you knew for sure that God is standing beside you, watching what you are doing, with what intensity would you pray before you step on the altar?

If you knew for sure that God is watching every move you make in

Ministry, how seriously would you take the matter of listening to God before moving? If you knew for sure that God is monitoring every statement you utter, how much more truthful would you be in the testimonies you share? How much more truthful would you be in the illustrations you make?

Paul told Timothy: “In case you think you are on your own, you are wrong, for you are before God. I speak to you now, in front of God.”

Elijah also said, before God whom I stand. You see the recklessness and carelessness of the people and the Ministers of God in our generation! The fanfare, the vanity and ostentatious display that we put forth in Ministry is a product of the ignorance of the fact that we are stepping on the altar in the sight of God; that we are carrying out our Ministry before the eyes of God; that the assignment of God in our hands is before His all-seeing eyes.

The question you should ask yourself is: “What would I do differently if God

were standing before me in person? How else would I minister? What would become the content of my message? What would I emphasize more strongly if God were standing before me physically?” Definitely, it would change you. Definitely, it would change Ministry patterns. Definitely, it would change several emphases of Ministers and Ministries. Definitely, it would re-adjust the focus of people.

Whether you know it, want it or not, we are in front of God.

GOD...WHO SHALL JUDGE

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom 2Timothy 4:1

What consciousness do you need to have in order to make full proof of your Ministry? It is the consciousness that God shall judge the Minister and the Ministry. That is frightening. Every Minister is destined for judgment. I do not necessarily mean the great White Throne Judgment. Some may be part of

that, which is the judgment of sinners. Some Pastors may be part of that judgment too. But apart from that, every one of us shall give account of our lives to God at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Every Pastor or Minister reading this book should know that there is judgment that is inescapable. Paul was telling Timothy to prepare himself and behave well, because there is a judgment ahead.

You cannot be a pastor and not be prepared for the judgment of the pastor. The way you conduct yourself, your life

and Ministry will be judged. Paul was not merely giving Timothy advice. He was not just encouraging him to do good. He was not just telling him to do something right. He was getting him to understand that there is a God watching him, and Who shall judge. That is very frightening. Is it not?

Any pastor, Minister, church worker or child of God you see, tell them that, for the things they do in the kingdom of God and with God, there is a judgment ahead. Everyone will be held responsible for how they run their Ministry.

CHAPTER SIX

THE MINISTER'S JUDGEMENT - 1

*Leaving the straight and narrow way,
Going the downward road today,
Sad will their final ending be,
Lost thro' a long eternity!*

-J. H. Tenney

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing

and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. 2Timothy 4:1-5, emphasis mine

What is the judgment of the pastor? What is God looking for? As I searched in the spirit, I have a little understanding. What is God judging the pastor for? What is He judging the pastor about?

1. FOR THE VISION HE IS RUNNING

The vision the pastor is running, is it a kingdom vision or a personal vision? He shall come under judgment.

Who sent the man? Was it God who sent him or the man sent himself? He will stand before God to account for it.

Is the work of the pastor God's plan or man's plan? He will have to answer.

God told Moses in Exodus 25:9, Make sure you build these things according to the pattern that was shown to you. In verse 40, He said again, build according to the pattern that was shown to you. And it was when the pattern was followed that the glory fell. So, the glory of God follows the pattern of God.

Competition and Imitation

Beloved Pastor, God will find out whether you are running a vision or you are engaged in a competition. There are people running visions and there are people engaged in competitions. We often hear such people say things like, “That Ministry achieved this, I also achieved that. This pastor did this, I also did that. Their church cannot be bigger than ours.” Now I ask you again, are you running a vision or involved in a competition?

The Minister will also be judged whether he is running a vision or is

involved in imitation. Some people are running kingdom vision and others are involved in imitations. They have no agenda. They heard nothing from God. What they are doing and running with is what they saw someone doing.

Stolen Words

Have you ever read Jeremiah 23:30? It will frighten you:

Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal my words everyone from his neighbour.

God is, by implication, saying, “I gave the man the Word; I did not give you. You stole it.” That is Jehovah speaking – “I am against the prophets saith the Lord, that steal my Word every man from his neighbour.” Why is it that we see handbills of programs with the same titles? God is saying He is against the man that has no message, whose business is to preach the message that He gave to another person. He is against that man.

Someone called me from Europe some time ago and said, “I have about 500 of

your tapes.” The way he talked, showed arrogance and ostentation. He said, “I have preached all of the messages you preached.” He told me the different messages and titles. And I pitied him.

You could be inspired by a father, a pastor, a mentor or a tutor; but we live in a generation where original revelation is scarce. We live in a generation where original inspiration is scarce. I have watched people that I did not know from anywhere on satellite TV preaching some messages that I had preached - verbatim.

God said, "I am against the prophets that steal My Words every man from his neighbour." Some time ago, Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries brought some kind of prayer agenda where they say, so-and-so person, fall down and die; witches and wizards fall down and die. Today, every church is literally praying in the same line. Now, do you know the revelation that gave that man that kind of prayer direction?

There is a whole lot of imitation in Ministry because vision is no more. We have a lot of competitions and

imitations. What vision are you running?
What agenda are you following?
Remember the Minister will be judged.

Obedience or Convenience?

The Minister will be judged whether he is doing what is commanded or what is convenient. The fact is that there are those doing what is commanded and there are those doing what is convenient.

The fact is that, no one who is not literally conscious that there is judgment ahead can make full proof of his Ministry.

2. BY HOW HE LIVES

The Minister will be judged by how he lives. He will also be judged for the manner of life of his members. He will be judged as to whether he is a correct model of kingdom lifestyle; whether people that follow his examples will end in heaven or hell.

Whether he is modeling the life of Christ before the people, the Minister will be judged. Whether he is advertising God to the people or advertising himself, the Minister will be judged. Whether his

preaching matches his lifestyle, the Minister will be judged. To preach is one thing, and to do is another. There are those who tell people to pay tithes but they themselves have never paid tithes.

If God says people should pay tithes and members of the church are paying tithes but the pastor is not paying tithes, his judgment is heavy. There are pastors who tell church members to fast and pray while they themselves eat. They fill their stomach and go to church to lead a fast that they did not partake in.

There are pastors who ask others to pray, study the Word and go for evangelism to win souls; but they have no business with any of those activities themselves. Does the man's preaching match his lifestyle? He will be judged. I believe that it is safer to leave the pulpit alone than to be in the pulpit and get heavy judgment at last. That is my personal opinion. It is far safer, as far as the coming judgment is concerned.

God judged Eli. He said, your sons perverted the Gospel; they perverted the Ministry and you watched them. You did

nothing about it. I will judge you and your sons. The Minister will be judged.

If a man like Moses could not escape the judgment of God in his life, it is fearful. God said to Moses, “You will see the land but you will not enter it.” Moses pleaded with God, and God said he should not talk to Him about the matter anymore. It was a closed chapter. If Moses that saw God face-to-face could not avert the judgment of God, what about you that are still struggling to hear God?

Beloved Pastor, I would like you to wake up, because there is a lot of recklessness in our generation today. People feel they can do and undo in the name of Ministry, but there is a heavy judgment ahead.

3. FOR WHAT THEY PREACH

The preacher will account for his preaching – every bit of it. He will be judged. Is he preaching to please God, or to please the people? Is he preaching the whole truth, or he is covering up

some truths in order not to offend the people?

I heard that a certain pastor preached one very brutal message in his church one day and some big members of the church who give big tithes went to him and said, “If you preach like that again, we will stop our tithes and leave the church.” Then the pastor said, “I am sorry; the message is not for people like you. I am very sorry.”

The Minister will be judged.

Also, the Minister that preaches to accommodate and cover his own faults, errors and sins, will be judged. He tells his people, “It is not too bad to do this... it is when you do that, that it is bad.” That Minister will be judged if he does not take that Word brutally. Even if the knife of the Word cuts him also, he must not spare himself. He must spare no one. Except the Minister operates that way, he is in danger of judgment.

Power Quality

The Minister will also be judged for the power quality of his message. Does the quality of message from his mouth have convicting power? Some messages have convicting power; others have entertaining power. The latter makes people clap, shout, scream and are excited, but there is no conviction for sin - I mean a primitive, rugged conviction - the kind that the Apostle Peter, Charles G. Finney, D. L. Moody, John Wesley and John the Baptist walked in. The Minister will be judged for the convicting capacity of the message he

preaches.

You know, what is reigning in the world today is, “Do it; feel good” - entertainment preaching. I have nothing against that. There is a time when the preaching of the Word comes to stir people up and excite them in God. But if that is all that is contained in the message, it is like giving a child ice cream without solid food. You will kill him with malnutrition.

So many members of the Body of Christ today are malnourished and they have

immune deficiency in the spirit. Because of that they are susceptible to all manner of iniquities, infirmities and afflictions.

Transformation or Motivation?

Is the preacher's message one that communicates transformation or it is just motivation? There is a difference between transformation and motivation. If a pastor cannot point, for instance, to a man he saw: a drunkard, a wife beater or a thief, and all of a sudden, because the sinner contacted the Ministry of God in

the pastor's hands, his life changed, that pastor should be waiting for judgment.

The Word of God is quick and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing into the dividing asunder... (Hebrews 4:12). If it is His Word, it must penetrate. If it is His Word, it must divide soul from spirit.

Please understand that it is a glorious thing to be called of God, for "no man taketh this honour upon himself, except he be called of God." However, you

should not be so celebrated on earth but tormented in eternity?

Redemptive Value

The Minister will be judged for the content of his message. Does it have redemptive value? What is the redemptive value?

It is possible to have church service for a whole year and altar call is not made. A whole month can be gone over and a pastor does not remember altar call, because he does not expect other persons to be saved. I have been to a

meeting where I was called to share the grace. When I realized that there was no altar call made till the end of the service, I asked if I could make an altar call before I rounded off. I said to the pastor, “Please can I call out people who need to be saved?”

That night I saw a crowd coming out and I said to my wife, “So this people could have possibly gone to hell from the church? They would literally pass through the church to hell.”

The Minister will be judged.

CHAPTER SEVEN

THE MINISTER'S JUDGEMENT - 2

*When the trumpet of the Lord shall
sound and time shall be no more. And
the morning breaks eternal bright and
fair; when the saved of the earth shall
gather over on the other shore, And the
roll is called up yonder will you be
there*

-James M. Black

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the

truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. 2Timothy 4:1-5, emphasis mine

Having seen in the preceding chapter, the apparent hard judgments of the Minister, the question is, could there still be any further issues by which the Minister will be held accountable? If there are, what could they be?

1. FOR THE QUALITY OF DISCIPLES THEY PRODUCE

The Minister must expect to answer for the quality of disciples that he and his Ministry produce.

Pastors, what kind of believers are we producing? Are we producing a generation of Christians that cannot withstand pressure? Very little temptation sets them falling. Are we producing a generation of Christians that cannot stand the devil; a generation of Christians that are permanently crying

babies, almost turning the pastor into a demigod? Every slight thing, they have to call their pastor. Are we producing people that cannot say no to bribe and other forms of iniquity? Is that the generation we are producing? We will give account to God.

Today the quality of Christians we are producing are people that cannot stand the test of time; people that are permanently confessing their sins, rising today and falling tomorrow. If that is the generation a pastor is producing, the pastor is going to give account.

Every pastor should ask himself, ‘Am I producing a people that heaven is proud of?’”

During the baptism of the Lord Jesus, the Father looked down from heaven and said, This is My Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased (Matthew 3:17). Can God say that of the average church member in our generation? Are there model Christians? Are there reference Christians? Acts 11:26 says that the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch. When they looked at the quality of people and their lifestyle, they said,

these people look like Christ. Can they say that of our present day generation of Christians, with brothers and sisters in competition with the world for seduction?

Is it not true that there are churches today that dress like nightclubs? The church becomes a display of the nakedness of the people: chest exposed, back exposed, all types of seductive, provocative, appealing and suggestive dresses are worn. They would not wear those things if they were to meet with the country's President for an important

appointment, but they wear them to church. Now, is that really what Christ is expecting?

I was about to drive out from the church someday and one of our sisters ran to me saying, “I am sorry sir; I left the church, but I have returned.” Then I asked her what happened. She said, “I saw you three times in a dream at night, and you looked at me...” She said I looked at her; but I believe the Lord Himself or His angel used my face to appear to her, because God can speak to a person through the picture and the voice of his

pastor. She said I told her, “So you have decided to go where they will allow you to dress anyhow you want? You have decided to go to the place where they will allow you to appear, dress and behave anyhow you want?” She ran back and said, “No, I refuse!” The Holy Spirit had spoken to her where she went, “You do not belong here.”

Now, is it possible for a mango fruit to be ripe without showing outwardly? Is it possible for the content to be sweet and the container bitter? Is it not what a man carries inside that shows forth on the

outside? Can somebody be a spiritual, heaven-bound child of God and be seductive, suggestive, and provocative on the outside? No! Can the daughter of Zion wear the attire of a harlot?

And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.

Proverbs 7:10

The Bible says there is a dress that belongs to a harlot. The question is, “Are the Christians we are producing different from the world?” In Bible days,

when they looked at the believers, they saw that their communication, character, look and persona were different from the world. Is it the same today?

Pastor, we live in a rebellious generation. It is possible that you can preach your best and people will live the way they want. That is all right. Please discharge your responsibility; do what is expected of you, and leave the balance to God. You can tell people what they should do, but you cannot force them to do it. Do yours. Heaven

will only hold you responsible for your part.

I have personally been frustrated many times. When I went to God to say, “Lord, what is happening? I have seen people that have refused to change. No matter what I say, they live the way they want.” The Lord said, “Just go ahead; do yours. The very Words they hear will stand against them in judgment if they refuse to change. But it will stand against you in judgment if you refuse to say it.”

If nothing else will make you behave well as a pastor, let this one thing cause you to behave well: The fact that judgment is waiting. You are not the owner of the church. You are not the owner of the Ministry. There is an owner; you are just a caretaker. There is the property owner that will ask you for the management of His property.

The pastor will be judged.

2. FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF BOTH GOD'S PEOPLE AND RESOURCES

What is the account of your stewardship? How did God's people fare under your care? Pastor, what is the level of your care for the flock of God? What is your care?

You know what Samuel said? Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way.

1Samuel 12:23

Samuel said the pastor that does not pray for the people is a sinner: "God forbid

that I should sin in not praying for you.”

All you are doing is preparing messages to preach. And there is no prayer for the ears of the people to be opened to hear the message. There is no prayer that what you are saying should change their lives. There is no prayer that God will help them to make it in life and eternity. Samuel shows that the pastor that does not pray for the people is a sinner.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping

watch over their flock by night. Luke
2:8

When was the last time you stood up in the night to watch the flock? The Bible says the enemy sowed tares at night; satanic arrows and missiles are fired at night. So, on behalf of the people, you have to lose your sleep and watch. Remember, those shepherds that kept watch over their flocks by night were those that saw the visitation of the angel. To the shepherds that were awake, the Father sent an angel to announce that

Jesus was born. The shepherds that sleep never see heaven's visitation.

Beloved, the pastor will be judged for his level of prayers for the flock.

Woe...to Shepherds

Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds

feed the flocks? Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock. The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them. Ezekiel 34:2-4, emphasis mine.

I thought prophecy is for the flock, but this one is against the shepherds. What

did the shepherds do? He said, Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! That means all they enjoy is to collect prophet's offering, love offering, tithe, first fruit and all manner of collections.

The Lord says, Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock. The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven

away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them. As a pastor, those that left the church, you are angry with them, instead of finding out what drove them away. You have not sought that which was lost. There are those that stopped coming to church, not because they do not want to come, but that sin took them. You have not sought for them, but with force and cruelty, you have ruled.

God is saying, from this world, He has already cursed such a shepherd, even

before His judgment arrives. I do not know if you are regretting reading this book. Surely, these sayings are not palatable; but if we insist on the palatable, we are damned for eternity.

It is easy for me to write about the Minister being on fire, receiving fire, getting anointed, etc. But hear what God is saying: The shepherd will be judged for his management of the flock, the management of money - the church's offering that the pastor diverted; the fraudulent financial practices, and the

lack of distinction between church money and personal money.

Rapture is knocking at the door. We have seen diversities of revelations that point to the fact that we are closer to the end than when we began. To make full proof of your Ministry, you have to recognize that God is standing by, watching.

Recognize that the Lord will judge the Minister. If you can be mindful of these things, then you can fulfill your Ministry.

PRAY WITH SOBRIETY NOW:

*Lord, I have been ministering as if you
are not watching.*

*Help me with a greater level of
consciousness.*

*I have been ministering as if you are
not watching.*

*I have stood on the altar as if I am in
charge.*

*I have been ministering as if I am on
my own.*

*Lord, help me to proceed with this
consciousness: that every step of mine*

in Ministry, every time I stand on that altar, You are watching me.

Lord, move me to a higher realm of consciousness to know that You watch me always, in the Name of Jesus.

Part three

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall

recover. And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Mark 16:15-18, 20

CHAPTER EIGHT

THE SENT OF GOD - 1

*Consecrate me now to thy service,
Lord. By the power of grace divine; let
my soul look up with a steadfast hope,
And my will be lost in thine.*

-Fanny Jane Crosby

*And he said unto them, Go ye into all
the world, and preach the gospel to
every creature. He that believeth and is*

baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Mark 16:15-18, 20

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 2Timothy 4:1-2

After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come. Luke 10:1

The SENT of God is someone who has been sent of God. He is not one who is practicing a career. He is not one who is engaged in a profession. He is a messenger, sent of God. He will not carry out his assignments like one who is carrying out a professional career - medical, legal or accounting. He is not such a professional, as it were. A Minister of God is one who has been sent of God.

Second, a Minister of God is someone who is running the errands of heaven,

who is sent by heaven. He is on errand for God.

Third, the Minister of God is a person sent with a definite message. Jesus said, “Go, preach the word; he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.” The Minister is a man with a definite message. And I want to say at this juncture that the message is the reason for the messenger. A messenger without a message is a waste. The message is the reason for the messenger.

God says of the Minister, “Go, preach the word, cast out devils, heal the sick; he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved.”

Fourth, the Minister of God is a man sent by God to change human lives and address human needs.

Fifth, the Minister of God is a person sent to accomplish the plans and pleasures of God, not the plans and the pleasures of the people. He is a man sent to accomplish the plans and pleasures of His Sender and Maker.

MESSENGERS AND PROBLEMS

I have seen that there are problems and situations about messengers, both of this generation and the generations past.

The first is that many messengers forget the content of the message. We live in a generation where the messenger forgets what he was told to say along the way. I would like you to understand how it is. When a little child is sent on an errand and he is distracted by one thing or the other, he forgets the message. I have experienced that with my children a

number of times. That is how it is today with majority of the Messengers of God on the pulpit. They do not really know what they have been sent to say. So what happens? They say whatever comes to mind. The outcome of that is: the message is grossly misrepresented and the people are massively confused.

The second category I saw is messengers who modified the message. Probably, in order to accommodate personal opinion or operation, they added their thoughts, ideas and misconceptions. The outcome is a

watered down message that lacks the power of impact. There has been so much modification of the message that it lacks the capacity, at the end of the day. God then wonders if that is what He sent them to deliver.

We have the third category of messengers who branched off along the way to do things that are not related to the message. These people turned aside to pursue personal agenda that is not connected to the message. The pursuit of money along the line distracted some of them. People brought them financial

opportunities that can come out of church - the same temptation Jesus overcame. Such Ministers have lost value for what they were sent to preach, so their major pursuit becomes money. They have forgotten the message. Some are busy pursuing fame and popularity. For some, it is the pursuit of politics and political relevance. They have branched off to pursue their own agenda.

There are pastors who are surrounding people in high places, not because they want to Minister to or disciple them, but to win one favour or the other. These

sets of messengers have branched off like the young prophet from Judah, who, when his master sent him, said, “Do not branch off anywhere;” but he deviated and was destroyed by a lion.

I know a notable Minister in America who was so influential and powerful. He was the one who introduced some other Ministers in America to Television Ministry. All of a sudden, he felt like he must become a politician. He ran election to become the Mayor of his land and lost badly. The next thing that happened to him was that he began to

preach heresy. Today, he says homosexuals are welcome into the church: “Whoever you are, you can come. It is a message of inclusion; everyone will go to heaven. No one will go to hell.” He branched off.

If you are reading this book, and probably the devil has seduced you to branch off, the Lord is calling you to order by this medium.

Again, quite pathetic, there are other messengers whose messages got influenced to suit the convenience of the

hearers. They were influenced by the recipients of the message and they had to adjust the content of the message. In other words, the message appeared too strong. It was not sociable. The people said it does not belong to this time, so the preachers adjusted the content of the message in order not to offend some hearers. In order that some people would not leave the church, they had to adjust the content of the message.

The outcome is the production of disciples that are useless to both heaven and earth. The outcome is the production

of church people that are profitless to both society and the Kingdom. The church is populated with people, probably, but they are of no benefit. The preacher has become the messenger of the people not the messenger of God. The people put the words he is to say in his mouth to suit their convenience and fancy.

That is the challenge God is having right now. I would like to say that the problem of God is not the devil; the problem of God is the Messengers of the Gospel. The problem of God is not the devil; the

problem of God is not witches and wizards; the problem of God is not the sinfulness of sinners; the problem of God is the Messengers of the Gospel, the Ministers of the Gospel that refuse to deliver the message as raw and as unadulterated as God sent them.

Please I want you to understand this: The destiny of every generation is determined by the quality of Christians in that generation. Jesus said we are the salt of the earth. We are to prevent the world from decadence and degeneration. So the destiny of every generation is tied

to the quality of Christians in that generation. And the quality of Christians in every generation is determined by the quality of Ministers in that generation. The quality of Christians in our generation determines the state of our generation. So the degeneration of the generation is tied to the degeneration of the pulpit.

The degeneration of our generation is connected to the degeneration from the altar; because the quality of the Minister is what determines the quality of the

people. And the quality of the people determines the quality of the nation.

Many preachers' messages today are re-adjusted; and when the service is over, the people go over and say, "Pastor, you preached fine. Ride on pastor. That was a powerful message. That was wonderful. That was exciting. That was beautiful..." Then the pastor feels very high and he just keeps on doing that so that they can say, "That is wonderful; that is beautiful; that is powerful." And everyone walks out with their dry eyes, with their stony hearts, and with their

lives the way they came. The reason is that the Messenger has been influenced by the hearers to adjust the message in order to suit the people.

We need to do a lot of repenting.

Crefflo Dollar said something that I had to write down. He said to the church: “God rebuked me recently for not telling you more about heaven and about your eternity...” I wrote it down. I sat in my office as I heard it. I said, “Lord, if you are telling people like that this kind of a thing, then there is hope for the world.”

Many are influenced by the people to adjust their message. How terrible and pathetic it is for the patient to tell the doctor what to prescribe. How terrible and pathetic it is for the passenger to tell the pilot how to fly the aircraft. That is what happens when the parishioner influences the preacher on what to preach, what to say and how to say it. O disaster becomes inevitable!

We have a fifth category of messengers that God has a problem with, and these are messengers that listened to what co-messengers said and decided to join the

bandwagon, so to speak. What appears popular, what appears marketable, what appears saleable and brings the crowd, is what they join the bandwagon to do. Half-truths and distorted messages are going on here and there.

I was in my office someday, and a Minister flew in to Abuja all the way from the South-South of Nigeria. She came to my office, crying. And she asked, “You believe in heaven and hell; do you not? I have been listening to you. You believe in taking people to heaven; do you not? I see the way you preach to

them. You do not want them to go to hell...”

Then she continued: “I used to preach like that before, but I became lonely and isolated. I became old-fashioned; no one else around me preached anything like that. I became outdated and antiquated. It was as if I was not part of the fashion. I became an extremist. So I decided to slow down. I decided to temper my messages; but that did not help anyone. Now, I have decided to come so you can help me to maintain that fire - the fire of truth - the fire of the right Word...”

That is the situation of so many Christians and Ministers.

You grew up as a pure Christian. It was not money that sent you into Ministry; but now you have many friends that are only talking money, money, money. And wherever they go, they want to empty the pockets of the people. They want to dupe the people, with all manner of games. And before you knew it, you had joined the bandwagon and become just like everyone else.

The Lord is saying there are so many messengers who adjusted the message in order to belong to the crowd. And I have said it repeatedly that it is better to stand alone instead of standing with the wrong crowd. It is better to be a person of conviction, instead of being a person of consensus. Majority does not necessarily carry the vote.

It is better to stand alone for the right thing than stand with the crowd for the wrong thing. Stand-alone if you have to, because when God wants to judge, He will not judge you along with other

Ministers. Everyone will give his account to God. They will give account of what they preached and you will give account of yours. So you must make up your mind, that no one will intimidate you to stop saying what you know to be the truth.

In the days of Jehoshaphat King of Judah, four hundred prophets prophesied lies; only one prophet told the truth, and that was Micaiah, the son of Imlah. The four hundred were all authentic prophets of God, manipulated by the wages of

divination - by money - and they began to say what God did not say.

And Micaiah said, As the LORD liveth, even what my God saith, that will I speak.

2Chronicles 18:13

Also, Baalam the son of Beor, a person that saw vision with eyes opened, just because he was promised money, his eyes were blinded.

And the children of Israel set forward, and pitched in the plains of Moab on this side Jordan by Jericho. And Balak

the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites. And Moab was sore afraid of the people, because they were many: and Moab was distressed because of the children of Israel. And Moab said unto the elders of Midian, Now shall this company lick up all that are round about us, as the ox licketh up the grass of the field. And Balak the son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at that time. He sent messengers therefore unto Balaam the son of Beor to Pethor, which is by the river of the land of the children of his

people, to call him, saying, Behold, there is a people come out from Egypt: behold, they cover the face of the earth, and they abide over against me: Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people; for they are too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, that we may smite them, and that I may drive them out of the land: for I wot that he whom thou blessest is blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed. And the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the rewards of divination in their hand; and they came

*unto Balaam, and spake unto him the
words of Balak*

. Numbers 22:1-7

Balaam could not even see the angel of God standing on the road. He moved greedily, for the gain of divination and he died in error.

*And Balaam rose up in the morning,
and saddled his ass, and went with the
princes of Moab. And God's anger was
kindled because he went: and the angel
of the LORD stood in the way for an
adversary against him. Now he was*

riding upon his ass, and his two servants were with him. And the ass saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and the ass turned aside out of the way, and went into the field: and Balaam smote the ass, to turn her into the way. But the angel of the LORD stood in a path of the vineyards, a wall being on this side, and a wall on that side. And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she thrust herself unto the wall, and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall: and he smote her

again. And the angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place, where was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left. And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she fell down under Balaam: and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he smote the ass with a staff. And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times? And Balaam said unto the ass, Because thou hast mocked me: I would there were a sword in mine hand, for

now would I kill thee. And the ass said unto Balaam, Am not I thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since I was thine unto this day? was I ever wont to do so unto thee? And he said, Nay. Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face. And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? behold, I went out to withstand thee, because thy way is

perverse before me: And the ass saw me, and turned from me these three times: unless she had turned from me, surely now also I had slain thee, and saved her alive. Numbers 22:21-33

Why would you want to render your destiny useless because you want to belong to a certain group or a certain crowd? It is better to have no friend than to have wrong friends. There are people I know who will never handle the microphone in our church. Why? The reason is that I do not believe in what they stand for.

I have had people preach in our church once and that was the last time they would ever be permitted to do that. Why? Because their principles of life are anti-Gospel.

Many people have listened to what other messengers said, until they no longer had their own identity. You see, the struggle to be like somebody else is what makes people nobodies.

CHAPTER NINE

THE SENT OF GOD - 2

*Oh let me hear thee speaking, in accent
clear and still, above the storms of
passion, the murmurs of self-will; Oh,
speak to reassure me, to hasten, or
control; oh, speak, and make me listen,
thou Guardian of my soul.*

-John Ernest Bode

*For I am the LORD, I change not;
therefore ye sons of Jacob are not
consumed. Malachi 3:6*

God has another problem with a sixth category of Ministers. And these are people who adjusted the message to suit changing times, as if the standard of God is changeable with time. Yet Jehovah said in Malachi 3:6, For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. It is as if what was not allowed in the time of Paul is now allowed in our time, just because we are in an information technology age. It is as if what John Wesley cried against is now permitted, because time has changed. It is as if what Charles G. Finney preached

against is now possible because times have changed.

I spoke with a pastor someday, and I said, “I am amazed that in our time, so much is allowed. In the late 70’s when some of us came to know the Lord, in Nigeria, if you saw a Christian, no one needed to tell you that he/she was a Christian. If you saw their persona, their countenance, the presence of God in their lives, the dignity, the sincerity in their eyes, the fire on their faces - whether a brother or a sister - no one needed to tell you, “That is a Christian.”

But today, some unbelievers look more holy and godly than some so-called Christians. I mean, in our generation today, there are unbelievers who have never fought with their wives. There are unbelieving couples who have lived together for twenty to forty years, and have never quarreled or fought with each other. But there are pastors who sack their wives every day.

The divorce rate in America today is higher in the church than outside the church. In America, more Christians, including Ministers of the Gospel, are

divorcing their wives, than unbelievers. They do this, using several Scriptures to justify their recklessness. And this ugly trend has come to Africa, because everything we see in the developed world, we borrow. We borrow the good, the bad and the ugly. We borrow from people who are walking about naked; people who are doing all manner of things. Whatever we see there, we borrow to Africa. But I thought by now we should have learnt or known better: that something is white does not make it right.

Today, we cannot tell the difference between the child of God and the child of the devil. We do not know the difference anymore between the servant of the Lord and the servant of Satan. Times have changed and we have changed with the changing times. What was once an abomination has become a celebration.

We are looking at things and people unwilling to change for the better and we are comfortable with it. Jesus took a cane to the temple and drove money changers out. Now, where are the

pastors with the cane in this generation?
Where are the Ministers of God with the
cane in this generation to drive the devil
back to hell?

Today, I believe strongly that God is
raising Messengers for Himself. And we
are not going to watch the devil ruin the
world. We are not going to watch the
devil ruin Ministries. We are not going
to watch some people present to us
Ministries that are not Ministries at all.

God never changes. His standards have
never been lowered. He is the same

yesterday, today and forever. Anything He frowned at in the days of Paul is what He still frowns at now. And if we are going to the same heaven that Paul went; if it is the same heaven that Peter went, with all the sacrifices and denials of the flesh; if it is the same heaven that John Wesley and Charles G. Finney preached for; if it is the same heaven that D. L. Moody preached for? If it is the same heaven that Billy Graham laboured for; then the standards of God cannot change. But do we really measure up to stand on the same line?

“O God, I know I am a Messenger; but something is wrong somewhere.”

That should be your cry as you read this book.

“Lord, I know that something has gone wrong along the line. May be I heard people so much that I began to talk like others or I forgot the message along the line. Probably, I have my own personal weaknesses so I decided to adjust the message so it can accommodate my personal lifestyle.

May be there are issues like that, Lord I want them to be addressed right now.”

The next group of messengers – the seventh - that God has a problem with are messengers who changed the order of priorities. The truth is that God prioritized the message. There was an order of priorities.

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved... Mark 16:15-

The order God gave is, “I want you to, first of all, change their minds, change their lives, address their lifestyles. That is the first thing I want you to do so that they are not damned, and that they do not end in hell fire. Let the eternity of their lives be the first thing. Let the quality of their Christianity become the first priority. When you have achieved that, then the signs can follow.

“In my Name now, you can cast out devils. In my Name now, you may lay hands on the sick and do all other things. The people can now prosper financially.

They can be delivered. They can get good husbands and good wives. They can get good jobs. They can get everything good.”

But what happens now is that the first segment of the message where we are to change their minds and lives, to deliver them from eternal damnation, is deleted from our plans. We are giving them promises. Of what use are promises to a dead man?

The Bible says you “were dead in sin”(Ephesians 2:5). What is the use of

promises to a dead man? What is the use of a cheque to a dead man? This is priority inversion – the first thing has been made the last. What is most important is put last and what is least important is put first. That is what God is grieving over. He says, “I do not have any problem with the devil; I seek a man. I am looking for someone that can stand, and to whom I can hand over a whole nation or a whole continent; someone I can make a representative; someone that can be My voice in a nation and for a generation. I am looking

for just a man. I do not even need too many of them, just a handful of them will shake the world.”

You see, when Gideon had 33,000 people, God said they were too many; so he trimmed them down. They became 10,000, and God still said they were too many. He needed just a few, about 300 people (Judges 7:7). Among the readers of this book, I tell you, if God could get 300 firebrand men and women that hate sin and have a passion for His plans and purposes, the devil and his agents are in trouble in this generation.

Now who are in the eighth category of messengers? These are Ministers with no sense of urgency at all. They think they have eternity to fulfill destiny. They have no sense of urgency.

You know what the Bible says, And He said, Go into all the world... (Mark 16:15). The Bible says: And they went... Not that they thought about it; not that they took time to analyze the matter; not that they took their time to consider it. And they went... (Mark 16:20).

Christ talked to them, and they went. They did things as they were commanded.

When you look at this eighth category of Ministers, you will probably discover that ninety percent of them are of our generation.

CHAPTER TEN

THE OUTCOME

I must need to go home y the way of the cross. There's no other way but this.

I shall ne'er get sight of the Gates of light if the way of the cross is miss.

----Chas. H Gabriel

This is a faithful saying: if a man desires the position of a bishop, he desires a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife temperate, sober-minded, of good

behavior, hospitable, able to teach; not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous; one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with al reverence (for is a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?) 1 Timothy 3: 1-5

Now, what is the outcome of all the problems associated with the wrong attitude of God's Messengers?

What is the outcome of messengers with no sense of urgency? What is the outcome of messengers who change the priorities of God? What is the outcome of messengers who adjusted the message to changing times and seasons? What is the outcome of messengers who listened to others, and not to God? What is the outcome of messengers who were influenced by their hearers to say what their hearers wanted to hear? What is the outcome of messengers who branched off to do other things not related to the business of the kingdom? What is the

outcome of messengers who modified the message to accommodate their personal opinions and operations? What is the outcome of messengers who forgot the message along the way and started saying what they wanted to say?

1. UNCHANGED AND UNTRANSFORMED LIVES

The first outcome is unchanged and untransformed lives – people sitting on church pews, literally being pastored to hell. The devil will never bother them because they are already in his hands.

What do I mean by that? The average Christian of today has the same financial principles as the unbeliever. Enter into business with the average church member and he will dupe you as any unbeliever would.

Have financial dealings with the average church member and he will dupe you as any unbeliever would. The believer would stab you on the back the same way an unbeliever would. He will betray you the same way the unbeliever would. How many brothers have relationships with sisters and they keep

breaking their hearts just the way unbelievers break the hearts of their girlfriends?

There are unchanged and untransformed lives, literally being pastored to hell.

It is like a mad man saying, "Make me sleep but do not take away the madness. Give me sedative but let my madness remain." What we have done to so many people in the church is that we have given them medicine to calm down, but the insanity is still there; the iniquity is still inside.

It is like a dead man saying, “Change my clothes but let me remain in the coffin, decorated.”

What we have done to many in the church is like a doctor giving paracetamol to a hypertensive patient to calm down the headache he has; without touching the hypertension. The disease and symptoms are intact.

There are unchanged and untransformed lives. What a tragedy! Every pastor must know that God has his continent, nation,

community and his generation at heart; and He wants to change people.

2. UNIMPACTED SOCIETY; UNAFFECTED SOCIETY

Instead of transforming society, society is transforming the church. Instead of the church transforming society, the church is conforming to society. Our destiny as a church is to colonize our generation, to disciple our generation, to change culture.

When the Europeans came to colonize us, they changed our culture in several

ways. They taught us positive cultures. They taught us to wear suit and tie as against our traditional tying of wrappers. They gave us positive Christian civilization. What they did was to show what the church is meant to do to the world in a kingdom style: Change the culture of society; teach people how to behave - how to work in their offices, how to relate with their bosses, and how couples should relate with each other. We are meant to colonize society, but today, the reverse is the case - the world is colonizing the church.

Movie stars are the role models for the church. Football stars are the role models for the young people in our generation, including church people. Today, they say the mode of dressing is, “all women expose your breasts. That is what the world says, and that has got into the church. Young men, pull your trousers so that the belt does not hold it.” That is what is reigning now, and it has also affected the church. The culture of the world is discipling the church.

The way unbelievers are doing courtship is how believers are doing courtship

now – boyfriend and girlfriend. In those days of Christianity in Nigeria, when you are in a relationship with a sister, as a brother, you are not permitted to visit her. The pastor has to be present when you meet to discuss.

Our statistics at marriage counseling show that, a minimum of seventy percent of people who present themselves for marriage, have committed fornication already. So why do they need to see the pastor? They should just marry themselves, because they are already married! They have slept with each

other, doing what a husband and a wife would do. That is how terrible it has been—unaffected society.

The world is changing the church. We dress like them; we talk like them; our behaviour in the place of work is like them. When they get to work late and sign the wrong time, the believers also sign the wrong time. When money gained through bribery is shared, they include the believer because they know he is with them.

Things must change! It is either you follow God or you follow the devil. Elijah said, “Do not lean between two opinions.” You must determine whom you are following. I heard this also from Creflo Dollar. He said, “We have become like the world: our appearance is like the world - everything.” And he said that in America, where literally everything is permitted.

A pastor came from America some time ago, and while we discussed, he said, “Summer is bad time for the American believer.” Then I asked him why he said

that. He said, “During summer, people dress to kill, in the name of heat. You see people walking literally naked on the streets. And most pastors have had to pray, “Lord, summer is coming again; help me.” He told me that most pregnancies occur in summer, talking about church pregnancies, not even the world.

As you read this book, I would like you to get angry and decide:

“Even if I have to be a lone voice like John the Baptist in my community, in

my city, in my generation; even if I have to be a lone voice, the devil must be sent back to hell. Even if I have to be a lone voice, something must change. The will of God must be established. Lord, I am ready.”

3. MAN WORKS AND GOD WATCHES

You know the third consequence of people preaching corrupt messages that God did not give? It is that men work but God watches. The preacher is busy working and sweating but God will just

watch him: “Oh, no, go ahead! Since you have decided to say what you want to say, sweat on! Since you have decided to say what others are saying; since you have decided to be influenced by people, keep on sweating, while I watch you.” The man just keeps working. And most pastors deserve kudos for very serious work - work in exclusion of God.

And you know what? When that becomes the condition, the pastor begins to do everything possible to ensure that people do not notice the absence of God. So

there is high level entertainment, high level fanfare and gimmicks. Today, he says, “Bring salt,” tomorrow, “Bring water;” the day after, “Bring broom;” all in a bid to keep the business going. He has to keep the machinery working so that the absence of God will not be too obvious.

Do you know that each time there is a major football tournament, most churches are empty? That is, the god of sports is trying to take over the place of the God of the universe. So there are places where television sets have to be

brought into church in order to make sure the football is watched there. The television is to assist members to attend service. That is the degenerated nature of the church.

Something has got to change.

In the days of the Apostles, which television brought the people? Only the rugged wind of the Holy Ghost, the fire of the Holy Ghost did. They could not sit at home. They were in church every day. The Bible says they were daily in the temple and from house to house (Acts

2:42). In our own case, we are not in the temple daily; people are not coming and we look for ways to bring them, so we think television is one of the better ways to achieve results.

A pastor told me that in America and several parts of Europe, if you organize a night vigil, no one will attend. You alone will sit there. If you want them to attend, only God knows what you want them to do, but tea and biscuits have to be available in abundance. I mean, you need all manner of incentives to get people to church.

But I see God sending fire through you as you read this book. I see our God sending a fire from you. I see God setting you on fire to spread the fire across to the nations of the world.

Let me prophesy to every African preacher:

America is waiting for you.

England is waiting for you.

Spain is waiting for you.

Argentina is waiting for you.

Brazil is waiting for you.

Russia is waiting for you.

Columbia is waiting for you.

The world is waiting for the fire of God. The world is waiting for the fire of revival again. I am so excited because something is happening: this book will reach all continents of the world. Something is about to happen! The devil is in trouble.

The kingdom of this world must become the kingdom of our God and His Christ. The Lord shall reign, for all the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the

Lord. All the kindred of the nations shall come before Him to worship; for the kingdom is our Lord's and He is the governor among the nations. The devil cannot be more popular than God in a world that God created. The devil cannot be more known than God. Genuine prophets are rising. Genuine apostles are rising. Genuine teachers are rising. Genuine evangelists are rising. Something is about to break forth.

SOMETHING MUST CHANGE!

The Bible says, “They went everywhere, the Lord working with them.” We went, but He did not go with us. In our time, man is present but God is absent. Have you not been to places before where you cannot sense one trace of Divine presence? You cannot sense nothing. The man may be prophesying but can God speak where He is not present? We have all manner of tambourines and entertainment events: medium level, average level, big level, where you cannot sense a bit of God’s presence. Something must change!

When we go on with perverseness, we speak words that lack confirmation. The Bible says, “And they went everywhere, the Lord working with them, confirming...” today, we are talking but nothing is being confirmed or maybe there is very scanty confirmation of the Word.

How can you stand on the pulpit and the One who sent you distances Himself from you? You claim to be speaking on His behalf and He is far away. He does not come close to give any confirmation that you are connected to Him. The

greatest tragedy on earth is to be out for
God without the backing of God.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

THE SOLUTION

*All to Jesus I surrender, Make me
savior, wholly thine*

Let me feel thy Holy Spirit;

Take me, Jesus, take me now

---Judson W. Van de Venter

What is the solution?

Paul told us what to do in 2Timothy 4:2 -
Preach the word; be instant in season,

out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

Preach the Word. Pastor, teacher, evangelist, your first solution is, preach the Word. Preach the Word, not philosophy. Preach the Word, not psychology. Preach the Word, not humanistic motivation theory, that is, self-help motivation that unbelievers are teaching in motivation seminars, and which tends to make men to act independent of God. Preach the Word, not stories. Preach the Word, not personal notions.

Over twenty years ago, I saw this passage:

The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the LORD. Jeremiah 23:28

God was saying, “The prophet that has a dream, the one that is talking from his imagination, let him tell the dream; and he that has My Word, let him speak My Word faithfully. Irrespective of what others are preaching, preach My Word

faithfully. Irrespective of what appears to be selling, preach My Word faithfully. Irrespective of what appears to be popular, preach My Word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? The philosophy is chaff; the Word is grain. The psychology is chaff; the Word is grain. The Word is solid wheat. The self-help motivation is chaff; the Word is wheat:” saith the Lord.

*Verse 29, Is not my word like as a fire?
saith the LORD; and like a hammer
that breaketh the rock in pieces?*

If you say it faithfully, if you preach it faithfully, if you let it come out of your mouth in faithfulness, is not my word like as a fire saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?

There is no fire in the mouth of many because there is no Word. If there is anything like the Word, it lacks the hammer capacity to break hearts like rocks, because people are telling dreams, stories, philosophy and psychology.

“Preach My Word faithfully.” See how God qualified it! So it is possible to become unfaithful along the line. It is possible to change to something else. The first solution to all the ministerial chaos is to “Preach My Word faithfully.”

Secondly, Proclaim the Word as it is, rather than explain it. Proclaim the Word. You may have an apostolic gifting, miracles, signs and wonders, but let that not take the place of the Word in the church. People are rushing. They want to see another kind of signs and wonders. These are fancies that will

fade with time, but “forever O God, thy Word is settled in heaven.”

Kenneth Hagin spoke to his contemporaries in those days, about 120 healing evangelists. Many of them were highly gifted. They emptied wheel chairs at will. There were all manner of miracles, but no Word. Solidity of Word was not there. He told them, “You people may be celebrating your gifts, but I will celebrate the Word.” He said to them, “By the time you have come and gone, we will still be here.” And all of them came and went; some of them even

left Ministry and went into business. Kenneth Hagin remained because the Word abided.

Preach the Word. You know, one of my greatest challenges right now is that there is a scarcity or a famine of the Word of God in the world today. Turn on Christian television; if you are to listen to twelve messages, maybe eleven are junk – just shouting, without substance. You sit down for a while to listen, and you cannot catch one phrase. So the children of God are dry, thirsty and hungry. They go to church week upon

week; they drink a lot of ice cream without solid food. So they are spiritually malnourished.

As a result of the malnutrition, they have no spiritual immunity. If the virus of lies comes, it bites them. Immorality falls like water. And they have no capacity to confront witches and wizards. They cannot pray by themselves; they have to call a pastor. What kind of Christians are these?

Jesus is coming for a glorious church. Preach the Word, Pastor. I like to write

especially to those pastors who are on television: when you stand on any altar to preach, preach with a world audience in mind. But if what you are preaching is for the church in terms of certain principles, keep it in the church. If you are going to air programs, ensure that a sinner who is listening will be pricked unto salvation.

You cannot be preaching tithes and offerings to unbelievers. You want to get their money without getting their souls to God? And the majority of our viewing

audience are people who have never been to church.

Preach the Word in season and out of season, meaning, when it is convenient and when it is not convenient. When there is opportunity and when there is no opportunity. In other words, if there is no opportunity, you must create it. If God has called you into Ministry, to wait for guest minister-invitation before you function as a Minister, it makes you a man with no Ministry.

Peter did not function by guest invitation. Paul the Apostle did not function by such invitation. But there are people today, if no church invites them, they have no Ministry. What useless operation is that? You mean God did not tell you to do something by yourself? That is, someone has to do something and invite you before you will have what to do?

Are you an evangelist? Put up your crusades: trust God for supplies. Put up revival meetings. Are you a teacher? Put up the meetings. If God called you, faithful is He that calleth, who also will

do it. He will supply the funds to get it done. Are you an Apostle without a church base? Are you a youth Minister or a woman Minister? Whatever Ministry God has called you into, do ensure that guest ministration does not render you useless.

Ensure that you create impact at every point in time. Let people be traced to the impact of your Ministry. Preach in season and out of season. If there is opportunity, take advantage of it. If there is no opportunity, create it; when it is convenient and when it is not

convenient; when you feel like preaching and when you do not feel like preaching.

I hope you know that you will not feel like preaching all the time? But if you follow feelings, you end a failure. No one goes to work on Monday morning because he felt like going to work. He has to go to work, because necessity is laid on him; otherwise, his salary will be forfeited at the end of the month. There were people in Ministry who did things that were convenient to them, and God sacked them long ago.

FOLLOW THE SYLLABUS

God gave us the syllabus of preaching, that is, how to preach. And they comprise three pillars:

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

2Timothy 4:2

The first one is Reprove. The second one is Rebuke; and the third is Exhort, with all patience and instructions. So reprove, rebuke and exhort on the platform of patience and with the

mentality of an instructor. Reprove means, change minds; bring conviction. Rebuke means, expose and correct error. Exhort means, offer hope, inspire faith, encourage people and motivate them. That is the syllabus: reprove, rebuke and exhort.

Our major problem is that we left the first two, and we specialize in the last one: “You shall make it! You shall succeed! I do not care what you are passing through now; it will soon be over. The battle will soon be over...” We specialize in the last one. There are

pastors that have never rebuked sin in their churches since they started pastoring. Why? Because they prefer, “God is changing your season. He is changing your story...”

Please understand this: When you specialize in motivating a transgressor, what you have is a highly motivated transgressor. He now transgresses with motivation: “If the pastor does not speak against it, it is not bad. If the pastor does not mention anything in the area of my lifestyle, there is no problem.” So he is highly motivated.

Offering inspiration to a sinner produces inspired lawbreakers—people breaking the law with inspiration. Inspired lawbreakers and encouraged sinners: “It is well with your soul. The Lord is on your side. Do not worry; the problems will soon be over. The sin is still inside, but encouragement is coming up well.” That is an encouraged sinner.

Beloved, God fixed the syllabus; so we cannot change it. In educational curricula, the world over, at times they review syllabus. In heaven’s curriculum, there is no subject review. It is fixed.

I believe as you are reading this book,
you might want to declare:

*Lord, I am guilty. I have faced the
syllabus in a wrong direction.*

Lord, You are the One that sent me.

*I have been preaching but there must be
a change.*

O Lord, show me where I deviated.

*Show me where I went wrong as a
messenger.*

*Did I change the priority of the
message?*

Did I try to change the syllabus?

Did I try to emphasize an aspect of the message at the expense of another?

Lord, I ask for mercy.

Re-order my priorities, O God.

Did I try to follow what others are doing?

Lord, I have not conducted Ministry with a sense of urgency.

I have been taking matters too casually: The matter of soul winning, the matter of eternity, the matter of

*preparing people for heaven. I have
taken things too casually. I ask for
mercy today, in the Name of Jesus!*

PART FOUR

CHAPTER TWELVE

THE TIMES WE ARE IN

*In times like these you need a savior; in
times like these you need an anchor;*

*Be very sure, be very sure, your anchor
holds and grips the Solid Rock*

-Ruth Caye Jones

2 Timothy 4:2

*Preach the word; be instant in season,
out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort*

with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

In order for any Minister of God or any child of God to make full proof of Ministry and to give account of his

calling in God, he must understand the times that we are in.

The times we are in is a time when men will not endure sound doctrine, but run after their own lusts, and heap to themselves teachers having itching ears. They will turn away their ears from the truth and shall be turned unto fables.

I would like you to understand three things about time:

1. AWARENESS OF THE SEASON IS IMPORTANT FOR MAXIMIZATION OF LIFE.

You do not maximize your life until you understand the season. For example, you know that there is a season when learning is easier. When you are a young man, you want to learn everything. You want to learn in that season, and so, understanding the season is important to maximizing one's life.

2. UNDERSTANDING THE SEASON GIVES YOU THE CAPACITY TO KNOW WHAT TO DO.

1Chronicles 12:32 says the children of Issachar were men that had

understanding of the times to know what Israel ought to do and their brethren were at their commandment. Understanding the times gives you the ability to know what to do. You know this is the time you are living in, and then it makes it possible for you to know what to do.

3. UNDERSTANDING THE SEASON PUTS A PERSON IN COMMAND IN LIFE.

When you understand the times, you are not taken by surprise by the season you

are in, and you are not taken by surprise by the happenings of the season. The children of Issachar had understanding of the times and their brethren were at their commandment. So, it is crucial that we understand the times.

WHAT TIME IS IT?

What time are we in right now on planet earth? What time are we in as the Body of Christ?

**1. IT IS A TIME OF GROSS
INTOLERANCE FOR TRUTH.**

This is a time of impatience with truth; a time when men cannot endure sound doctrine. The word sound means healthy instruction, safe instruction, wholesome instruction, rounded and balanced instruction. The time is coming when the truth of the Word of God will become too demanding for people and we are in that time now. We are in the times where people cannot cope with anything that will stretch their convenience.

We are in the times when people are looking for convenient Gospel. They lack spiritual endurance. We are in that

time now. We are in the time when people cannot endure any Gospel that has any form of pressure on their comfort or any Gospel that has any form of inconvenience. We are in the time when people are looking for a cross-less Gospel - a Gospel without the cross - nothing to bear. We are in such times now.

We are in the time when people are looking for a Gospel without cost, a Gospel that costs them nothing. We are in the times when people are looking for a Gospel that places upon them no

responsibility – no demands - an irresponsible Gospel. We are in that time now.

We are in the time where people are looking for a Gospel without cost, a Gospel without sacrifice, a Gospel without responsibility, a Gospel without demands. When they come in contact with a Gospel with demands, they avoid it. We are in that time now. We are in the time of cheap Christianity and easy Gospel. We are in that time now.

You have many Christians today whose coming to Christ cost them nothing. Giving themselves to Christ did not cost anything. They probably answered an altar call, repeated the prayer and went back home but nothing changed in their lives. Their lifestyles remain the same, their circle of friends remains the same, and their character and behaviour remain the same. Everything is the same except that they just repeated the prayer at the altar.

Now I ask you who is reading this book, what did following Christ cost you? And

what is it costing you right now? If it is costing you nothing then I am not sure it is the Gospel that you received because Jesus said, “If any man will follow me, he will have a cross to carry. If any man will follow me, He will have a father to deny, a mother to deny, a friend to deny, a relation to deny, a worldly system and set up to deny”(paraphrase).

A story is told of a man who watched his family killed before his eyes.

“Will you renounce Christ?”

“No.”

The first person was killed before his eyes.

“Will you renounce Christ?”

“No.”

The second one was killed, then the third.

“Will you renounce Christ?”

“No.”

The fourth one was killed.

“Will you renounce Christ?”

“No.”

His wife then said to him, “I am ready honey; we will meet in heaven with the children.”

The king said to him, “The next day, your wife will be killed.” The man said, “I am aware.”

His wife was killed. But he would not renounce Christ.

It was now his turn. He said, “Why not? Let us go.” And he was killed.

Afterwards, the king said, “What is it that this man carried that even death could not take from him? What is it that

he carried that even death could not remove from him?”

That man carried the true Gospel - the reality. One pastor who heard this story had asked me, “Sir, is it the same Gospel that man stood for that we have in our generation? Is it the same heaven he went to that we are going without any form of cost or sacrifice on behalf of Christ?”

Today, Christians are ashamed even to carry the Bible. They hide it in their bags and bring it out in church. They

hide their identity in the place of work because they do not want anyone to know that they belong to Christ? A costless Gospel is a useless Gospel. A crossless Gospel is a valueless Gospel; it is useful for nothing except to damn people for eternity in hell.

What has the Gospel cost you?

Personally, twenty-five years ago, I rededicated my life to Christ. After I did that, there were some clothes I could no longer wear. Why? Because it was not different from how I used to appear

when I was an unbeliever - when I was a worldly person. I had to take the decision that I am a child of God and I cannot afford to appear like an unbeliever any longer.

The Jesus that does not affect your wardrobe is not the one that came from heaven. The Jesus that does not affect your circle of friends is not the one that came from above. The Jesus that does not affect your language, your lifestyle and conduct may be another Jesus. Paul the Apostle had actually said that some preach another Christ.

The Jesus you know, what has He cost you? We live in a generation where a lot of people are not ready to withstand pressure for Christ. They are not ready to endure a thing for Christ. So I ask you, what is Jesus costing you?

Understand that we are in the times of easy, cheap Gospel, unbroken habits, and unbroken lifestyles. If you can understand the times, you will live better. Paul said, “After their own lust they will heap to themselves teachers.”

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

UNCONTROLLED PASSION

*Near the Cross I'll watch and Wait,
Hoping, trusting ever;*

*Till I see my savior's face, leave His
presence never*

-Fanny Jane Crosby

*This know also, that in the last days
perilous times shall come. 2Timothy
3:1*

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves, having ear”-2timothy 4:3

We are in the times of uncontrolled passion.

Lust is uncontrolled desire. The Greek is *epitomia* and it means desire, craving and longing for what is forbidden. But today, for a lot of people, the more forbidden, the better. We live in that time now - a time where revolutionary fashion is marketing the flesh, especially

for women. Revolutionary fashion markets all the seductive parts of the woman's body and multiplies the demons of lust in our generation. There are shopping malls you walk into and you cannot look anywhere because you see women marketing their bodies with immoral unbecoming garments.

I was coming from the airport some time ago with my wife and both of us saw a young lady who entered the same aircraft coming down with shorts that was very provocative. And my wife said to me, "I pity the men of this generation. So, these

are the things that men are forced to watch on a consistent basis?”

We went to Hilton Hotel during Christmas, one of the young ladies that stood in front there was wearing something like a pant and my little son closed his eyes and turned his face away because he could not look at it. No one needed to tell him that it was an abomination. He closed his eyes. And he is about seven years old. He closed his eyes without anyone telling him. He knew that it was not something to see. That is the generation we live in. The

tragedy, however, is that there are many “born again” daughters of God who are helping the Jezebels of the world to advertise lust in our generation and they come like that to church. That is the times we live in.

The Bible calls it perilous times. “Perilous” means strength-reducing. It is the time where spiritual stamina is reduced; the time where spiritual strength is being reduced. You must understand these times in order to apply your heart to wisdom.

A young girl called us after one of our television broadcasts. She said that she started the life of immorality at the age of five when a neighbor, mandated by the devil, raped her. After that, the episode repeated with other people and then at the age of 18, she was a moral wreck. She said that every time she is under pressure, she has to look for a man. She does not wait for a man to look for her.

We also spoke with a young man recently who has slept with anything - goat, dog, baby - anything. That is the kind of world we are living in today.

And like he told us, access to the internet gives people permission for everything that is forbidden and abominable - multiplication of lust. Whenever any civilization is about to be destroyed, there is multiplied lust.

One young man sent a message some time ago. He said, "Pastor, I need help. I have a terrible spirit of immorality. I thought that when I get married, it would be solved. But after I got married, it has multiplied. Currently, I do not need to look for girls, they look for me. Even my sister-in-law wants me to sleep with

her! She is after me.” That is a state of emergency.

There is a multiplication of lust and people want someone to preach to them and protect their lusts. Even pastors are not exempted. There are people in the congregation that would pay any price to bring you down, agents of the devil, mandated and motivated to ruin your destiny and Ministry. The Lord rebuke them in Jesus' Name.

Today, everything that is being advertised is advertized with a naked

woman - whether it is a refrigerator, men's shoe, air conditioner or whatever. It is the multiplication of the spirit of seduction. Many are taken unawares because of the lack of understanding of the times that we are in.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

ITCHING EARS

I need thee every hour, teach me thy will; and thy rich promises in me fulfill.

-Annie Sherwood Hawks.

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 2Timothy 4:3

We are in the times where people would heap to themselves teachers having

itching ears. We are in the time of people-appointed, men-pleasing teachers. There are preachers of the Gospel today - teachers of the Word - that are more in love with the people than with their Maker. There are teachers who are more in love with the people than with the Word of God. There are teachers and preachers of the Gospel who are more interested in pleasing the people than in pleasing their Maker.

There are teachers who are more interested in leading the people on earth than in leading them to eternity in

heaven. Many of them are popular, some are not. There are teachers who are more interested in popularity on earth than in popularity with God. There are teachers who are more or less the employees of the people than the employees of God. It is as though the people employed them, so that they are bent on pleasing them.

There is something the Bible calls damnable heresies. That means, the preachers preach things that confirm people for eternity in hell fire. They preach things that if you were to run

with, would confirm your eternity in hell.

There are teachers who never touch or mention sin. But why is sin not a topic on the altars today? Why is it that righteousness, heaven and hell are not part of television preaching today? There are preachers who preach without giving any altar call for one whole month; preachers who have not said anything that matters to the preparation of the people's souls in eternity. Tomorrow a member of the church dies and they say he went to be with the Lord,

but only the Lord knows where that person went. There are people given Christian burials on earth who were already roasting in hell by the time their burial was going on.

Pastor, teacher, preacher of the Word, ask yourself the question, 'What am I teaching?' There are some who say you should never mention sin so that you do not make people sin-conscious, just make them righteousness-conscious. It is like saying you should not mention dirt, so that you do not make the mad man to be madness-conscious. If the man is not

conscious of his insanity, how does he get delivered?

Some people said that Jesus died to heal us of sicknesses in the past, sickness in the present and sickness in the future. So, in that same way, He died to forgive us of sins we have already committed, sins we are committing and sins we are yet to commit. They say all of our sins have been forgiven in advance. There is a man who wrote a book on it and people bought the book in their numbers and they are reading it with enjoyment.

Someone else said, “If you offended your father, would he just reject you? As long as you keep on offending him, and keep on saying, ‘sorry’, he will not reject you.” The problem is, in between the ‘sorry’ and the offence, death may arrive and you end up in damnation.

These are teachers of damnable heresies - teachers who have produced disciples who are not different from the world. They say a loving God cannot send anyone to hell. What heresy! They say there is no need to seek for God and ask for more of Him that the Holy Ghost is

already in you and God is already in you, how can you ask for more of what you already have? Heresy!

The apostles were filled with the Holy Ghost in Acts 2. Yet in Acts 4, they asked for another infilling, for a higher dimension of the presence of God in their lives and they received it. So who can say God is in your life, so you do not need to ask for more of God? David said, “O Lord my God, early will I seek you; my soul longeth for you... They go from strength to strength...”

The righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith. We move from glory to glory. There are dimensions in glory. But these people preach damnable heresies - very sugar-coated poison. It tastes very sweet outside, looks very Scriptural, but very destructive inside.

Someone told me about one person from such a heretic setting who approached a married person for immoral issues and the person said, "How could you be talking like this being a person who knows the Word?" But he began to quote the Bible to defend his criminality. We

are in a very terrible generation. The Bible says the road is very narrow that leads to life, but the other is very wide and leads straight to hell.

What times are we in? We are in the times where they say your Christianity is in your heart. That is what a teacher said; anointed teacher of the Word of God. He said, "Who told you that God is looking on your outward?" That God is looking on the inside is very true, but He also said, "By their fruits you shall know them." By implication, if there is seed inside, it would produce fruit outside.

How do I know that there is an unclean spirit inside a man? I know it because he is unclean outside. How do I know that the man is mad, that he has the demon of insanity inside him? Because madness is all over his body. How do I know that there is a seducing spirit inside someone? Because there is seduction from head to toe -whether that person is a pastor's wife or a pastor himself, it does not matter - seduction inside is equal to seduction outside. Pride inside equals pride outside. So, whatever is on your inside is going to reflect on your

outside, for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. Whatever is in the heart will overflow to the outside.

“God does not look on your outside; He looks on your inside.”

“Pastor ride on! That is the Word! Preach it, man of God!”

Meanwhile, the pastor is a man of men. He is preaching heresies to thousands of people and they are celebrating. The tragedy is that all those people will descend on that pastor in hell, by the

time they all meet there. They will tell him he is the reason they are there.

A young man saw a vision some time ago in our church, after an anointing service. He became drowsy and remained so from the morning anointing service till evening. At about 8:30PM, the Lord took him off, and he was gone into the realm of the dead. The first place he appeared was hell. Then he said, "O Lord, what am I doing here? Why am I here?" He beheld unbearable, indescribable torment. He was taken from journey to journey, from place to

place, and then he came inside a cell like a cubicle where torments were going on upon a mother and a thirteen-year-old son inside. The boy was on his mother afflicting her in the same hell that they were. When our brother asked what happened, a screen appeared.

The woman had been sending her son all the time to go give messages to her boyfriend. Each time the boy returned home and the father asked where he was coming, he would tell the lie his mother asked him to tell: "I am coming from uncle's house." Coincidentally, his uncle

had the same name with the mother's boyfriend. And the father would just ask about the welfare of the uncle.

The woman was in adultery and the little boy was her messenger. One day, they were all in a vehicle travelling to a certain part of the country, and there was a ghastly accident on the road. Only the boy and the mother died, and they reported straight in hell. They asked what brought him to hell; he said he followed his mother there. The young man was tormenting the mother in the fire.

You know, the day will come when the people that the pastor led to hell will surround him in hell and apart from the general torment, they will want him to explain to them why he knew the truth and refused to tell it to them? It will be the same with any evangelist and teacher who is heretic.

We are in the time of people-appointed, people-pleasing teachers. But you are the one this generation is waiting for. The reason for this book is because God wants your voice to rise in the city where you are, in the nation where you

are and let the people know that not everything that glitters is gold, and that it is not everywhere the Bible is opened that God is being preached; that it is not everywhere a miracle takes place that God is working.

We are in a time of selective hearing - itching ears. The word itching ears is desire to hear something pleasant. Itching ears means selective hearing and selective obedience - a time when people congregate where they will hear what would please them. They leave the

place where what they want to hear is not available.

I remember someone, many years ago, who got angry that I preached about godly appearance and left our church. The last time I saw her, what a pitiable sight. Satan had done overwork on her life. They are people whose ears have turned from the truth.

Please understand this, pastors: It is not everyone who leaves the church does so because there is no care in the church, so do not kill yourself, especially if you are

standing for the truth. Not everyone who left the church left because you are not anointed or because they found someone more anointed than yourself. There are many who left because they cannot cope with the discipline of the Word. They cannot cope with the rigidity of the principles. They cannot cope with the kind of things you are hammering on all the times. And since they do not want to change, they rather leave than hear that all the time.

Itching ears!

People want to be told what they want to hear: “You will make it. It does not matter how you got the money, the wealth of the wicked is laid up for the just. Just bring it and let us use it to do the work of God.” They preach all manner of upside down, perverted Scriptures.

There are many who are looking for what they want to hear and in case you are a member of the church, do not follow anyone into heresy, do not follow anyone into the complacency of our generation because we all came into this

world individually. We will also leave individually. Every single one of us will give an account of himself to God. You do not have any friend that is friend enough to take you from your place of destiny and to take you into the realm of no supervision, no instruction, and low quality living.

This is a time of selective hearing. Be careful!

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

ADDICTION TO FABLES

*Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
hoping, trusting ever,
Till I see my savior's face,
Leave His presence never.*

-Fanny Jane Crosby

*And they shall turn away their ears
from the truth, and shall be turned unto
fables.*

2Timothy 4:4

You know what fables are? Chaff!

We are in the times when men will be addicted to fables, chaff, stories, fanfare, ice-cream.

One day, my wife and I went to minister in an area close to a certain church and when we had finished ministering, we decided to stop by that church. What the Minister of God stood on the altar telling multitudes was very chaffy. It was rigmarollish. It was like someone who owned the people and he was playing and toying with their destinies, not

saying anything in particular. Such an altar is a playground, very light – with nothing heavy, nothing weighty, and nothing that seems to be of any eternal consequence.

The question I asked myself in that place was, ‘Lord, what kept this people here?’ I know that if I were a member in that church, I would not sit there for one second. I have carried my Bible before and walked out of a church far back, as a student in the university. I sat there expecting to hear something, and I heard nothing. I could not waste my life there.

Time is too precious to sit hearing nothing. I had gone there a couple of times with the same sad experience. On this day, I was tired, so I had to leave.

Now I can understand better. It is really not the fault of the Minister or the fault of God, but that we have a generation of people who prefer fantasy to reality. They prefer the synthetic to the authentic. They are more in love with the shadow than the substance. They do not mind their time and life wasted, so they are okay there.

A people that prefer fantasy to reality, a people that prefer shadow to substance, a people that prefer plastic to the authentic, a people that are more excited about the temporal than the eternal, that is the generation we are in now. Once you talk about eternal things, they turn off their attention. When you talk about temporal, earthly things, they turn on their attention.

I realize it is not so much the fault of the Minister; it is not even the fault of the devil, but the fault of our generation. Today you can see a young man with a

normal hair, and all of a sudden he twists it like that of a mad man. That means he really envies the status of insanity and wishes he could become like an insane man. He was born normal, but insanity became appealing. That is the world we live in.

A man's trousers has to fall below his waist for dressing to make sense. They call it sagging. And you know it originated with prisoners in America. They were not allowed to wear belt in prison because they hang themselves with it in the prison. So, when they are

released from prison, since they do not have any belts, their trousers sag until they reach their home. Now, normal people looked at that and thought it is a fashion trend, so they are inviting imprisonment upon themselves and really enjoying the lifestyle of the prisoner. That is the kind of world we live in - a world of no reality.

In the name of fashion, people will wear one metre long eye lashes, one metre long fingernails. There is no reality, just shadows. Some people are so malformed that when God sends an angel

to minister to them, the angel could not identify them because the picture God gave the angel is different from the one they meet. God said, “This is my daughter, go and minister to her for me.” By the time the angel arrives, he cannot recognize the person. The person God sent him to, was dark complexioned. Now he has changed to a light complexioned fellow, and the angel is wondering, “But God sent me to a dark person.” It is a world of fantasy, a world of shadows.

The Lord told me some time ago, that humanity is galloping towards eternity at an alarming rate. He told me that hell is enlarging and heaven is not as populated. He said, “The battle for the souls of men is getting more intense, go forth, stand upon your feet.”

I do not know about you beloved, but I reject a crossless Gospel. I reject a costless Gospel. I reject a Gospel without sacrifice. If Jesus sacrificed Himself for me and for you, then any Gospel that is without a cross, without a cost, I reject it.

Some time ago, we bought a Belgium car. It was a Mercedes V-boot. I was travelling to Markurdi for a crusade and we were stopped somewhere by officers who demanded to see the particulars of the car. We showed them the particulars and they told me that the car dealer did not do the right thing as far as clearing was concerned. They said he did not pay the right Customs Duty.

I said to them, “How would I know? I went to buy a car. Was I to ask the car dealer if he paid the normal duty? I bought the car, and I am on the road

hurrying for a crusade. What are we going to do now?”

He said the normal fee we would pay is about so and so percentage of the price of the car. Then he said, “But if you pay that amount directly to the government, you know it will not benefit you and it will not benefit me. So, you should know what to do.”

I looked at the man like I was seeing a devil, and I said to him, “I am a man of God, and for your information, one dime

in form of bribe will not drop here today.”

He said okay, “Come and go make we see.”

I said to him, “Instead of dropping one naira with you, take the car. I am leaving now. I am going for a crusade. You cannot stop me. You can take the car.”

After a while, they said, “You can be on your way.”

I know there are Christians who, when no one is there, would say, “Okay, help

me please, I am in a hurry.” The way of Christianity has cost them nothing.

Paul said, “Watch thou in all things.” Since you know the time you are in, watch. Do not kill yourself and pervert the Gospel in order to gather people. It is better to pastor one hundred people to heaven than to pastor ten thousand to hell and go there with them. Watch. Be on alert. Guard yourself. Some people will come, claiming to be needing help but they only came to pull you down. Watch. We are in a dangerous strength-reducing season. Watch!

PART five

Wherein shall a young man cleanse his mind and cleanse his ways , by taking heed thereto according to your Word?....your Word have I hidden in my heart that I may not sin against you.

Psalms 119:9-11 (paraphrase mine).

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

SEVEN KEYS TO MAKING FULL PROOF OF MINISTRY

*O the pure delight of a single hour, that
before thy throne I spend, when I kneel
in prayer, and with thee, my God, I
commune as friend with friend.*

-Fanny Jane Crosby

*But watch thou in all things, endure
afflictions, do the work of an
evangelist, make full proof of thy*

ministry.6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 2Timothy 4:5-7

This chapter and the ones that follow, explore keys that will help you fulfill your destiny in God.

Beloved, as far as life and Ministry are concerned, it is important not just to start well but to end well. It is not the starting that is most important - because anyone can start - it is the end. What does it take

to end well? What does it take to make full proof of your Ministry? What does it take to meet the Lord and not be cast away? What does it take to pass through church and not end in hell?

1. WATCH THOU IN ALL THINGS.

What does it mean to watch?

It means to be alert, be awake, and be on guard.

Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord. Romans 12:11.

Understand that the enemies sow tares when people are asleep (Matthew

13:25). If you are not awake spiritually and mentally, you give room to the devil to plant his seed.

Also understand that Divine visitations are forfeited when men go to sleep. The Bible says the shepherds that were visited by the angel bringing the news of the birth of Jesus were the shepherds who were keeping watch over their sheep by night (Luke 2:8). There are many who have missed Divine visitation. There are many who have been victims of satanic plantings and all manner of traps because they slept

spiritually. Daniel received Divine visitation, the Bible says ‘in a night vision.’ It did not say ‘in a night dream’, the Bible says in a night vision. Night vision is a vision you saw in the night, not that you were asleep.

Paul said, watch in all things. And there are many things to watch.

1. Watch your soul

Watch your soul, for the enemy is after your soul. We have heard that Jezebel was after the head of Elijah, just like Herod’s wife was after the head of John,

the Baptist. There is a conspiracy from the pit of hell to take off your head spiritually and it is when you watch that you can escape that conspiracy.

2. Watch your flock

If God has made you a pastor, or God has made you a father, a mother, or a guardian, watch every soul under your care. Watch in prayer and watch by instruction. If you see your daughter coming home with a kind of dressing you do not understand, you have the right to rebuke her. If you see your son come

home with a hairstyle you do not understand, you have the right to rebuke him. As a pastor, if you see things going on in the congregation, which you do not understand, you have the right to speak and correct the situation.

During one of our vigils, while we were in church dancing and celebrating, I saw a young girl with a sleeveless dress, everywhere exposed, and she was dancing with hands lifted. I stood up from where I was and walked up to her. Then I told her to go behind, because she

was not allowed to stand where she was.

Watch pastor! You must watch the church because the devil has decided to send Jezebels and Delilahs into the church to rubbish your preaching; to antagonize and oppose what you stand for; to make it look as though you are a liar.

When you say what you stand for, watch the flock.

3. Watch your thought

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Proverbs 4:23

Watch your thought. The Action of today was the thought of yesterday. What the man thought about yesterday became his action today. Paul said, "Watch thou in all things." You remember the man Jimmy Swaggart. All that happened to him was just few minutes of pornography that got into his mind and he walked into disaster.

Watch your thought.

Wherein shall a young man cleanse his mind and cleanse his thought and cleanse his ways by taking heed thereto according to your Word. Your Word have I hidden my heart, that I may not sin against you. Psalms 119:9-11.

Watch your thought.

4. Watch your talk

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

Watch your communication. Watch your talk. Watch your utterance. Many have

been ruined because of what came out of their mouths.

5. Watch your (action) steps

Watch your steps - your actions. You must not be found everywhere. Watch your steps, for your steps determine your progress.

6. Watch your association

Who do you call your friend?

Watch your association. Watch the people you surround your life with? The destruction of Amnon was his

association with a demonic young man called Jonadab.

Who is your friend? Sampson was destroyed by association with a woman called Delilah. You want to fulfill your destiny? You want to make full proof of your Ministry? Then, not every pastor can be your friend. Because there are agents of the devil who call themselves pastors. There are herbalists wearing suits now, calling themselves pastors. Do not manage any association that does not comply with your life principles. Do not manage it.

Watch your association.

7. Watch your ears

Watch who speaks into your life. Watch who you give your ears to.

It was by listening to the serpent that Adam and Eve lost their destiny. Watch who you give your ears to. It was by consistently listening to Delilah that Sampson lost his life.

One woman said she was tired of her marriage, so she was going to pack out of the home. Her so-called friend asked her, “Do you have transport fare? I can

assist you to pack your things.” That was a devil.

Watch thou in all things. Nobody can watch your soul like you. The devil is looking for whom he may devour. Watch.

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

ENDURE HARDNESS

*To the old, rugged cross I will ever be
true, its shame and reproach gladly
bear;*

*Then He'll call me some day to my
home far away,*

Where His glory forever I'll share

-George Bennard.

Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. 2Timothy

2:3

What does it mean to endure hardness? It means be a winner not a quitter. To endure means to remain firm under fire, no matter how the fire is. It means to refuse to give up under pressure.

WHAT PRESSURE?

1. The pressure to compromise (your faith)

You have to endure the pressure to compromise your faith. Your lecturer

wants to commit immorality with you in order for you to pass his course, but you have to refuse that pressure. Your boss in office wants to deny your right in the office except you compromise; refuse it. Let the money go to hell if you have to compromise to get it. Refuse to bow for the pressure to compromise.

2. The pressure to doubt God

Refuse to bow to the pressure to doubt God. Some people in Ministry, after some experience, may begin to doubt

God. Refuse to bow to the pressure to doubt God.

3. The pressure to get an alternative to Divine solution

Abraham decided to bow to that pressure to get an alternative to the child of promise. As you know, that compromise is a problem in this world until tomorrow.

The Lord had earlier told us that because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold, but in Matthew 10:22, He said, “He that endureth to the end

shall be saved.” To see His intervention in your life and in your Ministry, endure to the end. To give up is to miss it completely.

If a man die, shall he live again? All the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come. Job 14:14

Your inheritance is a product of your endurance. Your inheritance in this world and in the world to come is a product of your endurance with God, endurance in Ministry, and endurance in standing for what is right.

When God said, to ‘endure hardness as a good soldier of Christ,’ I like you to understand that He is not talking about ‘hardship’.

So, the things that come to put you under pressure actually harden you spiritually. Pressure is the secret of the precious. Every time you press olive, oil comes out. Every time you put charcoal under pressure, diamond comes out. Everything that come to put your life under pressure in this high-pressured world, if you refuse to bow to their

pressure, then the anointing comes out in a greater dimension.

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

DO THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST

*Must I go and empty handed? Must I
meet my savior so?*

Not one soul with which to greet Him?

Must I empty-handed go?

-Charles Carroll Luther

...do the work of an evangelist...

2Timothy 4:5

It is worthy of note that Paul did not say to become an evangelist, but to do the work of an evangelist. What does that mean? No calling exempts anyone from soul winning - be it that of a teacher or that of a prophet or an apostle or a businessman, it does not exempt you from the duty of soul winning.

No one will be rewarded in heaven for how much promises he was able to claim. No one will be rewarded in

heaven for how beautiful his testimony was. No one will be rewarded in heaven for how their faith gave them a good place to live. No one will be rewarded for how much his faith gave him money or how much his faith gave him good dressing. No one will be rewarded for accuracy of prophecy. No one will be rewarded for the number of people who got their healing under his Ministry, for God is the healer.

Each will be rewarded for the number of souls he led from hell to heaven. Each will be rewarded for the number of

backsliders he restored back to God. Each person will be rewarded for the number of Christians he disciplined to make heaven. Let us stop wasting our time to do things that do not matter.

Do the work of an Evangelist.

In those days, a Christian was not completely dressed until tracts were in his pocket. Today we talk about tract and some people wonder what it is. In those days, the Christian man was always loaded, ready to preach in the bus, ready to preach in the taxi, ready to do morning

cry, ready to distribute tracts to everyone that comes his way.

Today, God is telling you to do the work of an evangelist. If you want to end in an eternity that is not regrettable, do the work of an evangelist.

Someone was given a vision of hell and he saw Christians there who failed to talk to their neighbours about God; who failed to do anything about the salvation of their loved ones; who failed to do anything about the state of their families

and communities as far as sin was concerned.

Do the work of an evangelist.

CHAPTER NINETEEN

FULFILL YOUR CALLING

And say to Archippus “ take heed to the ministry which you have received in the lord, that you may fulfill it”

Colossians 4:17

Stay in the calling God has given you. God is never committed to what He has not commanded. However, every calling in God is a high calling. There is not a calling in God that is a low calling. And

you will never be rewarded for what He has not commanded you to do.

Let me define success. Success in life is doing all you have been called of God to do and becoming all that you were created by God to be. Doing all you were called by God to do and becoming all you were created by God to become is success. If God called me to be a pastor, and I decided to be a consultant neurosurgeon, very popular and very famous and I helped so many people in that line, that achievement would be a waste of life.

What is success in life? It is doing all that you were called of God to do and becoming all you were created by God to become. Every other achievement is a waste of life and destiny. So what is your challenge here? To insist, all the time, on finding out what God wants you to do with your life, and in case you have not heard His spoken Word, go into His written Word and do all that the Bible commanded you to do, including soul winning, stewardship of your resources and every other thing He commands you to do.

Fulfill your calling.

I heard this story from a man of God in Nigeria. He said one man was a pastor in South Africa for twenty-one years. The Lord appeared to him and said, “I did not call you to be a pastor”. He was called to be a business man, to use his resources for the financing of the Gospel. He asked, “Lord, what must I do now?” And the Lord said, “Handover the Ministry,” and He showed him someone in the church.

“What about me?” the pastor asked the Lord. God said to him, “Become a faithful member of the church.”

There will be too many surprises in heaven. People will say to God, “We did so many mighty works in your name,” and the Lord will say, “I knew you not. While you were working, I was not aware.”

Fulfill your calling.

CHAPTER TWENTY

FIGHT A GOOD FIGHT

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 2Timothy 4:7

Paul said, ‘I have fought a good fight...’ He had made full proof of his ministry and he was telling someone else how to fight a good fight.

What does it mean to fight a good fight? It is to be a fighter and never turn your back on your enemy. To have a future with God, you must be a fighter in life. To have a future with God, in this life and in the life to come, you must be a fighter and never turn your back on the enemy.

WHAT TO FIGHT

1. Fight for the course of righteousness

Fight for there is a war and we are in battle. Fight for the course of

righteousness.

2. Fight against wickedness

Fight against wickedness in our generation. Pastor, fight it. Christian, fight it.

3. Fight the oppressor and his oppression

Be a fighter against the oppressor and his oppression. David fought oppression, Moses fought oppression, Elijah fought evil, and Mordecai fought evil.

4. Fight for the dethronement of the enemy

Anywhere you are found worldwide, fight for the dethronement of the enemy and his agenda in our generation; fight them. We live in the days where pastors have mouths that seem to have been sealed by the devil.

In the days of the Bible, it was not government that handled evil in the land; it was prophets. They spoke against evils from the altar with authority and

the devil bowed: evils of cultism, evils of sin.

Fight for the dethronement of the enemy.

5. Fight for the establishment of God's kingdom and dominion

Fight for the establishment of the rule of God in our land.

6. Fight against the flesh

The flesh is the enemy within. There is an enemy inside you that is worse than

any enemy around you. There is an enemy inside you that is worse than witches and wizards. That enemy almost prevented Moses from making heaven because of his anger. That enemy almost ruined David. It is on account of his weaknesses that the enemy killed Sampson before his time. It was his lust. The enemy within is the flesh. Fight it! Do not let your flesh usher you into a regrettable eternity. Fight against the flesh.

7. Fight against the system of the World

The world system is anti-God, it is anti-Christ, and everything in it is set up against God. That is why, when Christian brothers and sisters assist the world in their lifestyle, character and appearance, it becomes a very regrettable thing.

Fight the world system. The world calls stealing, fastness. They call immorality going out. They call bribery gratification or PR. So they legalize iniquity by specific languages they give them.

Fight the world system.

CHAPTER TWENTY-ONE

RUN THE RACE

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 2Timothy 4:7

“I have finished my course” means, I have run the race. You want to end well? You want an eternity that is exciting? You want to fulfill your Ministry? Run the race. Be a runner, a long distance runner. Be there for the long run not the short run. Do not be a person, a pastor, a

Minister that disappeared as soon as he appeared. Run the race.

To run the race also means to live with a sense of urgency. We do not have eternity to fulfill destiny. There must be a sense of urgency in what God has told you to do and in what you find your hands to do. 1 Samuel 21:8 says, “The king’s business requires haste.” If you are on the business or agenda of the King of kings, it requires haste. Whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing quick. That is what Jesus told Judas Iscariot,

“What thou doeth, do it quickly”. If it is worth doing at all, do it quickly.

Avoid procrastination. Do away with time-wasters in your life. Now is our salvation nearer than when we first believed. Make up your mind quickly. Avoid procrastination. Anyone around you who is wasting your time is wasting your life.

Pastors, do not waste the people's time. Do not waste their destiny. Stop telling stories on the altar. If you have nothing

to say, assign someone else who has something to say.

Do not be a time-waster and do not allow anyone to waste your time. Live with a sense of urgency. Do not postpone repentance until tomorrow. “What is even your life? It is a vapour that appears for a while and disappears” (James 4:14). Do not postpone doing the right thing until tomorrow. Live with a sense of urgency. If you have someone to forgive, forgive him in a hurry for you do not know what tomorrow holds. If

you have a restitution to make or amends to make somewhere, make it in a hurry.

Run the race.

Esau did not come on time, so Jacob took the blessing.

Amasa did not come on time.

Then said the king to Amasa, Assemble me the men of Judah within three days, and be thou here present. So Amasa went to assemble the men of Judah: but he tarried longer than the set time which he had appointed him. And David said to Abishai, Now shall Sheba the

*son of Bichri do us more harm than did
Absalom: take thou thy lord's servants,
and pursue after him, lest he get him
fenced cities, and escape us. 2 Samuel
20:4-6*

Amasa was doing the right thing but he delayed and David said to Abishai, since Amasa has delayed, take his place. When you waste your time, you lose your place in God, your place in this life, and your place in the life to come. I say here again, to waste time is to lose place. It is to lose place with God in this world and in the world to come. There

are many people in hell now who kept on procrastinating and death came before that tomorrow arrived.

FINALLY

KEEP THE FAITH!

“Faith of our fathers!

*We will strive To win all nations unto
thee,*

*And through the truth that comes from
God*

Mankind shall then be truly free.”

- Henry F. Hemy

I have fought a good fight, I have
finished my course, I have kept the faith:

2Timothy 4:7

This is the final key to making full proof of your Ministry.

Now say these:

I will watch in all things;

I will endure hardness;

I will do the work of an evangelist;

I will fulfill my calling;

I will fight the good fight;

I will run the race and,

I will keep the faith.

Yes, I will keep the faith.

Now I like you to understand that Christianity is called the faith.

And the Word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith. Acts 6:7, emphasis mine.

Christianity is called the faith. Jude verse 3 says, "... ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." To contend earnestly is to fight to maintain the

sanctity of the faith. The kind of faith that yesterday's generation handed to us, we must hand it to the next generation.

Keep the faith.

We had a broadcast not too long ago and an old man from Rivers State who watched that broad cast, I think he is in his sixties or seventies, called our church line and he said, "I never knew that the kind of Gospel we heard in our time is still available. I thought it had died. Continue preaching, for I am

reminded of what we heard the days when we came to the Lord.”

The reason why there is shortage of solid Christians today is because there is scarcity of solid Word. I mean the Word that is able to save souls.

Pastor, keep the faith because the faith - the Christian faith - is being endangered. Do you know what is called endangered species of animals? It is animals that are so attacked until their species is almost wiped out, and then a law is made that no one should hunt that species anymore.

Christianity - the faith as it used to be - the rugged faith of fasting and prayer, evangelism, holiness, character, integrity and “marriage is honorable in all and the bed undefiled”; that rugged, ancient faith is being endangered.

Do you want to reach your God-ordained destiny? Refuse modern Christianity! Refuse Information and Communication Technology (ICT) age Christianity. Refuse civilized Christianity. The Christianity where a brother cannot preach to anyone, refuse it.

What are you to defend? I call it primitive Christianity, authentic Christianity, Apostolic Christianity. Fight for it. Defend it. Preach it. Stand by it. Do not modify it. Do not modernize it. Do not play it down. Do not play it low. The time may come the people will think you are an extremist. Time may come that a fellow pastor will persecute you but keep the faith. Faithful is He that called you. It was not other pastors who called you. Faithful is He that called you. He also will do it.

Keep the faith.

When people encounter you, let them encounter genuineness. When people encounter you in your place of work, when they encounter you in the family, let them encounter originality.

When people look and they see that there are so many fake Christians, so many hypocritical Christians, so many people bringing down the Name of Jesus; when they encounter you, let them be able to say, "At least we have seen an original." Be so authentic that even when you have not yet spoken, they can feel it.

In a previous chapter, I have shared a part of this story I am about to share. I was in London some time ago and they were trying to check us into a hotel. A young receptionist from North Africa, looked at me and said, “What you have I want it.” I asked someone, “Did anyone tell this lady who we are?” They said, “No.”

By the time we finished the modalities of the checking in, I took her by the side in the lobby there, and I said, “Tell me more about it.”

She said, “I see that you have something.”

I said, “It is Jesus Christ. He is my Lord and Saviour. He has given me the power that changed my life.”

She said, “I need that power.”

She was of another religion. But right there she was led to Christ and salvation.

Is it possible for people to look at you and see genuine authenticity and not something plastic? Keep that primitive faith. Contend for it. Do not adjust it. Do

not amalgamate it, and do not mix it up. Keep it. The world is in need of the genuine.

When was the last time the average pastor would fast and pray not because he needed a car but because he wanted lives changed?

In America now, I heard that the average prayer life of a pastor is fifteen minutes. So Ministers are divorcing their wives and divorcing their husbands like water and business continues as usual.

We cannot get ancient results until we practice (carry on) ancient practices. Let them say you are anti-social. Continue to be anti-social. Let them say you are no more there, be primitive. It is the primitivism of the people like Peter, James and John that have given them thrones in heaven.

Do not be a modern Christian. Keep the faith!

VERY VERY IMPORTANT

Beloved, before you drop this book, I intend to address the most important issue both in time and eternity. It is the matter of the soul. It is the matter of life. It is the matter of life after death.

Please note the following:

A: LIFE IS TERMINAL.

And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: –

Hebrews 9:27

Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return

*unto God who gave it. Ecclesiastes
12:7*

B: DEATH IS NOT THE END OF LIFE.

Beyond death, life continues either in heaven with God or in hell with satan.

And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Daniel 12:2

The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.

Psalm 9:17

*And there shall in no wise enter into it
anything that defileth, neither
whatsoever worketh abomination, nor
maketh a lie: but they which are written
in the Lamb's book of life. Revelation
21:27*

**C: HOW YOU LIVE ON EARTH
DETERMINES WHERE YOU WILL
END IN ETERNITY.**

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole
matter:

*Fear God, and keep his
commandments: for this is the whole*

duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God. Romans 14:12

**D: WHO YOU LIVE FOR
DETERMINES WHO YOU LIVE
WITH IN ETERNITY.**

*Neither is there salvation in any other:
for there is none other name under*

*heaven given among men, whereby we
must be saved. – Acts 4:12*

*Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the
truth, and the life: no man cometh unto
the Father, but by me. – John 14:6*

Beloved, in order not to end in a regrettable eternity in everlasting flames and torment, you must answer the following questions with all sincerity and accuracy:

1. Who are you living for? Who controls your life? Who directs your actions and lifestyle? Is it self, the world or Christ?

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. – Philippians 1:21

2. What are the controlling desires of your life? What do you desire above every other thing in life? What drives you? Is it God, worldly pleasure or self?

One thing have I desired of the Lord, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple. – Psalm 27:4

3. What is your public testimony? Do you represent Christ to your world? Are you living an exemplary Christian life to the world around you? Who do they think you are?

And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch. —

Acts 11:26

*... be thou an example of the believers,
in word, in conversation, in charity, in
spirit, in faith, in purity. – 1 Timothy
4:12*

4. Does God know you as His Own? Is He proud of you as His child? Can you say that He is pleased with the way you are living your life?

*Nevertheless the foundation of God
standeth sure, having this seal, The
Lord knoweth them that are his. And,
Let everyone that nameth the name of*

Christ depart from iniquity. – 2

Timothy2:19

*And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? – Job
1:8*

5. What are you looking forward to in eternity? Are you sure that a pleasant welcome awaits you? If you had died before this time, where do you think you

deserve to be, considering your action, lifestyle and life's priorities?

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. – 2Timothy 4:6-8

Beloved, are your answers in the affirmative to all of the above questions? If not, it means you either need to surrender your life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ by accepting His sacrificial death on Calvary for you or you need to re-dedicate your life to Jesus Christ.

IF SO, PRAY THIS PRAYER WITH ME:

Lord Jesus, I come before You today to surrender my life completely to You. I have lived a self-centered life that is far separated from God. I have had

priorities that are not eternity-centered. I have always lived in rebellion, disobedience and sin up till now.

Lord, I am sorry for the way that I have lived and I ask for Your forgiveness and mercy. Lord, please cleanse my sins by Your Blood and take Your place of leadership and rulership in my life. Fill my heart Lord with the right desires and priorities. Deliver me from the vanity and fantasies of this world. Give me the grace to say no to sin and compromise. Give me the grace to live in

righteousness and represent You well to my world.

Help me escape the tragedy of eternity in hell. Help me Lord to make Heaven at the end of my journey on earth. Help me Lord to live both in the consciousness of Your Presence and of eternity. Continuously reveal to me everything that would make me unworthy of Heaven.

Thank You Lord for hearing and answering me in Jesus' Name, I pray. Amen.

If you prayed this prayer, please do the following:

i. Send to us, your name, phone number and contact address by email: <mailto:info@dunamisgospel.org> or by phone: +234 803 3200 320.

ii. Become serious with God by identifying with a righteousness and eternity-conscious church.

iii. Study your Bible daily to receive the Word from God.

iv. Speak to God daily in prayer and let Him know your feelings and challenges.

v. Disconnect from every wrong association. Don't follow them to hell if they won't follow you to Heaven.

vi. Speak to others about God. Share your testimony of transformed life. Be instrumental in assisting someone to escape hell.

vii. Repent promptly. Do not sleep over unconfessed sins. Apply the Blood over your soul for cleansing continuously. Live eternity-ready.

The Lord bless you.

IF YOU HAVE BEEN INSPIRED AND BLESSED BY THIS BOOK WE WILL LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Connect with Dr. Paul and his ministry via:

Website: <http://www.Dunamisgospel.org>

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/DrPastorPaulI>

Twitter:

<http://www.twitter.com/DrPaulEnenche>

YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/DrPastorPaulEr>

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr Pastor Paul Enenche is a trained Medical Doctor, called of God into full time ministry, with a heavy Apostolic and Prophetic mantle for the restoration of human lives and dignities. His ministrations are characterized by deep undiluted insights from the Word of God, accurate Word of Knowledge and the demonstration of the power of God in Supernatural healings, miracles, signs and wonders. His ministry is geared towards causing our generation to:

1. Experience God's Person and Presence in our lives,
2. Realize our true purpose for existence,
3. Comprehend our full potential in life,
4. Discover God's life-changing and life-lifting principles,
5. Connect with God's power to overcome the negative forces of life and above all, to
6. End our journey with God in eternity in Heaven and to escape the torments of hell.

He is the Senior Pastor of Dunamis International Gospel Centre, with the headquarters situated beside the Old Federal Secretariat, Area 1, Abuja—the Federal Capital Territory of Nigeria. They currently run five services every Sunday and two over-flooded services every Wednesday evening, among other services. His passion is to see that the earth be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. As a result, his ministry is involved in aggressive spread of the Gospel via every possible media—the

Commission's Television Station—
Dunamis TV, their 24/7 Web-TV and
Web-Radio broadcast as well as campus
revival meetings, crusades and
aggressive church plantings.

He is married to Dr Becky, a beautiful,
intelligent, submissive, supportive and
hardworking Medical Doctor, also
called of God into full time ministry.
And together, they have four blessed
children.

OTHER TITLES BY DR. PAUL ENENCHE

Career and workplace wisdom

21 foolish things people do

30 secrets to the top

Who are you?

Thou art my battle axe

15 kingdom strategies for survival

10 principal secrets of principal people

Be wise and rise

22 laws of life (volume 1)

22 laws of life (volume 2)

Reason for living

You can purchase a copy of any of the above titles at you favourite online store.

Visit <http://www.dunamisgospel.org> for more details.
