

# Keys

*To The*

# Kingdom Success

The Biblical Secrets For Unparalleled  
Success In Life: Here and In Eternity

EMEKE ODILI

KEYS TO THE KINGDOM SUCCESS

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*The Biblical Secrets for Unparalleled Success in Life: Here and  
In Eternity*

Emeke Odili

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N.B: Except otherwise stated, all scriptural quotations in this book, are taken from the King James Version of the Holy Bible.

## DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to The Almighty God—The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Who dwells in the light that no man can approach unto. This book is dedicated to God for the salvation and eternal Success of mankind all over the World.

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## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

My most reverential acknowledgement goes to God the Father, The Son and The Holy Ghost. Who gave me the inspiration and strength to write this book. For the eternal success of mankind in his kingdom. And for the advancement of the gospel of his eternal, heavenly kingdom. To him alone be the glory, honour and power forevermore; in Jesus Name! Amen.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Through the scriptures we understand that God's utmost desire for his children is good success. God desires every of his children to be successful in every area of life. He wants us to succeed in our spiritual lives. He wants us to succeed physically in our health. He wants us to succeed in our marriages. He wants us to succeed in our ministries.

In short, he wants all round success for every one of us. But ultimately, he wants us to succeed into his eternal paradise, to live forever in bliss with him. He wants us to receive the crown of life at the end of our journey here on earth. He wants us to be faithful unto the end; so we can eat of the tree of life. Because he knows if our success ends only in the temporal things of this earth, then we are eternal failures.

The Great Apostle Paul knew this fact very well and that is why he says; "if it is only in this world we have hope in Christ, then we are the most miserable of all men" (1Corinthians 15:19). Then the Lord Jesus Christ also asks; "For what does it profit a man, if he gains the whole world; and loses his soul?" (Matthew 16:26).

So this book is out to expound to us the true meaning of success in God's kingdom; as opposed to the world's notion of success.

Then once we understand the true meaning of success in God's Kingdom, we will also see the scriptural keys delivered to us by God, for attaining this success in his kingdom. Both now in this present world, and in eternity with him in paradise.

As you receive these keys and apply them in your spiritual walk with God here on earth—to the very end, you are guaranteed to emerge a great success in the kingdom of God; forever in Jesus Name. Because these scriptural keys are faithful and true.

As you read, I pray the Lord that these words become life in your spirit. And I also pray that as you read these words, they will abide in you as you abide in them; in the name of Jesus Christ!

Be blessed as you read,

Emeke Odili

## 2 THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Kingdom as translated in the New Testament is from the Greek word "Basileia" meaning: rule, dominion and realm. It means royal right or authority. A kingdom also means a territory or realm that is governed or ruled by a King.

From scriptures, it is clear that our Lord Jesus' coming to the earth was to establish the Kingdom of God here on earth. His birth; his ministry; his death and resurrection were for that sole purpose. And of course, he is the king and Lord of this same kingdom of God, he came to establish.

He governs this kingdom of God for the Father by the help of the Holy Ghost—who is the Power of the Godhead. Here is what the scriptures says concerning this in Isaiah 9:6-7

*"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called wonderful, counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the prince of peace. Of the increase of his government there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."*

This kingdom of God, the Lord Jesus Christ came to establish is also referred to in some portions of the scriptures as the kingdom of heaven. So according to scriptures, the kingdom of heaven is another name for the kingdom of God.

### **The Phases of God's Kingdom**

From scriptures we can understand that there are majorly two phases to the kingdom of God. And these are:

- 1) **Heart Reign:** The number one and the primary phase of God's kingdom, is the reign, rule or dominion of Christ in the heart of an individual by faith (Ephesians 3:17). So an individual that submits his heart to the dominion or influence of God; in his heart through the Holy Spirit; is already in the Kingdom of God—right here and now.

He is already a son of God. And as such, he is already qualified for the second phase of God's Kingdom. Immediately someone submits his life to the rule of God in his heart, he gets delivered from the power (or kingdom) of darkness into the kingdom of the dear Son of God—Jesus Christ. That is, the spiritual kingdom of God in the heart or spirit.

- 2) **The Territorial Reign:** The second phase of God's kingdom is the territorial reign of God over all his saints and ministering spirits (Angels). Heaven is God's Territorial Kingdom. It is the realm of God's kingdom. Everyone who submits himself or herself to God's reign in the heart, already has access to the territorial realm of God's Kingdom both now and hereafter...

This realm is called heaven. And it will finally become the New Jerusalem (New Heaven and New Earth) after the end of this world (See Ephesians 2:6-7; Revelation 4:1-11; Revelation 21:1-7)

## **The Key Features of The Kingdom of God**

The two phases of God's Kingdom we have discussed above, is characterized by four striking Features from scriptures. These are:

- 1) **Everlasting Peace:** *"Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end..."* – Isaiah 9:7

This scripture shows us clearly that the kingdom, the Lord Jesus Christ came to earth to establish, is characterised by unending peace. So if anyone is in the kingdom of God, he enjoys supernatural peace.

The kind of peace that is not accessible to the ordinary man; regardless of what he does or possesses. To this end the Lord Jesus says; *"Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you..."*—John 14:27.

By *"not as the world giveth, give I unto you"*, the Lord is saying the kind of peace he gives his children, is not as any kingdom or government of this world gives. Because the kind of peace any government of this world gives, is at best, imperfect and temporal. But the peace the Lord gives his children is absolutely perfect and endures forever.

God's peace to the children of his kingdom is available in all condition. God's peace is obtainable in times of great goings and also in the times of turmoil. And of course, this divine peace is accessible to God's children both in the life here and hereafter. And it is the work of the Holy Ghost in us.

- 2) **Righteousness—Justice or Equity:** “...upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with **JUDGMENT AND WITH JUSTICE** from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”-- Isaiah 9:7

Continuing the above scripture from where we left off in the first feature above; we see that another prominent feature of the kingdom of God that Christ the Son of God, came to establish is righteousness—judgment, justice or equity.

So the kingdom of God is a kingdom of justice. There is no partiality in God’s kingdom. Good deeds, as well as recalcitrant evil deeds, are justly rewarded and punished by God. God is not a respecter of any man. He will never punish the guiltless; neither will he justify the guilty. And along the same line, every child of God’s kingdom is identified with a just lifestyle. A child of God is kind to all. But hates wickedness in any fashion.

Anyone who claims to be a child of God and his kingdom; and yet delights in and practices unrighteousness, is a liar and has not known God (1 John 1:6).

- 3) **Divine Joy:** “*For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost*”—Romans 14:17

According to this scripture above, a striking feature of God’s kingdom—both here and hereafter—is divine Joy that is given by the Holy Spirit; which indwells every children of God’s kingdom. The word of God calls this joy an unspeakable joy (1Peter 1:8). In other words, it is a kind of joy that cannot be properly described by any human word.

There is nothing on earth that can give the kind of supernatural, ecstatic Joy the Lord gives to his children. Not alcohol, marriage, children or any material thing in this whole world can ever give the kind of Joy the Lord gives to his children by his Holy Spirit.

And like the peace of God, this joy of the Lord can be experienced by a child of the kingdom, even when in adverse situation or otherwise. And of course, the eternal kingdom of God in heaven is a home of everlasting, supernatural bliss.

- 4) **Divine Power**—Miraculous or Supernatural Power (dynamis) and Authoritative Power (exousia)— “*For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power*” –1Corinthians 4:20

From the above scriptural text, the word of God reveals to us yet another awesome feature of the Kingdom of God. And that is, power. The word of God says, the kingdom of God is not in word. In other words, it is not about scholarly or mere words. Rather,

the kingdom of God is about power. It is about the demonstration of divine Power.

Divine Power is in two dimensions. The miraculous or the supernatural power of God; translated from the Greek word 'dynamis'. And the authoritative power of God, translated from the Greek word 'exousia'. So the above scripture is telling us that the kingdom of God is identified with the demonstration of divine authority and miraculous power.

So every child of God's kingdom is recognised by the demonstration of divine power. And here is what Jesus says along the line of this truth;

*"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 serpent; and if they drink any deadly thing it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover"—Mark 15:15-18*

## **Qualifications For the Kingdom of God**

Below are the two scriptural qualifications for the kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Heaven:

- 1) **Being Born Again:** *"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3)*

The Lord clearly says from the above scripture, that without being born again, no one can see the kingdom of God. So the number one qualifier for seeing the kingdom of God; now and hereafter, is to be born again by the Spirit of God. And you can easily get born again by repenting of your sins and receiving Jesus as your Lord and personal Saviour through faith in your heart. The Lord Jesus speaking says;

*"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life"*

So we gain access into the kingdom of God by repenting of our sins. And by believing in Jesus, the Son of God in our hearts.

- 2) **Godliness:** *"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness,*

*revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God'*—Galatians 5:19-21.

The above scripture says; anyone who practices the above mentioned works of the flesh and such likes shall not inherit the kingdom of God. This means if we must inherit the kingdom of God, we must depart from the works of the flesh and walk in godliness or in the Spirit. Having been saved, we need to also live a sanctified life to be guaranteed of our inheritance of the kingdom of God or the kingdom of Heaven...

For the word of God says; "*follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord'*"—Hebrews 12:14. This scripture tells us that without pursuing peace with all men and pursuing after holiness (Being set apart to God and separation from sin) no man shall see the Lord. And of course, if we cannot see the Lord, we definitely cannot see his kingdom.

Thus, having entered into the kingdom of God by grace, through faith in Christ Jesus, we maintain our position in the kingdom by godly living. This is the saving faith. The faith that goes along with godliness.

### 3 WHAT IS THE KINGDOM SUCCESS?

The world as well as many ignorant Christians all over the world, has a general, wrong notion of success. In the world, someone is said to be successful, majorly based on some earthly achievements; as well as material acquisitions.

Someone is considered a success if he can raise a business to the point of making good profit consistently. When someone amasses allots of financial wealth, regardless of which ever means it is gotten, the world consider him successful.

If someone gets an excellent university degree, he can also be congratulated as a success. And that, notwithstanding the fact that the person might have gotten the degree through some corrupt means. As a matter of fact, when some people are told that someone got his achievement through illegal means, they help out with an excuse on behalf of the person...

They say, even if the person achieved the result through illegal means, it is still not easy. They still go ahead to celebrate the person in his ill gotten achievement. Then as for many ignorant Christians, like the world, they are also deluded with the thinking that material achievement is the yardstick for Christian success or godliness...

They wrongly believe that the believers that have more earthly achievements are more consecrated to God than those who have little or no achievements. To this group of believers, here is what the word of God says;

*"Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out..."—1 Timothy 6:5-7*

#### **What Then is The kingdom Success?**

As we delve into the true meaning of success in the kingdom of God, let us consider the words of the Apostle Paul in his epistle to Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:6-8;

*"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"*

From this scripture above, the meaning of true success in God's kingdom can be easily deduced as follows:

- 1) Kingdom success is fulfilling God's plan and purpose for our lives
- 2) Kingdom success is receiving and keeping the faith of Christ to the very end
- 3) Kingdom success is laying hold on the crown of righteousness on the last day.

### **God's Plan and Purpose for All His Children**

Every child of God has a divine plan and purpose for his existence here on earth. There is general plan and purpose of God for every born again child of God. This plan of God for his children can also be referred to as divine assignments.

There is a general divine assignment for every believer. And at the same time, there is also specific divine assignment for some individual believers.

For the general divine assignment, the Lord commissions every believer to bear fruit. The Lord says; *"ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he may give it you"*—John 15:16

Fruit here, refers to the fruit of godliness (fruit of the Spirit) and fruit of souls. It is God's purpose that every of his children should be conformed to the image of his Son, Jesus Christ (Romans 8:29). It is God's plan and purpose for every believer to become like his Son Jesus Christ. Both in character and in demonstration of divine power.

Then concerning the fruit of souls; while the Lord was about ascending up to heaven after his resurrection, he commanded all of us to teach his gospel. To every nation of the world and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Ghost (Matthew 28:19).

### **God's Specific Assignments for Some Believers**

Apart from the general assignment of God to every believer, he also gives some individual believers some specific assignments for the advancement of his kingdom here on earth. The word of God says;

*"Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men... And he gave some, prophets; and some evangelists; and some pastors and teachers for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the*

*body of Christ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”—Ephesians 4:8,11-12*

From this scripture, we see that apart from the general assignment, God also gives some of his children special ministerial assignment; for the perfection of his children here on earth. And the effective fulfillment of these divine assignments here on earth, like our Lord Jesus did, is what we call success in the kingdom of God.

The Apostle Paul's statements as he got close to the end of his life here on earth, is a copy of our Lord Jesus' statement while he was about to be crucified. Here are the statements I am referring to...

*"...I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." – John 17:4*

The statement of a kingdom success, at the end of life here on earth is; *"I have finished the work which thou gavest me"*. It's not *"I have achieved all my achievables"*. So kingdom success is delivering on God's assignment for our lives. And of course, we deliver by the help of the Holy Spirit of God in us; as we yield to his help and leadings at all times.

### **Receiving and Keeping the Faith of Christ to The End**

Then from the second part of Paul's success statement, which reads; *"I have kept the faith"*, we defined kingdom success as *"Receiving and keeping the faith of Christ to the very end"*. It is a great success and fortune for someone to receive the faith of Christ into his heart.

But it is the ultimate success to keep the faith to the very end of one's life here on earth. There are so many people of all ages, who never receive the faith of Christ till they leave this world. And there are many folks of all ages, who receive the faith of Christ. But only very few keep the faith to the very end of their lives here on earth. So a true success in God's kingdom, is the one who against all oppositions, keep the faith of Christ to the very end.

To this end, the Lord Jesus says;

*"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed"—John 8:31*

### **Laying Hold on the Crown of Righteousness on the Last Day**

Finally, we get our third definition of the kingdom success from these statements from the Apostle Paul; which reads; *"Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day"*.

The ultimate success of anyone in the kingdom of God, is being crowned by God with the crown of righteousness on the last day. And of course, this crown is an incorruptible crown

that endures forever and never perishes.

So as we can see scripturally, success in God's Kingdom is not about earthly material achievements. As opposed to the world's notion of success, amassing of earthly wealth is never the biblical yardstick for measuring success in the kingdom of God. Rather it is ultimately how well we fulfill God's plans and purposes for our lives.

It is about receiving and keeping the faith of Christ Jesus, to the very end of one's life here on earth. Then finally, it is about laying hold on the crown of righteousness on the last day, from the Almighty God—the great king of our great celestial kingdom.

In summary, KINGDOM SUCCESS IS FAITHFULNESS TO THE DIVINE FAITH AND VISION.

### **Does This Mean Prosperity Is Not For Christians?**

Inasmuch as we have been able to establish the scriptural truth concerning the kingdom success, it does not in any way invalidate the scriptural truth of Christian prosperity. The word of God says, God has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3) – and they include material things.

The word of God also says, Jesus became poor, that we through his poverty might become rich (2 Corinthians 8:9). The Bible tells us that all things in this world and in the world to come are ours (1 Corinthians 3:21) and these also include material things. One scriptural truth does not invalidate the other.

Rather, they supplement each other. If we are to be perfect in our faith towards God, we must accept every scriptural truth for exactly what it is. We do not have the right to choose the one to accept and the one to discard. Doing so will amount to rebellion. Our God, the God of all righteousness, is also the God of incomparable riches. The word of God in the book of Revelations 5:12 reads:

*"Saying with a loud voice, worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing"*

We see clearly that riches is among the provisions the Lord received by his atoning death on the cross. And of course, he received all of them for us. 'Riches' as used in the above scripture is not connotative, but denotative. As we can see it clearly specified along with the other provisions.

So yes, prosperity is definitely for the present day, redeemed Christians.

Nevertheless, material prosperity does not outrightly mean success in the kingdom of God. Prosperity is one of God's provisions for his children; for life and godliness here on earth. So it is a means to an end—not an end in itself.

And also the prosperity of a believer in any area of life can never be a yardstick for measuring success in the kingdom of God. To measure kingdom success with material prosperity, is to be destitute of scriptural truth (See 1 Timothy 6:5-7).

One can be materially prosperous here on earth, and fail in the kingdom of God. At the same time, one can be blessed in everything and yet be successful in the kingdom of God. Examples of such successful saints include our father in the faith, Abraham and Job the upright man.

Now having gotten a good understanding of what the kingdom success is all about. And what it is not, let us now see the biblical keys to the kingdom success.

Every other chapter in this book will be delivering to us, the biblical secrets to the Kingdom success we have just talked about. These keys will enable us become and remain faithful to the Faith of Christ and our divine assignments to the very end.

## 4 THE KEY OF FAITH

According to the scriptures, the journey to the Kingdom success, begins and ends with faith in God. That is, faith in the person of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Without faith in Christ Jesus, success in the Kingdom of God is not in view. Triumph or victory in God's kingdom begins with us believing in Jesus Christ as the only begotten Son of God.

As we go deep into this number one key of success in God's kingdom—faith, let us start with the definition as given in the scriptures...

### **What is Faith?**

From the popular bible chapter of faith, below is the definition of faith:

*"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen"*—(Hebrews 11:1)

This scripture above says, faith is the substance (support) for things hoped for. And it goes further to say, faith is the evidence (proof, token) of things not seen. From this scriptural definition of faith, we can summarize in a clearer sentence that, *"faith is assurance or confidence in God"*. Faith is the assurance in the heart of a man concerning what we expect from God.

It is our guaranteed confidence in God concerning the things that are not materially visible. Faith is a spiritual guarantee in the heart of a man. And this spiritual guarantee in God, in the heart of a man, is the sole work of the Holy Spirit.

This spiritual assurance in God can never be initiated by any human technique or process. It is solely the work of the Holy Spirit in the heart of man. When this divine faith is put in the heart of a man, the invisible things and promises of God, become as real as the physical things.

When our hearts as believers are flooded with this divine confidence and assurance...

We can then like the Apostle Paul assert thus: *"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but*

*the things which are not seen are eternal”.*

## **The Redemptive Faith**

Regardless of whatever someone does or does not do here on earth, if he does not receive Jesus into his heart by faith, the person is eternally doomed. Let us read what the scripture says concerning this matter:

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life... He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”—John 3:16, 18*

From this scripture above, the Lord says whosoever believes in him shall not perish, but have everlasting life. That is, the person who believes in Jesus, instantly steps into kingdom success. And if the person keeps the faith to the very end, he becomes an eternal, kingdom success. In 1John 5:4-5 the word of God says:

*“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God”*

This scripture says whatsoever or whosoever is born of God, overcomes the world. And that this victory that overcomes the world is our faith. That is, our faith in Jesus as the Son of God. Having stepped into the kingdom success, through this redemptive faith in Christ Jesus, we are to continue in a lifestyle of faith; to remain successful to the very end.

For the word of God says; *“the just shall live by his faith”* (Habakkuk 2:4).

## **The Lifestyle of Faith**

We have defined kingdom success as being faithful to our divine assignment to the end. And of course, without a lifestyle of faith, it is practically impossible to deliver on any divine assignment. It is one thing to repent of our sins and believe in God for our salvation. After being born again, we need a walk of faith with God in order to deliver on our divine assignments.

The bible says all the saints who obtained a good report, got it through faith (Hebrew 11:39). And faith in this context talks about the lifestyle of faith. As we discuss faith as a key to the kingdom success, we are going to delve into the scriptural secrets on how to live a lifestyle of faith... As we press towards the goal of kingdom success.

The lifestyle of faith for any believer in Christ Jesus, begins with the understanding that...

## **You Have as Much Faith That You Will Ever Need**

The number one reason for the little or weak manifestation of faith of many believers... is the lack of understanding that they have all the faith they will ever need in them already. And of course, to have something that you are not aware of is as good as not having it at all. Because what you are not aware of is within your reach, you can never make use of.

For instance, a person may have lots of wealth willed to her by a relative before his death. But if she never gets any information about the dead person's will to her, she would still live in poverty all her life. In spite of all the wealth that has been bequeathed to her.

This is definitely the case of many Christians concerning faith and other spiritual provisions of God for the children of his kingdom. And this is why the bible says, "*My people perish for lack of knowledge*".

Concerning faith, here is what the scripture says:

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

This scripture above says none of us should think more highly of himself than he ought to think. That is, no believer should have an over estimation of himself. But rather, we should think soberly or moderately as God hath dealt to or endowed every man the measure of faith. Every man here talks about every Christ believer.

Every believer in Christ Jesus, including you and me, has the same measure of faith. So if you are already born again, you have the same measure of faith as the Apostle Paul had. You have the same measure of faith as your Pastor has. No believer has more faith than you; neither do you have more faith than any other believer.

Now let us see another scripture to establish this scriptural truth:

*"We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak"—2 Corinthians 4:13*

Again this scripture tells us that we all have the same spirit of faith. So it is established that no believer has a higher or lesser faith than any other believer. As a matter of fact, the Lord Jesus tells us, we only need a mustard seed size of faith to move mountain. He says with a mustard seed size of faith, nothing shall be impossible unto us (Matthew 17:20).

You do not actually need an apple or a coconut size of faith to move any mountain. The faith you already have, deposited in you by God at salvation; is enough for you to move any mountain of life; and do the miraculous. Once you grasp this very particular secret of divine faith very well...

Then you have a firm foundation of faith to be able to walk with God, in attaining success in

life like Enoch and the other saints: who obtained a good report through faith.

Now that we have gotten the understanding that we all have all the faith we need for success in life and God's kingdom... The next scriptural truth we must know about the divine faith, is that...

### **Faith is a Gift of Grace, Not of Works**

Similar to the above clarification we have made about faith, we need to also understand that God's faith is a gift of grace, not of works. Below is what the scripture says concerning this...

*"For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works lest any man should boast"*—Ephesians 2:8-9

This scripture is similar to Romans 12:3 we have studied in the last point above. It says we are saved by grace through faith. And that the faith with which we are saved, is not of ourselves. In other words, it is not by our making or merits. It says, it is the gift of God. Which is an unmerited favour from God to man. Then verse 9 says: *"Not of works lest any man should boast"*

So like the Apostle said in Romans 12:3 that we should not think of ourselves beyond measure. He tells us here again that our faith is not gotten by works, lest any man should boast. The faith of God is not a function of how much scriptural study we do. Neither is it a function of how much experience we have. It is just the gift of God by grace. And it is freely available and accessible to every believer in Christ Jesus.

So whenever we need faith for anything in life, all we need to do, is to look inside for the manifestation. We are to quickly renew our consciousness of the faith deposit within. If we are unable to renew the consciousness personally, we can easily engage the Holy Spirit in us, to help us out. And we can engage him, by simply praying in the Holy Ghost (Jude 20).

And of course, the easiest way to pray in the Holy Ghost, is to open our mouth to pray in tongues; as the Spirit gives us utterance. As we do that, our faith will be stirred up by the Holy Spirit of God in us.

Now, since faith is a gift of the Spirit, and every believer has the same measure of faith according to the scriptures...

### **What Does It Mean to Grow In Faith?**

So we have seen clearly from scriptures that the Christian Faith is a gift of grace. And that every true believer in Christ has the same measure of faith. What then does the bible mean when it talks about growing in faith? Especially as mentioned by the Apostle Paul in 2Thessalonians 1:3...

To answer this question, let us read this very particular scripture in question. Below is the quotation in context:

*"We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth; So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecution and tribulations that ye endure" 2Thessalonians 1:3-4*

From this scripture, we can understand clearly what it means to grow in faith. From the context of this scripture, we can see that the growth of faith is not in terms of size—but in manifestation. We all have the same measure of faith. But this our measure of faith can grow in manifestation. And this growth can be upward or downward.

And as a matter of fact, it can even totally fail. And by total failure, I mean faith can stop manifesting totally; if we lose our spiritual vigilance. And this extreme case of faith failure is the reason we have apostates, who once believe in Christ and in the truth of scriptures; but later renegades to an ungodly belief.

Going back to the meaning of what it means to grow in faith, let us analyze the Apostle Paul's statement in the scripture above. He says they are bound to thank God always for the Thessalonians saints as it is fitting...

Because their faith grows exceedingly. And that their charity or love towards each other abounds. So what were the yardstick with which Paul measures the exceeding (super abounding) growth of their faith and love? He says; *"for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure"*

From this Paul's statement, we can understand beyond any gain saying, that faith growth is in terms of degree of manifestation, not in measure of size. When the bible talks about the growing of faith, it does not talk about increase in size—as we often define growth—rather, it refers to an increase in the degree of manifestation.

So we receive faith freely by grace, as we hear and know about God... Through the gospel, by the help of the Holy Spirit. But the manifestation of this gift of faith in Christians is at different degrees.

This is where we talk about little or weak faith; and also great and strong faith. Some believers' faith is often at a high peak of manifestation. While that of others are at very low ebb of manifestation. And this is where the topic of growing in faith, becomes important in the Christian success race.

Thus, as we continue in this discussion of faith as a key to the kingdom success, we will be looking into...

## How to Grow in Faith

Having known the scriptural meaning of what growing in faith is all about. Having known that our faith can decrease or increase in manifestation, it now becomes wise that we find out how to grow in our faith scripturally.

Because little or weak manifestation of faith will not do any believer much good. In the scriptures, Jesus never commended anyone with little faith; instead he rebuke them (See Matthew 8:26). Then on the other hand, he always commended those with great faith (See Matthew 8:5-10).

Below are the scriptural ways to grow in the manifestation of our faith:

- 1) **The Word of God:** *"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing, by the word of God"*—Romans 10:17.

We receive faith from the Holy Spirit in our hearts, through the revealed word of God.

This text says faith cometh (comes—present continuous tense) by hearing and hearing by the word of God. This hearing of the word of God as used here, does not just talk about hearing from the articulation or proclamation of the word by preachers. It talks about the revealed word of God in our hearts by the Holy Spirit...

That is, the illuminated word of God. And of course, often time, God reveals his truth to us as we listen to the preaching of the gospel (See Romans 1:16-17). Especially from the faithful ministers of the gospel. Then the Holy Spirit also reveals the truth of God's word to us as we study the Bible and Christian Literatures; such as this particular one you are now reading.

The more of God's revealed word we have in our spirit, the more we grow in the manifestation of our faith. While the less of the revealed word we have in our spirit, the weaker the manifestation of our faith. So if you would love your faith to grow in the Lord, you will give due diligence to the listening and study of the word of God.

- 2) **Praying in The Holy Ghost:** *"But ye beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost"* –Jude: 20

I mentioned this divine provision for growing in faith earlier on. But now I want us to go into a little more detail. From the quoted text above, Jude by the Spirit shows us a secret on how to easily grow our faith. For faith growth here, he talks about us building up ourselves on our most holy faith. In other words, charging up our faith to the most sanctified level of manifestation.

And he says how we do that is to simply pray in the Holy Ghost. And like I said earlier, the easiest way to pray in the Holy Ghost is to pray in other tongues. That is, if you are already filled with the Holy Ghost, with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

And this is a very vital divine provision for the growth of our faith, in the face of challenges that seek to drown our faith in God. Whenever you feel your faith going down on low ebb, just begin to pray in other tongues, as the Spirit of God in you gives you utterance. And within a few minutes, you will discover your faith fully stirred up to the highest peak of manifestation.

- 3) **Praying and Fasting:** *"And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, if ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting"*  
Matthew 17:20-21

From the Lord Jesus' words above, we can clearly deduce that prayer and fasting helps grow our faith for greater spiritual effectiveness. As we press towards the growth of our faith for maximum impact, praying and fasting must be our lifestyle.

We do not have to wait for any challenge of life before we fast. Because the Lord is not saying in the above scripture that prayer and fasting is a ritual for moving the hand of God. Rather, he is saying it is a spiritual weapon for strengthening our faith for maximum effect.

Then as you grow in your faith with the above scriptural secrets, you must also exercise it in everything. The lifestyle of faith in God must become your natural attitude in every issue of life. And as you live a lifestyle of faith, along with the other keys we will be discussing in this book... You will definitely emerge as a true kingdom success. Both here on earth and in the world to come; life everlasting with God...

Now over to the next key of the Kingdom Success—"The Key of Love"

## 5 THE KEY OF LOVE

From the previous chapter, we have been able to understand that the number one requirement of God for the kingdom success is Faith in God. That is, faith in God, in the person of Christ Jesus. However, from the scriptures, it is also established that the faith that saves and leads us to success in God's kingdom cannot be alone.

Our faith in Christ must have other needful spiritual virtues added to it in order to produce triumphant results in our Christian lives. And the greatest spiritual fruit that we must add to our faith for eternal success in God's Kingdom, is Love. The following scriptures establish this very truth:

*"For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by Love"—Galatians 5:6*

*"...And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing"—1Corinthians 13:2*

*"... And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity"—1 Corinthians 13:13*

The first scripture above tells us clearly that the Christian faith works by Love. That is, the Love of God. Then the second text tells us that no matter the level of the manifestation of our spiritual gifts, including faith, if we do not have charity (love) we are nothing...

Then finally, the third text says we presently have three main abiding spiritual forces. Which are faith, hope and charity (love). That out of these three forces, love is the greatest. And this is why, when the Lord Jesus was asked, which is the greatest of God's commandments?

He replied, love. That is, loving the Lord with all our heart and might. Then he says, the second greatest commandment of God is also love. That is, God's commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves (see Matthew 22:36-39).

In short, the word of God tells us that love is the fulfilling of the law (see Romans 13:8-10). So if we must be successful in the kingdom of God, we must add the greatest spiritual virtue of Love to our faith.

## Walking in Divine Love

*"Be you therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and has given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling fragrance"—Ephesians 5:1-2*

From the above scripture, the Lord instructs us to walk in love as Christ also has loved us. Thus, when we talk of love here, we are talking about God's love (Agape)...

This divine order of love can only be experienced and expressed in our lives by the help of the Holy Ghost in us. This kind of love is different from other kinds of natural affection, mankind are used to.

It is different from the love between spouses. It is different from the love between brothers and sisters. It is also far different from the love between best of friends. Apart from the God's kind of love we are considering here, every other kind of affection is at best, self-centered...

God's love can be best understood from what the word of God says in Romans 5:5-8;

*"And hope makes not ashamed; because the love of God is shared abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who is given unto us. For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die. Yet perhaps for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commends his love towards us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us".*

The above scripture reveals God's love to us in very clear terms. It clearly contrasts the love of God with the self-centered, natural human love we have on earth. The scripture tells us that in due time Christ died for the ungodly; not the godly.

It went further to say that hardly can someone even die for a just man—no matter how much affection we claim for the person along natural lines. But on the other hand, concerning God's love, God demonstrated his perfect and impeccable love towards us...

In that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Christ died for us even while we were still living in offence to him and his father. You definitely will not find this kind of love in any human relationship. Along natural lines, people love only those who please them; and hate those who offend them.

But the Lord commands that we love our neighbors in exactly the same manner he has loved us. The word of God from the first text in this section, says we should walk in love as Christ also loved us.

In other words, the Lord demands we walk exactly in his order or kind of love. Thus, in this chapter we want to scripturally see what constitutes walking in love.

## How to Walk In Love

We have seen from the text above that the Lord commands that we walk in love. But the question is, what constitutes walking in love according to God's standard? And how do we actually walk in love?

The following list comprises what is meant to be walking in love; and how to walk in love scripturally:

**1. Forgiveness and Forbearance:** *"Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do you"—Colossians 3:13.*

The greatest love God showed and still shows to mankind is forgiveness and forbearance of sin. As a matter of fact, forgiveness of sins is a major tenet of God's new covenant (Hebrews 8:12). Thus, the Lord seriously demands that we forbear and forgive one another, even as he forgave (and still forgives) us in love.

As a matter of fact, the Lord says if we do not forgive others their trespasses against us, he will not also forgive us our trespasses against him ( Matthew 6:14-15). So to be walking in forgiveness and forbearance with people, is a major way to walk in love.

**2. Obedience to God's Commandments:** *"He that has my commandments, and keeps them, he it is that loves me. And he that loves me shall be loved of my father, and I will love him and will manifest myself to him"- John 14:21.*

From the above scripture, the Lord clearly defines love for him to mean, having his commandments or words and doing or practicing them. The love of God is not just hearing and speaking the word of God; rather, it is hearing and doing. The Lord says anyone who does not keep or practice his sayings does not love him (John14:24).

So to be practicing the word of God in our daily lives, is to be walking in love as the Lord commands.

**3. Sacrifice:** Our scriptural text tells us to walk in love; as Christ also has loved us and has given himself for us... As an offering and a sacrifice to God. Thus, God's love is a sacrificial love. Christ loved us so much, he had to sacrifice himself for us.

The Lord also tells us, *"greater love has no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends"* (John15:13). And the most remarkable thing about Christ's sacrificial love is that he did not just sacrifice his life for only his friends and the godly...

But much more, for the ungodly and his offenders. Thus, to walk in love as Christ did, we also have to follow this sacrificial example. To walk in Christ's order of love, we must sacrifice for God and our neighbors. We must bear the burden of God's work, especially soul winning.

We must also bear our fellow believers burden. Then to be perfect in love, we must also bear the burden of the ungodly as well.

We must sacrificially pray for the ungodly; including those that offend and despise us. We must cunningly use our words and attitude to draw them from their damnation. So a sacrificial lifestyle, is a major way to walk in divine order of love.

**4. Zealousness:** Christ's love, the Lord instructs us to walk in, is a zealous love. In John 2:14-17, we see the Lord's love for the father, expressed in his indignation towards those that bought and sold in the temple of God...

In verse seventeen of that book of John chapter 2, the word of God says; *"And his disciples remembered that it was written, the zeal of your house has consumed me"*. Just as the Lord's love is a zealous one, in the same way, we are also to be zealous or heated up in our love for God. To walk in divine love, is to be zealous for God and the things of God.

The Lord does not want a lukewarm attitude towards him and his work. Instead, he requires a fervid or passionate love from us. We are to be consumed by the zeal of his house and everything concerning him. We are to be zealous in godliness. We are to be zealous in soul winning. We are to be zealous in our exercise of faith.

Passivity is not acceptable in God's order of love. Thus, to the lukewarm, the Lord says;

*"Be zealous therefore, and repent"*—Revelations 3:19.

**5. Chastisement:** In Revelation 3:19 the Lord says; *"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten..."*

God's love is a rebuking and chastening love. And to walk in his love, we must also rebuke and chasten people in love. If someone is in error or offence towards you, others or God, it is your responsibility to rebuke him. And as the scriptures says, as you rebuke the person and he repents you should forgive him (Luke 17:3).

But if you rebuke someone and he is recalcitrant; if you can find a subtle way to discipline the person in love, do so. Then if the person remains unrepentant in spite of your rebukes and disciplinary measures, still forgive the person for your own good.

So the above list is the major ways to walk in divine love as the Lord commands us.

Now over to the next key to the Kingdom Success; "The Key of The Word"

## 6 THE KEY OF THE WORD

*“This book of the Law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way **prosperous**, and then thou shalt have **good success**” – Joshua 1:8*

In the above opening text, the Lord himself gives us the profound key for success in his kingdom—the Book of the Law. This translated in our day, will be the scriptures. That is, the books of the Bible. He says the book of the law should not depart out of our mouth.

And that we should meditate on it day and night. So that we may observe to do according to all that is written therein. That as we do these, we shall make our ways prosperous and have good success. This is so clear and straight to the point.

We have already learnt that faith is the number one key to success in God’s kingdom. Then we have also read that faith comes by hearing. Thus, we need the word of God to receive faith, grow in faith; and sustain our faith for our eternal success. Without giving due diligence to the word of God, our faith, our love for God, and indeed every other keys for the kingdom success in this book, will eventually not be sustainable.

Without laboring in the word of God day and night consistently, as the Lord instructs us in the opening text... we will be very vulnerable to devastating errors. Without the proper knowledge of God’s word, we could be persuaded out of the right path. It is lack of the proper knowledge of God’s word that has led many a believer into apostasy.

Because of their poor knowledge of God’s word, they are moved by every wind of doctrine. If they believe something to be true today, and tomorrow someone else tells them, what they believe is not true; with a little argument, they quickly shift their grounds.

This way, some have been pulled out completely from the true Christian faith into other religion. And even worse, many a former believer in Christ, have become agnostics and atheists. Worse still, many believers are now being deceived and exploited by so many false prophets and teachers.

This set of believers who do not labor in the word as the Lord instructs, are so gullible. They accept anything they are told or taught by anyone that is called an Apostle; a Prophet, A Pastor or a Teacher.

And this is because they lack the proper knowledge of the truth of God’s word, to be able to judge prophecies; doctrines and teachings. So in this chapter, we will be delving deep into the scriptural secrets on how to get good success in God’s kingdom. Through the knowledge of God’s word.

## The Nature of God's Word

As we delve into the scriptural secrets of good success, let us study the nature of God's word scripturally.

- 1) Jesus is the Word of God:** *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"*—John 1:1

This scripture tells us that the word of God—Jesus Christ, is God. And also, that the Word of God is God. In other words, the word of God is equal to God. So whatever God can do, the Word can do as well.

- 2) The Word of God is Quick or Living:** *"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is discerner of thoughts and intents of the heart"*—Hebrews 6:12

from this scripture, we can understand that the word of God is a living entity. And that the word of God acts as a living person. Being able to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- 3) The Word of God is Powerful:** The scripture we quoted in number two above, tells us that as much as the word of God is living, it is also powerful. That is to say, it has miraculous and authoritative power.

- 4) The Word of God is Spirit:** *"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."* John 6:63

the word of God is not mere words. The word of God goes with spiritual virtues.

- 5) The word of God is Established Forever:** *"For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven"*—Psalm 119:89 this scripture here, tells us that God's word is settled or established in heaven forever. Therefore every word of God is dependable at all times.

- 6) The Word of God is the Truth:**

*"Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth"*—John 17:17 The Lord Jesus himself reveals to us here that the word of God is truth. There is no other source of truth apart from the word of God. Every truth we receive must align with the word of God, else it becomes undependable.

**7) The Word of God is Prophetic:** *"We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts:"—2 Peter 1:19*

We can receive revelation of the past, present and future from God's word. Because God's word as we read in the scriptures, are inspired by the Holy Spirit of God.

### **The Power in God's Word**

The List below shows scripturally, the miraculous power engrafted in God's word:

- 1) **Creative Power:** There is creative power in God's word. In the book of Genesis, we see that God created everything by his word. And till date, he still creates things by the power of his word. The Bible tells us that there is nothing made, that was not made by the incarnated Word of God—Jesus Christ (John 1). So we believers, can also engage the word of God for creativity.
- 2) **Transformational Power:** The revelation of God's word in our hearts by the Holy Spirit has the power to transform us. The Power of God's word can transform even the worse sinner on earth, to a saint at an instance. And of course, the bible says we are born again by the word of God (1 Peter 1:23)
- 3) **Healing and Deliverance Power:** From the scriptures, we can also understand that there is healing and deliverance power in God's word that we listen to and read. At the instance of God's word, the healing and deliverance power of God is released for the liberation of mankind.

The bible says, as Jesus was teaching the gospel, the power of God was available to heal. Then in our contemporary times, we see and hear of countless testimonies of healing and deliverance through the preaching and teaching of God's word.

One of such ministers with such testimony on a regular basis, is Pastor W.F Kumuyi in Nigeria. It is reported that during most of the teaching meetings of this great man of God, all manners of healing and deliverance miracles take place. Including the blind receiving their sights. The lame walking, etc...

And in exact the same manner, we can also minister healing and deliverance to ourselves and others through the power of God's word. If we are challenged in our health or in any other area; as we give attention to the hearing, reading and meditating on God's word...

...Either from the scriptures, Christian literatures and audio visuals, we can receive our

healing and deliverance. And this is why the bible says, *“he sent his word, and healed them and delivered them from their destruction”* (Psalm 107:20)

- 4) **Sanctifying Power:** The word of God in Psalm 119:9 says; *“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way. By taking heed thereto according to thy word”*

So there is sanctifying or purifying power in God’s word. No matter the sinful habit any believer is struggling with, as he takes heed to God’s word in his heart, the habit can be purged out of him.

When the Lord was about going to the cross, he prayed the Father to sanctify us by the truth—which is the word of God (John 17:17). So if you are still struggling with any sinful habit as a believer in Christ Jesus, you can engage the Power of God’s word for total liberation.

- 5) **Breakthrough Power:** The word of God also has the power to give us breakthrough in any venture of life. Whether business, marital, academic and any other facet of life. If you are struggling in any area of life, you can look up to God through his word for a way out.

And as you receive the word of direction from God, you will definitely get your breakthrough. Such was the case of Peter after his fruitless toil for fish all night. When he got a directive word from the Lord Jesus, he received an instant breakthrough (Luke 5:4-8)

- 6) **All Purpose Power:** In summary, in just the same way God is omnipotent, his word is also omnipotent. We can get any and everything in life through the power of God’s word. The word of God says he has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness. And it is through the power of God’s word we practically receive all these things in our lives.

### **How to Succeed with God’s Word**

From our opening text (Joshua 1:8) the Lord reveals to us the secrets of prospering and making good success with his word. And from the Lord’s instruction in that scripture, and other scriptures, we can deduce the following secrets for succeeding with the word as follows:

- 1) **Word Study:** In Joshua 1:8, the Lord instructs us not to let the book of the law (The Bible in present times) depart from our mouth. However, someone must first know what is in the book of the Law for it not to depart from his mouth.

So in line with the Lord’s instruction, the number one key to succeeding with God’s

word, is constant daily study of the bible. And other anointed Word study materials... anointed materials such as: Christian Literatures, Audio Visuals, Christian articles, etc...

We must first have a good knowledge of God's word to be able to speak it at all times. And we gain good knowledge of the word by paying serious attention to the reading of the word (the Bible)... And also by paying keen attention to exhortations and doctrines from faithful men of God (See 1Timothy 4:13).

- 2) **Word Speaking:** In Joshua 1: 8, our anchor scripture for this chapter, the Lord instructs that we should never let the book of the Law depart from our mouth. So in obedience to the Lord's instruction, if we are to succeed with God's word, we must keep on speaking the word of God to ourselves. As well as to others at all times. The more we speak God's word, the more our faith grows in manifestation.
- 3) **Word Meditation:** To succeed with God's word—apart from speaking it with our mouth at all times—we must also meditate on it always. To meditate on God's word, means to constantly ponder on God's word in our hearts and our minds.

And as we do that often, we receive clearer revelations from the Holy Spirit; that will help us succeed in God's kingdom... Both here on earth and in the world to come.

- 4) **Word Practice:** In our anchor text, the Lord says as we continually speak the word and meditate on it, we should also observe to do according to all that is written therein. This in other words means that we should practice the word we confess and meditate on always. In order to make our ways before God prosperous; and also have good success.

So these are the scriptural ways on how we can engage the key of God's word in our daily lives as Christians, to make good success in God's kingdom.

Up next is "The Key of Holiness"

## 7 THE KEY OF HOLINESS

***“Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord”—Hebrews 12:14***

Holiness as used in the above opening text, is from the Greek word ‘hagiasmos’ meaning—Purification; that is, the state of purity. From scriptures, we understand that every believer in Christ Jesus is holy by the election of grace.

In other words, the believer is set apart or sanctified unto God. He is purified or consecrated unto God by redemption (see 1Peter 2:9 and Ephesians 1:4).

So by redemption, every believer in Christ Jesus is holy, set apart, sanctified, purified or consecrated unto God. This is the status and heritage of every believer in Christ Jesus, by redemption...

However, Christian holiness or sanctification does not just end at the redemptive purification or consecration. All through scriptures, the Lord instructs us to pursue holiness as a lifestyle. He says without its pursuit, no man shall see him (see the opening text). And of course, if we cannot see God, we cannot see his kingdom.

So it is the Lord’s will that we walk in holiness or sanctification. Here is what we read in another scripture:

*“For this is the will of God even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication: That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour... For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness”—1Thessalonians 4:3-4, 7*

But the question that quickly comes to mind is: why would God tell us to be what he has already made us to be? The answer to that question is that he wants us to actually, be a practical reflection of what he has made us to be...

...So we don’t become a reproach to him and ourselves. Why? Because it is preposterous to see a clean sheep, wallowing in the mire like a pig. It just does not add up. The Lord having chosen us to be holy requires a practical manifestation of our status in our everyday lifestyle.

So in this chapter, we want to see some scriptural keys that guarantee to confer mastery on us. And ultimately make us successful in God's kingdom. As we diligently set out to pursue holiness in our daily Christian lives as the Lord instructs us.

## **The Master Keys to Holiness**

The pursuit of holiness is majorly a lifestyle of separating from or turning away from sin; and turning to God. It is a lifestyle of separation from all forms of uncleanness. These biblical keys being delivered here will confer mastery over sin to you. They will at the same time, confer mastery in godliness to you for the ultimate glory of God.

These master keys to holiness are as listed below:

1. **Righteousness Consciousness:** *"Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God. I speak this to your shame"*—1Corinthians 15:34.

The number one master key to a holy lifestyle, is awakening to the consciousness that you are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:21). That is, considering yourself to be dead indeed to sin and alive unto Christ (Romans 6:11). This consciousness is the foundational key to mastery in holy living. You know, someone who does not know that he has a heritage of royalty, can be living ordinary life like every other commoner.

But immediately he is informed of his true origin and heritage, and gets truly convinced that he is indeed a royalty... He quickly changes his lifestyle. His comportment; his dressing; his choice of words changes. Because he has now discovered his true Identity. In many cases, no one needs to instruct him on what to do and what to avoid.

His discovery of his true personality just changes his mindset and lifestyle altogether. In much the same way, when a believer truly awakens to the consciousness that he is the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, everything about him changes.

By the help of the indwelling Holy Spirit in the believer, he gains mastery over sin. The word of God says, sin shall not have dominion over us. Because we are under grace, not under the Law (Romans 6:14). And we gain this dominion over sin by choosing to walk in the consciousness of our righteousness in Christ Jesus.

2. **Faith of God:** *"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him"* Hebrews 11:6.

Faith in God and his words, especially his words concerning holiness—is another powerful master key to holiness.

Faith in God's word such as: *"The law of the spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death"* (Romans 8:2). *"For sin shall not have dominion over you for ye are not under the law, but under grace"* (Romans 6:14)...

And other similar scriptures, guarantee to confer mastery in holiness to any believer. I can testify to this fact in my own personal walk with God. The besetting sins I struggled with, have been masterfully subdued by this key, to a very great extent to the glory of God. The word of God says; *“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way.*

*By taking heed thereto according to thy word”*—Psalm 119:9. However, before someone can really take heed to God’s word, he needs full assurance in the revealed word of God—faith. So to gain mastery over sin, strong faith in God’s word concerning righteousness and holiness or sanctification is required.

3. **Fear of God:** *“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God”—[2Corinthians 7:1](#).*

As stated in the above scripture, the fear of God is the perfecting key to holy living. Walking in the fear of God as a lifestyle confers mastery over sin. Anyone that lacks the fear of God for any reason does have a loophole for continual sinning. Whether he agrees or not.

There are so many Christians who do not walk in the fear of God because of delusion concerning the true meaning of the fear of God. Many ministers of the gospel have watered down the true meaning of the fear of God, by defining it as reverence. But from scriptures, we see that the fear of God is not just reverence, but actual dread for God. In short, the bible clearly differentiates between reverence and the fear of God. Here is what we read in Hebrews:

*“Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear”—Hebrews 12:28.*

This scripture above clearly differentiates between reverence and godly fear. So if we are to serve God acceptably, we must reverence and fear him. Yes, there is an evil kind of fear, which the Lord is seriously against...

And that is the carnal fear. Such as the fear of man, devils, witches and wizards, etc. In short, God doesn’t want us to fear anyone or anything except him. Here is what the Lord Jesus says concerning this matter:

*“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell”—Matthew 10:28.*

4. **Love of God:** The love of God enables us gain mastery over selfishness, condemnational fear and unforgiveness. The love of God enables us to obey God’s commandments with delight. Especially soul winning. The love of God enables us to be more tolerant of our brothers and sisters in spite of how much wrong they do to us.

And most importantly, the love of God helps us love the unlovable sinners. And it even prompts us to be touched by their state and makes us share the gospel with them and also pray for them.

5. **Wisdom of God:** many a time, holiness is a function of being as wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove. In other words, discretion or cleverness (phronimos). Many times, many a believer indulges in sinful acts and habits, as a result of lack of discretion, and sometimes, outright foolishness.

For instance, it is foolishness for believers of opposite sex, that are not married or siblings, to be meeting in secluded places.

When people of opposite sex meet in secluded places, there is a great chance of them committing fornication or adultery. And the major wisdom—amongst others—required to flee from such act is to avoid meeting in secluded places with the opposite sex.

The above is just an instance of how wisdom key can be engaged to masterfully subdue sin. Many sinful habits, believers indulge in, can easily be overcome by the master key of divine wisdom (phronimos).

6. **Prayers:** *“Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak”*—Matthew 26:41.

Prayer, especially praying in tongues, is a principal master key to holiness. Just like the Lord remarked in the above scripture, there are many times when you are tempted to sin...

When your spirit will be willing to overcome the temptation, meanwhile, your flesh is weak...So you find yourself struggling. At such a time, prayer is the master key out of such a situation. When you find yourself in such a situation, just begin to pray. From my personal experiences, praying in other tongues silently has been more effective. So I will recommend that as well.

Then if you are struggling with a sinful habit, and you have done all you could to no avail. You can take out some days to engage in fasting and prayer. Because there are some stubborn forces that would not go, except by praying and fasting.

If you have prayed and fasted for the sake of a sinful habit and you seem to be still struggling with it, you must not give up on the fight. You must fast and pray some more in importunity. You must pray till you gain the victory and mastery. The word of God says we should pray without ceasing. We must never accept a sinful habit as our nature. We must pray through to victory. There is no room for quitters in God's kingdom.

7. **Word Study and Meditation:** *“Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed thereto according to thy word.”*—Psalm 119:9

consistent, daily studies, meditation and practice of God's word (the scriptures) confers mastery in holiness to the believer. As we keep studying, meditating and confessing God's word in our hearts on regular basis; in no distant time, we are sure to emerge champions over sin.

Like the above scripture says, taking heed to the undiluted word of God from scriptures has the supernatural power to cleanse us from our evil ways continually. Even our Lord Jesus says the truth of God's word can sanctify us (John 17:17). So engage the word of God for sanctification. Replace evil and carnal thoughts with scriptural thoughts and imaginations and you'll definitely emerge a master over sin.

These seven keys are the major scriptural, master keys to mastery in your pursuit of holiness. Study them in more detail with your bible. And as the light dawn in your spirit, you are guaranteed to become a champion in holiness in no distant time; in the mighty name of our Lord Jesus Christ. And of course, your mastery in holiness, guarantees your eternal success in God's kingdom, now and in eternity.

## 8 THE KEY OF PATIENCE

The New Testament translation of the word "patience" is taken from the Greek word "hypomone" meaning, cheerful or hopeful endurance and constancy. So the Christian patience or endurance is a cheerful and hopeful endurance in the faith.

It is not a saddened, pathetic and wishful endurance. Wishful patience that goes along with depression is of the world and not for the true believers in Christ Jesus. And the scriptures instruct every Christian to be patient.

Because every believer in Christ Jesus, goes through tribulations at one time or the other. Any Christian that claims not to go through any tribulation in this life, at one time or the other, is not telling the truth. Here is what the Lord Jesus himself says concerning this matter.

He says; "*These things I have spoken unto you that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world*"—John 16:33

In the above scripture, the Lord Jesus himself tells us that in him, we might have peace (because the peace of Christ is by choice of obedience). And that in the world we shall (not may) have tribulation. And of course, we are in Christ Jesus, and at the same time we live in the world.

However, while we live in the world, we are not of the world. And the Lord says as we are in him, with his peace in us, we shall also face tribulation or pressure (challenges) in this world. Then he instructs us to be of good cheer because he had overcome the world.

Here, the Lord is telling us that so long we are in him; we should be cheerful amidst the tribulation of this world. Because he had overcome or triumphed for us. And this triumph over the world is the reason and the hope for our cheerfulness amidst the tribulation of this life.

This cheerfulness of believers amidst the adversities of life is called patience or endurance. And all through the scriptures, we see there are allots of blessings that come with the Christian patience. We also see that patience in God's kingdom, is one of the major keys for success in God's Kingdom.

The Lord says, before his second coming to the earth to rapture the saints in the end time, there will be great tribulation. The saints of God will face an unusual persecution. Especially during the regime of the man of sin—the anti-Christ.

And even presently, believers all over the world still do face fierce oppositions and persecution. Many who are not able to endure, have already left the Christian faith. While some are still hanging on in hopeful endurance in the faith. And of course, those who are not able to endure to the very end will give up the faith along the way...

The Lord says, in the end time, the love of many shall wax cold. Then he also says, those who endure to the end will be saved. He says in our patience, we shall gain our souls. So in this chapter, we shall be scripturally studying the divine blessings that come with the Christian patience, both now and in eternity. As we obey our Lord's instruction of patience and endurance in the faith, to the very end.

### **The Blessings and Rewards of Christian Patience**

Scripturally, below are the blessings of every patient and enduring believer in Christ Jesus. Who hold on to the faith to the very end. Despite any adversity or persecution that may come their way:

- 1) **Fruitfulness:** *"And when much people were gathered together, and were come to him out of every city, he spake a parable: A sower went out to sow his seed; and as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down, and the fowls of the air devoured it.*

*And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. And other fell on good ground, and sprang up, and bare fruit an hundredfold. And he cried, he that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

*And his disciples asked him, saying, what might this parable be? And he said, unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables, that seeing they might not see. And hearing they might not understand. Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.*

*Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. They on the rock are they, which when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away.*

*And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to*

*perfection. But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience'*—Luke 8:4-16

I had to quote this long scripture, because it is a parable with its interpretation by the Lord himself. And we have to understand everything in context. From this parable and interpretation of our Lord Jesus, it is very clear that many people fall out of the faith because of impatience.

The Lord's interpretation of the seed that fell on the rock, makes this point very clear. He says; *"They on the rock are they, which when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, which for a while believe, and in time of temptation fall away"*. This is certainly the case of many backsliding Christians. They have received the word of God with all joy at first; then because of temptation or tribulation, they turn their backs on God.

Then on the other good hand, those who bring forth fruit only do so by patience. Without patience, no believer can bear the fruit of the Spirit or righteousness (See Verse 15).

- 2) **Perfection:** *"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work .That you might be perfect and entire, wanting nothing"*—James 1:2-4

Here James by the Spirit reveals to us a great blessing that comes with patience in Christ. It says patience works perfection in us. That we may be entire (complete), wanting (lacking) nothing. So perfection here, talks about spiritual completeness. That is, completeness in spiritual growth; mental growth; and moral character.

Thus, God's intention of allowing his children go through tribulations in this life, is not to seek an occasion of error on them. But rather, he allows tribulations in the lives of believers in order to refine them into perfection. Through hopeful and cheerful endurance in the faith. So never let anyone or any devil deceive you into getting offended in God for any reason. Because of the adversity you might be going through.

No matter what you go through as a believer, just know deep within your heart, that all things are working for your good. That all things are working to refine you into a perfect Gem in Christ Jesus. And with that, you will be cheerful amidst any kind of trial; so long you remain in Christ Jesus.

- 3) **Fulfilment of God's Promises:** A life of patience as believers, enable us receive the promises of God to us. Both the scriptural and individual promises of God to us. Here is

what the scripture says concerning this:

*“That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. For when God made promise to Abraham, because he could swear by no greater, he swore by himself, Saying, surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thee. And so after he had patiently endured, he obtained the promise”—* Hebrews 6:13-15.

This scripture quoted above, says we should follow in the examples of those who through faith and patience obtained the promises of God in their lives. And our father Abraham was sighted as one of those people. Even though God made a sworn promise of blessing and multiplication to him...

He not only obtained the promises by faith, but also by patience. Especially as he had to wait 25 years after God’s promise before giving birth to Isaac; in a naturally impossible old age.

In the same way, we also need patience to obtain God’s promises to us in his word. Many who come to Christ do not wait enough on God to make good his word concerning their lives. They just want everything very fast.

But God is not in the quick fix business. Whatever promises God makes to us he is faithful and just to fulfil. No matter how long it tarries, we must hope on him to make good his words in due time...

Because there is definitely a due time for every of God’s promises to us. So unlike so many who easily give up on God, we must patiently endure in the faith till we receive from God. Just like our father Abraham patiently endured and finally obtained the promise.

- 4) **The Crown of Life:** *“Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: For when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him”—*James 1:12.

This scripture clearly says the man that endures temptation (tribulation) is blessed. Because after his trials, he shall receive the crown of life; which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. What this means is that the believer in Christ Jesus that endures tribulation of this life to the very end, shall be rewarded with the crown of life, by God in heaven.

So here you have it—The blessings of Christian patience. The Lord has called us to a life of

faith in Christ. Then he also wants us to add patience to our faith. For fruitfulness, perfection, fulfillment of his promises and ultimately for us to receive the crown of life at the last day in his heavenly kingdom. Your crown another will not take in the mighty name of Jesus.

## 9 THE KEY OF SPIRITUAL VIOLENCE

*"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force"—Matthew 11:12(KJV)*

As we begin to discuss about this topic of spiritual violence, we will be looking into three other bible translations of the opening text in order to get a clearer understanding...

### **Revised Standard Version (RSV)**

*"From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been suffering violence, and the violent take it by force"*

### **New English Translation (NET)**

*"From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and forceful people lay hold of it"*

### **Christian Standard Bible (CSB)**

*"From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been suffering violence, and the violent have been seizing it by force"*

The words 'violence' and 'violent' as translated in the above scripture, are from the Greek words 'biazo' and 'biastes' respectively...

Biazo means—by force. While Biastes means—Forceful.

From these definitions, we can confidently define spiritual violence as spiritual fervency (Romans 12:11). And spiritual fervency means: boiling love and zeal for God. In clearer terms, spiritual violence means, boiling anger (righteous indignation—for good and against evil). It means boiling zeal for God and the works of his kingdom.

The opening text tells us that from the days of John the Baptist, the kingdom of heaven has been suffering violence. And the violent people have been seizing the kingdom by force. So the Lord recommends spiritual violence, as a major way of gaining entrance into the kingdom of God, and its privileges.

To buttress this great truth, let us see other cross referencing scriptures. Because a matter must be established in the mouth of two or three witnesses.

Luke 16:16

*"The law and the prophet were until John: since that time the kingdom of God is preached, and every man presseth into it."*

Luke 13:24

*"Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able."*

Jude 1:3

*"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."*

Ephesians 6:11-12

*"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places"*

1Timothy 6:12

*"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."*

In each of the above five cross reference scriptures, there are striking keywords that buttress the meaning of spiritual violence being discussed here.

The Cross Reference Keywords

1. "Every man PRESSETH into it"—Luke 16:16
2. "STRIVE to enter"—Luke 13:24
3. "EARNESTLY contend"—Jude1:3

4. "We WRESTLE"—Ephesians 6:12
5. "FIGHT the good FIGHT of Faith"—1Timothy 6:12

From all these scriptures, it is very clear that spiritual violence or fervency is a major requirement for accessing the kingdom of God; and its awesome privileges.

### **What Are We to Be Violent For?**

The list below is the major things we need spiritual violence or fervency for:

1. We need violence to maintain or keep our position or place in the kingdom of God.
2. We need violence in exercising our authority or privileged rights in the kingdom of God.
3. We need violence over the devil, his cohorts and their maneuvers.
4. We need violence to enjoy our enormous and great possessions in Christ Jesus

In short, we need spiritual violence to prosper and make good success in the kingdom of God or the kingdom of heaven.

### **Scriptural Examples of Spiritual Violence**

1. The Canaanite woman who would not take no for an answer from the Lord Jesus, until her daughter was made whole (Matthew 15:22-28)
2. The Lord Jesus' display of zeal by driving the folks that bought and sold in the temple of God (see John 2:13-17)
3. The Apostles' refusal to succumb to the threatening of the Jewish leaders that they should not speak at all, nor teach any more in the name of Jesus—Acts 4:18-31
4. Paul's declaration of blindness on Elymas the sorcerer, at his resistance of the gospel (Acts 13:8-11)

The above list shows a few examples of spiritual or kingdom violence displayed in the bible. Thus, as Christians, we require spiritual violence to possess the kingdom of God. We require spiritual violence to deliver on our kingdom assignments effectively and maximally...

We require spiritual violence for godly living. We are to be violent in our love and zeal towards God. We are to be violent in faith towards God. As we keep on pressing into the kingdom by the help of the Holy Ghost, we will certainly seize the kingdom and its matchless privileges by force.

May the Lord fire up our love, zeal and faith in him; in the mighty name of Jesus Christ. I command every form of lukewarmness concerning the things of the kingdom in you, to be replaced with fresh spiritual fire; in you right now, in Jesus Name.

## 10 THE KEY OF DIVINE LEADING

*"Thus saith the LORD, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the LORD thy God which teacheth thee to profit, which leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go."—Isaiah 48:17*

As stated in the above opening text, the Lord our Redeemer tells us that he is the one who teaches us how to profit. And also he is the one that leads us by the way we should go. So the place of divine leading in the pursuit of kingdom success, is an all important topic.

As we press towards success In God's Kingdom, God is more than committed to teaching and guiding us, his children, all the way to success... Success: both here on earth, and in eternity. And to prove his commitment to the teaching and guidance to his children, he has personally possessed or taken his abode in every of his children.

God dwells in every believer, to teach, guide and help them to success in his kingdom... Through the person of the Holy Ghost. Before our Lord Jesus Christ was about leaving this earth to heaven; here is what he says concerning the Holy Spirit:

*"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself, but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will shew you things to come"—John 16:12-13*

The Holy Spirit of God possesses or indwells everyone and anyone who receives Jesus into his heart by faith. He is the one that gets us born again in Christ Jesus. He transforms us into new creatures in Christ Jesus; by replacing our heart of stone with the heart of flesh.

Then, after getting us born again, he does not abandon us to ourselves. He remains in us still. As a matter of fact, the Lord says he will abide with us forever (John 14:16-17). He will never leave us, nor forsake us for any reason (Hebrews 13:5). Except we purposely decide to turn our back completely on Jesus.

And while he is in us, he is readily available to guide and lead us to profit and success to the very end. As we ask and listen to him for guidance, he is always ready to guide us. However,

as much as he is readily available in us at all times; he is also ready to teach and guide us to success in the Kingdom... but if we do not listen to him or follow his guide, we would not benefit from his guide.

Though, many believers would love to get the guide of the Holy Spirit in them... Only they cannot recognize his voice and leading. So they always miss out on his guidance. And this is why we will be scripturally studying...

## How God Leads His Children

Many believers expect God to speak plainly to them; in just the same way men speak to them. But God is not a man, he is Spirit. And this is why the Lord tells us that they that worship God must worship him in spirit and in truth.

And when he does speak or guide his children, he does so mainly through spiritual media. And many believers who are not sensitive to these spiritual media, through which the Lord leads, often miss out on God's guidance. So the list below shows us how God leads or guides his children:

### 1) **Through His Word:** *"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path"*

The primary way God leads us, his children, is through his word in our spirit. That is, the scriptures and the gospel we listen to and read. The Lord Jesus tells us, the words he speaks to us, are spirit and life.

As we listen and read the word, when God wants to guide us in a particular way, he enlightens us through the word in our spirit. Sometimes, when we listen to or read these words they may just sound ordinary...

But when God wants to give us a direction or revelation from his word, he enlightens them in our spirit. And if we are sensitive enough, we will get the information he is passing across to us clearly in our spirit.

The leadings of God through the scriptures are more dependable than any other way. And as such, other leadings we get from God through other media must be cross checked with his written word. Even the enlightenment we get from scriptures should also be cross checked with other scriptures. For perfect harmony, before we accept them as direction from God.

The Bible says no scripture is of any private interpretation. The Bible also says, a matter must be established in the mouth of two or three witnesses. So as you submit yourself

to divine leading, you must judge every divine revelation or guidance you receive with the scriptures.

If you receive any revelations you believe is from God, and after cross examining it with scriptures and they don not tally, you jettison it. Because the scriptures are the major tool for judgement of revelations, teachings or doctrines.

2) **Through the witness of the Holy Spirit in our hearts:** "*The Spirit itself (Himself) beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God*"—Romans 8:14

This scripture here says the Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God. So it is through the witness of the Holy Spirit in our spirit, that we are sure of our salvation. Anyone who does not understand or experience the true witness of the Holy Spirit in his spirit, can never be sure of his salvation.

And this is why many people, who worship in the church today are not sure of their salvation. If you ask them 'are sure you are saved?' they reply 'I don't know... It is only God that knows who is born again or not'. But anyone who truly has the witness of the Spirit in his heart, is always sure of his eternal salvation. As much as he is sure that his skin is his.

As a matter of fact, if someone does not have the witness of the Holy Spirit in his heart... concerning his salvation, then the person may likely not be saved to begin with. Because the word of God cannot lie. You cannot be a saved child of God, and not be convinced by the Spirit that you are a child of God.

So the Holy Spirit of God bears witness of our sonship to God in our spirit. But that is not the only witness he gives the children of God. He also bears witness of the truth of God's word to us. He witnesses the mind of God to our hearts per time concerning everything. Through his witness in our spirit, he can reveal mysteries we do not know to us. He guides us from danger and to profiting with this his witness in our spirit.

And if we can learn to follow this his constant witness in our hearts, we will definitely enjoy success in his kingdom. Then as we follow this witness of the Spirit in our spirit... We must as well judge the witness we get with the scriptures to avoid errors.

Because sometime, we may mistake the nudge of the devil or our natural mind for the Holy Spirit. This is why we must scan every revelation we receive with the light of the scripture.

- 3) **Through His Angels:** *“And the Angel of the Lord spake unto Phillip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert”* (Acts 8:26)

From several scriptural instances, such as the one above, we see that God often speaks to his children through his heavenly agents, called Angels. These Angels of God can appear physically, as well as in visions and dreams. And God often use them to speak to us, his children. When you receive an angelic revelation, you should not just run with it.

You must check for the witness of the Holy Spirit, as well as for scriptural harmony with the revelation you have received. This is very important, because satan and his demons can as well disguise themselves as angel of light; to deceive the children of God. So we must cross check to avoid falling prey to the devil’s schemes.

- 4) **Through Dreams :** *“And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there till I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.”* (Matthew 2:13)

Here we see God giving direction to Joseph concerning the child Jesus. In order to save him from the hand of Herod the king. Although we have already talked about the angelic revelations above, but we are looking into the dream aspect of God’ leading. God gives leading to his children through dreams.

Even up till date, God still reveals things to his children through dreams. But it is not every dream we dream that is a revelation from God. When we dream a dream that we believe could be a revelation from God; and we do not understand the meaning, we should pray for clarification.

And as we pray, we should be sensitive to the witness of the Spirit in our hearts. Then again, we must finally pass it through the test of the scriptures.

- 5) **Through Trance:** *“And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth...”* (Acts 10:10)

From the above text, we see clearly that trance is another medium through which God leads his children to his will. A trance is like sleeping while you are awake. So that you are oblivious of your physical surrounding, but aware of the spiritual realm.

From scriptures, especially the experience of Peter in the above text, we see that God speaks to us through trances. Then as we receive revelations from trances, we must again check up with the witness of the Spirit in our heart; and the scriptures as well.

- 6) **Open Vision:** *"And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying Come over into Macedonia, and help us" (Acts 16:9)*

Open vision is another scriptural way through which God guides us his children. In the scripture above, God led Paul to preach the gospel to Macedonia through an open vision.

The difference between a Trance and an Open vision is that, in a trance, the person seeing the vision, is cut off from what is happening in his surroundings. While in an open vision, the person seeing the vision retains his consciousness of his physical environment, while seeing the vision.

- 7) **The Audible Voice of God:** *"And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" (Acts 9:4)*

This text here is taken from the story of Saul of Tarsus, who later became Paul the Apostle. While he was persecuting believers; as he went near Damascus to arrest Christians, the Lord appeared to him in a heavenly light.

And he heard into the spirit realm the audible voice of God. And till date, God still speaks to his children through his audible voice. Personally, I have only heard the audible voice of God in a dream. When he instructed me concerning my marriage then.

So God does still guide his children through his audible voice from the spirit realm. Then as I keep repeating like a broken record, please always confirm the voice you hear with the scriptures and the witness of the Holy Spirit for safety.

Many people have gone into errors by hearing audible voice which they believe to be from God. But instead, they heard the devil. We can easily know a revelation from the devil, by the fruit of the revelation. Through scriptural cross examination.

### **The Features of Divine Leading**

In this section, we want to see what is obtainable from divine leading. That is, we want to

scriptural find out the results that follow us when we submit ourselves to God's leadings. The list below is the results of divine guidance:

**1) Righteousness:** *"The Lord is my shepherd...He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake"* –Psalm 23:1, 3

From this verse of Psalm 23, it is clear that when we allow the Lord to lead us, he leads us in the paths of righteousness. So anyone who submits himself to divine leading will walk in righteousness. No one can be subject to divine leading and still live in sin. So the effect of divine leading in the life of a believer is a righteous or just lifestyle.

**2) Provisions:** *"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want."*—Psalm 23:1

From this same Psalm, we also see that when we accept the leading of the Lord in our lives, as our shepherd, we live above wants. This means the person that submits himself to divine leading enjoys divine provisions.

However, someone can be following divine leading and yet still be in want sometime, for some sovereign purpose of God. So it does not mean that any believer who is facing some temporal financial or material challenge is not following divine guidance.

**3) Fearlessness, Comfort and Faith:** *"Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me"*—Psalm 23:4

Still in the context of divine leading, this Psalm reveals to us that as we follow divine leading, we fear no evil. Because when we know that God is with us in our ways, every form of fear disappears. When we know that God is with us in our ways, we walk in confidence and assurance (Faith). And we also enjoy divine comfort...

As we follow divine leading, and we are challenged in one way or the other, we enjoy divine comfort by the help of the Holy Ghost in us. This was the case of our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ. As he followed the leading of the Father to go to the cross for mankind, when he was challenged, as he prayed, God sent an Angel to strengthen him.

So if you follow divine leading in your life, you become fearless and assured in God. And when you do get into some straitening situation, you are sure to receive God's comfort.

**4) Protection:** *"Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil, my cup runneth over"*—Psalm 23:5

From this verse, we see that God prepares a table before us in the presence of our

enemies. That means divine leading helps us secure divine protection. Many believers fall out of divine protection because they are out of divine leading.

They are always doing things their own way without consulting God. God's protection is always guaranteed for the person who always submits himself to divine leading.

- 5) **Straitness, Hardness and Tribulations:** *“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat”*—Matthew 7:13

*“Then said Jesus unto his disciples, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take his cross and follow me”*—Matthew 16:24

From the above two scriptures, we see that following the leading of God, is not always bread and butter. The way of God is the strait or tough way. Following divine leading requires us to deny ourselves and take up our cross.

So following God's leading does not mean we will never face hardness. As a matter of fact, from the above two scriptures, it is clear, that the tough way is God's major way here on earth. Any believer who cannot deny himself—deny his personal pleasure—can never follow God's leading.

To follow divine leading in our lives, we must put God's will above every other thing in our lives. No matter how discomforting it may be. But the word of God tells us that the afflictions we face by following God, is a light one. Compared to the weight of glory which we will receive in the end, if we endure to the end.

Furthermore, the word of God tells us that the light afflictions the believers face are but for a moment. So if we follow God's leadings regardless of the hardness and the cross, in the end, we will enjoy the glory.

## 11 THE KEY OF DIVINE WISDOM

Human beings all over the world, from different circles of life, have their own definitions of wisdom. But the greater percentage of what many hold as wisdom, is what the bible refers to as conceited wisdom.

The married man or woman who has extra-marital affairs, with the notion that the taste of only one type of soup is not enough, believes he/she is operating in wisdom.

The beautiful lady who goes about trading her body sexually for money, with the notion that she is using what she has to get what she wants; believes she is also walking in wisdom.

The young man who uses the internet and other media to trick and scam people into frustration, believes also that he is smart or walking in wisdom. Just to mention but a few of the conceited wisdom mankind operate in.

And to this group of people, walking or operating in this kind of conceited wisdom, the word of God says;

*"Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? There is more hope of a fool than of him"—*  
Proverbs 26:12

Given this backdrop, we want to scripturally study what true wisdom or divine wisdom actually mean. So we can actually pursue and apply it in every area of life. And in the end, we can end up as kingdom success. Because it is only through divine wisdom, we can attain success in God's kingdom—both here and in eternity.

### **What Is Divine Wisdom?**

Scripturally, there are mainly four definitions of divine wisdom. And we will be considering them one after the other...

- **The Fear of God:** *"But where shall wisdom be found? And where is the place of understanding? Man knoweth not the price thereof; neither is it found in the land of the living... And unto man he said, behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding"—*Job 28:12-13; 28. The above scripture defines wisdom— divine wisdom—as the fear of God. Then again the word of God tells us in Psalm 111:10 that;

*"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom".* Thus, according to the scriptures, divine wisdom can simply be defined as—the Fear of God.

- **Thoughtfulness:** “*Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents and harmless as doves*” – Matthew 10:16.

The word ‘**wise**’ as translated in the above scripture is from the Greek word: ‘*phronimos*’ meaning; ‘thoughtfulness’. In other words: sagacity, discretion, shrewdness, astuteness, cleverness, cunningness or subtlety (in a good sense), etc.

The Lord admonished his disciples to engage this type of wisdom, as he sent them out to preach the gospel. He admonished them to be as wise as the serpent and harmless as dove. And of course, what Jesus says to one, he says to all.

This same injunction of the Lord also applies to us Christians today. We also need this divine wisdom in the discharge of our great commission; in order to record substantial results.

The Apostle Paul employed this aspect of wisdom in his Evangelical work. He says; to them that are under the Law, he became as a man under the law. And unto them that are without the law, he became as a man without the law. To the intent, that he might by all means save some (1 Corinthians 9:20-22)

And of course, this being wise as serpent, is shrewdness. It is definitely cleverness or sagacity. And we must as well employ this wisdom in our ministry and every area of life, for maximum success.

- **Intellectual Insight:** “*And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord*”—Luke 1:17

The word translated in the above scripture as ‘wisdom’ is from the Greek word; “*phronesis*” meaning; intellectual or moral insight. The same word is also translated in the New Testament in some other context as ‘prudence’.

Thus, this gives us a third definition of divine wisdom to mean divinely inspired, intellectual or moral insight. In other words; understanding or prudence. This particular definition of wisdom, do merit distinction from the second definition of wisdom we had already considered—*phronimos*.

So intellectual or moral insight inspired by God, is also divine wisdom.

- **Love or Word Practice:** “*He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him*” John 14:21

“*Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: and the rain descended, and the*

*floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.*

*And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man which built his house upon the sand: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it"—Matthew 7: 24-27.*

In the first scripture above (John 14:21) the Lord defines love as having and keeping his commandments. Then in the second scripture (Matthew 7:24-27), the Lord again says whosoever hears his sayings and does them, he would liken to a wise man.

Thus, we can define divine wisdom as well, as the Love of God or the practice of God's word. And I believe, in just the same way the word of God says; the fear of God is the beginning of wisdom, the Love of God is the climax of wisdom.

So there you have it. The above definitions are the meaning of divine wisdom. And the Lord will have us walk in all the above four aspects of divine wisdom. In order to enjoy success in his kingdom and also glorify his Holy Name.

## 12 THE KEY OF SOBRIETY

***“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world”—Titus 2:11-12***

From the above scripture, we see clearly that God by his grace instructs us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts. And live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world. But we want to study in particular, what the Lord means by ‘living soberly’ in the context of the opening text.

The word translated as ‘soberly’ in the opening text, is from the Greek word ‘sophronos’ meaning— sound mind. That is, ‘moderately’. So when the Lord instructs us by his grace to live soberly, he means we should live moderately or modestly.

Now, when the Lord asks us to live moderate or modest life, he knows it requires grace. So he does not leave us to struggle on our own strength. Rather, the word of God tells us that God has already given us the spirit of sound mind or self-discipline (see 2Timothy 1:7).

So God by his saving grace instructs us to live soberly. And in line with this instruction, he gives us the spirit of sound mind at salvation. So we do not have any excuse not to obey this gracious instruction from our loving Father—God.

### **How Then Do We Live Soberly**

With the above point established from the scriptures of truth, the very next thing we want to dig into is how we are to live soberly. These include the areas or aspects of our lives that require sobriety as Christians. And they are as follows:

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

We are to be sober or exercise discipline or moderation in our thoughts. Because when we don’t control our thoughts, we may be derailed into errors. Such as high-mindedness, pride, heresy, and self-delusion, etc. So we must think with moderation; in the spirit as Christians.

2. **Words:** *“In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise”—Proverbs 10:19*

The words of our mouths per time, is another thing we have to exercise moderation or control over, as believers. As believers, we are to avoid undue talkativeness. We also have to control the kind of words that proceed from our mouths in every situation; even

when we are angry.

A Christian should not avail himself the liberty of saying any kind of word that comes to his mind, like the unbelievers. Our words can make or mar us and others. And that is why we must moderate our words carefully—by the grace of God in us.

3. **Sexually:** *“For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication. That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour”*—1Thessalonians 4:3-4

‘Vessel’ in the above scripture, figuratively refers to our bodies. We are to know how to possess our bodies in sanctification and honour. We are to abstain from fornication (or adultery, for the married).

And of course, doing this requires self-control or discipline by the help of the Holy Spirit. Lack of self-discipline or self-control is a major reason behind sexual perversion amongst believers. That is why we have believers who are trapped in one sexual sin or the other.

Some are involved in fornication; some in adultery and others are in pornography and masturbation. Then for some married Christians, in the name of marital liberty, they indulge in all manner of sexual perversion. Such as oral sex, and sleeping with their wives during their menstrual periods. And one of the major cures to these sexual perversions is self-control—by the grace of God in us.

4. **Emotion:** *“He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls”*—Proverbs 25:28

We are to also be sober in our emotion. Especially anger. The word of God instructs us to be angry and sin not. That we should not allow the sun go down upon our wrath (see Ephesians 4:26).

5. **Adornment or Dressing:** *“in like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array, but (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.”* 1 Timothy 2:9-10

The above scripture speaks to women. But it applies to men as well. Christians are to be sober or modest in their adornment or dressing. There are dressings or adornments which are not fitting for Christians. And concerning this issue, I would want us to let the Holy Ghost, guide us on how to dress modestly as believers.

6. **Appetite:** Christians are also expected to exercise moderation and control on their appetite for food. Many believers eat and eat, until they become obese. Some even develop sicknesses as a result of over-eating.

Others cannot even bring their selves to fast because of lack of discipline for their

appetite. So believers do need to moderate their appetite for food. Instead of letting their appetite for food control and undo them.

7. **Material Acquisition:** Another area believers need to be sober, is the quest for material acquisition or possessions. Many a believer has grotesque love for material possessions...

Yes, God does prosper believers financially. But the essence is not for needless and extravagant material acquisitions. There is no essence in a believer acquiring fleet of cars. When one or two would just be enough for the family.

If someone has a car and wants a change, he can sell the old one; add money to it and get a new one...instead of needlessly acquiring cars everywhere. The same also goes for every other material possession. For some, they build houses with many rooms they do not have need of...

For some others, they acquire clothes and shoes much more than they need. And they would not even give out the excesses. Then for many others, including some average people, they acquire so much food than they need. And eventually end up wasting most of them.

God blesses us with abundant material blessings, so we can be a blessing to others. If you have excess and you do not know what to do with them, just ask God to direct you on whom and how to give...

And I bet you, if you truly listen to God's leading, there are more than enough people to reach out to. And as you do reach out to them, you'll be more fulfilled and joyful than you would with needless material possessions.

The Lord is not against our material possessions. But he does not want needless or extravagant possessions. Instead, he wants us to be modest or moderate in our material possessions.

So that is it. The Lord requires us to live soberly or moderately in everything, in this present world. And the major areas of life the Lord wants us to be sober or moderate are those in the list above. And of course, as we live soberly in this present world by the grace of God, we will certainly end up as kingdom success.

## 13 THE KEY OF SPIRITUAL CAREFREENESS

*"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you"—1Peter 5:6-7*

In the above opening text, Peter by the Holy Spirit, reiterates one of the Lord's greatest, and yet most ignored instructions...

That is, the instruction to cast all our care upon God. From the above opening text, Peter opens our eyes further to the fact that casting all our care upon God, is how we humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God. And that if we do so, the Lord exalts us in due time.

If casting our cares upon God is indeed humility before God...

Then the opposite is also true. That is, refusing to cast all our care upon him is pride and arrogance before God...

If casting our cares upon God is righteousness before God; our anxiety and worries over things as Christians, is definitely a grave sin unto God. And like every other grave sin against God, God does not respect or smile at the believer who indulges in this wicked act of unbelief.

And this very point can be clearly seen from the matter of the Israelite spies. When the spies came back, those who got nervous at the sight of their enemies, attracted the wrath of God. While the two (Joshua and Caleb) who maintained their calm and confidence in God... regardless of the size of their enemies, received great blessings from God.

And this is why this topic of casting our care upon God, is emphasized severally in scriptures. Our Lord Jesus Christ, critically instructs us concerning this particular issue. By admonishing us to take thought of nothing. Including our feeding, our clothing and our tomorrow.

He tells us that our heavenly Father cares so much about our needs. And that as we prioritize his kingdom and his righteousness; all our needs will be taken care of by God (see Matthew 6:25-34). The Lord further says;

*"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"* (Matthew 11:28).

Yet many in Christ Jesus, continue to bear all their burden. Some even bear more burden than the unbelievers. Some are crippled by their burden. Some die by their burden. While so many others faith are completely choked to death by their burden or cares of this life.

Why? Because they would not let God help them bear their entire burden. Because they would not humble themselves to obey God's simple instruction of casting all their care upon him.

Their pride and unbelief, tells them God is not sufficient enough for all their cares. Some believe God can only be able to lend a helping hand, if they can share some of their care or burden with him...

Instead of throwing all upon him as the scriptures instruct.

Others believe, casting all their cares on God is irresponsibility and insensitivity. They even accuse the few who cast their cares on God of irresponsibility, insensitivity; and being uncaring or carefree.

They admire and respect those who worry and are pathetic about everything like them. They believe those who worry and are anxious about everything are more loving, sensitive and compassionate. But that is a great delusion.

It is totally ungodly. It is against the counsel of God and scriptures. Every disobedience to God's instruction is a sin. If the Lord says we should be anxious for nothing, and we go on worrying and getting anxious about things; then we are grievous sinners that need repentance. The sin of carelessness (anxiety) is as grave as that of fornication and the rest.

And many Christians indulge in it often without feeling any single remorse about it. Worse still, believers commit this sin with so much self-justification. And many do not even accept that it is a sin, because it has natural justification. But the Lord is definitely not smiling at this grave wickedness against him...

Because so many people of God, of all ages have been maimed and destroyed by this sin of carelessness (anxiety, worries). So the Lord is asking us for repentance, so we can enjoy the best of his gracious care.

Because he certainly do care a great deal for us.

### **How to Cast Our Cares on God**

*"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus"—Phillipians 4:6-7*

From the above scripture, the Lord through the Apostle Paul shows us clearly how to continually cast our cares or worries on him. He says we should be careful for nothing. But rather in everything, we should make our requests known unto God by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving. In other words, if we have any issue of concern...

Whether spiritually, materially or otherwise, we should throw it on God; through prayer and supplication with thanksgiving in faith.

Then finally, verse seven says; *“And the peace of God that passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”*

So as we continually cast all our care on God, the word of God says we will enjoy the peace of God in our hearts. And this supernatural peace is the rest the Lord speaks about when he says; come unto me all you that are labored and heavy laden; and I will give you rest.

And we access and enjoy it as we obey his instruction of casting all our cares on him. Through prayers and supplications with thanksgiving in faith.

So here you have it. Casting your cares on God and its awesome reward and benefits in God’s kingdom. If we must succeed in God’s kingdom, we must take good heed to this scriptural instruction of carefreeness in God’s hand.

***“And what I say unto you I say unto all, WATCH”—Mark 13:37***

Watchfulness is referred to in the scriptures as being vigilant and being awake. Watchfulness means to be awake: both literally and figuratively. It means to be vigilant: literally and figuratively. It means to walk circumspectly (Eph 5:15). It means to be physically and spiritually sensitive. It means spiritual consciousness and alertness.

Many a Christian treats their spiritual walk with God, with so much laxity. They are so care-free with their walk with the Lord. And as such, they easily fall into the snare of the devil. When the Lord instructs us to be careful for nothing; he is referring to worries and anxiety—as treated in the preceding chapter. We are to be anxious for nothing.

However, the Bible instructs us to be spiritually sensitive. Thus, such words as: Watch, Awake, Vigilant, Take heed and Walk circumspectly, were used in the scriptures.

**What are we to Watch out for?**

1) **Watch out for Deceivers:** *“Take heed that no man deceive you”*—Matthew 24:4. Every believer should be cautious of deceivers—which have been around since the time of the early church, till date (1 John 2:18-19). These are false prophets and teachers. Some of them are just heretics.

A heedless believer, no matter his level of spiritual growth, can fall for any of these deceivers. Many believers had fallen and are still falling for these end-time miscreants. To discern them, the Bible says, by their fruits we shall know them—Matthew 7: 16, 20. Then again the Bible says; *“no one speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed”*

The Bible also says, *no man can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit*—1 Corinthians 12:3.

So any Apostle, Prophet, Teacher, Pastor or Evangelist— who does not draw attention to Jesus, but rather to himself or other entity, is a false prophet. No matter how spectacular the person or his ministry may appear. For instance, we often see many so-called prophets brandishing themselves about with heavy titles that are supposed to be reserved for God alone. With little or absolutely nothing ascribed to God or Jesus Christ.

According to scriptural wisdom, we are to be immediately weary of such prophets. Their relegation of Jesus or God to the background should immediately send us a signal that they are false. And we should be wise enough to reject such ministry.

Even if someone has true ministerial gifts from God, but yet still relegates Jesus to the background, while fronting himself... It is still our spiritual responsibility to reject the ministry

of such a minister; because he is in a spiritual error. Especially when we may have corrected the person to no avail.

**2) Watch unto Righteousness:** *“Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God: I speak this to your shame”*—1Corinthians 15:34.

A Christian should awake or should watch unto righteousness, in order to live above sin.

This is to say; at all times, everywhere and at all situations, he/she should be righteousness conscious. He should be conscious of his sainthood. He should be conscious of the fact that he is the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus—2 Corinthians 5:21.

And that consciousness should inform his choice of words and actions in every situation... And at every given point in time. It is this consciousness that will make the Christian walk perfectly in (and with) the Holy Spirit. And consequently, it will make him to live above the works of the flesh—sin (Gal 5:16).

**3) Watch Out for The Second Coming of Christ:** *“Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: lest coming suddenly and he find you sleeping”*—Mark 13: 35-36.

No one knows the exact time of Christ’s second coming. But at the same time, the day an individual dies, is the day Jesus comes for him. Because the Bible says, after death comes Judgment (Heb 9:27).

Anytime an individual dies, he either goes to paradise (heaven) to be with the Lord (Philippians 1:23) or he goes to hell (Gehena) —Luke 16:20-31. Thus, the Lord admonishes us to be watchful or cautious of his second coming. At all times, we should be prepared for the Lord’s second coming, both in our actions and words.

If we fall into any sin, we should quickly ask for forgiveness and repent of it, with the cautiousness of Christ’s sudden appearance. Either at his physical coming or his coming at our death; which most of the time, we may not also know the time.

**(4) Watch out For The Spirit’s Direction:** *“Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.”*—Ephesians 5:13-17

Here the Lord calls us again to spiritual awakening. He says he that sleeps should awake and Christ shall give him light. Then he says we should walk circumspectly, not as fools. That we should redeem the time, because the days are evil.

And we have to walk circumspectly, by understanding what the will of the Lord is. We are to be sensitive to the will of God in every matter and at every time. Lack of sensitivity to the

leading of the Holy Spirit per time, is the reason behind the doom of so many believers. They walk into needless troubles, just because they do not consult, neither do they take heed to the directions of the Holy Spirit in them.

If we are to succeed in God's kingdom, we must always be sensitive to the leadings of the Holy Spirit.

**5) Watch out for the devil's devices:** *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same affliction are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world"*—1 Peter 5:9.

As believers in Christ, we are not to be afraid of the devil or any of his cohorts. Because Christ has defeated them for us—Colossians 2:15.

And he has given us authority over them—Mark 6:7. Yet they are still fighting till date. Especially, fighting our faith through their devices and wiles—2 Corinthians 2: 11. Their ultimate aim is to take you out of the way of truth. So you can fall into sin or error. So they can gain a legal ground against you in order to destroy you.

Some of these devices which they employ all the time, in order to devour the believers, are: vain thoughts and imaginations; and direct spiritual combat in dreams and other means. In order to weaken our faith and take advantage of us. This is why the word of God admonishes us to be vigilant or sensitive against these their evil devices.

And as we detect all these evil devices, as an antidote, the bible says we are to cast down the vain imaginations they bring to our minds—2 Corinthians 10: 5. We are to resist them steadfastly in the faith. That is fighting the fight of faith. And we are to do these by standing on the word of God. Equipping ourselves with the whole amour of God; and through Spirit powered prayers, etc... Ephesians 6: 18.

**6) Watch unto Prayer:** *"But the end of all things is at hand: be therefore sober minded, and watch unto prayer"*—1 Peter 4:7.

Amongst several other things, we are to watch unto prayers. We are to always ensure our prayer life is on top flight.

The scriptures instruct us to pray without ceasing. We are also instructed to watch and pray. Another particular scripture says, continue in prayer—Col 4:2. Then ultimately, our Lord Jesus tells us to watch and pray, so we do not fall into temptation—(Mark 14:38). If he says so, then it certainly means that a prayerless Christian, is a powerless and vulnerable Christian. So again I say, watch and pray.

Pray even when you do not feel like praying—that is divines wisdom. Watch your way to success in God's kingdom.

## 15 THE KEY OF POVERTY IN THE SPIRIT

***"Blessed are the poor in spirit; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven"*** – Matthew 5:3

All through scriptures, it is very evident that God delights in the prosperity and greatness of his children. As a matter of fact, the scripture tells us that the Lord has bequeathed all his creation to his children—The Church.

He has willed his ministers, the world, death, life, present things and things to come to us believers (1Corinthians 3:22).

All through scriptures, it is evident that the majority of the people that walked with God, were made great in every facet of life. Including the chosen nation—Israel. The Lord says we shall be the head and not the tail. He says we shall be above only, and not beneath...

Then again we are told in scriptures, that the Lord has given us (Christians) all things that pertain to life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). As such, every believer in Christ Jesus is prosperous or rich in all areas of life; through redemption and divine heritage. Now, with the above point established, we want to understand what Jesus meant when he said, "*Blessed are the poor in spirit"*

What does he mean by being poor in the spirit? It is very important we understand this statement, because many Christians over the ages, have erroneously interpreted the above statement of the Lord to mean material or financial poverty...

But Jesus never implied that in the context of his statement; so he was specific. He did not say, "Blessed are the materially or financially poor". Rather he says; "blessed are the poor in spirit". Because someone can be materially or financially poor, and yet not be poor in spirit.

Then on the other hand, someone can be materially or financially rich, but poor in spirit. Such was the likes of Abraham, Job, Isaac, David, etc.

### **So What Does Poverty in Spirit Mean?**

To better understand poverty in spirit, we have to consider the biblical examples the Lord spoke against their attitudes with wealth. Firstly, let us consider the fellow that ran to Jesus to ask him how to inherit eternal life (Mark 10:17-20).

After his conversation with the Lord, the Lord asked him to go sell all he had and give them to the poor, and come, take up the cross and follow him ( Mark 10:21).

When he received that instruction from the Lord, the word of God says he was sad at the saying. And went away grieved: for he had great possessions (Mark 10:22). Now the problem of this young man was not the fact that he had great possessions. No, that could not have been the case; if it was, the Lord would have as well been displeased with Abraham, Job, Isaac and Jacob...

The major challenge of this rich fellow, as it is with many today, is hearty attachment to their possessions. How did I know? I knew this by the Lord's clarifying statement in verse 24 of the same scripture (Mark 10: 24). Here are the exact words of the Lord Jesus; "*Children, how hard is it for them that trust in riches to enter into the kingdom of God*".

So the challenge the Lord had with this rich fellow, was not his wealth or great possessions. But rather, his trust or hearty attachment to his possessions that hindered him from selling them off. Giving them away to the poor; and following him as the Lord instructed him.

That said, let us consider another example. Because a matter must be established in the mouth of two or three witnesses.

*" And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; these things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God, I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot... Because thou sayest, I am rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked"—Revelation 3:14 & 17.*

The same issue comes up again in the above scripture as we saw in the first scriptural example. This fellow became lukewarm concerning God and the things of God; as a result of material possessions. And the Lord was displeased with him, not because of his possessions but with his material idolatry.

And the Lord was specific about that in his rebuke. He says; "*Because thou sayest I am rich and increased with goods, and have need of nothing*". The Lord did not say, "*because you are rich and increased with good and have need of nothing*". So it was not about his possession, but about the statement of his heart.

It was about his material attachment or attitude in the heart.

So from the above two examples, we can rightly define poverty in spirit to mean, holistic trust in the Lord; and absolute detachment from possessions, positions or achievements. Poverty in spirit, means giving up on everything you possess to the Lord in your heart...

It means owning everything, yet submitting all to the Lord in your heart (your spirit). Poverty in spirit means; “Not letting your possessions or position get into your heart or your head”.

Poverty of the spirit means not putting anything; or the possession of anything or position, above God and his instructions in your heart. Thus, poverty in spirit is a matter of the heart or spirit. It is not a function of material or financial possessions. Because like I wrote earlier, one can be financially or materially poor, yet not be poor in spirit.

### **Key to Poverty in Spirit**

The major biblical key for maintaining poverty in the spirit (human spirit), no matter the level of your elevation in life... Is the realization that we are actually, only receivers, not achievers. We must realize that whatever we own, possess, know... the heights we have attained, the goals we have achieved etc...

All are given to us by the Lord. We can receive absolutely nothing, except it be given us from heaven (John 3:27). When this revelation dawn in our hearts or spirits, and we walk in it on daily basis, our ego will be humbled.

And as such, we would not have any need to glory in ourselves or be high-minded over anything. But rather, we will always give all the glory to God for all things at all times (see 1 Corinthians 4:7). And along the same line, we will also render our bodies and possessions as living sacrifice unto God.

This is exactly what poverty in spirit mean. And the Lord will have us make this attitude our lifestyle. For he says, the kingdom of heaven is the heritage or possession of the poor in spirit.

The Lord does not have any problem with making us great to any level in life. But he does have a problem with our being high-minded, and Idolizing the greatness or possessions.

I pray the Lord make this attitude of poverty in spirit a part of your new nature in Jesus Name!

## 16 THE KEY OF VIRTUOUSNESS

***“According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue... And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue...”—2Peter 1:3,5***

The word ‘virtue’ as used in the opening text above, is translated from the Greek word, ‘arete’; properly meaning, manliness or valour. That is, excellence or exploits (intrinsically or attributed). The opening text tells us that God has called us to glory and virtue. Then verse 5 says we should add virtue to our faith.

This particular topic is very important to the body of Christ worldwide; as many believers are deluded concerning salvation. Many believe the saving call of Jesus is only but a ticket to heaven and nothing else...

Especially as it concerns this topic, many Christians wrongly believe that mediocrity and failure in life, is the same thing as godliness. And as such, they settle with mediocrity and failure in every area of life. They settle for mediocrity and defeat in their spiritual, marital, academic, career or business lives... and virtually every area of life.

They wrongly believe that the super-excelling believers, making exploits in every area of life are missing it. And consequently, they look out for one fault or the other to slander or lambaste them; with the wrong notion that they are doing God a service.

But the word of God tells us; *“They that do know their God, shall be strong and do exploits”*—Daniel 11:32. Then again, the word of God tells us that we shall be the head and not the tail. That we shall be above only, and not beneath (Deuteronomy 28:13).

Thus, mediocrity and ‘defeatedness’ in life can never be attributed to godliness. Instead from scriptures, virtuousness or exploits or excellence is actually what God sees as godliness...

Because that is exactly what God has called us to according to our opening text. Our exploits or excellence in life, glorifies God. Thus, a pursuit of excellence or exploits by the grace of God in us, is definitely a pursuit of godliness from scriptural authority.

Our God is a God of exploits and excellence. While the Lord Jesus was on earth, he did exploits in his ministry, which is still speaking till date. And if we are to follow the footsteps of our God and Lord, exploits and excellence in every area of life must be our pursuit. So we want to see the biblical ways or keys for the pursuit of excellence or virtuousness in every area of our lives as Christians.

## The Biblical Keys to Christian Virtuosity

The list below constitutes the biblical keys for accessing a virtuous life in Christ Jesus:

- **Faith:** *“Verily, verily I say unto you, he that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also, and greater works than these shall he do, because I go unto my father”—[John 14:12](#).*

From the above scripture, the Lord says anyone who believes in him shall do the exact same works that he did. The works being referred to here are majorly his ministerial and miraculous exploits. And he added; *“And greater works than these shall he do”*.

Here he is referring to individual Christians, not Christians collectively—thus, the use of the word ‘he’. It does not read; *“And greater works than these shall they do”*. Absolute and holistic faith in God is needed in a Christian for this particular scripture to be realized in his life. So Christian virtuosity is primarily a function of unfeigned and tenacious faith in God and his eternal words.

- **Knowledge:** *“And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries: but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits” – Daniel 11:32*

The above scripture tells us that the knowledge of God is required for strength and doing exploits. Knowledge here refers to the revelational knowledge of God, through the indwelling Holy Spirit in us. And we receive this revelational knowledge from the Holy Spirit, through continual word study; meditation and prayers. So virtuosity in the kingdom of God is also a function of divine revelational knowledge of God.

- **Diligence:** A major scriptural key to excellence or virtue in every area of life, is diligence. Both in the Christian and secular world. The virtuous woman in the book of proverbs chapter 31, is a typical biblical example of the direct relationship between diligence and excellence or virtuosity. To record exploits in every area of our lives, we must of a necessity, add diligence to our faith.

For instance, right from the very moment I gained admission into the university, I chose the class of degree I was going to graduate with by faith in God. As I did that, I started confessing it. And by the grace of God, I set out about one hour, to be studying my books every day; very early in the morning after prayers. I gave myself a target of rounding off my entire course outlines, at least twice before exam timetable would be out. So during the exam period I would just be left with revision...

And as I did that consistently by God’s grace, all through my years in the university, I became and remained one of the best students. I taught my course mates in more understandable ways than my lecturers. Many a time, I would finish answering exam questions allotted two hours to, in just 30 minutes.

And finally, to the glory of God, I graduated with the exact class of degree I desired of God, in spite of all the challenging oppositions. And as such, I was among the list of the best graduating students in my session. Thus, diligence is a major key to Christian virtuousness in every area of life.

- **Divine Wisdom:** Divine wisdom is another major key to Christian virtuousness or excellence. Many suffer mediocrity and defeat, just for the want of wisdom. Divine wisdom in the form of inspired thought or idea is what makes a believer outstanding amongst his contemporaries.

For instance, it is divine wisdom from God that has turned me into a successful, self-taught, multi-lingual, freelance programmer. And by the grace of God, within a year, I already had an edge above many other programmers in the new City we currently live in, as I was led into by God. To receive wisdom from God for excellence in every and any area of life, you just have to ask him for it by faith (James 1:5-6).

Added to this list above, Christian virtuousness is also a direct function of godliness, Love of God and Meekness. And as you engage these scriptural keys, you will definitely emerge a champion and super star in every area of your life to the glory of God in Jesus precious name!

## FINAL WORDS

*"Simon Peter , a servant and an Apostle of Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:*

*Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your **faith** virtue; and to **virtue** knowledge; And to **knowledge** temperance; and to **temperance** patience; and to **patience** godliness; and to **godliness** brotherly kindness; and to **brotherly kindness** CHARITY.*

*For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, **ye shall never fall**: for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ"—[2Peter 1:1-11](#)*

From the scriptural quotation above, Peter gives us the major keys to success in God's kingdom. He says we should give diligence to make our calling and election sure. And that to ensure we never fall or fail, we should add to our faith... virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity.

That as we do these things an entrance shall be ministered unto us abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. And these listed keys to success in God's kingdom and others, have been treated in this book.

In this book, we have defined success in God's kingdom to mean fulfilling God's plans and purposes for our lives here on earth. We have also defined kingdom success as receiving and keeping the faith of Christ to the very end.

And finally, we defined kingdom success as laying hold on the crown of righteousness on the last day. And these scriptural keys expounded in this book are the keys to success in God's kingdom. Having learnt the true meaning of success in God's kingdom... And the keys to accessing the success by the grace of God... It is my prayer for you that God will abundantly give you the grace to do as you have learnt in the name of Jesus.

I pray that you will never fail in God's kingdom for any reason in the name of Jesus. By the special grace of God, no man shall take your crown on the last day. And in every ventures of your life here on earth, I pray you always excel beyond your cotemporaries in Jesus Name.

Exploit is your portion in everything you lay your hands on in the mighty name of Jesus Christ!

I will read your testimony soon.

## RECEIVE JESUS TODAY

If you are yet to receive Jesus into your heart as your Lord and personal savior, you can do so now by making this short prayer below:

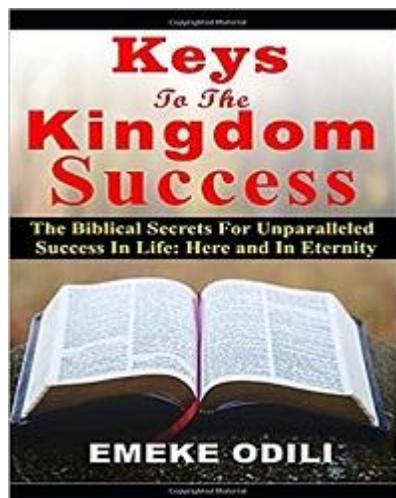
*"Lord Jesus, I confess that I am a sinner.  
But today, I repent completely of my sins.  
I receive you into my heart as my Lord and personal savior.  
Wash me with your precious blood. Write my name in the Lamb's Book of Life.  
From today, I believe I am a child of God.  
I am saved at last.  
Thank you Father for saving me, in Jesus Name."*

If you just said the above prayers, congratulations! You are now saved. You are now a child of God. And you have just gained access to eternal success. To succeed to the very end, just make the things you have read in this book your lifestyle by the grace of God. Then added to doing these things...

Locate a bible believing and teaching church around you, and join them to serve God in spirit and in truth. When you join the church, ask to be baptized in the Holy Ghost with evidence of speaking in tongues. And also seek to be baptized in water as the scriptures instructs.

Then to learn more secrets of success in God's kingdom, visit [www.righteousfaith.net](http://www.righteousfaith.net).

**This Book is also available in Paperback at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)**



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You can get your own copy or at least leave your reviews at [Here](#). Then if you have any testimony or question concerning this book, you can send them to me at [support@righteousfaith.net](mailto:support@righteousfaith.net).

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Emeke Odili is a Christian Teacher, Author and Blogger. He is the President and Founder of Righteous Faith Ministry International, in Nigeria. He shares life transforming articles at the ministry's blog: [www.righteousfaith.net](http://www.righteousfaith.net) .

Emeke is Happily Married to his best friend-Joy. They are blessed with two lovely boys- Enoch and Excellence.

Apart from ministry works, Emeke Odili is also a Multi-Lingual Programmer and an Internet Marketing Specialist.