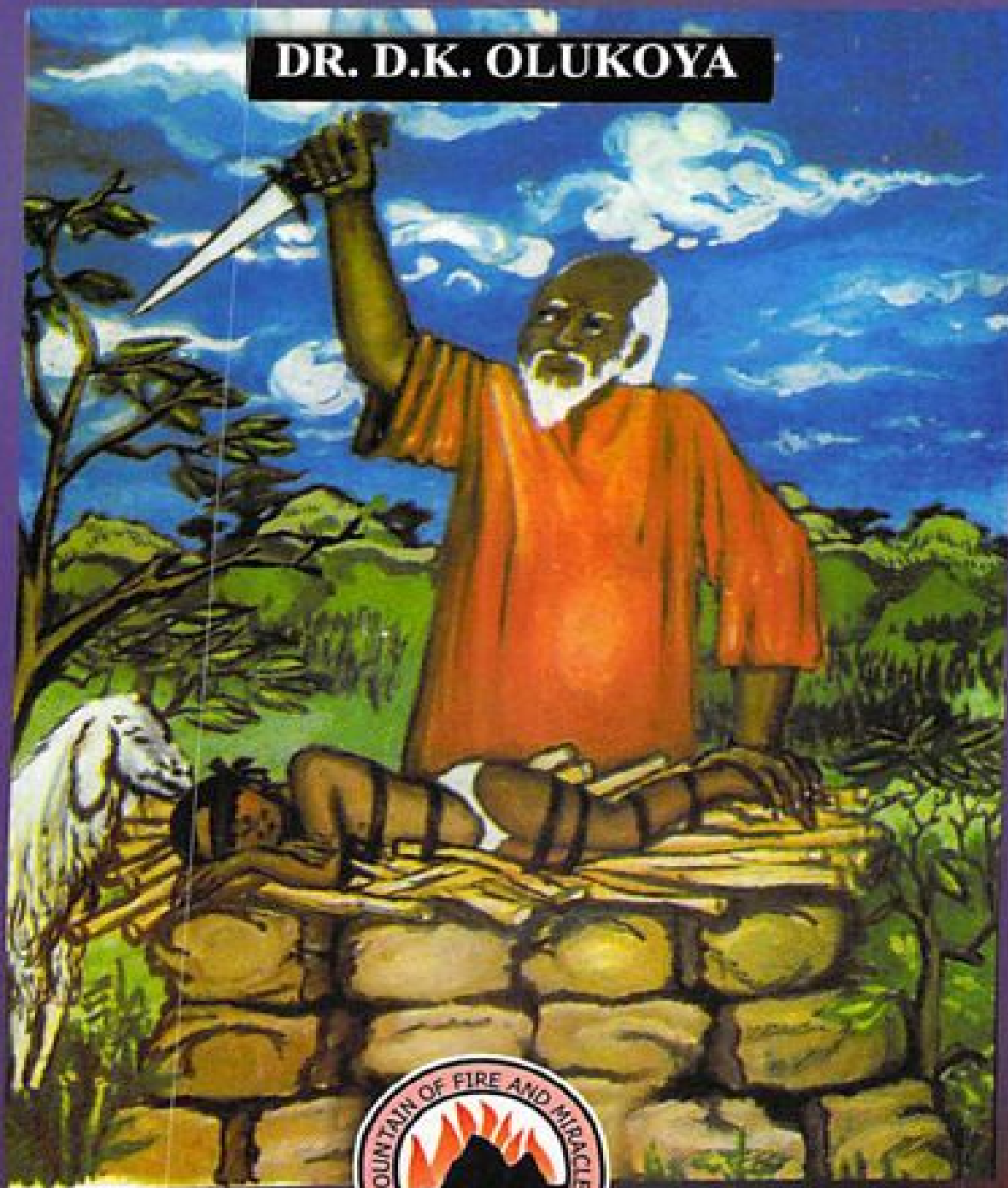


BROKENNESS

DR. D.K. OLUKOYA



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**"Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit"
(John 12:24).**

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A publication of:

Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries



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eISBN-13: 978-978-29470-5-5

Typesetting, Designing and Printing at
MFM PRESS

13, Olasimbo Street, off Olumo Road,
by Unilag 2nd Gate, Onike, Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria.

Cover Design - Sister Shade Olukoya

**All Scriptures are quoted from the King James Version of the Bible,
except otherwise indicated.**

First Edition March 1997

PREFACE

It is imperative for every believer to understand that there is more to being a Christian soldier than attending weekly Church Programmes.

Brokenness is a pre-requisite for being a true Christian Soldier. Therefore, anyone who desires to move from the superficial level into living the Christ-like life in its fullness must read this book: **BROKENNESS**.

The book teaches you result-oriented ways of escaping from spiritual stagnancy and its attendant frustrations. **BROKENNESS** is a good spiritual thermometer for every child of God, because at the end of the day, the requirement is that "He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30). Why? So "that you may be filled with all the fullness of God" (Eph. 3: 19).

The way of developing and maintaining this full stature of Christ is what is portrayed and presented in clear terms for all to see, in this book.

You are encouraged by the Spirit of God, to read and study this book so that you can be at the spiritual height God expects you to be and not remain a lilliputian all through your life. This is a challenge worth taking.

Pastor Ayo Oluwatosin

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Chapter I

◆ WHAT IS BROKENNESS?

This topic emanated from the need to have power and divine fire in our spiritual lives. My prayer is that God should open our eyes to understand the deep things of God.

John 12:24

"Verily, verily I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit"

Those who know about farming know that if a piece of maize is planted, it would die first before it germinates.

Psalms 34:18

"The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit."

This verse tells us the qualification for being near to God.

Psalms 51:17

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise."

These three scriptures quoted above, should be kept in mind.

Do you know why so many Christians are spiritually powerless these days? It is because they are putting their buckets into empty wells. What is the

result? An empty well would bring up an empty bucket. This means that many believers are looking for spiritual power without brokenness.

I'll ask you my first question. "How many people want to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit to overflow?" You have read Acts of the Apostles and have seen how those men were on fire for God. How their shadows chased away evil spirits and their aprons healed the sick. You look at it, and compare your life with theirs and you will know that you don't measure up to the standard. Would you like to measure up or perhaps surpass their standard?

If you want to receive that kind of overflowing, you must be broken.

How many people want to come to the right relationship with God so that He would be talking to them as friends? Then, you must be broken. To be broken beloved, is the beginning of a personal spiritual revival. The day your life begins to experience brokenness, that day your spiritual life begins to revive.

I remember the vision that one of our fathers-in-the Lord, who has gone to be with the Lord had. He said that, one night he was praying hard, interceding for some people. During the intercession, he saw in a vision all those he was interceding for, queueing up with plates in their hands, waiting to receive food from a caterer. But the annoying thing was that, those who wanted the food were crying - "Oh caterer give us food", and the caterer too was crying - "Oh I'd like to give you food, but these plates are dirty."

The man of God said that when he moved closer, he saw that each of them had human excreta in their plate and they were telling the caterer to put food there. He however said, "No, clean the plate first." These people wanted to collect holy materials in unclean vessels!

So without brokenness, there can be no real spiritual power in the life of any Christian. Brokenness is painful and sometimes humiliating, but it is the only way. There is no short cut to spiritual power. Let me ask you again, "How many of you want to receive the power of the Holy Spirit and be in the right relationship with God?" Then, you need to be broken! That proud

"self" within you must be broken. It means that, that hard part of your heart, the proud area, the argumentative, unyielding self, must bow. If it is still there, you cannot lay any claim to brokenness.

That part of us which always justifies itself that it has done something right, that part of us which is always standing for its rights; that part of us which is seeking its own glory instead of that of God, must admit that it is wrong. It must give up its own glory. God must take all the glory always.

This means that all the selfish attitudes must die. When something is broken, the value of that thing will immediately decline. The truth is this, God only uses broken things because that's what He is interested in. This means that you will become somebody who would say, "not me, but Christ." Look at your Christian life and see what is going on there. Then tell yourself the blunt truth and begin to move like a warrior. The Bible says, "comparing themselves with themselves, they are not wise".

Somebody said to me one day. "Dr. Olukoya, you have made it!" And I said, "what have I made?" He said, "they don't invite ordinary ministers here; you have made it!" I said, "rubbish, how many people are in this Lagos? They run into three or five million. How many people did I talk to - about one hundred and fifty, then, you think about it; If there are three million people in Lagos and I spoke to only one hundred and fifty, have I really made it?" He said, "but give honour to whom honour is due." And I said, "the honour is not due to me."

Look honestly at your Christian life - do you not see how much of self is in you? Do you know that some of us are so hard, so unyielding, that we want our own, ways always and bending them is so difficult? Some would even console themselves and say, "after all, a local proverb says, a dry fish is difficult to bend". No, not in the presence of God, whether you are a dry or wet fish, you must bend.

Look at your own Christian life, don't you see that it is often self that has been trying to live the Christian life? It is self who tries; the one that is supposed to die, is still living and trying to serve God. It is self that gets angry, it is self that gets envious, it is self that gets resentful, it is self that gets critical. It is the flesh that is always in a hurry unbroken, unyielding to

God, and usually oversensitive. It is self that makes you so reserved, that you can't even share, the Word with others. Beloved, we need to be broken.

As long as self is in control of our lives, the truth is that God can do very little with us. God's interest now is looking for the right people. He is not looking for educated people. He is not looking for uneducated people, all He wants is somebody who would say, "Here I am Lord, send me, I make myself available, here I am Lord, I submit my certificate, I submit my ambitions, I submit everything I have, underneath your feet, here I am Lord, use me to any extent you would want to use me. "That is the kind of person that God is searching for.

That is why the Bible calls the fruit of the Spirit, love, joy, meekness, temperance, etc. All the fruit of the Spirit work on the understanding that self has been crucified. Once self is not dead, the fruit of the Spirit cannot grow because the soil you are presenting to it is not fertile. When you stiffen your neck and refuse to repent, then brokenness will be far from you.

THE DOVE LAMB, GOAT, DOG AND PIG.

Brokenness is your act of humility in the acceptance of God. Look at the example of our Lord Jesus Christ Two pictures of brokenness are given of Jesus - ***The Dove and The Lamb.***

Lambs and doves are two of the most gentle of God's creatures. When Jesus was baptised in the River Jordan, the Bible tells us that as He came out of the water, the Holy Spirit descended as a dove upon Him and there was a voice from heaven which says, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased, hear ye Him." And John said, "Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world."

The lamb typifies meekness and submissiveness, the dove typifies peace. God gave Jesus the symbol of the lamb, and the Holy Spirit, the symbol of the dove. What happened to Jesus at baptism, shows that the dove can only come and dwell fully in the lamb. When you then refuse to become the lamb and you are praying for the dove to come upon you, the dove comes

and looks down below and instead of finding a lamb, he sees a goat, or a pig, or a dog. So, the dove goes back. this is the problem, beloved.

In Acts 8:32-33, the Scripture talks about the brokenness in the life of Jesus.

"The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth."

So, Jesus is being described here. The disposition of the lamb is humility, submissiveness and self-sacrifice. The dove could not have rested on him if he was not meek and lowly.

You know the lamb beloved, lambs do not complain or grumble and they love each another. For instance, in cold countries where farmers keep sheep and cows, when the weather is very cold, the cows die easily, because they would just lie down separately all over the field. But the sheep are not like that, they all come together and generate heat with their bodies to keep themselves warm. They love each another. They do not bite each other and they respond to the sound produced by the shepherd. Once they hear this sound, they recognise it and just like fools, follow the shepherd faithfully.

Unlike goats and cows, many lambs can be reared by one person, Just like in the book of Acts, when there were about Eight thousand people in the first church, being controlled by seven deacons; only seven. It is because they were a flock of sheep; if they were goats, even two hundred deacons would not be able to handle them.

Look at this beloved, sheep too are very obedient, they follow the shepherd. They are gentle, innocent and do not try to defend themselves even if they are cheated. There is no resentment in them, and this is why they are peculiarly devoted to sacrifice.

John says;

"The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith. Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)"

It is only the lamb, that kind of creature, that can take away sins. Because of this character that I have described to you, the lamb is normally a common victim on the altar. So, the dove can only abide with us when we are willing to become lambs.

Many times when we sing "Holy Ghost fire, fire, fall on me, like the day of Pentecost, fire fall on me", it is the goat that is crying. Sometimes when we cry, "Come oh Lord and fill me now, Lord, I want to see Your face, I want to know the way of Your glory, come oh Lord and fill me now", it is the goat that is singing!

Sometimes when we sing, "Come, come, Holy Spirit, come, come, come, the Powerful One", nothing happens because it is the voice of the goat crying to the dove. The dove is a perfect Gentleman, who doesn't want to have anything to do with the goat. So, nothing happens. Sometimes, something happens, but its a spirit of deception, because it is a goat crying to the dove.

Unbroken people easily get possessed by bad spirit, pretending to be the Holy Spirit

WHO IS A GOAT?

Goats are destructive; mostly, they have to be tied down with ropes. When you beat a goat, and say, "Don't come back here," before you turn your back, that same goat is back. So, they are very stubborn. At the end of the age beloved, all sinners would be labelled as goats and the children of God as sheep. Think about it.

Perhaps, you, my reader are the chairman of the Young Men's Christian Association in your local church or president of the Young Women's League. Perhaps we should retile it, and call you the chairman of young goats, since you are heading a pack of unbroken believers. Many times, it is the goats that go to Bible Colleges, receive Bible College Certificates, and

are called the High Reverend, Prophetess, Sunday School Teachers, Pastors, Bishops, Arch-Bishops and Apostles.

A Sister said that she needed deliverance and went to a highly placed man of God. The man said that there was a new method of deliverance, and directed the sister to remove all her clothes. The sister who is also a goat, removed her clothes for the Reverend gentleman and committed a sin. She came back to me crying and I said, "What did you go to do there?" She said, "Because no man is talking to me, and I want to get married before the end of the year". I said, "Do you now see, that you have only strengthened your bondage".

Sometime ago, two people came to me to request for an advice on how their ministry could grow. I greeted them very well, and noticed that one of them was a woman. I asked the man. "Who is this woman?" he said, "She is my colleague in the ministry." I asked, "Is she your wife?" He said, "No, my colleague." I said: "Where is the husband of this woman?" He said, "He is in London." I said, "What is she doing here in Nigeria?" He said, "Doctor, don't query us, just give us your advice." I said, "the first advice is to send this woman back to her husband and take your own wife along with you." He said that his wife was not strong. I said, "Make her strong." But what happened, they are both goats, waiting to work for God. So, I was not surprised when I heard latter that the two of them are now committing sin.

WHO IS A PIG?

Many times, it is the pig that cries out, "Holy Ghost fire, fire, fall on me. Come, O Lord, and fill me now. Come, come, Holy Spirit."

Pigs are destructive and are always looking for food. They go around the places where miracles would happen instantly, where the pastor would say, "Receive millions and become a millionaire," where they prophesy to a fornicator, "receive abundance" and you say, "I receive it", whereas you are a sinner. Sometimes it is the pigs that are receiving these things. Pigs have to be locked up most of the times. One day I saw some pigs digging up the ground, so much, that they dug up a corpse and started eating it. These

creatures eat anything including even their own waste and their young. They are very noisy, always grunting about.

There is an adage that says. "empty barrel makes the loudest noise." Pigs like their dirty environment. This reminds me about a King, who requested to keep a piglet as a pet in his palace. He never allowed it to come out. He dressed it and gave it food. In fact, the piglet was always dressed in a suit. Then one day, the king went out and the piglet followed him. But to his amazement, the piglet, inspite of its three piece suit, rushed into the mud and started playing there. The king was shocked and said, "but this piglet has never seen mud before as I have always kept it in the palace." Then one of the horse-men said to the king. "the nature of the pig, is always with it although the environment is good." Pigs, too are very fierce and easily loose their temper. Perhaps you are the kind of person who would shout and scream if someone took your seat accidentally; then you are a pig. As a child of God who is broken, you should just take your Bible, bless the person and go and look for a seat elsewhere. But when you start arguing. "It's my seat, its my seat, where do you come from? What's your name? If not for the church, what would bring you and me together, if not for the problems what would I be doing in a place like this." then, you are a pig.

Are you not the lamb that God is looking for? This is why many marriages are in trouble beloved. The wife is not broken and the husband is not broken. The wife wants to respond to every verbal attack of the husband. The husband also wants to abuse the family of the wife from the first person to the last person, and the wife too wants to retaliate. So the two pigs would be quarrelling and fighting and then the marriage breaks down and the eyes of the pigs would become clear; but then it would be too late. Think about it beloved.

Pigs also have a strong sexual desire and are always mating. One sister came to me recently to request that I should warn her husband, because one week after the delivery of their baby, he was already pursuing her about for sex and the man was an elder of a church. This shows you what I am talking about. It was the pig's nature at work. All these kind of things shouldn't be in the life of those who are broken.

Sometimes, women contractors first of all sell out their bodies before they get their contract. Some husbands encourage their wives to commit adultery so as to raise money. They would say, "how can the family of such a beautiful woman like you suffer; don't you know what your friends are doing? Your beauty is unprofitable to us in this house unless you use it to get us money." A brother had to come for deliverance because of this sometime ago. Whenever his wife was praying at night, he got sexually aroused and would not pray. He would just sit down and wait for her to finish. He continued like this until he saw a pig inside his stomach then he came for deliverance.

WHAT IS A DOG?

Many times too, it is the dog that cries like this, "Holy Ghost fire, fire, fall on me. Come oh Lord, and fill me now. Come, come, come Holy Spirit." The sheep only responds to the voice of the shepherd but this is not so with dogs. If there are twenty people in a household, the dog knows the voice of everybody. Dogs familiarise themselves with the voices of everybody in the household and would even come to a total stranger, if he would offer them food. They eat their vomit. It is so easy for those who are dogs to go back to what they have rejected, when they became born again. It is easy for them to miss heaven and to backslide. Dogs find it difficult to let go things of the world. They keep hearing the voice of their worldly friends asking them to come back. Dogs are greedy, selfish, quarrelsome, and lack sexual inhibitions. All these are not in the life of a lamb.

Beloved, are you a lamb, a goat, a pig or a dog? Remember, the dove of the Holy Spirit would not come upon the goat or the dog. It grieves me to tell you that a large majority of those who claim to be born again are not broken. If majority of us are broken, we would have won our nation for God. Our country would not be as it is today. There are so many churches, and so many ministries, but the problem is that many of the people therein are not broken. I am not talking about the pretence of brokenness like when your heart is dirty and you are behaving holy outside.

This anointing is for the lamb and not for the goat, the pig, or the dog. It is impossible for the fullness of the Spirit to rest upon us in an unbroken state.

Let me give you an illustration of how to be broken, in another way.

A long time ago, when I was in the primary school, people were very selfish with their food. One day, one boy bought a plate of rice and immediately there was a queue of six students in his front. The first student said, "Give me rice," and he said, "No." Then he spat on the rice and stirred it and said, "Do you still want it?" They all retorted, "Who will eat your saliva?" And went away. But one boy still stood there and said, "I want it." The other boy said, "You want the saliva?" and he said, "Yes." The boy then coughed into the rice and stirred it, and asked, "Do you still want it?" The boy said, "Yes, I want it." The owner of the food said, "But I have spat and coughed in it." Yet, he said, "Bring it." Then he began to unloosen the button of his trouser and the boy asked him what he was going to do. He told the boy to watch him and he urinated in the plate of rice. He then asked the boy if he would still want the rice. This stubborn boy said, "Yes," picked up the rice and ate it.

Now this is what I'm saying, no matter how unpalatable the situation is, a broken person would still persevere. No matter how terrible anything is, a broken person would take it. That is the message. No matter how unpalatable a divine directive may be, the broken person will comply.

The dove would only come on those who become like lambs. These people don't need to pray for spiritual power to come. When you become a lamb, the anointing is automatic, you don't need to pray for it. Some people pray to see vision, or to receive revelation. You can aggressively claim certain things and you can get certain things by violent faith. But for spiritual things, it is, a question of the right steps and levels. If your brokenness gets to the right stage, you don't have to pray about seeing visions. The visions would come. It is just automatic because you have gotten to the stage.

I was surprised a long time ago, when somebody brought his magical books to be burnt. Before we threw the books into the fire, one of our brothers called me to come and look at them. I saw different ladders, arranged according to the spiritual lives of people in the dark world, and how they could grow to the top of the ladder. I was fascinated and then I looked at the books closely and found out that below the ladder was the picture of a man kissing a woman, drinking beer and smoking cigarette. So, in the dark

world, too, the people have a power structure. As they go up the ladder, I found out that the person on top of the ladder was fasting for two hundred and one days every year because he wanted evil power. Then I said, "my goodness! Oh my God!, look at this. These unbelievers, children of the devil, discipline themselves because they want power. A child of the devil would go and sleep in the cemetery on top of a grave for seven days because he wants power but a child of God would complain about one or three days dry fast."

We want spiritual power, but look at it beloved, are we prepared to be totally broken? The Bible says, "as a lamb led to the slaughter," that's Jesus, "and as a sheep before his shearer, he is dumb." You know who a shearer is. He removes the wool from these sheep, to make clothes. It is a wicked thing to remove the wool from the sheep when it is not dead. The Bible says that Jesus was like that lamb, led to the slaughter and as sheep before his shearer; dumb, he didn't cry, grumble or complain. He opened not his mouth. Jesus was the lamb. Are you willing to give up your life to serve the Lord? Are you willing to subject yourself under the canopy of God's power?

Broken people, do not even wish to be known. Majority of the men of God in the Bible, were at first very far away from God. But God grabbed them, even though most were formerly unwilling yet, they became His servants. But there are people today, who after attending one or two Bible Colleges, want to be recognised as Pastors or Bishops.

Christ never defended Himself when He got before Pilate, despite all the accusations registered against Him. The Bible says that He kept quiet. When others accuse us wrongfully, many of us become boisterous. We offer our self defence, and even try to be vindictive, sometimes saying, "well, I'll deal with you later."

When people accuse you wrongly, has there not been anger in your voice, while responding? Have you not tried to justify yourself; when you should have admitted that what you did was wrong? Again, the dove takes it flight, since the person to receive it is not willing to be as quiet as the lamb. Of course, you know the character of the dove; it is gentle, peace loving, and very choosy in what it takes. It is a guiltless bird. After Noah had been

inside the flood for forty days, he wanted to confirm whether the water had subsided. He released a raven to go and see outside. The Bible says that the raven never came back. Do you know why? Ravens can feed on flesh and there was plenty of food to eat. But when Noah released the dove, who does not eat rubbish, it came back.

This is the tragedy beloved, we give God a very little room to work in our lives. For you to be mightily used by God, every ambition that comes from the flesh must be demolished and killed. Unless you and I become nothing before God, He can never make anything, out of us. Except you lay your position and achievements at the foot of the cross, God would never make anything out of you.

What am I saying? Drop that your position at the foot of the cross together with your fame and your wealth, then be broken before the Lord. When you then begin to say, "Oh Lord, use me." The Lord would say, "I've just started with you."

Finally beloved, brokenness is when satan has nothing to do in and with you. Brokenness is not an easy thing because the flesh would resist it. The flesh would tell you that what you are about to do is too hard. but you have to do it to be broken.

In the book of Matthew, chapter 21, verse 42.

Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes?

and verse 44 says:

And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder.

If you fall on the stone yourself now and tell the Lord to break you, He will do so. But, if you don't do this, and you allow the stone to fall upon you, it shall grind you to powder.

There was one man who was sleeping, and you know some people can be very terrible while they sleep. You shout their names once, they won't wake up, second time, they won't wake up, you move close to their ears and shout, still they won't wake up. So one afternoon, some people removed his trousers and shirt, yet, he was still sleeping. Then, they poured cold water on him, but he continued sleeping and didn't wake up.

Anybody who is like this, needs a major spiritual operation. Such people should forget about spiritual growth. They are not going anywhere until they solve their sleeping problem.

So this man was like that, while he opened his mouth and was snoring, a snake came and entered the mouth, with its tail outside. It was then that the man woke up, but he didn't know what to do although he knew there was a snake in his mouth. Then somebody who saw the situation, held him and began to beat him at the back. He beat him so vigorously that the snake jumped out. In slapping the back, he now had the problem of a back-ache. Although the man's back was aching, he was still rejoicing that the snake came out of his throat. He was not happy with the treatment, but he rejoiced at the result.

What the Church of God needs today is not cosmetologists or entertainers, but surgeons, because the message of the last days is simple and sounds like this: "Behold now, the axe is laid at the root of every tree; and every tree that does not produce good fruits shall be cut down and thrown into the fire and the Lord would replace them." My prayer is that God would not replace you in Jesus' name. (Amen.)

The Israelites disobeyed God, so they with their prophets and teachers went into captivity. Nothing was working out in their lives again the way it ought to be. Although God created them, yet they were in trouble. Although God said, "I am your Husband and your Maker," but then they were in trouble. God told them, "when thou passeth through the waters, I will be with you, when thou crossest the river, it shall not overflow you, when you pass through the fire, thou shall not be burnt." But if you look at this scriptures. "when thou pass, when thou cross, when thou walk;" walking into the fire, crossing the river. going through the waters, you will see that you have to pass through something. The only difference is, God will be with you. You

will have to attempt to cross something for God to be with you. So, if you just stay where you are and say you will not even try to cross then, nothing happens.

The only way God can be so close to you is when there is brokenness in your life. There is no exception beloved, we all have to go through the waters, and they may be very deep. We all have to cross the rivers, even if they are very wide. We all have to pass through the fire, even if the heat is intense. But God says that He will be with you, on one condition, if you agree to be broken. So, what makes the difference is your level of brokenness. You are as filled with spiritual power now, as broken as you are.

The more your brokenness, the more is your spiritual power; the less your brokenness, the less is the spiritual power you have in your life. So, the powerlessness now, or the powerlessness of all Christians can be blamed on their level of brokenness.

It is the same sun that melts the candle, that hardens the clay. The difference is the brokenness. The Bible tells us about the story of the potter and the clay; God has a workshop, you are the clay and He is the potter. It is very strange for the clay to rebel against the potter. He is the one who is always controlling the clay. Israel was a good nation: God prophesied over it and it had the best promises in the Bible. It had the greatest prophets, but unbrokenness landed her into trouble with God. Decide today beloved to take your own hands out of your life and out of the hands of others and put it in the hands of God.

WHAT IS BROKENNESS?

What am I saying? What I am saying is that:

Brokenness is allowing/creating a free access for the Holy Spirit in every area of your life.

Free access and no inhibitions. If He says, "I want to use your education," hand it over to the Lord. "I want to use your strength," give it to the Lord. "I want to use your talent," say, "this is it Lord." The Holy Spirit must have access to every area of your life. You cannot decide for the Holy Spirit. You cannot say to the Holy Spirit, "this is where I want you to go in my life." This is what we call "unbrokenness." Holiness is to let go and allow God to be in control. Brokenness is to say, "Yes, Lord," no matter what He is asking you to do, no matter how difficult; that is brokenness.

Brokenness is when you have been terribly insulted and really wronged and you have to go and apologise.

You say, "But I didn't commit any offence. He is the one that offended me." Yet, the Holy Spirit says, "Go and apologise." Brokenness is to go there and say, "I am sorry, please I'm sorry." The other person may say, "But why are you saying you are sorry? I was the one that was wrong." But you will still say, "Yes, I know, but I'm sorry. I don't want anything in my mind against you." Broken people do not keep malice. They do not harbour resentment. They know that there is only a slight difference between sanity and insanity. I mean spiritual insanity.

Brokenness is to be completely divorced from self

You are dead and Christ is the one now walking around in your life. Some people come to our meetings and say, "something is moving around my body, something, is walking around, I don't know it, they fired an arrow at me." Evil arrows at you would only work and prosper, when you are not broken. All the enemy does is to locate those areas of your life that are not broken and fires at it and the arrow enters. I want you to think about it beloved. Nobody is indispensable in the work of God. If somebody decides tomorrow and says, "I'm going away, because of this or that, I won't work for God again. I won't serve the Lord again." Well, your departure would mean a replacement with better people. God is telling you that you need to be broken, because He wants to use you more than He is using you now. But you are the one preventing Him from using you to the fullest.

When you are broken, the way God wants you to be broken, people will look for a way to annoy you. They will complain and say, "Ah, what kind of a person is this, he never seems to get annoyed. He does not fight with anybody, what sort of a person is this, even when you offend him, he does not respond." That is brokenness beloved.

Some people who have not even been offended, are looking for the opportunity. They say, "One day somebody will cross my path in this house and will see trouble." This is what unbrokenness can do.

Brokenness is to be completely emptied of pride, everything that is called pride in you must be pulled down.

You must subject yourself under the feet of Christ knowing fully well that at the best, your last resting place cannot be more than a few meters under the ground; six feet or so, that is it. All that you are pampering and doing contrary to the will of God are raw materials for hell fire.

The mother of one sister died and the woman didn't know Jesus. She was a socialite, who lived a life of merriment and parties to the fullest. When they were dressing up the corpse, the sister came to apply cosmetics on her. She painted the face, lips, and finger nails. She was just preparing her mother as a good meal for the termites.

A proud person is as useless to God as cosmetics on a corpse.

When you are not broken, heaven is very far from you. You do not know what is happening in the spiritual realm and you do not see anything. You should purge yourself of pride. It must die and you must become the kind of person that people would look at and say, "Ah! I must follow you to your fellowship." I remember a brother, who worked in a bank. One day, there was a fraud in the bank, and policemen were invited. The manager pointed to the brother and said. "Officer, don't bother to touch this man. I can bet anything that the brother doesn't know anything about the matter." On further investigation, it was so. The manager recognised him for his broken life.

Brokenness is for the world to loose its hold upon your life

People won't invite you to their worldly parties again. Nobody invites me to such parties now. Worldliness completely looses its hold upon you. It doesn't fascinate you and you are not interested in it. Your focus has been changed and your life has been revised. To some people now, enjoyment means; ability to eat anything, anytime in the way they like it. Ability to board an aircraft and travel to where they want. Ability to buy clothes that shine in the dark; ability to watch television set for hours, partying, lusting after the opposite sex in the room: ability to drink alcohol. This is what people call enjoyment, but it would be reversed when you are dead to worldliness.

Brokenness is to be sacrificed on the altar of God

In the olden days, when people wanted to sacrifice an animal, they cut it into pieces and then re-arrange it piece by piece on the altar. Every thing would be put back until the whole animal was complete. Oil was then poured on it, and set on fire. One by one, the animal must be re-assembled on the altar after having been cut into pieces. If any part was missing, the sacrifice would not be complete. It is the same thing with us. One by one our whole lives must become one big sacrifice on the altar of God. If you saw anybody doing the work of God, and is easily offended and unhappy, he lacks brokenness. When you are insulted, or even slapped, you should rejoice. That part of you demanding for respect, wanting people to bow down, wanting people to call you 'Madam', 'Sir', 'Chief, is the flesh, which must die. If it doesn't die, God will not want to do anything with you.

Brokenness is to be completely yielded to God

So, when God tells you to go anywhere, you say. "Yes", and do so without complaining. You obey. If you say. "Yes, but," that is unbrokenness. Every "but" that is said to God is disobedience. Think about it beloved. How many of us are truly transformed and broken? I'm not talking about theory now. I'm not even talking about speaking in tongues. because you can speak a thousand and one tongues and still go to hell fire. I'm not talking about

being sanctified, because you could be sanctified and still go to hell fire. I'm not talking about being born again, because you could be born again and still roast in hell fire. What I am talking about is deeper than these. Are you broken enough for God to commit things into your hands? Why is it that after so many years of being born again, you are still battling with anger, adultery, fornication, malice, unforgiveness and talkative spirits. Something is wrong and if you are not careful, about the flesh, eventually, at the end of the day, it would push one into hell fire. Note something for sure, the flesh is not interested in going to heaven and is aware of this. It knows that the journey ends here, so as much as possible it wants to prevent you - the spirit man, from getting to heaven.

Once you recognize this and realise that all your worldliness cannot take you beyond this world, you will begin to see the true state of your spirit-man.

I remember the story of one man who prayed for seven days, that God should break him. By the time God finished with him, there was nothing you could say that would provoke him. He kept a steady smile and anger and resentment disappeared from him. He loved everybody and became one of the greatest preachers that ever lived. He shook his country for Christ, but first, he was broken. That was why Jesus said that except a corn falls on the ground and dies, it abideth alone and there is no life in it. The way up beloved is down. You must let go that spirit of self in you, and stop becoming visible; then the Holy Spirit would come and live inside you. Your activities and life should now come under the total control of the Holy Spirit. This can only happen when you are broken.

Are you clear on this? How many Christians can allow themselves to be insulted without replying? How many people are disgracing the church of God outside, because of the way they behave and address people? How many people really can say that the way they are now, God is close to them because of their level of brokenness? I am not talking to pastors and ministers only, but to everybody. How broken are you? God uses broken things; before the bread could be multiplied. Jesus broke it. Are you going to allow the Lord to break you? With this book of series of messages on brokenness, will you allow God to do that which is to be done in your life?

Will you allow Him to dig deep into your spirit? It would be so sad beloved, if at the end of the day, heaven's gates are shut and someone looks at you from inside and says, "Sister, Brother, you should have been in this place, but your fornication and adultery prevented you. You should have been in this place, but your pride prevented you. You should have been in this place, but self locked you out. You should have been in this place, but your uncontrollable mouth left you outside. You should have been in this place, but your cigarettes and alcohol left you outside."

It is not possible for everyone reading this book to become the president of Nigeria or another country, or to become a multi millionaire. We may therefore not enjoy many good things wished for in this world. It will be sad then to miss it here on earth and also over there in heaven. This is double tragedy. That is, you did not really fully enjoy yourself here and when you die, there is no enjoyment and suffering continues, This is not for me in Jesus' name!

So, if this is the situation, we really must cry unto the Lord now. We must be broken. When we are broken, certain prayers are not necessary. Nobody would tell any sister not to wear trousers, because she would just not be able to do so. All the people who are dressing like masquerades, will know that their way of dressing is unacceptable to God. If God opens your eyes, you will see that the way some people dress now is the way demons dress, The devil is dressing human beings like demons. Think about it beloved.

How many people want to be broken? It is a painful exercise. It means that if somebody slaps you now, you will just smile and say, "God bless you," and you go away. If somebody steals your thing and gives It to you, you will say, "Thank you very much, I can go away with it now." How many of you can do this? This is the truth of what brokenness is all about.

Beloved, it makes my heart bleed with sorrow, and I'm saying this to you with all seriousness, that there are people that God expected would have climbed certain spiritual ladder, but are still playing about. God is asking when they will move.

Will you allow the enemy to be triumphant? Can you not see that even as you are now, you are not on the path to heaven? Can you not see that the

way you are living your life now, heaven is far away and you cannot reach it? Can you not see that all you are carrying about now is a demonic holier than thou attitude? Can you not see that this world is going away with its lust thereof? Can you not see that in the record of the Lord God Almighty, you have scored below average? Can you not see that you are performing below what God has written for you? Can you not see that you are becoming more and more an enemy of the anointing? Can you not see that you are on the wrong path?

PRAYER SECTION

Beloved, the ball is in your court. Now is not the time for a prayer of commanding the enemy to flee. The important prayer point is this:

1. O Lord, I want You to break me, I want the self in me to die.

God cannot allow a vacuum in his programme. If he expects you to fill a vacuum. and by your own unbrokenness, you are not fit to perform. He will look for a replacement like He replaced Saul with David.

2. O Lord, whatever would make You to replace me, remove it from my life now.

Some can sing, teach, and analyse things, but are hiding their talents. Some just want to collect all the miracles and give nothing back to the goodness of the work of God. Some who are doing the work of God allowed pride to swallow up their lives. They think they are the best people in the planet This is unfortunate.

We will take the last prayer points for this message. Many people's names are in what we call the danger list in the hospital of the spirits. What is still keeping them alive are the little prayers they have time to offer. But as far as the devil is concerned, they are almost gone. In praying these last prayer points. I want you to give them sufficient time.

3. O Lord, give me the power to walk in the spirit.

4. O Lord, divorce me from every sin of self.

5. Lord, break me and mould me according to Your will.

Chapter II

◆ FOUNDATION OF BROKENNESS

GROANING AND TRAVAILING

Romans 8:22-23

"For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."

These words are very heavy. The Bible does not say 'we think', but it says. 'we know.' Groaning and travailing are not pleasant. Neither do they present an enjoyable experience.

Somewhere in Europe, a white woman wanted to give birth and went to a hospital, where the doctor and the nurse on duty that night were both black. When she got to the hospital, the Medical Director who was a white man welcomed her. On inquiry, she was told that a black-skinned doctor and a nurse were ready to attend to her. She however, said that she did not want the black people to attend to her. So they all left her in the ward. But soon after, labour increased and she was groaning and travailing greatly. When the pains became unbearable, she asked for the attention of any doctor and nurse. Eventually, the black doctor and the black nurse attended to her and she delivered her baby safely. She came back about two weeks later to apologize.

So, groaning and travailing, can be a very terrible experience. It can be a matter of life and death. About the groaning and travailing of man, the Bible says, "we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth together in pain until now."

Many people were born to be very rich but the world turned them to glorified paupers. Many also, are supposed to be healthy people but the world turned them to sickly persons. Many people were created to make others rejoice, but the world turned them to students of melancholy and mourning. Many people are tied up with unprofitable things and ventures. It is this groaning and travailing of man that pushes him to the devil to receive help. It is these problems sometimes that have made people to know what they know, and to be what they are today.

There was a place I went to and we had a meal of "eba" and "egusi" soup. We asked a man to pray and he started quoting the Psalms he had memorized. He quoted Psalms one to eight. By the time he got to the seventh Psalm. I tapped him, to let him know that the food was getting cold. I then asked him how he memorized so many psalms. He said. "It is an arduous risk O!" It was problems that made him to memorize so many Psalms. This is what is called the groaning and the travailing of man. He did not learn the Psalms in a time of peace, rather, he learned it because he knew that each time he read one, the evil forces would leave him alone for a while.

The Bible says that not only the unbelievers alone, but also Christians who are the firstfruits of the spirit, groan. So, both the unbelievers and the believers groan. Our groaning is hinged on the fact that one day we shall leave the tabernacle called the flesh and go to be with our Father.

Why the travailing of man? Why are all these things like these? Why is it that people who are meant to be great are poor? The Bible makes it very explicit to us that as far as man has refused to go the way of God and goes his own way, he will meet nothing but destruction. The Bible also says, "there is a way that seemeth right unto man but the end thereof is death."

Samson went to his parents concerning a lady and said "Marry her for me for she pleaseth me well." The parents refused his request and told him that Jehovah commanded them never to marry the Philistines. But Samson who was blinded by lust, insisted on marrying the Philistine. He said, "No, marry her for me for she pleaseth me." They reminded him of the fact that he was a judge in Israel and other people could follow his bad example. He again

insisted and repeated the sentence "Marry her for me for she pleaseth me well." The parents pleaded with him for a change of heart as the decision could introduce an enemy into the camp of his life. His adamant and stubborn decision forced his parents to marry the lady for him. The lady in turn married him to the devil, and Samson because find person and a grinder in the camp of the enemy. A whole judge of Israel! Why? It was because brokenness was absent in his life.

If Samson was a broken person, the first day he saw Delilah, he would have taken to his heels thenceforth. An unbroken person will like to watch and to observe, even when the Bible says, "flee from all appearances of evil." It is not evil yet, it is just appearing like it. Of this the Bible says, "flee." As far as man refuses to be broken, the groaning, and the travailing will become negative and can eventually lead to his death.

HOLINESS - THE FOUNDATION

Hebrews 12:4

"Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin."

This means that when you are fighting against sin, you do it right down into your blood system. Then you get to a level, where to do the will of God is a natural thing. Nobody forces you, it is just your bread and butter. Any other way of life gets you into trouble. For example, If I have to tell a lie now (God forbid), I will have to sweat hard to tell it. It is easier for me to tell the truth. When telling a lie becomes the normal thing for a believer, then something is wrong. He is not resisting unto the blood and striving against sin.

Hebrews 12:14

"Follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord."

The Bible says that without holiness, no man or woman shall see the Lord! You may see a vision, you may see your Pastor; you may see anything, and

be able to prophesy too, but without holiness, you cannot see the Lord. Therefore, the foundation of brokenness is holiness. This is where it starts, and then you can build up from there.

You may then ask, what is holiness? Holiness is when you are made partakers of the divine nature. That is to say, a holy person is like God because it is God's nature to be holy. The person has conformed to the nature of God. The goal of God for our lives is that we should all be conformed to his nature and the image of Christ. You can look at that image of Christ as a dress we all have to wear and the size of this dress will not change. Therefore, if you are fatter than the dress, you have to trim down to fit into that Image of Christ. If you are too slim for it, you have to fatten up to fit that image. Since it will not cooperate with you, you will have to cooperate with that image. Many people want to serve God on their own terms! You must know that you cannot serve God on your own terms, rather, you will serve Him on His own terms.

Living a life of likeness to God as it was revealed in Jesus, is what is known as holiness. To be like Jesus, in our separation from the world, in our purity, in the way we love one another and the fullness of the Spirit, is what true holiness is all about. Holiness is different from maturity. It is when you begin to get holy that you start to get matured. Holiness is purity and cleanliness. Your heart has to be cleansed from sin and thereafter be filled with divine love.

SIN - A MAJOR HINDRANCE

The Bible makes us to understand that as long as there is any conscious little sin in any area of a person's life, such a person has not even started the journey of holiness, let alone be broken. The Bible takes the issue of sin very seriously and gives several definitions of sin so that no one is in any doubt as to whether he or she is a sinner or not.

Below are several important scriptures we have to look at before we can continue:

Proverbs 10: 19

"In the multitude of words, there wanted not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise."

So vain talk, useless talk and fruitless talk is sinful.

Proverb 14:21

"He that despiseth his neighbor sinneth: but he that has mercy on the poor, happy is he."

So despising your neighbour or treating others with contempt is sinful.

Proverbs 24:9

"The thought of foolishness is sin: and the scorner is an abomination to men."

Foolish thoughts, ungodly thoughts, wild thought, proud, impure thoughts are sinful.

Romans 14:23

"And he that doubted is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin."

Unbelief is a sin. When you come to God and you do not believe He can sort things out for you, it is sinful

James 4:17

"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

Neglect of opportunity, not investing your time into His work, that is to say that, the zeal of your Father's house has not eaten you up. You really can't be bothered about what goes on. It does not matter what good names people call you, when you do evil things, the Bible calls you a sinner.

1 John 3:4

"Whosoever committeth sin, transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law."

When you transgress the law of God you are a sinner. When God says "thou shall not" and you proceed to do it, then you are a sinner.

1 John 5:17

"All unrighteousness is sin."

This refers to any cover up and cleverly concealed sin. Whatever is unrighteous is sin. There is nothing like diplomatic settlement.

Sin is an unpleasant companion

I remember this desert fable. There was a man who was travelling in the desert. At night, he got to a place where he built a small tent and left his camel outside. After a while, the camel said, 'I am cold, could I please put my head in the tent?' The man said, 'Yes, if it is only your head, you can put it inside.' Then the camel put his head in the tent. After a while, the camel complained again. 'Excuse me, my neck is getting cold.' The man said, 'I know that your neck is fairly long but you can try and put it in.' And the man continued sleeping. After sometime the camel complained again. 'Sir, the whole of my back is getting cold.' Before he could say anything, the camel put in the back and uplifted the tent and the desert wind blew it away. So both the man and the camel had to suffer from the cold.

Just as unpleasant as the camel was to that man, that is how sin behaves to man. First, the head goes in and you accommodate it, then the neck goes in and you accommodate it. Eventually, it will render the person completely homeless. It is an unpleasant companion.

Sin is a personal destroyer

I remember this story about an old couple. They had one son who left their village and travelled to the city. After several years, when they did not hear from him, they thought he was lost, and were not really expecting him to come back. One day, their son who had now become a rich and very prosperous man decided to go back to the village to look for his parents. He did not remember his home address again, but he remembered the village. So, this man took a lot of things, and money and came to the village. When he got to the place, he began to ask around, for the house of his parents.

The first person he met told him that there were many people with similar name as his parent's in the village, and as such, he could not help him. He asked around but could not locate his parents. He then decided to look for a place to spend the night and continue the search in the morning. Unknown to him, the house where he decided to spend the night was his parent's house and he asked the old woman who opened the door if he could spend the night there for a fee. They allowed him to stay the night for a fee. As he was putting his goods into the house for the night, covetousness manifested itself. The man and his wife began to plan to kill this young man and throw the corpse out, so they could have all his goods which filled a room. They felt that it was God who gave them the booty.

While the man was sleeping, the old couple struck a knife into his stomach and killed him. The previous day, while the man was roaming around looking for his parent's house, some people had noticed him and recognised where he came from. So, they came to the parent's house to congratulate them, that they had seen their son the previous day looking for them. The stunned couple asked "which son?" Then they realized that they had just killed their only son, because of money.

Sin is a personal destroyer. When you are committing sin you are killing yourself instalmentally and the devil knows this. He will encourage you to continue, and give you a thousand and one reasons why you should live in sin.

Sin is the champion of disgrace

When it comes to disgracing people, sin is a champion. I remember the story of a Pastor who fell into the sin of fornication. It is a terrible thing to fall into the hands of the living God. The day the man was to be disgraced, it was at the convention of the church and people were gathered from all over the country. All of a sudden someone began to prophesy, "Thus says the Lord, you Pastor 'S', had on this date, committed immorality and you have the boldness to come and sit here with my people. Therefore, I the Lord will fight against you." In the whole congregation, the Lord exposed him. The Lord said, he should go on three days dry fast and that the man should be put in an auditorium, where He would specially deal with him, and no one should try to help him. Any one who disobeyed would carry unwanted load. Sin is a champion of disgrace. When your heart is cleansed from sin, that is when holiness starts.

Sin is a hard task master

There was a man who used to sell toast bread inside a kiosk. He was very clever at cheating women who sell eggs. He would take crates of egg from them and when they come for their money, he would pretend as if he had never met them and deny collecting anything from them. He had been doing this for a long time, then, one day, he met his waterloo.

A massive woman went to the man for her money and the man said that he did not know her. The woman became angry immediately, and took three rings from her bag, wore them on three different fingers, slapped his kiosk and commanded him to come out. The man came out and the woman commanded him to lie down. The man laid down right there in the open, flat on the floor and shaking uncontrollably, then the woman sat on his stomach. All the passersby began to plead with this woman not to kill the man. She then asked them to tell the man to pay back her money. Eventually, the man described where he kept his money inside the kiosk. The woman took the money, then slapped him with the ring again, and the man stood up. In fact, everybody cleared out of her way when she was leaving.

Sin is a hard task master. When it catches up with a person like the woman, in the short story it will take someone to task.

Sin is a clever detector

There is no escape from sin because it is like a secret agent or a detective. That is why the Bible says. "though hand be joined in hand no sinner will go unpunished", and "your sins will find you out." That is why sin is called a clever detector. A Police detective can search for a person without success, but sin will find you out, even if you go under the ground.

I remember, the day I taught on the topic "The way of the transgressor is hard". I gave an example of a small German boy who was a clever thief. He had trained a little bird to fly away to places and came back to him. So one day, he wrote a short note on the leg of the bird and sent it somewhere. The note was addressed to a woman who was supposed to drop a certain amount of money for him at a particular location. If she did not comply, she would die. When the woman saw the note, she held the bird, and called the police. When the police came, they asked the woman to release the bird and they followed the bird in their helicopter and took note of the house the bird entered. The policemen entered the house and asked for the owner of the bird. The boy denied ownership. The police then took the bird to a distance of about five miles from the boy's house and released it. The bird flew straight to the boy, with the police still following the bird. They took the bird away to further distance, and the bird still flew back to the boy. That is sin. It will always find you out no matter how smart you think you are.

WHAT HOLINESS IS

Holiness is when all these sins are out of your life and all unclean and evil thoughts are wiped out. Holiness is when you are wholly dedicated to your God. You are completely yielded to his will and filled with his love.

I want you to take note of this great secret, of being younger than your age; that is, having your youth renewed like the Eagle's, is holiness. If you are going to be living in sin, sin will make you older than your age. When you are holy, there is an inward peace in you and because of it, frustrations, doubts and worry will not be in your heart.

God's love will fill your heart and you will be free from all that internal strife that destroys the body. Once there is peace internally, all your faculties will feel the benefit. Your nerves, your blood pressure, and your skin will all share in your internal spiritual blessing.

If you see someone who is confused internally, there is no way the person will be all right outside. If you are going to be holy inside, it will also show outside. The Bible is a text book of holiness. It is called the Holy Bible written by a Holy God, to make us a holy people. When you are holy, that thing called the old man, which is the flesh, will be put off and you will put on the new man.

WHAT HOLINESS IS NOT

Holiness is more than a doctrine

It is not a theory, but an experience. It is Jesus Himself and not just doctrines. These days, we now find a lot of people just turning holiness upside down. It is essential, therefore, for me to tell you what holiness is not.

Holiness is not freedom from temptation

Jesus was sinless, yet he was tempted in all points. The Bible says, "We do not have a high priest that cannot be touched with our infirmities, because he came in the form of man and was tempted at all points, yet he was without sin." The devil will always attack those who are most dangerous to him. If the devil looks at someone and considers the person a spiritual nonentity, he would leave such person alone to enjoy himself, ride his expensive cars and do all sorts of things. He would be treating this person like a Christmas goat, making him fat so that he could eat him later.

Do not envy men who are living in sin, because when trouble comes, there will be no one to deliver them. They may be laughing at those who are living a holy life now. When ever a committed Christian goes to church,

they would want to know what benefits he gets from going there. The time would come when we shall know who is benefitting. It will be clear to many people that as far as the kingdom of God is concerned, money is valueless. I read a cartoon, in which some men were drinking alcohol. Right under their table, laid a demon, who was fast asleep. Next to it was a picture of someone entering a church with seven demons, pulling his clothes, trying to stop him from entering the church. The meaning is this: for those who are drinking alcohol, the devil does not have any hard work to do on them again because, he has already pocketed them.

The devil is more active against Christians. What I am trying to emphasize is that temptation is not sin except you yield to it. You cannot stop birds from flying across your head, but you can stop them from building nests on your head.

It is not a sin to be tempted. In fact, we face temptations everyday. It is a good thing when you get to the level where you are broken so that the temptation does not affect you. Some people are still struggling. They say that there is a limit to human endurance, 'they were pulling my skirt and I was pulling their shirt and then, I don't know.' This is a wilderness life. I pray that you get to the level where you will be completely broken in Jesus' name. If you are already there I pray that you remain there and climb even higher in Jesus' name.

Holiness is not an experience that cannot be lost

Just as a Christian can lose the experience of salvation, and his sanctification, a man can lose his blessing of holiness. That is to say someone that was holy yesterday may not be holy today. Thus, holiness is a daily affair and not a weekly thing. The one you did yesterday is not sufficient for today, because the devil too, has not relaxed.

Holiness is not freedom from mistakes

A holy person may make mistakes but, he must be quick to correct himself and not retain one sin in his heart. Paul was arraigned before the high priest

and he said, "I have fulfilled my duty to God in all good conscience to this day" (Acts 23: 1 [NIV]). The high priest said that Paul was speaking blasphemy and commanded that he should be slapped. They gave Paul a dirty slap. Paul got angry and said. "God will strike you, you whitewashed wall! You sit there to judge me according to the law, yet you yourself violate the law by commanding that I be struck!" (Acts 23:3 [NIV]). The people present, promptly told him that he was talking to the high priest. Paul apologized immediately. Some people will continue to talk and argue 'He can be high anything, does that give him the licence to slap me?' Holy men do make mistakes and they correct them. There is no freedom from mistakes, but the holiness within will always ensure immediate restitution.

A Pastor who had never conducted a funeral service before, dropped his Bible inside the casket, the very first time he conducted one. He was embarrassed, and so was everybody present at the burial ceremony. He had to retrieve his Bible from the coffin. He made a mistake, but moved immediately to correct himself.

Holiness is not freedom from natural desires

For example, anger is carnal and sinful, but righteous anger directed against sin and the devil is not a sin. You can get angry but where do you direct the anger? There are some people who are always complaining about everything in the whole world. When they wake up, they complain about the weather, the bus, and the people. They are always complaining. It will be so nice if such people can direct their complaints to the enemy. Worldliness is sin, but someone who is tired and wants to take a rest is not committing sin. Gluttony is sin but someone who is enjoying a good normal size food is not sinning. Because you are holy and saved, does not mean you will no longer get angry or desire to sleep or rest. In essence, holiness is not freedom from natural desires.

Holiness is not freedom from trouble

Because you are holy does not mean problems will not come. A Christian can have a problem, but the problem must not have the Christian. God tests

us in these waters of trouble to see how well we can come out of it.

Holiness is not superiority complex

It is not having a holier than thou attitude. Have you seen your name in the book of life before you start claiming that you are the holiest person? A holy man becomes even more humble. A holy man is conscious of his own weaknesses. Let that be very clear. God demands that his children be holy. Holiness is not optional; it is essential for all Christians.

REASONS FOR HOLINESS

Why should we be holy?

It is because holiness is God's will for us

The Bible says that "thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven."

Why do we have to be holy?

Holiness is commanded by God

1 Peter 1:16

"Because it is written, be ye holy for I am holy."

To disobey this command to be holy is sin and it leads to darkness and backsliding. The truth about spiritual experience is that if you do not go forward, you are bound to go backwards, as you cannot stand still in a place. You cannot say, 'I thank God for where I am now. I am satisfied.' You have to move forward.

Why do we have to be holy?

Holiness is promised by God

God says it is possible and it is his will.

Why do we have to be holy?

Holiness is God's prayer for us

Jesus prayed for us that we might be sanctified and holy.

Why do we have to be holy?

Jesus led an exemplary life of holiness for us

His life was a perfect example of all He taught and we have to be like Him.

Why do we have to be holy?

Holiness is necessary to keep us from backsliding

There is a great army of backsliders everywhere now and the chief reason for backsliding is failure to seek after holiness. The Christian life is like a man rowing a boat up a river, if he stops rowing, his speed will reduce and he will begin to go backwards or downstream. The boat therefore, cannot stand still. It will either go up or down the river. So it is with the Christian life. You can still be doing your religious duties, and yet be backsliding. Backsliding is always gradual, probably unnoticed at first. Look at Samson. After being a good leader of Israel at first, he began to backslide after twenty years. Then one day he said 'I will arise, and it will be like other times.' He did not know, that he had failed to press forward after holiness and did not deal with the lust in his eyes.

Many Christians are now found committing open sins because of the seed of sins already in their hearts. For example now, at the Mountain of Fire and Miracles, people are not asked to fill tithe vouchers, because the Bible says, "Never let your left hand know what your right hand is doing." So, nobody is interested in whether you are paying it or not. That area where it is

between you and God and nobody is monitoring you, is easy to lie, cheat and commit sin everyday. Such a person will often say, "I don't know what is happening, there is no breakthrough." Meanwhile, he is backsliding secretly. These people are called secret backsliders. Sometimes, the secret backslider is the most vocal person around. He is the one at the forefront, carrying the Bible around and preaching from house to house. The devil has finished him and he is only moving around like a corpse.

Why do we have to be holy?

Holiness gives us the power to witness for Christ. People are more interested in reading us now, than the Bible. An impatient or bad tempered woman who is a Christian will find it difficult to deal with her unsaved husband. If she says, 'darling, follow me to church.' He will not go. Rather, he will say, 'you are the most unqualified person to talk to me about salvation. I do not see the evidence in your own life.'

I can never forget the story of Smith Wigglesworth's wife. Bro. Wigglesworth. was a great man of God and it was his wife that got him saved. He told her not to attend Christian meetings any more. Mrs. Wigglesworth went anyway. One night when she returned from a service, she found the door to the house locked. This woman wrapped herself in her coat, and slept outside by the door the whole night.

When Wigglesworth opened the door the next morning, she jumped up and gave him a kiss and said, "Good morning, Smith. What can I fix you for breakfast?" She started rushing around to get his breakfast ready. The man was dazed, because he thought that immediately she entered, there would be a fight. This act of unconditional love broke his hardened heart, and he received Jesus as his Lord.

Why do we have to be holy?

Holiness is necessary because the Lord's return is drawing near, at any time from now, the trumpet may sound. Holiness is necessary before we can enter heaven

No sin can enter heaven. No pride, jealousy, envy, impurity, hatred and bitterness can be tolerated in heaven. It is a holy place for a holy set of people. Satan was once a prince of God and suddenly, he was cast away from heaven, when pride entered into his heart. It was only one sin he committed, and got thrown down. Many Christians are committing numberless sins on daily basis today.

When some people are told to live a holy life, they would simply reply, 'leave me alone. I want to live my life my own way, I don't want any pastor or anything to teleguide me.' A man who is yearning for such freedom is like a train saying, 'I am tired of passing between these two rails, year after year.' The train wants liberty and what will happen? It will crash. We should thus be holy so that God can use us.

Great men of God have been holy men. Men with clean heart who are on fire for God are the ones who move the mountains and are great in the eyes of God. As long as there is any root of sin in our heart, the Holy Ghost cannot have his way in us and our usefulness is hindered. A young man was praying one day, and said, "oh Lord, give me power!" Then, he changed his prayer to, "oh Lord, I will give up every sin." The reason he changed this prayer was that God said that power was available, but the sin in his life was hindering the power. If your vessel is not clean, clean it, and miraculous things will begin to happen.

It is possible for each and everyone of us to be holy and useful. It is indescribably better than winning any battle or holding any worldly post. Jesus died to make us holy. So, we have to be holy. He submitted himself to stripes, insults, mocking and death on the cross. We cannot afford to disappoint Jesus. Let not His blood be spent in vain upon our lives. He was pushed on the streets with a heavy cross on His shoulder. He did not sleep for days, and was pushed from Pilate to Herod, to Caiaphas, and all over the place like a common criminal. His disciples who had boasted to die with Him ran away when trouble came. Peter who was seemingly very bold denied Him when someone cornered him and challenged him that he was one of the disciples of Jesus.

People on the rooftops were watching Him when He was carrying the cross and He fell because He was very weak and tired. I praise God that the person who carried the cross for Him was a black man. Any time God was going to make a dramatic change, a black man turns up. This man who carried the cross of Jesus was a black man called Simon. When you read the book of Acts, you will see that the first time the gospel left Jerusalem. was through a black man, the Ethiopian Eunuch. At the church in Antioch there was at least a black prophet among them.

Why should you be holy?

So that you may be saved

Sin in the heart is more dangerous than gun powder. Holiness is the safeguard against all demonic builders. For lack of holiness, Peter and David fell from grace to grass. With holiness Joseph and Daniel resisted temptation. The three Hebrew children also resisted temptation and Stephen gladly faced death, rather than deny the Lord. Without holiness, no man shall see the Lord.

STEPS TO HOLINESS

Now that we have seen that holiness is the foundation of brokenness, what are the steps into holiness? We are not talking about theoretical holiness. In fact, we have so many people today, who can sit down and talk about holiness from morning till night, but when you offend them a little bit, they will fight you like a wounded lion. We are not talking about intellectual holiness or those who only know how to analyse holiness, but do not have the proof in their lives.

It is like some people who hold prayer seminars and speak big, big grammar about prayer. They analyze it, but when you get there and say. 'open your mouth and pray'. half of them will open their eyes and will not pray at all. Theoretical and intellectual holiness are very terrible things. People with such orientation will not only deceive themselves, but would hinder others. The way God operates is this, if you want to plant maize or

yam, God has to help you if it is to grow. You have to prepare the ground, plant the seed, keep the weeds away, and later gather the harvest. It is God who will supply the sunshine and the rain and give life to the seed. God will never save a person from sin if the person is not ready to cooperate. There must be cooperation.

NEW BIRTH

The first step to holiness is conversion. You must be converted. There is nothing as miserable as someone trying to live a holy life without being born-again. This was the mistake of Nicodemus. Unless this first step about the new birth is clear, all that follows will be confusion and disappointment. Before you can build a house or a good character, you must have a good foundation. It is a sad thing to build on sand. Before you can abandon your building to build another one, you have to be sure that the foundation is well laid. Before you can have abundant life as a Christian you must have life first, because dead things cannot grow. The Bible says that we are dead in sin until we get born again. There must be a root before we can have the fruit.

People who want to live a holy life without being born again are liken to someone who wants to swim without entering the water. Get this clear, no one becomes a Christian because he was born into a Christian home or because he has Christian parents. Because a goat is born in a house, does not make you say 'it is a human being. All those experiences that people are talking about are not valuable if within your heart, you know you are not converted. The day you entered into the kingdom of heaven is your most important birth day. All other birthdays are useless.

If you are not sure whether you are born-again or not, it means you are not born-again. If you are born-again, you will know. You will get to a stage in your life, that you know you cannot save yourself, then you will cry to the Lord for help.

The Bible says, "If the foundation is destroyed, what can the righteous do?" A lot of us are trying to build on faulty foundations.

God wants broken people that He can trust and commit his treasures to. When God commits His treasures into your hands, woe betide that enemy who rises up against you. Woe to the wizard who sends arrows to you or the witch who will harass you, because as they attack you, they instantly become God's enemies.

Talk to God now. Tell Him who you are and what is inside you. Tell Him to help you.

PRAYER SECTION

1. Lord, let holiness be my food.
2. Oh Lord, reveal to me, anything that is hindering my spiritual growth.
3. Lord, help me to put on the garment of righteousness.
4. Lord, help me to crucify me flesh.
5. Lord, help me to hate sin with perfect hatred.

Chapter III

◆ THE HIGHWAY OF BROKENNESS

There are several reasons why brokenness is being presented in this book. Apart from it being a direct ticket to heaven, it is also the path of power. So it is important to put all these teachings to mind and also to use.

We have looked at the topic: "what is brokenness?" We have also seen that, it is when the flesh is dead that Christ will live in a person. In this chapter, we shall look at "The Highway of Brokenness." It is important to know those who are walking there, those who are playing there, and those who have not even found the way at all. We thank God for His miracle working power here at the Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries.

THREE NEEDED THINGS

At the Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries, we teach people that the greatest thing God wants to do in the life of a believer is to make that person like Him. You have to become like Christ and allow Him to live in you because that is the greatest miracle that can happen to anybody. All other miracles may disappear immediately you leave the place of fellowship. So your salvation, your life of holiness and the pathway to heaven should be your priority as a child of God. All other things, like the Bible says, are additional and secondary to anybody. .

Open your Bible to Matthew 16:24

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

This is a verse that has confused many people and at the same time helped others. I pray that it will help you today in Jesus' name.

There are three things in this verse which one must do. There is no discrimination; whatever is your colour, size or shape, whoever you may be, you have to take up your cross in order to be able to follow Jesus.

DENY YOUR SELF

The first thing therefore is that you must deny yourself. This means that "self" and "I" must die; it must be dethroned. "I must be there" "I want to be seen at the forefront", must be dethroned; all these must go. This is what we call denial.

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS

The second thing is that you must take up your cross. This means that it is impossible to say you want to follow Jesus when you are not ready to take up your cross. If you do not take up your cross, you are an unrecognized or a fake follower.

FOLLOW ME

The third thing is that you must follow. We have this ancient's song that has a lot of meaning.

"I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus, I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back."

There is another verse of the song that says:

"The cross before me, the world behind me, The cross before me, the world behind me, The cross before me, the world behind me, No turning back no turning back."

THE CROSS

The cross as we understand it, is a very powerful symbol of the Christian faith. Why is the cross so powerful up to the point where people believe that where they see a cross there must be a Christian in the place? The power of the cross came from the fact that it was the altar on which the once and forever divine sacrifice was made. Before, people were offering sacrifices of animals, goats and sheep because people wanted to please God. The Bible says that without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sin. Man had misbehaved in the garden of Eden, and lost the battle which must be won back. The person who must win that battle back, must be both a Man and also God, to be able to operate in the spiritual and also the physical realms. This is because when Adam died, he died spiritually and lost Paradise.

Jesus had to come to reconcile us with God and it was on the cross that He died. That cross is now the altar on which the once and forever divine sacrifice was offered. After the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ on that altar of the cross, no other sacrifice is needed again. This is why we teach against people offering sacrifices to idols because the once and forever divine sacrifice had been made. Any other sacrifice offered after this one will open one's life to demonic spirits who know that your sacrifice is their's and then they will move in on you.

We as Christians know that what Jesus did on the cross, was to die for us. Why did He have to take up the cross? Because He was going to die on it. When He says: "take up your cross and follow me," He is telling you that you are going to die on that cross. So we as Christians must die on the cross. The only people who have genuine authority over satan and can command him and he will obey are those who remain dead on the cross. By staying on the cross, such people are delivered from all self seeking and self serving spirits. Self promotion and the spirit of, "I have been there before; I was there before them; Nobody can deceive me;" are signs that you are still not dead. If you are dead, you will not be able to say these things because you know they mean nothing as far as God is concerned.

You may have been attending church for about twenty or thirty years, but as far as God is concerned, it means nothing if you are not dead. If things like

anger, malice, pride, self consciousness, over-sensitivity are still in you and you call yourself a Christian, God have mercy on you.

We used to have some elders in a former fellowship I attended who did not like to take part in Bible studies. Anytime the Bible study was going to start, they would start walking about in "starched 'agbada'" and would not sit down to listen to the Word of God. All they did was to wait till the end of the service so that they could count the money and organize the church. They just wanted to be signboards and not to get Involved. There are many people like that.

A lot of people have been destroyed through pride. When you want to destroy someone who is proud, give him a church post and he is finished. When you give what is meant for holy men to pigs and you take the pigs into the palour, something will go wrong. Either that palour will change or the pigs will change. Something is certain though, the pigs will not change, it is the palour that will change.

Let us look at Matthew 21:39:-43:

"And they that passed reviled him, wagging their heads. And saying, thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the son of God save thyself. If thou be the son of God come down from the cross. Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and the elders, said, He saved others, himself he cannot save. If he be the king of Israel let him come down from the cross, and we will believe him. He trusteth in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he saith, I am the son of God."

This was Jesus on the cross. People made fun of God and laughed Him to scorn. They said, "You have been working miracles, you have been doing all kinds of good things, we know that You went around, saying You are the Son of God." Only God can forgive us. That was the day when God was rejected at the polls by His own people who instead voted for the devil. They said that Jesus should be crucified. even though He had not done anything bad. They wanted Him crucified even though He was a miracle worker and preferred Barabbas, a thief, to the King of glory.

In Luke 23:35, the Bible says:

"And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God."

Here, people were asking Jesus to come down from the cross. Satan was offering Christ a victory without a cross, a conquest without a battle. This was not the first time that Jesus had been told this, but as often as they made the suggestion to Him, He had always rejected it in very strong language even in some of the strongest languages, you can find in the Bible.

If we read about the temptation of Jesus, all what the devil fired at Him, were aimed at one thing; to prevent Him from going to the cross. Satan wanted Him to get power without suffering, to be elevated without humiliation.

Some people came to Jesus and told Him to leave the place He was, where they were harassing Him and come to their own country, where it was safe. Jesus said that except a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it abideth alone, but if it dies then It brings forth life; meaning. "you cannot force Me to run away, I will rather stay here."

There was a time when Jesus said that, the Son of Man was going to the bottom of the earth, as Jonah was in the belly of the whale, and would suffer in the hands of wicked men. Peter rebuked Him and said that such a thing would never happen to Him. Jesus then said to Peter, "Get thee behind me Satan." What was Peter saying indirectly or what was the devil making Peter to say? He was telling Jesus not to go to the cross.

On the cross again. the temptation came, "if you are the Son of God come down." Again the unprofitable call came from several quarters, to come down. Sometimes when people talk to you and do not ridicule you, you will not react. But when people begin to mock and revile you, they can force you to demonstrate to them that you know what you are doing. Christ had the power to come down from that cross, and He told the people when they were going to arrest Him. "I was with you daily in the temple and you were not able to touch me. however. this is your hour. Do you think I cannot ask

My Father to send legions of angels? I have the power to lay down my life and I have the power to pick it up again." If He wanted to come down from the cross, He could. But if He did that, He would lose the throne. The devil wanted Him to come down from that cross because he had already made the mistake of pushing Him towards it. The devil wanted Him to come down because he knew that on that cross, he would finally be defeated. It was on the cross that the devil was cast out of the seat of authority.

Let me ask you some questions. Do you want to reign in life as a king? Do you want a throne here on earth? Do you want the kind of power that Jesus exercised? Do you want all satanic powers to be subjected to your feet? If you want this kind of power, the place to go is the cross.

A lot of people make mistakes because the place to go is not a fasting and prayer session, although these can help. Fasting and prayer will help to give you power to call down fire. In reality one small boy can just annoy you and you run mad on the street and start screaming and shouting with your nose twitching. Where then is the power? What do you have power over? Can you say you have power to make the lame walk and the blind to see, when in the next moment, you will be looking for prostitutes in hotels? So what power do you have when you cannot control yourself.

Power without internal control shows that you are just advertising. Because you say, let this happen, let that happen. and the thing happened does not mean that God is happy with you. Let that be very clear. Because you call the name of the Lord and begin to prophesy does not mean that God is happy with you. It does not mean that you are going to heaven. The same person prophesying. may turn round and begin to abuse somebody.

Matt. 7:21

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."

The way to put the devil under your feet is at the cross. The reason Christ is reigning today is because He went to the cross and died. That is why Paul said, "I am crucified with Christ, the life I now live is by the faith of the

Son of God who loved me and died for me." Immediately you decide to crucify your flesh on the cross. Satan will cry out in sympathy for that flesh. If you dare feel sorry for it, it is a satanic deception and demonic sympathy. People may look at you and say, "this new church that you are attending is making you to loose much weight. Do they want to kill you with fasting? Why is it that you now go early to church? You do not sleep on time and by 5:30 a.m. you are up. On the first Saturday of every month you are on dry fast. What is the matter? You should feel sorry for yourself a little bit.

You must allow the cross to slay the flesh and do not feel sorry for it, because it will complain and grumble. Unfortunately beloved, not many people who profess holiness actually live a crucified life.

A man went to a Church and sat alone at the back. The usher came and said, "Please sir, can you move forward?" The man said. "no I have to leave early, and if I sit in the front. I will disturb those who are praying. I understand that after the service here, all of you continue to pray so I want to stay at the back so that I won't disturb anybody when I am going out." The usher with a determined voice said, "I said move to the front." The man looked at the door and kept quiet but the usher was just boiling with anger. The man looked at the usher and said, "with this attitude you cannot say that you are sanctified and filled with the Holy Spirit, look at you, look at you." The usher became very angry but bottled his anger. In that particular church, if you are not sanctified, nobody will make you an usher.

Crying to God and saying, "I lost my sanctification, I lost my filling of the Holy Spirit," will not help as it is doubtful whether you ever had the sanctification. Think about it. This is why what some people say with their mouths is sometimes different from what they really are. There is something fantastic about God, He does not look at the outside. If you were to look at the outside like this, you could say, "This person is going to hell fire." You could also look at someone else and say, "He is a holy person." But let God bring His own record and you will see, what the so called holy man and woman do when they are outside the church.

THE FLESH AND ITS LUSTFUL DESIRES MUST DIE ON THE CROSS

The Bible says that this flesh must die because it is the only path-way to power. If satanic agents fire an arrow at you and it enters the body and is prospering there, the part through which it enters your body is not dead. Once it is dead on the cross, no arrow can work against it. You will become like a corn in a bottle that the hen cannot touch. People will just be looking at you but there is nothing they can do. The hen will get angry, but it cannot get the corn.

People can take your name and circulate it around for evil purpose but it will not work. If you stop walking about on the streets, but your mouth is not dead, then the arrow will come in through the mouth. Maybe your mouth is dead, and you do not get angry, or abuse people; but immediately you take your biro at work, and falsify records because you do not want to pay tax, your hands are not crucified.

Perhaps you noticed that you were not reading the Bible before, then you tried and tried and now you are reading it and meditating on it. Reading the Bible regularly is a battle and many of us do not realize this. The day you win that battle, you should celebrate. The day you can pick up your Bible and read, and meditate and gain something from it, you have won a great battle. If you have conquered this battle, it means that one way or the other your mind has been disciplined to be able to study the Word of God.

When you get to the office late at 10:00a.m. and you wrote 6:30a.m. in the attendance register because your colleagues did the same thing, then something is not dead yet in you. You can deceive yourself but you cannot deceive the devil. He sees it, and knows your weaknesses. Psalm 118:27 tells us that when we get to the cross, we should not come down.

"God is the Lord, who has showed us light bind the sacrifice with cords even unto the horns of the altar."

This verse means that when you get to the cross, bind yourself there, and do not allow anyone to pull you off. Many people who have tried the life on the cross quickly came down from it. They have neglected the confession and restitution of the crucified life which they should live. Some people are trying to come down while others have not even been there.

You can get there: may be when you prayed very hard at one prayer meeting like this. "O Lord, help me to crucify my flesh. I want to be a new person, anoint me, anoint me." God then anoints you because He said, "ask and you shall receive." So on the spot when you prayed that prayer. He answered and puts you on the cross. The devil then says, "we will see what happens when he gets out and is at home." Before you can say Jesus is Lord. the person gets home and finds out that someone has put oil in his bucket of water which he put by his door. He then says, "Who is the bastard that did this?" Immediately you say this. you are down from the cross.

So all sympathies for the flesh means coming down from the cross. All the pampering of self, means coming down from the cross. All the, "taking the easy way out", where spiritual principles are involved means coming down from the cross. All the efforts to defend the flesh. when the flesh is wrong means coming down from the cross. When you know you are wrong and you felt sorry for yourself but still say. "Is it me that they have punished like this?" It is coming down from the cross. All the submissions to sentiments is coming down from the cross. If you do not like the sight of somebody, it is coming down from the cross.

Let me tell you a secret: if any believer looks at someone and does not want to see the person, then he is not going to heaven. It is the truth because the person is not the devil. When you attack the devil there is no problem: Use any weapon that you have, but you should not hate anybody. When you say that the sight of somebody irritates you, this means that you are not going to heaven at all, until you begin to love that person. You may not like what he or she does but you should not hate the person; if you do so, you are a murderer and you will go to the devils palace because he is the father of murderers. It will be a sad thing if they put you in the same flat in hell with those who have aborted ten pregnancies, when you did not do any abortion but just did not like to see somebody. If you are like that you had better repent. It is a sin to resent people.

I used to have a friend when we were living in a place, where there were a lot of people. He woke up one morning and rushed back inside. I asked what was wrong and he said, "I have seen somebody that no one should see first in the morning." I asked if the person was a masquerade. He said "no, it

is Mama so and so." I asked, "Is that why you rushed back inside?" He said, "Yes, I want to go and sleep again." In the morning this same person will carry a bell and be crying, "repent, repent, the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Something is wrong somewhere and we need to allow the heavenly surgeon to work on us because the time for entertainment in the house of God is gone. Many people like entertainment, but now is the time for reality because Jesus is coming soon and not to reward entertainers.

When you refuse to accept your own blame and you place it on others then you are down from the cross. When you justify yourself and claim that you are entitled to your own opinion, you are down from the cross because when you die on the cross of calvary your opinion dies too. What lives is what Christ wants. Your opinion dies completely.

If you are offended when people slight you, you are down from the cross. They slapped the apostles, beat and kicked them. They spat on the face of Jesus, and called the apostles mad people and all kinds of names. Let me use myself as an example. They have called me all kinds of name before, but have never spat on my face. The apostles went through all these things and were still smiling.

What have people done to you? The truth is that very few of us are living crucified lives. When some people come to our meetings, it seems like the devil has blocked their heads to hinder them from understanding. So any message that should make them powerful. as they hear it, the devil helps them to drain it out. They will then say that the message is for someone else and not for them.

There is only one place of power over Satan and it is on the cross. It was on the cross that Christ overcame him. The only time that Satan can touch us is when we are not on the cross. We hang our hands there and the rest of our body is not there or we hang our legs there and the rest of our body is still alive. That place that is alive by itself and is not dead receives satanic arrow. The only part of our nature that Satan can not touch is that part that has been crucified and remains on the cross.

When your thoughts are not crucified, the devil will celebrate his birthday there. When your sex life is not crucified, you will come every time and

say. "Lord, I am sorry, I am sorry. I fell into sin again, I did not know what happened. I did not want to go there, I did not know why they got me into it. How did I get myself into it?" When your sex life is not crucified, this is what always happens.

When the way you handle money is not crucified; you take your tithes, break it into two, then you break it into another half, and you bring one quarter of a tithe and come to "Power Must Change Hands" meeting, and begin to pray for money, abundance, and power desperately. Meanwhile, you cannot do the ordinary thing God is asking you to do. If you see the way some people's temperature rise up when we are talking about money, you will know that they are not crucified. May God have mercy on us.

Some people's temperament are not crucified. When we are crucified internally, it means that we are completely dead on the cross, it means that we are dead and detached from all the most cherished affections and brightest earthly hopes. Submit your hopes and affections at the foot of the cross and be dead and detached from your religious views.

A lady came to me one day and I said. "Madam you need to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit" She said, "No, I have M.A. in theology and there are five view points about receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit." Then she gave me a thirty minutes lecture on why she should not receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I listened to the lecture, then I said. "I do not have Ph.D. in theology, my Bible college is from the third heavens. If we pray now and you receive Him on your seat, will you believe?" She said, "Yes." So I told her to put her theology aside. We started praying and within a few minutes she got filled with the Holy Spirit and started to prophesy. When she opened her eyes she said. "What a wonderful experience." I then asked her to relate it to what she was taught in the school. She said, "Rubbish."

So you must put aside your theological ideas. They must die at the foot of the cross. I know a man from a university who has a degree in Bible knowledge. He was invited to a fellowship near to preach on "Knowing God." In the fellowship were a group of carpenters, bricklayers, painters and only one graduate. Then this man went into details using the Greek and Hebrew meanings of the word "know." When he finished, one carpenter

asked him a question. He said. "You have been talking to us about knowing God. Do you agree that experience is the best teacher?" The man replied. "Yes." Then the carpenter asked, "Has God ever spoken to you?"

All the spiritual arrogance must die. All our narrow culture must die - "this is our belief, this is our culture, so it must be done, because I am born again does not mean I should not give to caesar what is caesar's." A sister was going to get married, and I advised her not to allow them to pour water on her legs. She said, "I am not convinced." The work of a prophet is very simple, when you say, "thus says the Lord . . .", and the person is not convinced, then leave him alone, you cannot force him to obey God. So they poured the water on her legs. After being married for a few months trouble started. This woman abandoned her husband and began to run after the brother of the husband. The husband was no longer attractive to the wife and the two of them were running about. All the family knew, that the brother has taken away the new wife. You may say, "I trust myself, that can never happen to me." Then go to the cross because any small space you leave for the enemy, he will take it.

All our successes must die at the foot of the cross.

All our religious experiences must die at the foot of the cross.

All our worldly hopes must die at the foot of the cross.

All our troubles, sorrows and disappointments must die at the foot of the cross.

When someone insults you, remember that a dead person does not respond. When someone winks at you to seduce you, know that a dead person does not see such things. When someone is being cursed and he is dead, nothing will happen.

The comforts must die at the foot of the cross.

All the bitterness must die at the foot of the cross.

In a place where people are crucified, when God speaks, everybody says, "Yes Lord!" You just obey and never allow someone to come and say, "Upon all the messages you have heard, you have disappointed God." This is like wounding God at the side.

That is why I like brother Job. Job did not know that he was in the center of a battle between God and Satan. God stood up for him and said, "You see that man, do whatever you like, he will not fall." Job did not know but Satan knew, and he said, "He will fall, let us remove his property, he will fall." Satan tried, and tried, but Job stood firmly on the rock. The devil even tried to use his wife. Job did not have the complete Bible at that time and there was no baptism of the Holy Spirit because Jesus had not come, but he stood firmly on the rock. So, you and I have no excuse for failing to do what God wants us to do.

The decision is yours beloved, you better decide to walk the way of the cross, the way of brokenness and the way of self crucifixion because if you refuse that way, it means defeat.

Let me tell you a secret, the fact that a Christian is enjoying financial prosperity does not mean that he is not experiencing defeat in life.

Jesus went to the cross, not only as our substitute, but also as our representative, to show us that, the cross is the place of authority and power. It was because Jesus died on the cross that God now gives Him a new name, that "at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, of things in heaven, on the earth and under the earth. If you and I refuse to go and die on that cross, we will continue to have friction at home, in the church, and in the country. That is the reason why believers cannot work together, why, they always quarrel.

Some of you would have heard me say this before; about twelve years ago, I called a meeting of the sisters and I told them, "since I came to this church, I am yet to have a case brought to me about two brothers fighting, instead it had always been two sisters fighting. Please, why is it that if you put ten brothers in one room they can live together for years without a fight, but if you put three born again, Holy Ghost filled sisters, who also speak in

tongues, in one room, and give them one month. somebody will start complaining, why?"

One old woman said. "Doctor, I have an answer, women do not have the Adam's apple, whereas men have it," I asked, "What does that have to do with the question?" She said that, "Adam's apple is like a door that shuts the throat of men, but since women do not have it, they cannot control their mouth."

Then I threw the next question, "Will this serve as an excuse before the judgment throne of God?" She said, "definitely not." I said, "Thank you madam you may sit down." I ask you the same question, "Why?" Even Christians fight. Some people do come crying to us that they have driven them away from home because they had become Christians, we will put them in a place till their parents calm down, but they will come back within two days and complain that the woman you put me with is not serious. Something is wrong beloved.

All Christians ought to be able to work together cordially. No matter what group you belong to, no matter who your leader is, you must be able to work together without any friction.

Friction in the home is caused by people who are not dead. One man said that, the best marriage is the one where the husband is blind and the woman is deaf and dumb. So, the woman will not be able to say anything that will make the husband angry and the man cannot see what the wife is doing, so there will be no fight. What has happened, is that there are no eyes or ears. But if those things could be crucified in the spirit, you will get the same results. When the situation becomes like this, and the husband and wife begin to box each other, the children will start to scream and may even be trampled upon. Then an unbeliever comes in and says, "Wonderful, you say you are Christians and you are trampling on your children and boxing each other. We cannot follow you to your church we will look for somewhere else."

If an unbeliever has ever said that to you, then you need to cry to heaven because you might have shut the doors of heaven against that person forever. His blood will also be on your head because you refused to be

crucified. You preferred to claim your rights. Avoid making costly mistakes."

Some people may say that it is the educated people who always fight in their homes, therefore, they would prefer to marry illiterates. I have something else to share about this. A man proposed marriage to three different sisters and they all rejected him. So he went to his village and brought a woman who could pound yam very well. The first night they slept together, he realised that the girl put her legs on the wall. As he tried to remove them he had an electric shock. He could not tell anyone again since he had decided to go to his village to get a wife. This was a "Journey into bondage." He was not dead to the level of being patient for God to provide a wife for him.

Prosperity is a part of the gospel, but the overall emphasis of the gospel is the sacrificial way of living. So, if you have come down from the cross beloved, then run back there. Do not try to prove to yourself that you are sanctified and spirit-filled. There were men who were sanctified and spirit-filled yet they fell. You must therefore, die to that thing that made you come down from the cross.

BENEFITS OF BROKENNESS

Isaiah 35:8,9

"And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools shall not err therein. No lion shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there."

Who is the lion and the ravenous beast? They are the bad and wicked spirits of the powers of darkness but they get out of the way of those who live broken lives.

I had told you about one top witchdoctor in this neighbourhood who said that he had been recommending people to our church. He said that we

should even be giving him a commission because of the people he was sending to our church. Whenever he tries something for somebody and it doesn't work, he directs such a person to our church. The witchdoctor said that if he had a child who wanted an advice on how to find a good life, he would tell the child to come to the Mountain of Fire and Miracles. He is stuck with the devil now but would advise his child to come to our church. He said that his group had tried to hurt us at the Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries, but failed. Such an attack will always fail, when you are broken.

A man took the case of his friend to a witchdoctor to destroy him. The witchdoctor asked if he had ever quarrelled with his friend before and he said that it was impossible to quarrel with him. The herbalist asked why and the man said that he had tried to pick a fight with him, and so one day he bumped into him but instead, of fighting, the friend greeted him, apologised and walked away. He also said that at another time, he poured water on his clothes that he was drying on the clothes line, but the man just said that it is alright, and maybe God did not want him to wear those clothes that day. The man did not even ask who poured the water on his clothes. So it was impossible to quarrel with that kind of man. The witchdoctor advised him to go and quarrel with him and then come back.

This is what brokenness is all about. In that situation, when were they looking for? They were looking for a door-way They have looked at the brother, but there was no way they could get him angry. They knew that once he got angry and was temporarily mad, then demons could move in and attack him.

So if you get off the way of holiness beloved, you are in danger. Any Christian with any unconfessed sin cannot walk on the highway of holiness. Any man who has his wife at home and is still running after other women, cannot walk on the way of brokenness. Any sister who is going about with married men or all kinds of sinners, cannot walk in the way of holiness. And anything can happen at any time to such people.

As you go to the top of the cross and you die there. power will change hands completely and your enemies will remove your name from the list of

those they fire arrows at. Only the broken people can enter into this highway of life.

There is something the Bible calls "having a stiffneck." Do you know what is called a stiff neck? This is when the neck is just facing one direction. People greet you but you can not turn to look at them. The neck is just stiff; that is a spiritual disease. Adam and Eve stiffened their neck and tried to be God. They wanted the wisdom they did not need. and this led to the beginning of the problems of mankind.

So if you are very critical of people. let me give you one advice today, it is very dangerous to criticize some one who is serving the Lord. If someone is putting in his best to serve the Lord, and you sat down crossing your legs and you say this is not good enough. who made you a judge? You are looking for trouble. He has tried his best, while you sat down there and said his best was not good enough. When you become irritable. envious and unforgiving. it is being stiffnecked.

There was a man sometime ago who saw a vision. In the vision, the trumpet sounded and people were going up. for the rapture. He tried to fly but he found he was wearing a big gown, with rain-boots and his legs were stuck to the ground. He tried but failed, then he started praying. He said, "Lord, save me from myself." He knew that it was not God that gave him the rain-boots, and 'agbada', and glued his legs down. Then he prayed again, "O Lord. let me be lost in You." When you are lost in God, God is in you, you are in God everything is God. Your friends will look for you but will not find you; witches and wizards will look for you, and will not find you. They just cannot find you because you are lost in God. Then the man prayed the third prayer, he said, "Let self die and let Christ live in me."

The path to spiritual power beloved. is to die on the cross. It is to know how to be humble so that God can exalt us. Jesus Himself came and picked up his cross and died on it. It is not an easy way to die. Christ was humble even to the cross and did what the Father wanted Him to do.

Do you want to walk in that way of holiness? I know you want to walk in the way of brokenness, you want self to die for power to change hands immediately. The reason why power changes hands temporarily sometimes

and the enemy takes over again, is because there is no brokenness, the flesh is still working, it is still very active. It is still doing all kinds of things and it cannot satisfy God. The Bible says that the flesh profiteth nothing, it is the spirit that quickeneth.

What are we going to do today? The first thing is to meditate. Think, examine yourself, after the thorough examination. you can start praying. What are we going to ask God to do? We are going to ask God to take His big nail and His big hammer and put us on that cross and crucified us there. Once He does that, let us see who in the satanic kingdom, can touch us.

Think about your life and be honest. Identify your problems and make this opportunity a chance of reconciliation with God. Jacob had his head on a pillow of stone then he had a heavenly vision for the first time in his life. He saw a ladder leading to heaven and the angels of God ascending and descending. Then he woke up and said, "God is in this place and I knew it not." This means that God could be all over you and you may not be aware of Him because you are not in the position He wants you to be. When you take your correct position with God, the devil will take his correct position. The correct position of the devil is under your feet, but then you must first of all be in your own correct position.

This is the reason why many people have suffered unnecessary hardship and harassment. For you to be recognised in heaven and hell you must die on the cross.

PRAYER SECTION

1. O Lord, save me from myself.
2. O Lord, let me be lost in You.
3. O Lord, crucify . . . (put your own name).
4. Holy Spirit, possess me completely in the name of Jesus.

Songs: sing with a contrite heart

1. I have decided to follow Jesus
I have decided to follow Jesus
I have decided to follow Jesus
No turning back, no turning back."

That is a decision backed up by the power of the Holy Spirit and I know God will help you.

2. All to Jesus I surrender,
All to Him I freely give,
I will ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live.
*I surrender all,
I surrender all,
All to Him Thee my blessed saviour
I surrender all."*

3. Its all over me,
Its keeping me alive,
Its keeping me alive,
The Holy Ghost fire is keeping me alive.

PRAYER POINTS

5. Father Lord, let me experience Your kingdom in every department of my life.
6. My flesh, I command you to die to sin in Jesus' name.

Chapter IV

◆ THE SPIRITUAL POWER OF A BROKEN LIFE

There is no gainsaying the fact that any serious Christian who wants to make a successful living on earth, and also make heaven must be broken. That is to say such a person must acquire the power that comes from brokenness. Serious Christians know that the more broken they are, the better they are to serve God.

Unfortunately, many Christians are yet to take messages on brokenness with all the required seriousness and commitment. The reason many Christians fail is because they have refused to be broken, they have refused to acquire the power of a broken life, and have, therefore, lost all what counts in whatever they lay their hands on. The Bible puts it clear that one thing can respond to another thing of the same kind. We read therefore in Psalm 42:7, that

"Deep calleth unto deep at the noise of thy waterspouts: all thy waves and thy billows are gone over me."

SURFACE CHRISTIANITY

Only someone who is deep can understand something that is deep. There is a surface in everything in this world and also, a depth of the same thing. You can understand the surface of a thing but the depth may not be clear. Unfortunately, you cannot find valuable materials on the surface, you have to dig deep to find them. You can't find gold or precious stones floating on the surface of the ground, you have to dig deep to find them: It is the same thing with God.

One of the major spiritual problems of the last days is being superficial, that is, being on the surface, or living a surface life. A life that is not deep. This is a great problem for present day Christians.

There are a lot of surface believer's, therefore God has not really done any deep work in them. They have not submitted themselves to the operations of the Holy Spirit to work deep into their spirits. Everything about them is all superficial. It is all play acting and entertainment. While they are busy acting as believers, the presence of God shies away from them: They come to the church, they are inside the church, but the church is not inside them. It is one thing for somebody to attend a fellowship and another, thing for the fellowship to attend to such a person's life. There are thousands of people like that, who attend church meetings, but all they have is a surface life. No deep work happens in them and such people are easy to identify.

If you are like that, you will know it yourself. Those who have deep relationship with God, know. Those who talk to their father day and night and are hearing deep things from their father know. In the same way, those who are just living on the surface, know. Surface Christians read their Bibles because they have to teach others and they pray only because they know that if they do not pray, what they want to do will not work. Those who pray to make their spiritual life, deep, know. But those who pray and memorize the Bible for show, know that they are deceiving themselves.

Some people will say, only God knows those who are going to heaven. If you will make heaven, you too will know, unless you want to deceive yourself. If you know that you are not going to heaven, your conscience will be telling you that you are not going any where. Your conscience is a policeman, and it will continually harrass you, and on the day of Judgment, it will stand against you. Perhaps you are in the habit of telling your conscience to shut up, or may be you have been ignoring your coinscience, but it is a perfect gentleman, who will continue to do its job.

Ignoring the coinscience, probably accounts for the presence of a lot of surface people in the house of God. This is the curse of this age, the curse of superficial Christianity. The very deep Christians are few and easily known. The surface Christians are well known too, no matter how they pretend. They know that they are deceiving themselves. The devil knows,

God knows, people who have spiritual eyes know that they are deceiving themselves. Many of them now flood the churches.

It is not everybody who comes to church wants to go to heaven.

People come to church for different reasons. Some attend church to heal a headache, re-unite the home, get lots of money, become comfortable in life, eat, sleep very well in a very large room and drive different cars around. These are the surface Christians, who are shallow in spiritual matters.

When all the prayer points you are praying in your life is 'O Lord, provide for me, let me build my own house, let me buy my own car', etc; when all you are asking for is, "let me do this or do that", then you are a surface Christian.

You have never bothered to ask how much you weigh before God in the spiritual realm. You have never asked about your spiritual score on the mark sheet of God. You are not worried about all that. Ask yourself the following questions, "is my service to the Lord now, acceptable? Or am I just deceiving myself? How come my colleagues, are hearing directly from God, and yet I can hear nothing? Why is it that I see no vision? Why is it that I do not .prophecy? Why do I just sit here and feel comfortable?" If your answers are negative, then it is an indication that something is wrong. This is nothing but superficial Christianity!

Surface Christians would always go around looking sorrowful, sad and unhappy once there is a small problem. They break down easily. On the contrary, the deep ones will promptly ask God about the situation. God will answer in return and say, "My child, just be patient, I want to deal with one or two enemies." They have got the needed information. Surface people don't get any information. It is a pity that when surface people are kept by the spiritual water tap, so that they can fetch water there regularly, they will still prefer to run back and forth instead of remaining at the tap.

Surface Christians, remind me of the story of some persons who once went to one of the best electrical shops in England. They had seen some light fittings in a white man's house and they bought exactly what they saw in this shop and were happy that they would have light as soon as they got

home. When they got back to their country, they installed everything on the wall like they had seen it done in the white man's house. Then came the moment of truth. They switched it on but, there was no light. Why? There was no source of power. Although they had beautiful fittings, since the electricity was not there, there could be no light.

A lot of people are going round with fake spiritual bulbs and tubes which do not carry any current. When you see them on the surface, you will say, "Wonderful! wonderful Christian, I praise God for your life." You are the one saying that but as far as God is concerned, such a thing does not exist. There are a lot of people like that.

A lot of people are looking for instant satisfaction, whereas the important need of the hour is not for a sizeable number of intelligent people. That is why Jesus picked His disciples from places a lot of people would not even consider. Jesus is not interested in our intelligence. In fact, when the Pharisees looked at the disciples, they wondered at the proficiency of the unlearned men at quoting the Scriptures. They, however took knowledge that the disciples had been with Jesus.

When you get born again and get deep in your Christian life, even if you have never attended any school in your life, you are "a professor of Christ" But, if you have gotten all the available degrees and yet you are a surface Christian, then you are in serious trouble. In the spiritual standard, you don't know anything. You will be shocked to know that even, in the university, the citadel of knowledge, people can be very fetish. So, God does not have preference for intelligent people. The desperate need of the hour is not for smart people, neither is it for the intelligent ones. The desperate need of the hour is not for the talented educated and gifted people. Rather, God's desperate need of the hour is for broken and deep believers.

TRUE BROKENNESS

True brokenness is to live beyond the surface into the depth. God said,

Amos 3:6

"Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it?"

PS 25:14

"The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant."

God has secrets which He will not reveal to everybody. When you are fully broken, you don't have to pray to God before you begin to see things in the spirit realm.

There was one sister who was planning for her marriage and so she prayed and a brother came. One day as they were in a prayer session, she saw a vision that the person she was praying with was no longer there but had gone down, down beneath the earth, to fetch one dark key to where they were praying. The sister ended the prayer and asked the man where he was coming from. The man responded that he did not know that the sister was spiritually powerful. The sister was very deep. Beloved, if she was not deep, she would have married the man with the dark key, who would have locked up her life.

Some lives have been locked up and kept under stones, and only the power of the Lord Jesus Christ can remove the stones, and bring them out. Sisters or brothers who are not broken will also attend dead churches where all they do is practising empty religion. It becomes a ritual to do so and has no reward at all!

True brokenness is what will allow you to penetrate into the spiritual realm. You can see and know what is happening, and you can see beyond the surface into the depth of any matter.

There was a time, a brother came to see me for prayers. I at first thought that there were two people coming, but suddenly, only one person entered the office. I asked if the person came with somebody else because a lady was waiting for him at the door. She tied a wrapper, wore nothing on top and was carrying a small coffin. He responded that he did not come with anyone. I gave him the description of the lady following him and asked why

she was following him. He said she must be his former girlfriend who told him that if he did not marry her, she would finish him off. I am unhappy to tell you that, that brother is dead now.

True brokenness allows you to see deep into the things of the spirit. True brokenness makes you to get the answer to the shallowness and the hollowness of this world. Many of the things people are naming after are so shallow. Posts and positions are so empty. I cannot trade what I am doing for God for anything. For example, the Bible calls us kings and priests. So, I am a king and a priest unto God. I did not become a king by selection, so no power of darkness can vote me out of power. Also, I did not become a king through a coup, therefore satanic powers cannot do a counter coup to get me out. True brokenness goes deeper than the things people are looking at to see the end.

When you are truly broken it will have a transforming effect on your relationship with others, like your husband, wife brother, sister, friends and neighbours. They will know that something has happened to you. One of the joys we have here at the Mountain of Fire and Miracles is when a husband comes and says, "since my wife has been coming to this church, there has been peace in the home." this encourages us. Or the wife comes and say, "since my husband started coming here, he doesn't drink again, he doesn't smoke again." He stays at home and prays. This is our joy. But when somebody comes, and says, "let them finish what they are saying and pray about the miracles and let us go home." Then nothing has happened to them.

Being broken is not a strict discipline aimed at eliminating laughter from the faces of people. The truth is that if you see anybody going about with melancholy and claims that it is because she is born again and sanctified, that person has not come across the living Christ. When you come in contact with the living Christ, it is one of the most joyful things that can happen to you. Broken people are those who sing and rejoice in the Lord because they know where they are going. They are not rejoicing because they have money or not but because they know that they are living the kind of life God wants them to live and their life is not fashioned after the prescription of other people.

True brokenness will liberate all that is holding down your inner man and you will be free in your spirit. True brokenness will deliver you from slavery, selfish interest, and self imprisonment. Only brokenness can deliver you from these things.

I don't know how long you have been yearning for a deeper life with Christ, and a more meaningful relationship with the Lord. Perhaps, something within you is tired of Christianity at the surface. Something within you does not want to remain where you are again. I have good news for you because there is a way out.

The basic requirement for progress for anyone who wants to grow, is one thing and it is found in Psalm 42: 1,2:

"As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee. O God, My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?"

Consider the cry of the Psalmist in verse 2.

"My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God."

The first basic requirement is to thirst for the living God. Are you thirsty for God? One song writer says, "more about Jesus will I know."

CHARACTERISTICS OF A BROKEN LIFE

What characterizes those who are broken to the depth? Not those who are broken on the surface. If you have been broken on the surface level, you will dress humbly and if you meet someone like your pastor, you will prostrate or kneel down to greet him. You will talk gently and change your attitude when you come to church. Even the worst crook outside will look so gentle and innocent when he comes to the church. These are all playacting and hypocrisy of the highest order. The Bible says, "the hope of the hypocrite shall perish." People who are seriously broken, do things

according to the directive of the Holy Spirit. This is the reason why their lives display the likeness of Christ.

SIMPLICITY

What characterizes a man who is broken to the core? There is just one word Simplicity. The Bible emphasises simplicity in the following verses:

Romans 12:8

"Or he that exhorteth on exhortation: let him do it in simplicity;"

2 Corinthians 1:12

"For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world and more abundantly to you-ward."

Simplicity and Godly sincerity!

2 Corinthians 11:3

"But I fear, least by any means, as the serpent beguile Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."

Simplicity must be like that which is in Christ. Simplicity, beloved, is freedom and complexity is bondage. Simplicity brings you joy and buoyancy. When you open to chapter 9, which talks about "Primitive Christianity", you will see that one of the reasons why Jesus had problems with the Jews was because He was saying things which were considered too simple.

On one occasion, He said, "repent, believe on the Son of God and you shall be saved." They found that prescription too simple, particularly because they would no longer need to offer sacrifices and offerings. They, therefore, complained that it was too elementary.

Simplicity is an inward reality and it will always have outward manifestations. If we were simple internally, our outward man will show it. If we are complex and proud internally, our outward man will show it. It is self-deception to arrange an outward life of simplicity, when it has not started from the inside. When your simplicity is from the inside, your speech will become truthful and honest. A lot of Christians now tell bare-faced lies. There are many Christian fraudsters and there are many pastors in jail for cheating people.

In the early days of Christianity in this country, when they want to employ people into sensitive positions they approached pastors to recommend their members, because they know that the Christian, would not compromise, steal money, or lie. But now it is the holy man who distributes tracts that is the first person to start stealing. When your simplicity is from die inside, your speech is always honest; the unholy love for status and position will depart from you. Then you will stop flaunting your wealth and refrain from saying "I have this and that and gave them this and that."

It is disheartening to see men of God wearing very expensive chains that almost touch the floor. That chain alone will construct about ten benches in a church. So if your simplicity is from inside, when you don't have something, it is not because you are unable to afford it, but rather because on principle, you have decided to do without them.

One of the tragedies of the modern man is that his mind is fragmented. One moment he will make a decision and the next moment, he will change that decision out of the fear of what others will think about him. He attaches importance to things that are useless. He has love for affluence and the craze for things he never uses. He buys things that he does not want just to impress people that he can afford it. Unbroken Christians are ashamed to drive cars or wear clothes that are not fashionable.

Wake up beloved, wake up! When you conform to a sick society. You too will become sick. If Christians decide to conform to a sick society, then they will become sick too.

One day I heard a preacher say that anyone who rides a Volkswagen (beetle car) needs deliverance. That is to say that, the spirit of poverty is operating in that person's life. However, the Bible has asked you to be contented with whatever you have. The central point of simplicity is to first of all seek and find the kingdom of God and his righteousness. If you find it, and allow it to work to the depth of your life. then things will become easy.

When you have this attitude of simplicity, it frees you from anxiety and fills you with peace. That fact that you are living without certain things does not mean that you cannot afford them. It shows that you are just simple. Let us take money for example. Those who love money most are those who don't have it. If a person says "when God blesses me and I am rich. I will buy this, I will buy that for the Church." I consider it as a lie. If you cannot give to God as a poor man, when you become rich, you won't give anything also. Don't deceive yourself.

ATTITUDES AND EXPRESSIONS OF BROKENNESS

When your simplicity is inward, you will regard all your possessions as gifts from God. You will trust God knowing fully well that He is the only one who can open, and close doors and without Him you can do nothing. If your simplicity is from within, you will make your things available to others and you will not be selfish. When your simplicity is from within, it will have visible outward expression.

You may ask the question, "does being broken mean that I cannot be painting my nails and face, and wearing slacks and leggings?" My answer is this: if you go to the market and say you want to buy tomatoes and the outside is green, you will be a fool to believe that it is good. The inside must be ripe because being ripe must start from the inside and come to the outside. So when you are broken inside, it reflects outside. You will see the manifestation yourself. Many people are deceiving themselves, that holiness is an internal thing and that it has nothing to do with the outside. When something is inside your heart, it will manifest itself.

That inner reality of brokenness is not a reality until there is an outward expression. A person who is broken to the depth will be noted by his

outward expression of simplicity. I will give you some signs of this outward manifestation. Such people will only buy things for their need and not for their status. When they buy cars, it is for their durability and need and not because of prestige. Many big men would have avoided untimely death and satanic attacks if they had kept a low profile. When you tell them that the car they need is just something to take them around, they will over rule you and emphasize that they want something fashionable. and thus order factory specification cars from abroad.

I know of an African Minister who went to America to preach. The people were touched and they gave him a big American car. He made the mistake of bringing the car back to his country with him. He began to ride it but sometimes, he had to beg his wife for petrol money for the car. Any where he went to preach, they didn't give him money again. They said he had the biggest car and wondered what they would give him that he would appreciate. They did not know that he was dead broke. Nobody advised him before he sold his car and bought a smaller one.

When somebody who is broken builds a house, he does not build a palace for himself. He builds a moderate house to live in it and not to impress others. A broken man does not build a house because he wants people to stand in front of it and extol its grandeur.

Broken people buy clothes because they need them and not because they want to keep up with fashion. It is the unbroken people who run after fashion which does not edify them spiritually. Their fashion change virtually everyday, but we know that the only thing that cannot change is in Hebrews 13:8:

"Jesus the same yesterday, today and forever."

There was a time people were wearing baggy trousers in this country which used to sweep everything as they walk along the streets. Then they changed and started wearing very tight trousers, that would require at least two people to pull out of one's legs. After sometime, that one too disappeared.

There was a time, people were putting goat's hair on their head and called it wig. After sometime, that one too went away and they changed to

something else. Do you want to continue to change fashions after the order of the unbroken people?

Broken people buy only what they need. Stop impressing people with your clothes. Rather, impress them with your spiritual life. Impress them with what God has deposited into your life. Buy useful and not ornamental clothes. Don't be the kind of Christian who will say, "no clothes, no church." If you remind them that they have four apparels they would respond that they wore them during the last four Sundays of the month, and so they would not wear them again.

Unfortunately beloved, there are many fashion parades by unbroken people, in the churches today. People would come terribly late to church, and because seats would have been reserved for them in the front, they would walk gingerly to the front row, displaying their affluence. It is irritating sometimes, when one cannot see the preacher from the back because of the headgear of the unbroken people sitting at the front. How can these women with heavy headgear pray seriously. This is why power is going out of the church. The day I saw people praying at Paul Yongi Cho's Church in Korea, I was dazed and said, "this is prayer." It sounded like the thunder and the waves of a rolling sea. With that kind of prayer, the headgears of unbroken people would have travelled far. The position of God on these things are clearly stated in the Bible.

1 Tim. 6:8

"And having food and raiment, let us be therewith content."

The Bible does not condemn wealth, rather it says you must not make it your priority. Broken people buy things for their usefulness rather than to enhance their status. Let brokenness come into your system. Don't behave like the world in saying, "I find it very degrading to bring a Peugeot 504 car when my rich colleagues are using a Mercedes 500." God have mercy on you.

1 Corinthians 6:12

"All things are lawful unto me but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."

1 Corinthians 10:23

"All things are lawful for me but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me but all things edify not."

So, you must reject anything that has the slightest capacity of making you a slave. Simplicity is freedom, not slavery. Why have you chosen to be a slave to anything but God? Many Christians unfortunately are addicted to tea, coffee, soft drinks, television, etc. If you are a television addict. I will give you an advice: sell it, or give it away. Once an addict switches on the television, he or she cannot do anything else till the station closes down. If a TV addict is not careful, the T.V. set will replace heaven for him or her. Anything you know that you cannot do without, which takes your spiritual time, should be done away with. At the end of time when God says, "come here."! you will not say, "Let me carry my radio and my colour television." They will be useless then and some people will probably fight for it as soon as you die!

What would be useful is what you have done to your inner man. That is what would make you to reach great heights in your spiritual life. Some people would say, "I was dreaming and they pursued me and I flew and then, they flew after me." Why won't they fly after you when you watch television from the time the station opens till when it closes? They will fly after you because you are not giving due attention to your inner man.

Some people are addicted to their stereo; for others it is their magazines; both foreign and local. They will read all these magazines, but will not take time to read the Bible. If you are still watching late night movies, then you have not started your Christian journey. When witches and wizards are flying all over the place, looking for who to devour, you are watching horror and spiritually worthless films. If you are still doing these things you need deliverance and I am saying this with all seriousness.

Some Christians are addicted to chocolates, sweets, gum, etc. Some are addicted to make up and Jewelry and believe that their dressing is not complete, until they have put on makeup.

People who are broken to the depth form a habit of giving things away. If you are becoming too attached to a particular possession, please consider giving it to somebody, so as to experience the benefit of freedom. Amassing things and not giving some to those who are in need, complicates your life. How can somebody have seventy two blouses when there are some people who possess just one or two, and are in dire need? Why are you amassing things you will not use? You have sentimental attachments to these things, but it is bondage. Most people can easily get rid of half of what they have and still be comfortable. That is what the early apostles did and they still had enough. The Bible, as a matter of fact, puts this into a proper perspective.

Matthew 5:42

"Give to him that asketh of thee, and from him that will borrow of thee turn not away."

Acts 4:34,35

"Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or house sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, And laid them at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made to every man according as they had need."

Form the habit of giving out things that you do not need and God will bless you the more. When you have 30 pairs of shoes and you cannot give one out to a man who has only one, then you have a very bad habit of stinginess.

People who are broken to the depth shun propaganda in any form. Broken men hate what is called "show glass life", which has no reward as far as God is concerned because the Bible says, "Let not your left hand know what your right and is doing." When you obey this, blessings will come.

There are some people who can build Churches as big as a stadium in a month if they want to. They are however, waiting for them to be called upon to donate money before they march to the front of the Church in their flowing apparels. This, has, no reward. It is just like distributing envelopes to lodge and occult members to give you money for your church. Their donations have no reward because God has no use for their money.

Those who are broken to the depth, speak in a plain language. It is either yes or no. The reason why people behave like a chameleon is because of disobedience to God.

People who are broken to the depth shun whatever will distract them from their main goal. It is impossible to do any work for God without any opposition so if you are working for God and everything is going on smoothly, go and check who you are working for. If you are fighting the devil and destroying his kingdom, he will not just sit back and watch you, he will fight back.

FOUR WAYS TO GET BROKEN

So how do you get broken to the depth? There are four ways.

BY PRAYER

I will give you a challenge. Select seven days and in those seven days all you will pray is 'O Lord, break me!' By the time you do this for seven days, you will become a different person.

BY STUDY

Dig yourself deep in the Bible. Study the word of God, know what it is saying, memorize it, confess it and talk to people about it.

BY MEDITATION

You have to meditate daily on the word of God and what He has asked you to do.

BY FASTING

This is a spiritual exercise you cannot avoid.

The deeper your brokenness, the greater your spiritual power would be. There must be a vertical power before you can exhibit the horizontal power. The deeper your brokenness, the stronger is your Christian foundation and nothing can move you.

Do you remember those two men who were asked to build in the Bible? They both completed the buildings which when attacked by the wind and the rain, one broke down because the foundation lacked brokenness. Any foundation without spiritual brokenness will lead to spiritual disaster. This is why you must dig deep for a solid foundation. Most Christians nowadays are like shadows because they don't bite or frighten anybody. Therefore the devil is happy because that is how he wants them. On Sundays, such people would go to church and dance and dance and dance. There is no change in their lives, particularly in the way they read their Bibles or pray and they remain as they are. This is very sad.

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

In spiritual warfare, the power of the broken life is heavily realised. Spiritual warfare usually has three elements.

Spiritual warfare is dealing with the devil and his hosts.

The Bible says, "We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness in high places." The first major element in spiritual warfare is dealing with the devil and his hosts. The word 'wrestle' shows the seriousness of the fight we are involved in.

Take Firm Control of Your Mind

You have to erect a solid immigration control at the door of your mind. Any thought without the divine visa should be deported and send back to the sender. Do not accept any bribe from them, and make sure that you deal with any demon bringing these thoughts to your mind.

Crucify The Flesh

The third element is for you to crucify the flesh. The truth is this beloved, Satan's attack cannot prosper against your life if your body refuses to cooperate with them. If as it is written in Colossians 3:5, you can mortify your flesh on daily basis, then, the devil will not have any hold on you. If you are living a life dead to sin as commanded in Romans 6:2, then, the devil cannot have a hold on you. You will not be able to respond to satanic suggestions or fleshly temptations because you are dead in Christ and dead men do not respond to temptation. Dead men do not react to insults, do not fornicate, nor abuse people. If you still do all these things, you are not dead.

Living a life of brokenness is a critical part of spiritual warfare. A man may scream and shout at the devil an day, but if he has permitted a part of his life to be unchecked or unguarded, (that is: still in sin), he would have opened the door to an attack on himself and all his prayers will be to no avail. For such people, the devil is not the real enemy. The enemy is their own carnal mind and flesh, which must be submitted to the control of the Holy Ghost in order to prevent satanic attacks.

A lot of people will stop having nightmares if they could stop getting angry; a lot of people will stop having nightmares if they could eat just enough food to satisfy them before they go to bed; a lot of people will stop having nightmares if the unforgiving spirit is kept out of their lives.

So, when you are broken to the depth, your broken life, ceases to be a raw material for satanic devourers.

I remember the story of one broken brother, who was travelling in the same public transport with a satanic vampire. Such blood thirsty vampires are

usually the last people to get into a bus or car. They cause the car/bus to have an accident, and they would escape with the blood of the other passengers. The vampire was one of such agents. He had his car at home, but since he wanted to drink blood, he decided to take the public transport. As he got into the bus, the broken brother also entered the vehicle, cleared his throat and said, "Let us pray." Everybody said, Amen. When the vampire got to the place where he was supposed to cause the accident, he tried, but all was to no avail. That was the first time in his life that he was successfully countered.

So he said, "okay, no problem." He boarded another vehicle going to another location. Fortunately or unfortunately, the same brother that prayed in the first bus entered the same vehicle, clear his throat and said, "Let us pray." The satanic agent complained and said, "aha, aha, aha, aha, there is freedom of religion. You cannot impose your religion on others." The driver, said, "Oga, there is no problem. Let him pray, then, you too will pray yours, then we will go." The man kept quiet and the brother prayed and they left. The satanic agent tried to cause an accident but again, he failed. So, he kept his gaze on the brother.

Immediately the brother got down, he followed him. Many times, he caused the ground to open so that the brother would fall into the hole, but he just walked across. Later, he caught up with him and said, "Who are you?" The brother was surprised, "who am I? I am brother" The man said, "That is not what I am asking you. What kind of power are you using? What kind of power do you have?" The strange man asked restlessly.

This is the power of a broken life: When you are not broken, God forbid what might happen. A broken person will permanently tread upon serpents and scorpions and becomes a terror to demonic forces. When the Lord says, "It is enough my child, come home", the demons would be happy, that you have finally departed.

Moses lived under the anointing of the Holy Spirit and we can see what his life was. A broken life will live under the anointing of the Holy Spirit and offer the devil no cooperation at all. We should make life more difficult for our enemy. If something you are putting on can attract the enemy, then take it off. A broken life offers the devil no cooperation and is dead to public

opinion. The power in brokenness is tremendous; you can do your spiritual life a lot of havoc by not being broken or by joking with it.

THE PRACTICE OF BROKENNESS

There is what we call the practice of brokenness. If you are the type of person who gets angry and flares up, avoid allowing anyone to get you annoyed. When you want to practise brokenness, keep quiet and don't say a word when provoked. When you don't talk, the anger will die. When you kill it like this for several times, the anger will eventually leave you alone. You have conquered it. If you know that whenever you visit someone, you will always feel lustful, then stop visiting that person. If you notice that anytime you read a particular book, your mind wanders. then throwaway the book.

You are going to pray now with a lot of aggression. Talk to God where you are sitting. You will need to pray with great aggression so as not to remain the same from now henceforth. The prayer points are as follows:

PRAYER SECTION

1. Every enemy of brokenness in my life, depart in the name of Jesus.
2. I paralyse all my Delilah in the name of Jesus. (*Delilah shaved the head of Samson. Many have had their heads shaved by the enemy and their power has deserted them. All that remains is just empty noise.*)
3. Lord, break me down to the depth of my spirit in the name of Jesus.
4. My shaven Samson, receive your hair, in the name of Jesus.

Chapter V

◆ SPIRITUAL MATURITY

From the beginning of this book, we have been looking at the topic, brokenness. At the Mountain of Fire and Miracles, we do not gather together to deceive anybody; we tell you things the way God says we should tell them. And we thank God for what He is doing through these teachings.

Quite a lot of believers will not be where they are today, If ,they understood the teachings of brokenness and practise them. We will now continue with another teaching in the series and this one is a matter for serious consideration because one of the signs of brokenness is spiritual maturity. A broken person is a person who is spiritually matured. Anybody who is not broken is a spiritual baby. In Matthew 12:30, the Bible says;

"He that is not with me is against me and he that does not gather with me scattereth abroad."

This means that there are only two camps, you are either with the Lord Jesus Christ or you are not with him. There are only two camps and there is none other in the middle. In Luke 16:30, the Bible also says,

"No servant can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

So if the Bible says something is impossible, it means it is not possible.

SPIRITUAL BATS

Quite a number of believers who go to church these days both in Pentecostal and non-Pentecostal churches, can be considered to be what we call "Christian bats."

The bat is considered by many to be a very strange creature. We used to have a popular story when I was in the primary school which went like this. There was a war between the birds and the animals and the bat was not quite sure which side would win. Sometimes he would join the animals, and when they saw him, they said, "yes, this one looks like a mouse, so let us leave him alone to fight." So when the bat saw that the animals seemed to be losing, he switched over to the birds, and started to flap his wings. Then the birds said, "alright, although he looks like a rat, he has wings like us." So he was half-bird and half-animal.

To most people, the word "bat", usually symbolizes evil. A scientist performed an experiment a long time ago because he did not understand how bats could fly around at night, and still not make mistakes or collide with something. So he caught a few bats, put plaster on their eyes and then released them. To his amazement, they all flew out without any problem. No collision, no problems and all the obstacles that the scientist placed on their way were avoided even with the plaster on their eyes. The man did not understand.

Then, he had an idea and said, "since, I've covered their eyes and they could still move around without making mistakes, let me make them deaf and let us see what would happen. So he plastered their ears and let them loose; then confusion started." They hit themselves. they hit the walls and there was a great confusion. It then dawned on the scientist that the bats could not see with their eyes but rather with their ears. They make a lot of noise but they appear silent, because the kind of noise they make cannot be picked up by the human ear. But they appear silent, when you look at them. Really they are not silent, they are just silent only to man's ears. That is why when they fly, they always have their mouths open all the time. making noise. It is when the noise goes out and comes back to them, that they can know where they are going. "Christian bats," like real bats also like dark places and they operate mostly at night.

WHO ARE CHRISTIAN BATS?

When you put all these together, you may ask, who are the "Christian bats"? They are students in the school of immaturity. They come to the house of God, listen to the messages and perhaps struggle to have a quiet time with the Lord. Many Christians do not have a quiet time or do effective personal devotion and a higher percentage, only pray when there is a problem. These are all students in the school of immaturity. It is obvious without any gain-saying that maturity is far away from many who profess to be Christians, particularly those who say that they are "born again."

Many of us do not grow in our inner man, as we grow in the physical body. Very few Christians, devote as much time to the study of the Word of God as they devote to their worldly studies. They devote more attention to their professional studies than they do to the Word of God.

I know a brother who had both legs in cold water when he was studying because he did not want to fall asleep. If you say that he should study the Bible, he would never go to that level. He would ask "why should I put my legs in cold water because I want to read the Bible?" Very few Christians devote the same energy and time to prepare for worldly interviews and examinations and to the Word of God.

There was a brother that I saw some where reading his book. I noticed that he was uncomfortable where he sat and I wondered what was wrong. Eventually, I discovered that he had a big towel on a hot water bottle which he sat on. Why? he did not want to fall asleep. And these are worldly things that will disappear immediately he dies. The best thing, they can give him in the University is a first class degree or a distinction and no more. Does the devil recognize distinction or first class degree? No.

I have seen people drinking almost one quarter of a tin of coffee because they want to study for exams and do not want to fall asleep. I have seen people consuming sachets of caffeine, containing an analgesic because they do not want to sleep when studying for exams.

I pray to God that our priorities will change, as believers, so that we can see great things happening. All those miracles that you see at, the Mountain of

Fire and Miracles are nothing compared with what will happen when our priorities are reversed and we pursue what we should pursue first. Then, you will see God in action with powerful demonstrations of His faithfulness.

I know a fellowship where many people there are broken, and whenever there was a meeting, most of the elders would prostrate on the floor and pray between the benches, that God should move. One day at such a meeting, during the praise and worship session, one woman who had no teeth at all just received a new set of teeth and nobody touched her or prayed for her.

Sometime ago, a woman brought a boy who could not walk to our church and put him on one of the benches. Suddenly, the boy, began to jump up and down and that was her first day of coming to our church. You may not have seen anything miraculous in the real sense of it. However, if you want to see the hand of God, then get broken and you will see things that will amaze you, happen.

The writers of the New Testament lamented many times that their readers were not matured. Spiritual maturity is essential for your inner being to be healthy. It is very necessary, if you are going to have the right attitude and make the right decisions that will not get you into trouble. Let this be very clear in our spirit.

Christian Maturity Has Nothing to Do with Age

How many of you want to grow spiritually? Do you know it is possible to grow up and yet not be matured? Do you know that it is possible to grow horizontally, just spreading by the side, and not vertically? Vertical growth is the growth towards God and horizontal growth, is when you are just getting fat, and not being matured. So, Christian maturity is not old age because it has nothing to do with age. The psalmist says, "I am wiser than the ancient, because the word of the Lord is in me."

One of my former teachers in a primary school said, "if having a beard signified intelligence, then the goat would have been a genius." It is not the

age; it is the spirituality. Grey hairs and spiritual maturity are not necessarily partners. The fact that a person is growing in age, does not mean he is growing in the spirit. Spiritual growth is not measured by the calendar because our age is beyond our control. As far as you keep breathing and are alive, the next day you have grown older, you have no control over this.

Christian maturity needs holy determination to comply with the Lord's commands concerning growth. It is not old age, so forget it. When you see old men in the house of God who refuse to participate in Bible study and say, "We are beyond that," they are old babies.

One of my saddest moments, is when I have to spend my ministerial time to settle a quarrel between a man who has beaten up his wife. We call such men who fight their wives, baby husbands.

There was a woman who wanted to get married, and came to me to help her commit the marriage into the hands of the living God. If she came to me and said, "Help me check to see if this is the person I should marry". I would have said, "this is not my calling, therefore, you should go and pray yourself, since you are the one who wanted to get married." If you come to me and say, "between this rat and snake, which one should I marry?" I will ask you what God said. If you say, "God said that I should marry the snake;" that is your problem. When you chose to lie against God, one day you will knock at His gate and He will refuse to open the gate. because you have lied against Him.

So, I prayed for everything to go on well during the wedding. I can do that well. no problem. As I was praying, a vision startled me. I saw this sister dressed in a nice wedding gown looking nice, with a brother, wearing a small suit, like the one you will wear for a three year old boy. I saw this tall sister holding hands with the bridegroom and she had to stoop, so as to come down to his level. He was short like a dwarf. So, I said "What is this?" The Lord said to me clearly, "She is marrying a baby." So, I was not too surprised, when the sister ran to me sometime after the wedding and said that; her husband wanted to shoot her. I said, "He will shoot, because he is a baby."

A brother went to settle a quarrel for a Christian couple, and suddenly, the husband brought out a cutlass. The speed with which the cutlass traveled past the ear of the brother, almost caused him to faint. He exclaimed, "Is this how one can be so close to death in a Christian home? I thought I was settling a quarrel in a Christian home, why are you using a cutlass?" It is because the husband is a baby. Sometimes, when such people fall away from the faith, you may say, "Oh, they have fallen", no they never even stood up. They have all along been babies so it was easy for the Goliath to finish them off just like that. Old age has nothing to do with maturity in the spirit.

If you are reading this book and you have been punching your wife, you will be a child of hell fire. If you apologize and then amend your ways before God, you have started a journey into spiritual maturity.

Christian Maturity Has No Short Cut

Christian maturity has. no short cut just as no living thing can come to maturity in one day. Even in the intellectual world, students have to work hard to get to the top. This is why the Bible says. "Let us go on to maturity." So, spiritual growth must involve determination, discipline, effort and perseverance. These four things are important.

The determination, that I must leave this present level where I am. The discipline. that I will not allow my flesh to control me. The effort, that I will not allow myself to be dragged back. "I must move on." The perseverance. that I will not listen to what the enemy is saying, I will move on ahead.

This is why Hebrew 6: 1 & 2 says,

"Therefore, leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on to perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith towards God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of the resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do, if God permits."

Paul calls all these things which I have mentioned, "primary school materials." We must leave that area.

Christian Maturity is Not the Possession of Spiritual Gifts

Christian maturity is not the possession of spiritual gifts. Don't mix it up. We see Paul praising the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 1:7,

"So that you come behind in no gift, waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

So the Corinthian church was filled with gifted people, because Paul says that they came behind in no gift. This means that all the gifts - word of knowledge, word of wisdom, healing, discernment, etc., everything, were in the Corinthian church. But look at the same people who had all the gifts, and see how Paul describes them in 1 Corinthians 3:1-3:

"And I, brethren, could not speak to you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: but hitherto you were not able to bear it, neither yet now are you able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal and walk as men?"

These are the people who speak in tongues and work miracles, yet Paul called them babies. Beloved, I think you should close your eyes where you are now, and ask the spirit of spiritual babyhood to depart from your life.

Pray this prayer point. "the spirit that keeps people in the primary department of faith, get out of my life, in the name of Jesus."

The true spiritual index of maturity is not. "I prayed for the sick and they were healed. I work miracles. I prophesy, I speak in tongues, or I went to America and they gave me a doctorate degree in theology." They can call you all kinds of names, It does not really matter. As far as God is concerned, this does not signify that you are matured. I can suddenly say, "As from tomorrow, call me Elijah plus Elisha Olukoya." It does not mean

anything because it is the spiritual fruit that you grow that determines whether you are matured or not. Not the spiritual gifts.

This is why some people can say, "Let there be miracles," and there will be miracles. But immediately after this, they are caught in adultery. These are two different things because the Bible does not equate spiritual gifts with maturity. These are two completely different things, so, do not let them confuse you.

MATURED CHRISTIANS

Spiritual maturity then is Christlikeness; to be like Christ. When you are a matured Christian, you are completely oblivious of the passions and prejudices of those around you. You are insensitive to whatever they are putting together because in your eyes, everything is vanity.

Matured Christians know when to conform and when not to do so. They accept people on their merit and not because of their tribe, colour or position in life. Matured Christians are humble and do not treat others as slaves or dogs of the society. They do not pass judgment on others; they accept the limitations of others. They know that they themselves are not perfect and so others are not perfect. If you, as a wife will agree that your husband is not perfect just as you too are not perfect; that your boss at work is not perfect just as you are not perfect; that the house fellowship leader is not perfect; just as you are not perfect; then, your disposition to people will change.

Matured people are ready to welcome and listen to what others have to say. They stimulate the spiritual growth of others and do not pull down their faith. Matured Christians do not dwell on past mistakes.

IMMATURED CHRISTIANS

Spiritually immatured people are those who have prolonged infancy and stagnancy. They are spiritual infants in Christ with stunted growth. One of the most wicked things you can do to a person is to give him a pastor's

collar when he is not born-again. You have finished him. This is because instead of him to be rolling on the floor and praying for mercy, everybody is kneeling and calling him "Our rather in the Lord." Old women are kneeling down while old men are prostrating, instead of him to deliver himself.

Why are so many people in this predicament of stunted growth and infancy? It is because of poor digestion. They have been feeding on milk and not on meat. Imagine a twenty years old person, who is about to go to school and says, "Mummy can I have my feeding bottle please?" I am sure the mother will roll on the floor and start crying.

It is exactly the same picture. You have been born again for between one to five years and all the time you go to God, to ask for forgiveness. When will you leave that department and go on to something better, to the mountain top where God wants you to be. Poor digestion, the people have been feeding on milk and not on meat, but milk is for babies.

A lot of modern day Christians, hate Bible studies and aggressive prayer meetings. They prefer a situation, where we gather people who can play disco music very well, and someone who can speak a little American English to talk to them then, they will begin to hail him and say, "yes! preach it! yeah! oh! mention it! jump up! stand up! oh!" Some of those reading this book are responsible for making those ministers fall, because when the man was talking absolute rubbish you were hailing him. Instead of him to go and study his Bible, fast and pray, he believes he has made it because you are hailing him as a good pastor.

Babies like Excitement

Babies like excitement. You should settle down and ask, "where are we going? Where am I? Am I doing very well? If God should come now what will He say?" A woman in this fellowship put herself on five days dry fast. Why? In a night vision God showed her, that her mark was 22%. After she had seen that and was still worried. suddenly the trumpet sounded and everybody began to fly up. Then, she tried to fly too but could not. It was as if a heavy lead was placed below her waist and she could not lift herself off

the ground. She thought she could not fly because she was fat. But she saw fatter people going up. She then said. "I must sort out myself, seriously."

Babies Take Milk

Milk is for infants while strong meat is for the matured people. The trouble about milk is that it is always a secondhand food. It will first of all be processed in the breast before being passed on to the baby. But a time will come when that child will be introduced to solid food. So, if you are a Christian who is yet to learn the art of sitting down, reading your Bible, and drawing out strength from it by yourself without the help of any Pastor, you are still a baby Christian who always wants processed food.

There is no Pastor or Preacher, who can preach everything. It is not possible; there are some things you have to do on your own. The purpose of Christian meetings is for us to gather together and allow iron to begin to sharpen iron. But these days, we come to meetings with bandages and scissors for surgical operations which is what the preacher does most of the time. This is not supposed to be so, because we should be matured Christians in the house of God. All those handsome faces and beautiful bodies that you see are just coverings for baby spirits. Just wait, till there is a problem, then you will know whether they are matured in baby Christians.

Babies Are Ruled by Feelings and Emotions

So, spiritually immatured people are those who have prolonged state of infancy. Such people are slaves to their emotions. When a decision is to be taken, the immatured believer will ask. "does this please me? Does it benefit me?" But a matured person will ask, "does it please God? Does it benefit God?"

When someone shouts at you and you want to respond and the Holy Spirit says, "wait, is your response going to glorify Me?" Then you know what your response should be. Two believers were fighting one day and an old pastor was watching them. He told both of them to stop fighting and keep quiet. They refused, and he said, "Well I have only one thing for you, after

that you can continue fighting." He then opened his Bible to the place where it says, "Whatsoever you do, do it to the glory of God." After this, he told them to continue fighting.

When you are easily moved by feelings and emotions, it is a sign that you are a baby Christian. Apostle Peter used to be like that before. One moment he was walking on the water, the next moment he was sinking. One moment he made a glorious confession about Christ, by declaring Him as the "Christ of God." The next moment, the same Peter told Jesus not to go and die on the cross and this made Jesus to rebuke him sharply. One moment, he said he would lay down his life for Jesus, the next moment he had denied him three times. However, by the time we got to the Pentecost day, the marks of immaturity had disappeared from the life of Peter. He was a changed person.

Babies Are Quarrelsome

Another mark of people who are not matured is quarrelsomeness. Many babies are very touchy and so tend to be very quarrelsome. The immatured person will quarrel over irrelevant matters while major spiritual issues requiring urgent attention is neglected.

Babies Are Worldly Minded

Immature Christians are worldly minded and they live on the same plane as those around them. They dress like the world, talk like the world and walk like the world. The only difference is that on Sunday, they carry "Thompson", "Dake's", or "Life Application" Bibles and hurry to one church somewhere. After that, there is no other difference between them and people of the world. They live on the same plane with those around them, conforming to the same standards, controlled by the same motives and dominated by the same desires. They say that they are married to Christ but are flirting with the world. They are married to Christ but are not satisfied with Him.

A day is coming, beloved, when the label shall be removed from every bottle. Then we shall know those that are serious with the Lord, and those who are hypocrites and lie about and feel that people won't know. We shall know those who are telling lies about God and those who are not serious with what they are doing.

There was a sister who had two marriage proposals. One was from a pastor and the other was from someone who worked in an oil company. The Pastor would come and pray and after the prayer, he would give the sister about two hundred naira or so and go away. The oil man would also come, buy a cake and give her about five thousand naira. The sister met the pastor first, and said that she had a dream and saw them both in a big Mercedes Benz car and so was convinced that the pastor was her husband. Later, she met the oil man and said, "This one is interesting." Instead of her to do what the Lord wanted, she began to play a double game with the two of them.

Unfortunately the oil man was not a spiritual person and would always want to commit sin. So, the sister would commit sin with the oil man but write spiritual letters to the pastor and quote the scriptures. One day she wrote her normal two letters to her lovers but made a costly mistake. She put the letter to the oil man who she committed fornication with, inside the envelope for the pastor and put the letter for the pastor inside the envelope for the oil man. The letter for the pastor was highly spiritual with what they did in the Sunday school, church, the topics of the messages, the questions they were asked etc. The letter to the oil man was filled with the worldly lovers jargon and how she went to get contraceptives.

When the pastor got the letter he was dazed and immediately brought it to the sister. While he was discussing with her, the oil man was arrived with his own letter and asked, "what kind of a funny letter is this?" This was when the secret was revealed.

It shall happen one day like that and all the secrets shall be known. Eventually, a sinner will put his letter in the wrong envelope and everybody will read it. Think about it. So if you want to copy the world, forget about spiritual maturity. Our plane of operation is so different that they should be looking at you and be calling you a peculiar person or strange human being. It is then you will know you are trying. When you are like them they will

compare you with other Christians by saying; "we thank God for brother so and so, he talks to us, laughs with us, jokes with us, but that other brother is so serious that he does not even talk to anybody and he doesn't crack jokes." They are using you for a bad comparison. "Is it not the same Christianity?" It is not the same because one is a carnal and baby Christian and the other is a matured Christian.

Babies cannot Discern Between Good and Evil

Hebrews 5:12-14

"For when for the time you ought to be teachers, you have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised, to discern both good and evil."

This is Paul's writing. A matured Christian will look at something and will be able to tell whether it is good or bad. A baby Christian will be doing a trial and error exercise and ask, "what is bad about it anyway." A matured Christian will ask, "what is good about it." Two different questions. They forget what Paul said, "all things are lawful unto me but not all things edify. All things are lawful unto me but I will not be brought under the bondage of anything." Lack of sensitivity to evil especially when the evil is masquerading, makes baby Christians easy preys to sin and demons. Unfortunately, the modern man is so loose and thus there is a lot of demonic bondage these days.

Babies Are Dominated by Self/flesh

Another sign of a baby Christian is when self is dominant, that is when self and flesh rule the Christian.

During the dark ages, a powerful warrior captured a city with a big temple for the idol which the people worshiped. The warrior headed for the temple

where he saw men and women surrounding this big idol. They begged him and said, "Please, we will give you any money you require, but do not touch this idol." The warrior thought for a bit and said, "I will rather be known as an idol breaker than an idol seller so, I am going to break it." In spite of all their entreaties, he smashed their idol with his axe and to his amazement, all their wealth, gold, money which had been hidden inside the idol were revealed. He was then able to take away much more wealth than they would have offered him.

If the warrior had spared the idol, he would have lost untold wealth. It is the same thing with yourself. If you spare your flesh, you are looking for spiritual poverty. When you break it down you will be amazed at the spiritual wealth you will find. This is why the Bible says that "The flesh profiteth nothing, it is the spirit that quickeneth." "Make no provision for the flesh to fulfill the lust thereof." The Bible again says, "Have no confidence in the flesh." The flesh, is our internal enemy. That human nature inside us which is always rebellious, and cannot follow Christ, will always do all kinds of things to pull us down. You must dominate your flesh. If you are not able to dominate your flesh, then you are a spiritual baby.

Your present spiritual level is determined by how well you can dominate the flesh. The flesh is an enemy that must not dominate us, because it is always rebelling against the laws of God. When someone has the spirit of retaliation, it is the flesh. When someone is always seeking for high posts, and wishes to be addressed as overall boss, and to be respected, it is the flesh. When you have an holier than thou or better than thou attitude, it is flesh. The way some people talk about their spiritual experiences, is as if the book of life is in their hands. Thank God the book of life is not in the hands of any pastor or any house fellowship leader or any teacher. They would have removed the names of the people they do not like from the book.

All the indifference to spiritual things, are caused by the flesh. Hypocrisy, is the flesh. Pushing the blame for what you have done unto somebody else, is the flesh. Shifting your responsibility, is the flesh. All the anger, the impatience, and oversensitivity, are the flesh.

When I was in France, some people brought a woman with a serious problem to the house I was staying. I said, "madam, let us pray. Lay your hands on your head and begin to say, Jesus, send Your fire into my life." She said, "What kind of prayer is this one?" I said Madam, do you know what you are doing? It is like you go to the hospital and tell the doctor the drug that you want." She said, "okay, I will pray but they do not lay hands on my head because I am from the royal family." I said, "Okay, but that is what I want you to do now." She said, "But I am from a royal family." I said, "Perhaps you should go to the royal family to solve this problem." Oversensitivity.

Other symptoms of the flesh are, disposition to finding faults and grumbling, turning yourself into a referee because you want to see who is playing foul or playing rough so that you can blow the whistle. After you have blown the whistle, what do you do? Love for human praise; if people praise you, your praise for God will be reduced. Secret pride, is a very terrible thing. Flesh is always wanting to be the boss.

If people who are working for God come together, and have one goal, that is, the glory of God alone, a lot of church's quarrels will cease. As long as God is glorified, there is no problem. I do not want any glory for myself, you do not want any glory for yourself, we all want the glory for God, then you will do any work you are asked to do in the house of God. You will not think that you are too big to do any job such as cleaning the floor. When it is time to clean the church's benches, some people will go to the back and be watching them. They will say, "I am above that one." Really, when Jesus washed the feet of His disciples?

When someone desires to draw attention to himself, it shows that the flesh is still in control. The stubbornness, the jealousy, the envy, the deception and unbelief are signs that the flesh is still in the camp of someone's life.

So the greatest problem beloved, that you have which works against spiritual maturity is the flesh. If as I am writing now, I changed my writing to a prophecy from God to you that "Thus says the Lord, everyone reading this book should go on three days dry fast." The flesh will immediately take over. Some people will scream, others will protest. the flesh will say, "They

want to kill people with their book." Others might say, "Since it is Doctor Olukoya's book, maybe God has something to do and I do not want to miss out, I will struggle to do it"; they then eat three meals before the day comes to an end, so as to get ready for the flesh. That is the flesh.

Whatsoever makes people to sleep at night when they should be praying is the flesh. If you come to the Mountain of Fire and Miracles and you say you cannot sleep, it is because you are dancing when others are praying. How can you pray our prayers and say you cannot sleep? When people come and say they cannot sleep, I tell them to do thirty minutes praise worship, then take the Bible, and by the time they read it for thirty minutes, they are asleep. When we say, "Give to the Lord," some people will put their offerings in their pockets and their hands will be shaking. Why? They do not want to bring out the right money. That is the flesh.

May be you are in a house fellowship, and you are a Professor or a Manager somewhere, and they put somebody over you who only read up to the school certificate level. Looking down on the person and feeling that he is not qualified to teach you, is the flesh. A lot of people come to me and say, "Doctor, come and train me, I want to become a deliverance minister." The first person to deliver is yourself. You have to conquer yourself before any demon will answer you. When a problem arises and fornicators are binding demons, you are joking and also looking for trouble. When the flesh is still in control, your spiritual power is weak. You should go and pray for yourself since you are yet to conquer even yourself, because all that is needed to get you angry is for someone to upset you and you are off like a rocket.

The devil can go on a demonic holiday and leave you alone for sometime, only to come back when he is better equipped. The devil left Moses alone for forty years. When he killed someone, then ran away, the devil left him alone, but he knew that anger was still inside his life. He was ready to wait for the right moment; so for forty years, he was watching Moses, until it was time to enter the promised land. The Bible says, "It went ill with Moses for their sake for they provoked him to anger and he spoke ill advisedly with his lips." You want us to bring out water for you out of the rock, as if

he was the one that would do it. God said. "Speak to the rock", but in anger, he gave the stone two strokes.

The moment you know you want to be serious in your Christian life, the first thing that must die, is the flesh. Except it dies, you will not be able to move and your life will not be productive for God. But once that flesh dies, you will transport yourself from the school of spiritual babyhood and start growing.

If you spare self, you will inherit spiritual poverty; but when you allow it to be broken, it yields spiritual power and wealth beyond imagination. Self cannot dethrone self and flesh cannot dethrone flesh. The only thing that can dethrone flesh in your life is when you enthrone Christ. You cannot put two kings on the throne at the same time. If the flesh is there ruling you, all you care about is what your body is saying, what you look like, what people will say and all such things. All these things show that the flesh is still on the throne of your life.

That is why Jesus said, anyone who wanted to follow Him, should deny himself. This is the first step and it means that you should remove self from the center of authority in your life. This is what we call "denial." When self says, "respond", you say, "keep quiet, I am in charge." Flesh will say "seven days fast will get you lean and everybody will be asking what happened to you and they will all know that your clothes are now slack." You should say, "shut up, I am in charge here and I am in the center of authority."

How many of you are ready to be spiritually matured now? I want you to be honest with yourself, then you must ask the Lord to crucify the flesh. It must die. If it does not die, then God cannot make use of you. There is a place in the bible where Jesus said, "Many shall come to me on that day and say, Oh Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, Oh Lord, did we not heal the sick in your name" (Matt. 7:21). He will say, "Yes you did so, but who are you? Your names are not in our books." You will say, "But that brother belongs to our house fellowship." He will say, "Yes, I know him, but who are you?" That is what will happen when you are walking with God with an unholy vessel.

What is another mark of baby Christians?

Destructive Criticism

Continual criticism is wrong, especially when you know that there are so many things within you that need to be corrected.

So, let this be clear: spiritual immaturity and great spiritual gifts can co-exist. A person can be spiritually immatured and at the same time be spiritually gifted.

There was a church we used to go a long time ago. One day during the service, we were rejoicing, and thanking God. Suddenly, there was this prophesy from the back. "I have not asked you to do all these things that you are doing, I am therefore calling for repentance." Everybody just stopped rejoicing. The prophesy went on to reveal what everybody did that was wrong, so we started asking for forgiveness. The service changed, and the power of God came down as people began to confess their sins and repented. You do not have to call for power when your way is right before God, it will come. So, the power of God fell down and we had a wonderful service.

But, I received the shock of my life when I got to the bus stop. The person who prophesied and all of us started repenting, was fighting with a bus conductor, because of a fifty kobo change. I was shocked. I said, "were you not the one prophesying just now?" He said, "Yes, the devil has power but not salvation." That even confused me more. I hope you are not like that. If you are like that, it is bad. It means that you are a vessel unto dishonour.

OBSTACLES TO MATURITY

What are the obstacles on the way to maturity? Many times when we have problems, it is because God is trying to remove from our lives, those things that are preventing us from growing up. If God notices that you are the impatient type. He has a way of slowing you down. You may struggle, bang your head against the wall but you will still be where you are because God wants you to learn patience. If your sin is pride, He knows how to deal with

you. God is looking at all these things and He will bring things to pass that will make you do what He wants.

There was a man who started off as a driver. When he had made enough money from driving, he started to sell nylon bags on the streets. God then began to bless him and soon after, he had five cars. As soon as the five cars arrived, the man who used to come early to church. when he had no car started coming late, When he was asked why he was late, he would say that his driver came late. Then God allowed the enemy to take away an the cars one by one, until he came to his senses.

If God sees that you are not humble, He will make sure that you learn humility by force. He could force you to serve under inferior people. You may be a graduate where you work, but your boss will promote a school certificate holder over you. Immediately you learn your lesson, God will catapult you. You may be pretending to have the gifts of the Spirit when you are not really humble; you will pray and pray for them but they will not come.

Failure to Take up Your Cross

What is the cross? The cross is not problems like many people interpret it. The cross is, when you choose the will of God, every time His will crosses your own will. The will of God says one thing but you want to do something else. Although what the will of God is saying you should do may not be palatable, yet you must align yourself with it.

Paul said, "I am crucified with Christ yet I live; but the life I live now, I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me." Crucified; the flesh is dead. All the time you saw Paul walking about in the streets, it was Jesus. Carrying your cross like Jesus said, is choosing God's will any time you know that His will and your will are not in alignment. You choose His will all the time, even if it is demanding, and inconvenient. That is the cross.

This is why the Bible says that you have to carry it daily. It cannot be problems; the Bible cannot say that you should take your problems

everyday and be carrying it. It is the cross. the will of God over-whelming your own will. What God wants you to do will be different from what you want to do or what your family wants you to do. But you must align your will to His own.

The Sick Tongue

One of the signs of a Christian who is not growing or that Christ is not in control of his/her life is a loose tongue that is, saying things that will hurt people. The uncontrolled tongue is an obstacle to maturity. All the loud mouths and fast tongues, that will not apologize when they have wronged somebody else, will eventually talk the persons to hell fire unless they repent. All the temperamental tongues. when they die, will be haunted by the skeletons of people they destroyed.

If you know you have problems with your tongue and the Holy Spirit is not the one in control, you have to do something about it.

Unforgiveness

This is bearing grudges and refusing to forgive, when the Bible says, "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." This mean that if you do not forgive those who trespass against you, God too will not forgive your own trespass.

Unprofitable Friends

Comparing yourself with lower servants and moving with people you should not move with, will bring your holiness level down and you will not be able to go where God wants you to go.

Unconscious Bondage

This is a serious obstacle to spiritual maturity. A person feels that he is 100% okay, not knowing that he needs daily cleansing by the blood of Jesus

and the word of God. The person is already in one bondage, and when he wants to move in another direction, that bondage will pull him back.

A lot of Christians have collected bad foods from demons into their bodies before they got born-again. So, when they become born-again, although their spirits are born-again, yet the demons in their bodies will hinder them from growing until the ministry of deliverance is introduced. They need to be cleansed and purged. These things will just be hiding there. The demons will deal with the persons like they probably dealt with Lazarus for example. Lazarus made heaven but he died as a pauper. Whereas Abraham got to the same heaven and he was a wealthy man. The choice belongs to the person.

There is a man of God who had serious problems praying for the demonically oppressed. Each time he commanded an evil spirit to go they will refuse and will not move. Then the man went into serious prayers. God said to him, "You want to cast out what is inside of you. Have you forgotten that you are the only child of your mother, in a polygamous home and you are a male child? Up to the age of eighteen, your mother had a waist band tied to your waist, so that evil spirits will not kill you. Those spirits are still around. Therefore, submit yourself to the ministry of deliverance." The man did and he began to move as God wanted him to move.

If curses, covenants and evil things are holding a person in bondage, they will drag him down spiritually. For example, if a lady sleeps every night and sees a spirit husband chasing her or a masquerade and each time, she wakes up and pray, "I bind you spirit husband, I divorce you spirit husband" and the spirit husband refuses to go, you will find out that the most important part of her prayer life is devoted to praying for the spirit husband to leave her. So she does not have time for useful prayers like, "I want to go to the mountain top, I want spiritual gifts." They have closed that door and the person cannot grow. The ministry of deliverance will have to come into place.

Evil forces will always drag a person down; and the truth is this, many people who feel that they do not need deliverance at all, are the most heavily loaded with demons.

Neglecting the Warnings of Scripture

Not fully obeying what the Bible say, is an obstacle to growth. We have to be doers of the word and not hearers only.

Using Carnal Weapons

The Bible says that you shall keep your peace and I will fight for you." Someone comes and starts raining abuses on you, if you as a Christian, responds, you are using carnal weapons to fight against the devil. Such a person is not serious yet. Or if you say, "I am tensed up, so, I must drink a bit of alcohol to recover." You want to calm down your nerves, using carnal weapons to battle spiritual problems.

Counterfeit Baptism in the Holy Spirit

This is when you have received the Holy Spirit baptism but all you do is speak in tongues and nothing else. No fire inside you.

THE PRESCRIPTION

Take an honest look at yourself. All we have done so far is what doctors will call diagnosis. What is the prescription? What do I have to do if from all I have read, I have concluded that I am a spiritual baby, I am a carnal Christian and I need to grow? Once you come to that conclusion, what do you do? What is the prescription?

Frank Confession That Immaturity is in Your Life

Be frank with yourself. You cannot turn yourself into a masquerade against yourself. You have to admit that this is yourself.

Repentance for Being Students in the School of Immaturity

You must say: "Lord, now I know that I am not growing like You want me to grow, I am not in the place You want me to be, I ask for forgiveness."

Determine to Leave the Elementary Level of Faith

You cannot sit down and say God will do it in His own time. What if the trumpet sounds and you are making no efforts to be where God wants you to be?

Get Close to God

By prayer, by regular reading the word of God, by holiness and by obedience. By obedience I mean, what ever God says, whether it is convenient or not, your answer should be "Yes Lord!"

Take Spiritual Responsibilities

Begin to do something for God. Begin to transmit the truth to others. Spiritual gifts are developed with exercise.

Exercise Your Spiritual Talents

Do not say it is small, it is not good enough. I cannot do this or do that. That which God has pm in your hands, you must use.

This day is the day for us to depart from the valley and go to the mountain top. Anyone who is a child of God reading this book and is not broken or holy and is doing things that should not even be found in the life of an unbeliever, talk less of a believer, then I humbly submit to the person that he is not serious yet and that he is playing with fire, except he goes to God and cries for help.

The first thing you will do is to make a frank confession to God about your condition. "Lord, I still get angry, I fight with people, I tell lies, I beat up my wife, I cheat people, I drink, I am lazy." Be frank with the Lord, do not pamper yourself. Tell Him who you are; "This is my life, I am like this."

Ask the Lord to forgive you of every sin of spiritual immaturity, where you spoke and you shouldn't speak. When you got angry, when you should not have been angry.

Pray this prayer point, "Holy Spirit, fill me."

Chapter VI

◆ BROKENNESS AND SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Galatians 2:20

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

The scripture in the foregoing may look like contradiction to you. Paul says he had been crucified, yet, he is still living. How is this possible? What he is saying is this: the original Paul is dead. Christ is now living in his life. That means, Paul the fornicator, the liar, the smoker, the alcoholic, and the proud man is dead. Paul the heretic and persecutor of the apostles is dead. But a new person is now living. Christ is living in Paul, and therefore, it is no longer Paul that is living, but the Christ in him.

No wonder, demons respected him. Paul's problem was not that the demons were pursuing him, his problem was that they ran away too fast before he got there. The Bible says that even the aprons from his body was enough to heal and to chase demons away. The secret of the life of Paul and his power with God is what is being discussed here. He has been crucified with Christ, yea, nailed to the tree.

There is this testimony about a brother. When he entered a bus, somebody said he stepped on his shoes. Although he apologized, the person gave the brother a very dirty slap. The people in the bus said he should slap the man in return. The brother said he could not because his hands which he would have used to slap him had been nailed to the cross. The people in the bus asked him whether he was mad, more so as they could not see any nail in his hands. He then explained that he had been crucified with Christ. Even

though they called him a mad man, he was a perfect example of a broken person.

The people who are broken are the kind of people who can move things ahead for God, particularly in spiritual warfare. The Bible records that some sons of Sceva, went to someone who was possessed and adjured the demon in the man by the name of Jesus whom Paul preacheth to come out of him. The demons answered. "Paul I know, Jesus I know, but who are you?" That is to say, their names were not in their record. The demon dealt with them, tore their clothes to pieces and beat them.

BIG TRUTHS

There are some big truths I want you to understand at this juncture.

Once you are broken, the majority of Spiritual Warfare that you will ever encounter in your life has been settled. If you are not, the enemy would use those little unbroken areas of your life against you. If you are not careful, those little unbroken areas in your life would welcome big trouble. Then, it would seem like you have never prayed all your life.

There is one evil spirit that normally stands at the door of a man's heart. That spirit is called the spirit of anger. It is a door opener. When someone gets angry and he runs temporarily mad, right at that moment, the demon opens the door and other demons would quickly rush in. By the time the person calms down, he would close the door and wait for the next mad hour. This explains why anyone who gets angry has a greater problem than all the witches and wizards in Nigeria put together. So, once you are broken, majority of all the Spiritual Warfare that you would ever face is settled.

EVIL SPIRITS WORK ON LEGAL GROUND

Evil spirits have no power to bring about destruction in your life, unless they find an area in your life which is unyielding to God. It is through this unyielding area that they come in. For some people, it is their stomach; for

some, it is greed; for others it is selfishness. That is not all, it could be anger for some, yet for others it is bitterness, gossiping, resentment and perhaps malice. How can a Christian say, "if we don't settle the quarrel down here, we will settle it up there in heaven." Nobody would nurse a quarrel in mind and get to heaven. The Bible says that no unclean thing will enter therein to spoil the beauty of the place. God loves his children so much that he will not permit one single sinner to enter heaven with them to pollute it.

DEMONS CANNOT DESTROY WITHOUT A FOOTHOLD

Demonic spirits cannot destroy you except there is something in your life they can grab and twist. You have to understand this. When you run about crying, that witches and wizards are troubling you, it means that there is something in you that they could grab, hold and twist, to your own destruction.

If you are a covetous person, and your own things do not satisfy you, the devil would use it against you. For example, if a lady loves comfort and cannot do without going out with a sugar daddy, because the man has money, such a lady could be negotiating for a terrible end. What happens is that when the man's first wife, who peradventure is a witch or if she has other negative power places a curse on the lady then there is no one who could save her. Anything the wife uses against the lady would prosper. As a matter of fact, God would not deliver the lady from her hands. No amount of prayer points would deliver her from the situation.

The devil uses these unbroken areas to come in and cause havoc. This is how people get hooked on hard drugs. The devil would first of all give the impression that they would enjoy themselves, and as well calm their nerves. They will start with cigarettes, and after sometime the cigarette would not be good enough to calm them down. They move to cigar, then graduate into, marijuana and cocaine. This is how the devil operates. They thought they were in charge, but the devil is now in control. That is why we say if you give the devil one inch in your life, he will travel one foot, if you give him one foot he will travel one mile. So, the important thing is to give no place at all to the enemy.

NO CHANCE FOR THE DEVIL

In a broken life, nothing can cooperate with the devil. The reason evil powers are succeeding even against those who call the name of the Lord is because there is a ready made raw material of unbrokenness in their life.

A song writer says, 'All to Jesus I surrender'. I wish to submit that, many people sing the song without attaching any Importance to it. To give all to God, means to give everything, including hairstyle, dresses, nails, jobs, family, certificates, and so on. Everything!

'All to him I freely give.' You will not be cajoled into serving. I will ever love and trust Him, in His presence daily live.' Not in the presence of stupor and all those false gods. Not in the presence of demonic films. Your daily living would be in the presence of God.

CHRISTIANS OF OLD AND CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIANS

Christians of old who were quite broken refused to deny Jesus Christ. The diverse persecutions they encountered did not change them. They were intensely hated, they were burnt and let loosed to be eaten by wild beasts. They were usually kept in a tunnel where the guards would chase them out into the stadium to be killed by lions. People gathered to watch how the lions cracked the bones of those Christians. They were publicly humiliated and became public entertainment. In those days, they had to expand the stadium to accommodate many people who had come to watch the Christians being eaten up.

Why did this happen to them? Because they refused to deny Jesus. They confessed Jesus as their Lord and they refused to deny Him. They were not being persecuted because they committed a crime. That is why persecution is the purifier of the church.

Since you have been born again, how many people have spat on your face, because of Christ? Have you ever thought of people imprisoned because they preached the gospel? They did worse things to the Master (Jesus). If they did worse things to Jesus, the Master, then what persecution can they

do to you that you will say. "I will not forgive?" If you take your persecution too seriously, your prayer life may become amputated and the windows of heavens may be shut against your prayers.

Broken people have been known to do exploits for God. Age, as a matter of fact does not affect their dedication to the Almighty God, and to the society where they are found.

The exploits of a newly converted boy during a particular civil war is noteworthy. A civil war was ravaging the town where the boy got converted. The school teachers in his primary school taught them that as soon as the bell was jingled, they should know it was for emergency to alert them that the rebel soldiers were approaching. All the pupils had been taught how they could run out of the school compound and hide behind the hills. They must not let the rebels realise that the school was in session. They elected class captains to collect the bells and all the other materials, put them in a basket and run after the others. They were supposed to do this in four minutes as the school was supposed to be evacuated within that time.

The boy who had just then been converted was one of the class captains. He was supposed to collect the bells from the top of the cupboard, put them in the basket and run out. One day, tragedy befell him. When he climbed the table to collect the bell, he slipped and fell. By the time he found the bell, the rebels had arrived and they caught him.

The first question they asked him was whether the school opened or not that day. The boy wanted to say yes. but when he remembered the story of the early Christians, he said nothing. He knew if he said 'Yes.' they would force him to take them to where the others were, and the defenseless school children would get killed. The boy therefore decided almost immediately to keep mute. Thus, he refused to answer them. Then they lifted him up and hit his head on the ground. They kicked him in the stomach until he spat out blood. Then while he was lying on the floor bleeding, he devised a plan, given by the Holy Spirit. He got up and began to make sign language as the deaf and dumb would do. They looked at him for a moment and concluded that the deaf boy would not be able to give them any useful information. They kicked him again and left him. The boy was able to save the whole school because of his brokenness and deep seated faith.

When you are broken up to a serious level like this boy, whatever anyone says about you should not bother you. When they say you are a rogue, and you know you are not a rogue, there is no reason for you to worry. You should not get yourself troubled with petty insinuations. To do so is to show that you are not broken.

THE GREATEST BATTLE

Unbroken people waste the time of the church and they frustrate their pastors. They force the pastors who should normally be busy preaching the gospel to be settling quarrels for them. The devil knows that once a Christian crosses the threshold and goes from being unbroken to being broken, the person becomes untouchable. Therefore, the hardest battle you can fight in life is when you want to cross that threshold. When you cross the threshold, you will start to move in God. This can only happen when you become broken.

You are born to win and not programmed to fail. If you check the areas of unbrokenness in your life and you refuse to deal with them, you face attacks which will prosper, because the area they are attacking is the area you have not surrendered to God. At this point, I think you should open your mouth and pray like this:

"O Lord, I do not want to be my own enemy, in the name of Jesus.

If you pamper the unbroken area or your life with the excuse that your father or your mother once behaved like you, therefore you now regard yourself as a chip off the old block, then you are courting trouble. God wants honest people, not hypocrites, or clever deceivers, or those who conceal their sins and have the funny feeling that God can not see them.

WHAT TO DO : DEAL WITH YOURSELF

Paul recognized his unbroken areas and he cried out in Romans 7:15-24:

"For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind. and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"

Paul knew his unbroken areas and he cried out to God for deliverance. By the grace of God he succeeded.

Many people have been wrongly programmed about the solution to their problems. There are so many problems that many people feel the only thing that would solve them is to engage in either three or five days of dry fast. seven days hot prayers or hot confession. and night vigil. However, it is not all problems that would be solved through such spiritual methods. The solutions to many problems is common sense. The example below will suffice.

There was a woman who was always fighting with her husband. So, one day, she consulted a diviner for a solution to her problem. The man promptly gave her a "fetish material" and said that she should not pay until its potency has been tested. He gave the woman a piece of stone, and said, "anytime the husband begins to talk, slot this stone between your teeth, hold it tight, as it must not drop." Immediately she got home, the husband started an argument. She brought out the stone and put it in her mouth. She wanted to talk but she remembered the warning that the stone must not drop, so she kept her mouth shut. The man rained abuses on her from night till morning, but she did not say one word because she was afraid that the stone might drop.

Then the man eventually kept quiet and the woman removed the stone. This went on for three days. and the man came to his senses. He reasoned that since his wife did not respond to his terrible curses. there was the need for him to keep quite too. When the man changed, the whole of the environment changed.

The woman then ran back to the diviner to thank him for the powerful medicine. The man consequently revealed that he did not do anything other than forcing her to keep her mouth shut under provocation. He revealed that the item the woman took home was just an ordinary stone. The case of this woman did not need any prayer. All she had to do was to keep her mouth shut. If she prayed all the prayer points in this world and still replied her husband when she was provoked, there would not have been any good result. The woman fought a battle against provocation. Today can be your own day of breakthrough if you take this method seriously.

I usually tell sisters that it is hard to find any sister who was terribly beaten up by the husband because she kept quiet and did not say one word. Most times when an argument begins between a man and his wife, and the wife decides to adopt the fire for fire approach, a full scale fight would result. This is devilish. In many cases, a man will batter his wife senselessly, and thereafter rush her to the hospital. It is better if you don't fight and more economical. Many people would avoid injuring themselves if they kept their mouths shut.

DEVIL'S WEAPON : YOUR WEAK AREAS

All human beings are born with some traits, both bad and good. Most of the inherited bad behavior can destroy a human being unless he becomes disciplined and controls it. Many people have plunged into marital, spiritual and mental problems because of the inherited unbroken areas in their lives. Unbrokenness and weaknesses inherited from parents can cause serious problems. These things can however be changed. The devil knows a person's areas of weaknesses and if such a person continues like that, he or she would soon give the opportunity for an attack from the devil. This is the secret of brokenness and spiritual warfare.

What I am trying to emphasize here is that the devil will hit at your weak points. When Jesus finished his fasting, the devil knew that he would be hungry. The first temptation was therefore aimed at His immediate need, so the devil tempted Jesus to change stones to bread.

If the devil notices that you are the worrying type, then he would give you plenty of things to worry about. Immediately he sees that you have delivered yourself from one, he would begin to look for something else. If he notices that your weakness is anger, he would push you to offend people who could put curses on you. People who had wanted to help you may decline to do so thereafter. The major problems that people have are due to areas of weaknesses in their character or areas of unbrokenness in their life.

EXAMPLES

- **SAUL.** He failed to deal with his own weakness, as he was self-willed and loved the praises of men. He refused to obey God's order to destroy completely. Rather, he stored those things he regarded as 'beautiful'.
- **GEHAZI.** He decided to become a prophet and stayed in a prophet's house. But covetousness and lying was in the life of Gehazi even though he was in the school of the prophets. Eventually, it was these weaknesses that the devil descended on and he received an evil prophecy that the leprosy of Namaan would be on him and his generations after him. He pushed himself and his offsprings into trouble because he refused to deal with the weak areas in his life.
- **ABRAHAM.** He passed through a lot of problems. The small weakness of 'lying', put him in trouble.
- **MOSES.** This man of God had problem with anger and that, eventually prevented him from entering the Promised Land. If God could discipline Moses, he can discipline anybody. You can call yourself senior apostle 'times twelve', you are not better than Moses. Anger, Just one thing. A weakness he could not control, was the same

thing that caused him to kill an Egyptian. He did not deal with his anger and it eventually dealt with him.

Look at it deeply, beloved.

In a particular church, there was this man who used to play the accordion very well and even led the congregation in praise worship sessions. But he had one problem. Once he saw a fair complexioned lady, he was finished and he knew this. Instead of him to step down and sort himself out, he did not; eventually, that was what the devil used to destroy him.

- **JACOB.** He lived a life of deceit. Nothing good was happening to him until he identified his own weakness and dealt with it, What was his weakness? Deceit and prayer-lessness.
- **DAVID.** His weakness allowed a curse to be put over him and his descendants. His inability to control his sexual desire put him in trouble.

Until you chase out all these evil strangers, and get broken in all departments, you will only have partial or temporary victory in spiritual warfare. The longer you remain unbroken, the longer you will be promoting the devil. When you are hiding your real personality and you do not deal with all your weak areas, you are undoubtedly promoting the enemy. The enemy then moves from the small areas you allow him to operate and eventually takes over the throne of your life.

Please, pause at this point and pray this prayer point with utmost aggression: "I dethrone every foreign king in my life. Lord Jesus, be the Lord of my life."

Someone's father could be the founder of the best church in the world, if there is such a church; but the person could still be defeated in warfare. It is a pity that majority of Christians do not strive for a complete transformation

of their behaviour. Although they are born again, sanctified, and possess the gifts of the Holy Spirit, yet a complete transformation of their life is never experienced. They do not allow old things to pass away. Because many of them do not abide in Christ or refuse to be controlled by the Holy Spirit, a lot of unbroken areas still remain.

To make it worse, many so-called Christians hide the areas of their lives. which they are supposed to work on so that God can use them. They hide them, because they do not want people to see them. They do not want people to know their secrets and this puts them into trouble.

BAD TRAITS

HIGHLY DISORGANISED

A lot of believers are highly disorganized, and their spiritual life has no order. There are also a lot of Christians who are restless and easily excited. They really find it hard to concentrate on a particular thing for a long time. This affects their reading of the Bible. Once they open their Bible to read certain scriptures, their minds will be wandering about. Yet, all they want to do is to read the Bible. Because of this restlessness in their spirit, they cannot make progress and will run from one, thing to the other without really settling down to any. They become a "jack of all trade and a master of none." There are some people with this kind of unbrokenness in their lives. They need to cry out to God. They need the Lord to break them or a particular part of their lives so that they could concentrate and read their Bibles.

WEAK-WILLED

Some Christians are very weak-willed. They know something is wrong and they should not do it. but they cannot stop it because they are weak-willed.

When I was in England, there was a lady who came from . Botswana to study. When she got born again, she was advised to break up the relationship she had with a married man who was also a polygamist with

three wives. She agreed with us that the man had spoilt her life and the best thing for her to do was to look unto Jesus and break this relationship. The man understood her, and would call her on the phone in the middle of the night and say sweet things to her and the lady would fall for him again. She was very weak-willed.

A man of God wanted to test how weak-willed his church members were but kept this to himself. One day he decided to test them and announced that the policy or doctrine of his church had changed and that church members were free to put on any type of apparel to the church the following week. That is to say that the ladies were free to wear jewelry, trousers. etc. The following Sunday, the man of God began to shiver at the Church car park. The first usher he saw was wearing a mini-skirt. He was thoroughly surprised at the diverse worldly nature. He then read to them the story of the Rachabites, and accused them of being weak-willed, pretentious and unbroken. Unlike the Rachabites, they did not pass their test. He told them that the blessing of God would be far away from them unless they repented. Many Christians are the same today, throughly weak-willed.

TOTAL INTERNAL INDISCIPLINE

A lot of believers have what is known as "total internal indiscipline." They have no control over the heart. They think about anything. and they go anywhere. This is an evidence that there are unbroken areas in the lives of believers, which have to be broken. Many believers like to start things which they do not finish, rather they will go to another one. This is unbrokenness. God is a perfect God who never leaves an assignment half done.

LOVE TO PLEASE PEOPLE

Many Christians love to please people. They love to please people even at the detriment of their own salvation. These are areas you need to pray about. There are many people who do not function except they are under intense pressure. It is like students who don't read until the exam timetable is alit, whereas they are supposed to have read their books in advance.

PRAYING WHEN THERE IS PROBLEM

Unless there is a problem some people will not pray. But once they are harrassed by a spiritual problem or two, they would start to pray seriously. This shows that they have areas that must be broken.

HABITUAL LATE COMING

There are also some people who are habitual late comers. Many believers are chronic late-comers to where they go. One cannot trust them to keep any appointment. Such people sweat profusely when it is not necessary. They are always full of excuses. Such people will find it difficult to live holy lives. They need to be broken.

DOMINATING CONVERSATIONS

Some like dominating conversations. They do not give others a chance to express their own views or put in any word during any discussion. Such people like talking about themselves.

I had a friend who was always talking about when he was in Germany, U.K., U.S.A., etc. One day I said to him, 'You better fell the truth because you have never left this country.' When you attach unnecessary importance to yourself, then, there is an evidence that you are not broken.

EMOTIONAL INSTABILITY

Many people are emotionally unstable. They get angry one minute, then cool down and start apologizing the next minute. They would say such trait was embedded in their nature. They need to be broken. Christians who are always repenting of the same thing over and over again need brokenness, in the affected areas of their lives

There are some people, especially sisters. who enjoy crying for trivial reasons. This is an evidence that they need to be broken. They need to

toughen up their spirits.

EASILY TEMPTED

There are some people who are easily tempted. The reason why they are standing now is because there is a crowd around them. Let them be isolated for a time, and they will fall down flat. When they fall flat, people will start wondering why such a powerful Christian should fall? They would say, "how are the mighty fallen?" Who told you that the fallen person is mighty? Do you call someone mighty because he sings choruses and jumps up? No. People who give in to temptation easily. need to be broken.

LACK OF COMPASSION AND MERCY

There are also some group of people who have no compassion and mercy. They are never sympathetic to other people. If some thing bad happens to other people, they would say that it was due to their fault, that bad things were their lot in life, such people need brokenness.

REVENGEFUL

Some people are very revengeful. They usually tell other people in anger that they are green snakes under the green grass. These ones are not Christians. Some even threaten people who are in conflict with them about their past glory. Imagine a Christian saying, "If this had happened, before I got born again, I would have dealt roughly with you!" What they are saying is that they want to remember the city they had left. The Bible says that if Abraham and men of God in the Bible remembered where they came from, they would have had cause to go back. Why are you glorifying your bad life.

BEING CRUEL TO OTHERS TO HAVE THEIR WAY

Some people do not mind being cruel to others in order to have their own way. They are very proud and stubborn. Others, find it very difficult to

apologize when they wrong others. If you find it very difficult to apologize, then you are not going to heaven. There is nobody who does not make mistakes. Apologize, then God will know that you are sorry. Those who utter cruel and bad statements to hurt others also need to be broken. Some people have this bad habit that, whenever things go wrong, they blame others. When some get late to work, they blame the house girl for not setting the alarm clock. Some are over-sensitive. When you are an over-sensitive person, brokenness is needed.

SUSPICIOUS

There are some people who feel that others are always talking about them. I was walking with someone and he saw some people two hundred yards away and said that he was sure they were talking about him because he had the talent to know when people were talking about him. I tested this and found out that he was wrong. The people were talking about a woman who wanted to kill herself because they had robbed her of six thousand naira. I went back and told the man that his talent was a fake. Suspicious people and those who think that others are talking about them, need deliverance and brokenness.

HIGHLY CRITICAL ABOUT OTHERS

There are some people who are highly critical of others. Anything anybody does is wrong or bad.

MOODY & GLOOMY

Some people are very moody and gloomy and rarely happy. Some are even scared to smile at people. When such people are asked why they always look like that, they would probably say that it is their nature. If you find it difficult to be joyful, you need to be broken.

This message is not for you to pray only. It is for personal examination and you need to work on areas that need to be broken.

Many Christians are very slow and lazy, and would be the last to lend a hand when it is needed. So many Christians lack motivation, and they prefer to go through life as a spectator. They do the minimum thing required. and nothing extra. Such Christians need to be broken.

There are some people, when once they fail at a thing, are not ready to try again. They are afraid of failure and find it difficult to participate in anything except they are sure that it would succeed.

There is another class, who usually bite more than they can chew and would therefore not complete whatever they've started.

You need to examine yourself. The areas where work needs to be done have been highlighted. When you study the nine characters of the Spirit filled life, you will also be able to know any area of weakness that you have.

GALATIANS 5:22

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering (*this means the ability to suffer for long without complaining. Peter asked Jesus, how many times should his brother offend him before he could retaliate. Jesus said, "seventy times seven times." Four hundred and ninety times.*) gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.

This is the fruit of the Spirit. Once you are born again and are full of the Holy Spirit, this fruit has to manifest. When you compare your life against these nine things and you do not measure up, then you need to pray hard. If you develop your faith and lack meekness, the enemy will attack you through the area of meekness. If you are very gentle and you lack love, then the enemy will attack you through love which you do not possess.

A matured person is a Christian who recognizes his areas of unbrokenness and is working on them. Make a list of your own unbroken areas, and see all these weaknesses as sin. Confess them to God, and ask for victory over specific areas. God will give you victory.

The devil always hits below the belt. In the book titled. "Delivered from the power of darkness", the author said that he once went to a church where they were holding a night vigil. He said that after he had looked round, he discovered that only one third of them could fight against any demonic attack. The other two thirds were just singing for singing sake.

Sometime in 1979, on a bus going to Yaba from Oshodi, one small boy decided to display his evil power. A man stepped on him and he commanded the man to be paralyzed. Immediately the soldier could not walk again and an uproar started. The boy then warned a woman that if she did not keep quiet he would shave off her whole hair. The driver then parked and said he was not going to Yaba again, and requested every one on board to get down. The boy said if the driver did not keep moving he would deflate the tyres and the bus would never leave the place again. The conductor said it was a lie. Before they knew what was happening, all the tyres had gone down.

Some brothers were in that bus, who knew they were fighting against powerful evil spirits. They consequently dragged the boy off to their church to meet the deliverance minister. As they were going to start the deliverance, the boy pointed out those who were not qualified to partake in his deliverance because of the serious secret sins they were committing, ranging from fornication to adultery, etc. The boy looked round and picked out seven people who were not qualified. They could not deny what he was saying because it was the truth. He even told one sister that she ought to undergo deliverance herself since she received an evil ring from one of them the previous day. Unbroken people who were not born again were engaging in deliverance. They would have harmed themselves, and gone to hell fire.

Brokenness and spiritual warfare. It is up to you to decide what you want to do. If you want to remain a spiritual dwarf, you can decide to remain unbroken. If you want to be a giant that demons will respect, you have to rise up and pray the following prayer points violently.

PRAYER SECTION

1. God who quickeneth the dead, give life to every dead area of my life today in the name of Jesus.
2. Holy Spirit, take my hands off my own life and possess me Yourself in the name of Jesus.
3. Every evil inherited character in my life, be demolished in the name of Jesus.
4. Father, let Your will be done in my life.
5. Every nest that builders of evil nests have built for me, be roasted in the name of Jesus.
6. O Lord, break me in my unbroken areas.
7. Lord, I welcome brokenness in every department of my life.

After you have prayed aggressively enough, go ahead and make the confession below:

Confession

"I will not despair because I believe that I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living."

Chapter VII

◆ **BROKENNESS AND THE HOME**

(Pastor David Laleye)

Isaiah 66:2

"For all those things had my hand made, and all those things have been, saith the Lord: but this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembles at my word."

Psalms 145: 19

"He will fulfill the desire of them that fear him: he also will bear their cry, and will save them."

Philippians 3:10

"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death."

The three scriptures in the foregoing can be summarized thus: God has respect for the broken people. He hears and answers their prayers. The Bible says God is very near them, and He will always answer them whenever they cry unto Him. The last verse we read tells us that brokenness is the only way through which we can become conformed into the image of the risen Christ. You want to know the power of God? Then, you must be broken. You want to identify with Jesus Christ? Then, you must be broken. That is the summary.

Brokenness have some main characteristics like: the fear of God, obedience to the word of God, humility, holiness, the love and worship of God. There

are so many other characteristics, but these are the recurring features. The acid test for brokenness can actually be found in the home.

THE BROKEN HUSBAND

The test of brokenness at home can be put under two main characteristics.

THE FEAR OF THE LORD

What do I mean by the fear of God? The man who fears God must remember that his wife was given to him by God. We were told in Genesis 3:23, that it was God who brought Eve to Adam and so has He done ever since. So when God brings you a gift, it is a perfect gift. The Bible says in Proverbs 18:22 that,

"Whosoever finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favour from God."

Now, that woman is the favour from God, the broken man, therefore, will fear God and not misuse this gift of God.

How can you misuse the gift of God? When you start to beat your wife or when you bite her, then you are misusing the gift of God. Whatever negative things you do to her amounts to misusing the gift of God. When you flirt and go out with other women after you have made a covenant before God, saying "till death do us part, and no other one;" if after you have said this, you still refuse to ditch your strange women. then, you are misusing the gift of God

You can also be misusing her when you deny her from receiving her rights. and when you also mete all sorts of punishments to her. Some men would unbelievably go to the extent of denying their wives sex for months for any little wrong of their wives. This is a terrible way of misusing the gift of God. The problem with misusing the gift of God is that God, the owner of the gift, will punish the culprit. So, a broken man will fear God, and will be afraid to misuse what God has given him. knowing fully well that there is

an unseen witness between him and his wife. When you read Malachi 2: 14, you will understand that God is the witness between a man and his wife.

OBEDIENCE TO THE WORD OF GOD

The second quality one can use to test brokenness in the home is obedience to the word of God. What do I mean by obedience to the word of God? What does the word of God say to the husband in Ephesians 5:25? The Bible says:

"Husbands love your wives, even as Christ loved the Church and gave Himself for it."

In Colossians 3: 19, the Bible still says,

"Husbands love your wives and be not bitter against them."

The Instruction of God in the foregoing verses are explicit. In obedience to God's instruction therefore, the broken husband will be the one who is patient with his wife. When we talk of love, it is a superior quality type of love and the Bible compares it with the way God loves us. This is the way God loves us. The Bible says in John 3:16:

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son . . ."

This love is unquantifiable.

Romans 5:8 says:

"God commended his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

It was an unqualified love. We were not qualified for it. Even Jesus said that greater love cannot be shown by any man than He showed on the cross. No man would lay down his life for his friends like Jesus did. It is that kind of love that God expects a man to show to his wife.

GOD HAS LOVE THAT DOES NOT FADE, A LOVE THAT DOES NOT GET TIRED

A man whose love is fashioned after God's love will love his wife completely. Such a man will not keep secret diaries to record the shortcomings of his wife. The need to educate a man, and woman too, on the type of love which should exist between them is emphasized by Apostle Paul.

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

"Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never falleth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fall; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away."

PATIENCE

When you love your wife, you will be patient with her, particularly with her mistakes. When she burns your soup, that will not be the source of a fight. Patience, therefore, must be the watch-word of a broken man in his relationship with his wife."

KINDNESS

Again, you must be kind to her. Kindness here is not only in terms of money, but in terms of assisting her. You will not overburden her with house work and other chores. If you have both returned tired from work, you will not sit in the living room reading newspapers while she is doing all the cooking, washing plates and attending to all sorts of things. If you do that, you will not be showing kindness to her. It is therefore certain that you are not sharing her burden with her.

NOT A COMPETITOR

You will not compete with your wife, because she is your partner. The Bible says, "two are better than one." The second person is your wife, she is not your rival, neither is she your competitor. So, stop comparing yourself to her.

DON'T BOAST

You should not boast against your wife, and you should not tell your wife that she is inferior by saying she is simply lucky to have married you. Perhaps you are also in the habit of boasting about your handsome looks; it is the man who does not fear God that will say "In those days before I knew God, ladies used to come, left, right and center to me, and if not for God, what will bring me to a person like you?" The more you say this kind of things to her the more you are insulting God. She did not make herself; God made her and you should fear God who made her.

BELIEVE IN YOUR WIFE IN LOVE

When you love your wife, you will trust her, and not be suspicious of her activities. You will also not allow envy and jealousy to creep into your relationship. When she comes home late, you will not say, "Yes, I know now that what they have been telling me about you is true!" You should believe your wife all the time. The broken man will support his wife always.

NOT BITTER, BUT FORGIVING

A broken husband will not be bitter against his wife, and he will forgive her all the time. The Bible says, "love covers all sins" Provo 10:1 2). The one who loves must continually forgive. If you are holding anything against your wife then you are doing it against yourself! The Bible says in 1 Peter 3:7:

"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."

DON'T BEAT HER

When you beat your wife, you are likely to run into more problems than you can cope with. Remember she has a guardian angel just as you have. The Bible says that, the guardian angel is continually beholding the face of God. The meaning of this is that the angels have a right to petition God on your behalf or your wife's behalf about your needs or the needs of your wife. If your angel is about to bring something to you after you have just given your wife a thorough beating, her angel can petition against you and that is how your prayers can be hindered. It is the same thing when you refuse to forgive her.

Perhaps you are in the habit of telling your wife that "I can never, never forgive you! Maybe when we get to heaven, then I will forget what you have done." Let me assure you that nobody settles quarrels in heaven. If you refuse to settle your quarrel here on earth, the Almighty God's choice will be to throw the two of you down into hell, because He has no time to settle quarrels. The whole world is before Him and He wants to judge. He, therefore, will not have time to settle whatever quarrels you have. He has no time for that. Settle your quarrels with your wife here, forgive easily, be generous with her as this is the will of God for you.

Brokenness requires all these things. I need to tell you a small story at this point about a husband and his wife. There were always complaints and grumbling in the house, as they accuse each other of being the trouble maker in the house. It got to a peak one day, when they decided to establish who was actually the troublemaker in the house. They got two small complain boxes and each was to drop whatever complaint he or she had against the other partner inside these boxes. Each time the man coughs or barks, the woman writes it down and was relentlessly dropping her complaints in the box. By the end of the week. the man had dropped only one piece of paper inside that box.

When it was time to check the boxes, it was the woman's box they looked at first. She had 200 complaints against her husband which were quite petty. The woman was happy that she had succeeded in establishing the fact that her husband was the trouble maker of their home. Then they looked in the husband's box, and found only one piece of paper there, on which he had written "I love you." Love covers a multitude of sins. That is how it should be with all of us. We should not resort to counting the numberless offences of our partners. or indeed, with anybody.

THE BROKEN WIFE

The broken wife will obey God. She will fear God and obey His word. How is that possible? She will remember that she is also a gift to her husband and that a good gift will prosper in the hands of the user. Therefore, she will behave herself wisely and kindly.

CO-OPERATION

A part from the fact that a broken wife should be kind and wise. Proverbs 31:10-12 has something to say about the broken woman:

"Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband does safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days other life."

The worth of a the broken woman has indeed been established in the foregoing verses. When the Bible says, "two are better than one," it is because they are cooperating with one another. If you have two people who want to be captain of the same home, then they are not better than one, and it is better for them to go their separate ways. The fear of God should be in the heart of a broken woman. She should look for ways of doing the man good and not harm. She must also obey the word of God.

SUBMISSION

What does the word of God say about this?

Ephesians 5:22

"wives, submit yourselves unto your husbands as unto the Lord."

The comparison here is very big. When women come to the house of God, they easily submit to God in praise worship. They speak in tongues and heaven will almost come down. It is that same total submission that God is asking you as a wife to give to your husband. Not that when you get home you tell him. "My friend, you have B.Sc., I have B.Sc." This is not submission.

You must submit to your husband because the Bible says, "He shall rule over you." We are told in Ephesians 5:23 that the husband is the head of the wife. Therefore, you should not compete with your husband. It is in submission that you cooperate with your husband. It is through submission that you show how much you love him. If he is going to rely on you, you must be submissive. The Bible says that the heart of her husband safely trusts in her. You can cooperate with him through submission because God expects you to do that.

NOT CLAMOROUS

The broken woman will not be the clamorous kind of wife, who is always shouting, nagging and making all sorts of noise, that her matrimonial home cannot contain her husband and herself.

If there are problems in the home, the broken woman will prefer to go to God, rather than confront the man. Many things are spiritual and the best way to attack spiritual things is through prayers. The man is the decision maker; but if he has made the wrong decision, rather than coming out to attack him and say, "there will be fire", just go on your knees and tell God to talk to him so that he can reverse that decision. If God is your father, then, He will do it because He wants peace at all times in the home. Therefore, irrespective of your achievements, or your status in life, you must submit to your husband.

THE BROKEN FAMILY

The Bible says in Malachi 2: 15 that God is looking for godly children. Godly children can only be brought up under a peaceful and Godly atmosphere, where the family observes morning devotion, as well as the night devotion. Such family will give the word of God prominence, in their physical and spiritual lives. The family will regularly use every opportunity, like it is written in Deuteronomy 6:7-9, to read the word of God and talk to their children, and other people who live in their house about it.

The broken family will be the type that will not provoke their children. How do people provoke their children? When parents fight constantly before their children, they are teaching them to be rebellious and riotous. The children will become sad, helpless and embarrassed and all sorts of things could come up thereafter.

Another way of provoking people is to deny them of their rights. Perhaps your child did not do well in the last exam, and just because of that you have vowed that throughout his five weeks holiday, you will not allow him to step out of the house! Maybe you have instructed him to lock himself right inside his bedroom everyday! This is provocation.

The Bible says that fathers should not provoke their children. A godly family will bring up their children in love, and also teach them to honour their parents, and elders. In addition, they will instruct their children to be truthful and godly in all things.

THE BROKEN FAMILY AND NEIGHBOURLINESS

DESPISE NOT YOUR NEIGHBOUR

The Bible says in Proverbs 14:21 that:

"He that despiseth his neighbor sinneth."

How do we despise our neighbour? We do this when we adopt a "holier than thou" attitude and look down on them. You might have been boasting that they will all go to hell while only people like you are heaven bound!

Sometimes when you begin to pray in your neighbourhood, you may find yourself praying so loud, although you know it is midnight when everybody wants to sleep. To begin to shout at the top of your voice then is to despise your neighbour. The one who fears God will have consideration for his neighbours. If you want to win them to your side, show them godly character. It is not only when you shout that prayers can be answered.

Many husbands have had to complain that when their wives get up in the night to pray, their prayers are offensive, dangerous and loud. When the wife is conscious that she is actually disturbing her family, she should handle things of God with care. There must be a discretion in all that we do. This is very important.

Have you found out the needs of your notorious neighbours? Can they be brought to Christ? When was the last time you prayed for them? Your neighbour may be a very stubborn fellow, but have you ever prayed concerning his soul? Have you ever prayed like this? "God, even though this man is a stubborn man, I still want him to go to heaven; therefore, intervene, give him a heart of flesh." Have you ever done that once? This is important as it forms part of good neighbourliness.

DO NOT JOIN YOUR NEIGHBOUR TO DO EVIL

This is the other side of good neighborliness. The Bible says that we should abstain from all appearances of evil. Do not follow the multitude to commit sin. If you live in a place where armed robbers are threatening and terrorising you day and night, hold on to your God. If your neighbours are suggesting that your area must patronise a herbalist for spiritual padlocks to ward off armed robbers, refuse to follow them, or contribute money to do any "juju". You will be following the multitude to do evil if you contribute any money to them. God is your defence. His defence is very sure and

certain. Even if the people isolate your house on the grounds that you refused to contribute the money they wanted. nothing will happen to you. Remember, God is your defence. The Bible says in Psalm 62:6 that.

"He only is my rock and my salvation. He is my defence; I shall not be moved."

Psalm 7:10

"My defence is of God, which saveth the upright in heart."

Do not follow the multitude to do evil.

MODERATION IN ALL THINGS

Let your moderation be known to all your neighbours. What are the moderations that they should know about? That you do not eat sacrificial meat or "eran ileya", When they prepare their "ipese" (ritual), and bring it round, ensure you do not take it. Take a holy stand, but express yourself in a polite and kind way. If they ask you why you are taking that stand, be willing to explain to them very respectfully. You must think about good neighbourliness very well in doing that. It is important because you will give account for those you have made contact with at the end of time. God will ask you how come you did not use your godly character to win your neighbour over to His side? What would be your response to God? Be careful how you interact with your neighbour.

Philippians 4:8

"Whatsoever is good, whatsoever is kind, if there be any virtue in it, you can think on these things."

If there is any good project in your neighbourhood, don't lack in contributing your own quota.

THE WAY FORWARD

Since you have been reading this discourse, have you discovered yourself? Have you given yourself 100% in all these or have you allowed God to be talking to you? As a husband, have you found out where you are wrong?

Now that you have found this out, what do you intend to do about it? You are in the presence of God, who knows about your secret diaries. You must tell Him right now that you are going to burn them. You must give up everything you have been recording against your wife for the past twenty five years. God wants to meet you now and you must therefore look at yourself. Don't look at your wife or her behaviour. God does not want you to look at her. He wants you to look at yourself and indeed concentrate on yourself. Are you perfect?

Right now, you have an opportunity for God to heal your home. He will do it when you give him a chance. It is important for you to look at yourself, and purge yourself of the bitterness, secret and all those evil thoughts against your partner. May be you have wished that something disastrous should happen to her, to teach her a good lesson in respect of her mouth that is always open. As far as God is concerned, it is a sin and it will deny you of the blessings of God. You have an opportunity to repent now. It is a broken man who gets something from God. You must allow the fear of the Lord to come into your home.

HUSBANDS: FULFIL RESPONSIBILITIES

How are you bearing your responsibilities as a father? Are you living up to the standard? Do you give enough money to your wife for good home-keeping? Are you bringing up your children in the way of God?

WIVES: DON'T ABUSE YOUR BEAUTY

Now that God has given you a good and beautiful body, why do you want to use it for money? You do not ask for money except when it is time to have sex with your husband. It is when your husband comes close to you that you begin to ask for money? Are you pleasing God this way? Look at yourself.

SETTLEMENT WITH NEIGHBOURS

What have you resolved to do to your neighbours, particularly those you have vowed never to greet until you get to heaven? You will do yourself an eternal good to settle your quarrels here. God is calling on you to make necessary amends today.

DAILY KEEPING OF MARRIAGE

For the family, the best way to keep your marriage is to daily take it to God. The first thing that Adam was given was a garden and you can liken this to your family. You must look after it everyday. The best place to keep your marriage is at the foot of the Lord Jesus. Take it to the throne of grace and say, "Lord, I give you my marriage, so that you will remove all those things that cause quarrel from it. Let there be peace, love, victory and success in our home."

You will also strive to be a peace maker yourself when you wake up in the morning, greet your wife, not only with kisses, but with prayers. Tell her: "God bless you; God will make you great, and you will always excel." Those things you say all the time will certainly come to pass because you are the head. You have the power in your tongue which God has given to you.

When you daily soak your family in the blood of Jesus they will not be found out by the powers of darkness. All those arrows of the enemy will not be able to locate them no matter what they do. The Bible talks about, the arrow that flies by day, the terrors of the night, the pestilence that walketh in darkness and the destruction that wasteth at noon day. All these will not be able to find them because they have been soaked in the blood of Jesus. If you are bitter against your wife, your protection cannot be complete, it will have a crack through which arrows can come in.

Each night before you sleep, do the night devotion with her and your children. By your bedside, again, hold your wife's hands and pray or do something that will charge your spirit, so that when you all sleep, you are

guaranteed God's protection. There will certainly be no masquerades to chase you in your sleep. If you are both charged up spiritually, there will not be an opportunity for masquerades to chase you and it will be impossible for her to go to strange places with her spirit. You will have blocked that avenue. This is the way forward.

You must daily commit your marriage to God. If there is extreme bitterness in the marriage, you will put it before God, for Him to heal the marriage with His blood. Tell Him to heal it of the frustrations, bitterness, jealousies, or whatever the problem is. He is a faithful God, and He will do it.

Finally,

- claim the favour of your partner everyday. That way, love will continue to increase;
- don't take each other for granted;
- you must ask God to increase your capacity to love each other everyday.

God wants us to practise brokenness at home and it is with these simple things that God wants us to show how broken we are. Start from this simple exhortation of love and the fear of God at home.

Change your language and attitude at home. Instead of cursing and abusing. let blessings and loving words begin to come out of your mouth. God can sanctify your tongue today. Your neighbours can notice a drastic change in you now, if you will give God a chance. God wants you to come to him.

This opportunity is a special time for you to start afresh. What is your own resolve? This is the time for God to take control. This is the hour of decision. Have you decided to forgive your wife, your husband or your neighbours? Decide now!

PRAYER SECTION

You will now go before God and say,

God, all those things I am holding unto, against my partner and my neighbours, I give them up for Your sake now. Oh Lord, remove any bitterness from my life.

I want you to pray for your partner now. Whatever blessings you know he or she deserves, begin to pray it into his or her life right now.

Think about the most notorious neighbour you have and begin to pray that God will meet all his or her needs. Also pray for the salvation of his soul.

Song:

Your banner over me, Your banner over me
Your banner over me is love.

Now pray the final prayer point like this,

Lord, cover my family with Your mighty and everlasting banner of love.

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Chapter VIII

◆ FAKE BROKENNESS

Psalm 34:18

"The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart: and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit."

This verse tells us the kind of people that God is close to those who have a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

Psalm 51: 17, also says,

"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise."

This verse tells us that the sacrifices that are acceptable to God are a broken and a contrite heart.

Once upon a time there was a rat, who went to a witchdoctor and said, "witchdoctor, help me, the cat is always harassing me. Is this how life should be? I am always running away from the cat." The witchdoctor said, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "turn me into a cat" The witchdoctor said, "no problem." He gave him a concoction to swallow and the rat became a cat. After two weeks, the cat came back to the witchdoctor and said, "help me, I am in trouble again. I came across a dog, and I was scared, what am I going to do now? Does that mean that the dog will always be harassing me?" The witchdoctor said, "What do you want me to do this time?" He said, "Turn me into a dog." So the witchdoctor turned him into a dog. Two weeks later he was back again to see the witchdoctor and said, "there is trouble oh! You did not tell me that lion existed. I saw a lion and this one is terrible." The witchdoctor said, "What do you want me to do

again?" He said, "turn me into a lion." The witchdoctor then turned him into a lion.

Again, after two weeks, he came back to the witchdoctor and said, "witchdoctor, you did not tell me that there were hunters." The witchdoctor said, "What do you want?" He said, "turn me into a hunter." The witchdoctor retorted, "No! I will turn you back into a rat, because, although you are a lion, you have the heart of a rat."

For a while, this rat became a fake lion, a fake dog and a fake cat, but inside he was a rat, although, visibly you see a lion, a dog and a cat. That is what you call fake brokenness, because brokenness means more than weeping and being sorrowful. It means more than just having a crushed or battered spirit. It means more than humility.

Indeed, many who weep and cry when they are praying are sometimes not truly broken hearted. We used to have some powerful Bible studies many years ago. One day I came to the meeting and sat at a particular seat. The topic that day was fornication, and the man of God talked against it and then said we should pray. When I was a young Christian, fornication was not even in my dictionary so, when they preached about it, I just looked at them because it had no effect on me. But right there near where I was sitting, a man broke down and cried. He wept and prayed, "O God have mercy"; he wept and cried bitterly that I felt like weeping with him too because his crying was affecting me, though I was not a fornicator. That was one Monday.

The next Monday we were back there, and in another message, 'fornication' was mentioned. I saw this same man crying again on the same sin. This means all his crying was fake and was not true.

POWER

Many people prostrate before God and groan but are not broken. When brokenness is released in your heart, then the greatest power of God can be entrusted to you. The power that is entrusted to you when you are broken, is greater than the power to heal the sick, diseases or raise the dead. When you

say power, what some people think about is raising the dead, healing the sick or doing a deliverance. No, that is not power.

Power is the ability to go the extra mile with someone you do not like.

Power is the ability to have the risen Christ living in you. Now when we are truly broken before God, we are given the power that restores what the enemy has damaged; the power that brings special kind of glory and honour to God.

When you talk about brokenness, it has to do with breaking down of walls. This is why we said earlier that it is good for you to personally go and fall on Jesus the rock now and be broken in pieces, instead of waiting till the last day when He will then fall on you and scatter you to pieces because the Bible says. "every knee must bow to Him and every tongue must confess, sayeth the Lord", whether willingly or unwillingly.

Brokenness then is the total shattering of the human strength and ability. When you get broken you will forget that you have a university degree. You will forget that you are the commander in chief, a captain, a doctor, this and that. You will recognise that those things are titles and labels on a bottle which will be tom off immediately the Lord says, "come forth", and then the spirit goes. back to God and dust becomes dust. All those titles become useless then.

You can give yourself a title, and call yourself the greatest president of the whole world, it does not matter. You can call yourself an Apostle seven fold, because you are wearing a tall cap. You will soon recognise that all these things are just titles. One 'man of God' was addressed as brother so and so, and he said, "I beg your pardon. I am not brother, I am Pastor so and so."

THE HIGHWAY OF HOLINESS

There was a man of God who had about thirty people in his church and the interesting thing about that church is that an the thirty people were millionaires and he was their pastor. His common message had always

been, "give and it shall be given unto you." Many people have the wrong idea about giving. You do not give to God because you want something in return, you give to Him because you love Him, He will then decide what to do with it. If all you are preaching is, "if you give sixty naira, God will give back one hundred and thirty naira", you are turning God into a business man. No. you give to Him because you love Him and then see what He will do. If you complain and say, "I have given him sixty naira, how come he is not paying the one hundred and thirty naira on top?" It means you don't understand the principle of giving.

This man had been preaching along this line, then one day God woke him up and said. "I will require the blood of these thirty people from you because you are not telling them what I want them, to hear." He said, "What do you want them to hear Lord?" God said see Isaiah 35:8 which says

"And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it ; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein."

This Pastor said. "O Lord! These people don't like that kind of message." The Lord replied "this is what they need."

It is just like that scene in Jerusalem where the only man in the Bible who preached the kind of message that Jesus wanted Jerusalem to hear was Stephen. The Apostles did not preach it. Stephen was the only one who preached the correct thing because the message Jesus left for Jerusalem was, "Woe unto you Jerusalem, your house is left unto you desolate". Stephen preached this message and we all know what happened to him. They finished him off but then he had a qualification that no one can beat today.

So this man of God went to his church and preached the way of holiness and the people complained. After the service five of them waited and said, "Sir, make sure this is the last time you preach this kind of message here. If not, you will loose your salary and die of hunger." The man said, "What the Lord says to me, that I will speak." They said "okay, we shall see."

By the next Saturday, he was already preparing a message on love. but God woke him up at night and said, "What are you going to preach tomorrow?" he said, "Love". God said, "No, go back to Isaiah 35:8." So the man got to the Church and again preached as directed by God.

After the service, the millionaires said, 'that ends your salary and you are going to lose your members.' Then they stopped giving him money and the man became hungry. The next Sunday, only five people out of the thirty came to church.

Again, God woke him up on Saturday night and said, "What are you going to preach tomorrow?" he said, "Without righteousness. no man shall see the Lord." God again said, "No, still stay with Isaiah 35:8." The man got to church and again preached on, "And an highway shall be there, and a way and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools shall not err therein." The five people present said, this man is stubborn.

By the next Sunday only two people came to church and they came because they said that there was nobody at home. The Pastor mounted the pulpit and again preached on "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be For those: the wayfaring men, though fools shall not err therein." So this went on for about two months. He too complained to the Lord to allow him to stop this message.

The members were holding meetings outside the church and said "when he becomes hungry, he will change." About twenty four of them came to his house after one Sunday service, although they did not attend the service, and said they wanted to see how he was getting on. The Pastor said. "God is feeding me." "Where is the food?", they asked. He said. "I have food. If you open my pantry, it is filled with food." They said, "we want to see it" He did not know that they will ask him to go and open it. The hungry man who had not eaten stood up and led them with faltering steps to the pantry. They followed him, ridiculing and laughing at him. He was however amazed, because when he opened the pantry it was jammed packed with assorted food and he did not know how they got there. These men were all shocked

and by the next Sunday they were all back in the church. Again, God told him to preach from Isaiah 35:8.

The funny thing about human beings is that they hate what will favour them and prefer to embrace deception. .

A woman came to me for prayers and I gave her some prayer points and told her to fast for three days so that God will solve her problem. She put her hand in her bag and brought out some money which I refused.

I said, "Madam, you don't need to give us anything. First of all become serious with the Lord." She said, "I don't think this thing will work oh." I asked "why won't it work?" She said, "the last person I saw asked for a goat, clothes etc., it was when he was asking for a cow that I ran." So she was not interested in what will favour her.

It is like when a small child is sick and you say, take this medicine, and the child says, "it tastes bitter." Although it tastes bitter, yet this is what will make the child well.

Unbroken people abound in the house of God and people like this are the kind or believers who fellowship with evil people. They mix with those who are not born again and those who are not children of God.

THE UNBROKEN PEOPLE

Unbroken people are people who are blinded by their worldly success.

Unbroken people are those who live shallow spiritual lives but pretend that they are living better spiritual lives.

Unbroken people are people with empty spiritual lives.

They are the kind of people who sow to the flesh. The Bible says if you sow to the flesh you will reap corruption.

Unbroken people are the worldly carnal Christians, who love riches more than eternal life.

They do not understand the song of that hymn writer which says, 'Lord, I care not for riches, neither, silver nor gold. But I will make sure of heaven I will enter the fold. In the book of your kingdom with its pages so fair, tell me Jesus my Saviour is my name written there?' Those are the people who are broken.

Unbroken people lack intimate relationship with Christ.

They are the people who will hurry over their Bible reading, and prayer in the morning. They talk to God as if hot pieces of yam are in their mouths; so they want to quickly finish the devotions and do something else.

Unbroken people are those who envy the prosperity of the wicked.

They always say. "O God, you must re-distribute this wealth." All what these people look at, are raw materials for hell fire.

Unbroken people are those who are bad students in the school of prayer and Bible Study.

They won't read their Bibles and if they do, they won't get anything from it. They read just enough to satisfy their conscience.

Unbroken people are selfish, proud and lack knowledge and understanding.

To cap it all, *unbroken people are those who are prone to backsliding.*

WHAT IS BACKSLIDING?

Backsliding is not when someone completely leaves the faith.

Backsliding is turning away from the truth.

When you hear the truth, and you turn away, pretending you have not heard the truth, you are already believing a lie and saying, "don't confuse me with the truth."

Backsliding is turning back to the iniquities of our forefathers.

It is going back to worship idols.

Backsliding is turning to one's own crooked ways.

Backsliding is loving the present world.

Backsliding is denying God. When God expects to trust you in a particular situation and He finds out that you are the first person to disgrace Him there, you are denying Him.

Backsliding is refusing to obey the truth. This occurs when you know the truth but it is not setting you free.

Backsliding is forsaking God.

Backsliding is stagnancy. Your quality of prayer and Bible reading, righteousness, is still at the level it was last year.

Backsliding is leaving your first love. All the preaching in the bus and talking to people has stopped, you have outgrown witnessing.

Backsliding is lukewarmness in the heart. Although the face may be bright but there is lukewarmness in the heart.

Backsliding is looking back. Like Lot's wife.

Backsliding is sinking gradually.

Backsliding is failure to pursue the path of righteousness.

Before you can be the greatest person for God and help the world in which God has put you, as a believer, you must; die to yourself, your certificates, your post, your gifts, your talents, your popularity and such others. You must know the full meaning of the cross, because if you take up your cross as Jesus said, you are going to die on it. God resists the proud but He cannot resist the person who is broken and humble. All the prayers, asking for God's power and ability to see visions will not be necessary. If you are broken before God, your brokenness will attract God's power. You must let the Holy Spirit have His free flow and wrestle with you until your pride is shattered, your boastful tongue silenced and all the resistance inside your spirit is broken down.

WHO IS THE BROKEN MAN?

The broken man is a man who is quick to repent.

He begins to ask for forgiveness as soon as he commits a sin. He does not sweep sin under the carpet and he does not manufacture excuses for committing sin.. He is quick to rush to God and say, "O Father, I have made a mistake, I have missed the road, please forgive me."

The broken person will go and apologize to people who are lower than him.

There was this story about Paul when he was defending himself before the Sanhedrin. He made a statement and someone slapped him. He then said, "you stand there and judge me with the law, but you are slapping me against the law, you white washed wall." Someone then answered, "Paul, that man is the high priest." Paul quickly apologized and said that he did not know that he was the high priest. That is the sign of a broken person.

A broken person makes prompt restitution.

If someone has suffered loss because of his behavior, a broken person does not just apologize. He repays the loss and makes necessary restitution.

A broken person is always willing to forgive any one who has offended him.

Whether the person who offends him is sorry or not, whether he makes amends or not, it does not bother him. He forgives.

Broken people do not carry grudges to the grave.

They do not say, "I will not forgive this person till I die." Or; "tell that person not to come to my funeral." After you are dead anybody can come. If people offend those who are broken, they will settle with those who offended them and forget the matter.

Broken people are always willing to forget the past.

Broken people endure brutal attack without retaliating.

Broken people are silent when they are being insulted or have been wronged.

All the ministers of God, that God has truly called are essentially dustbins. Anybody can say anything to them at any time. If you are not ready to be insulted, forget about the ministry, because you will be insulted, even by people you are old enough to give birth to. You cannot talk or answer back. After all they slapped Jesus and spat on him. They slapped the creator of the world with the hands He created Himself, and they ridiculed him.

A broken person remembers how Jesus suffered and he does not give fire for fire, or blow for blow; he does not retaliate.

I know of a fellowship where revival meetings usually start by 5:30 p.m. One day, the leader of the fellowship came in at 5:35 p.m., meaning that he was five minutes late. A particular gentleman in a three piece suit, who had

thought that the Pastor in charge of a such popular fellowship should not come late to the revival meeting, accused the Pastor-in-charge of the fellowship thus, "Pastor, you called this meeting for 5:30 p.m. and you are just coming at 5:35 p.m. this is not good enough." The Pastor-in-charge answered and said, "I am sorry, sir." Then the gentleman smiled and said, "That is better". An unbroken Pastor could have taken the man's accusation as an effrontery and possibly ordered his ushers to bundle the man out. This would have created an unpleasant scene for both the gentleman and the Pastor in particular.

Some people do complain of what they have suffered, have they suffered as much as Jesus Christ? A teacher told the story of the suffering of Jesus to some Sunday school children and described how they beat him. slapped him and spat on him. When he finished, one small boy said, "Sir the story is not true." When the teacher asked why, the small boy said. 'if it is true, you cannot be telling the story with your eyes dry, you should have been crying before you finished. The story cannot be true, someone cannot go through all this and you will not cry. He then had to explain to the boy why it is true. That shows you the extent of the suffering.

I told them at a meeting, that when Jesus was born only some shepherds and animals were there. The largest number of the spectators were animals. The Bible did not even bother to record the names of the shepherds. The angels were shouting, "Glory be to God in the highest and on earth peace to all men." When they were going to ridicule and put Him to shame on the cross, there were a lot of people there. If you don't know, they crucify people almost naked. So, the Lord of the whole earth, who created the wood that made the cross was nailed on the same wooden cross. The crown of thorns they put on His head, and the iron nails, were His creation. He looked at them and said. "they know riot what they do." If He had said, "Be roasted" that would have been the end of His humiliation. But He did not say such thing. He kept quiet. That was the example the Lord gave us. Where people learn what they do now from. I don't know. Fire for fire blow for blow. If you talk I will talk. If I don't talk, I am a fool: from where did you learn that?

A broken man will honour all that is written in these verses. Romans 12:17,20 & 21 :

"Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shall heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good."

Look at the example of Abraham and Lot. Abraham was the one who brought Lot out of suffering, he was his nephew. It got to a time when God blessed them and then their shepherds started fighting. When I got here while reading the Bible, I was surprised that Abraham said, "Let there be no strife between you and I. You pick where you want and I will pick the other place." Lot looked at the place that was well watered, that had green grass and he chose it. Abraham took the dry place and the God that turns dry places to fruitful land, changed his portion for him.

The place that Lot chose eventually became Sodom and Gomorrah and Lot did not take any thing out of it when it was finally destroyed. He took one quarter of his wife out and he eventually lost her, half-way out, that wife is in hell fire now. He got his two daughters pregnant, that was all he got from the place which he chose. Abraham said, have the first choice.

There was a church I used to attend a long time ago where there was a lot of carnality in the church. One day. I got there early and I saw three people struggling for the microphone and I was surprised. These people were arguing about who got there first. One man said, "I want to take choruses. I woke up at 5:00am and I live in Iyana-Ipaja, I want to sing." Carnality and unbrokenness would do things in the house of God to boost one's image and ego but the spiritual and broken man would want to glorify God with his actions.

A broken man obeys the Lord instantly, without questioning.

Once there is a "Thus says the Lord." A broken man says, "I surrender."

A broken man will not wilfully reject a clear guidance from the Lord.

The greatest problem of Jonah was that he was not broken. If he had been broken, he would not attempt to disobey a clear directive to go to Nineveh to deliver God's message.

A broken person does not live on the adulation of the society.

You must be dead to the world's applause or their criticism. When we were talking about holiness sometime ago, I told you about the story of a young king who insulted an older king and the older king decided to discipline him by locking him up and threatening to kill him. One day the older king decided to release him on the condition that he carried a glass of water from the center of the market to the palace, a distance of about one and a half miles without spilling the water. People were arranged on both sides of the streets from the market to the palace. Those on the right hand side were hailing him and those on the left hand side were blaming and abusing him. He took his glass of water and started going towards the palace. He ignored the crowd and successfully reached the palace without spilling one drop of water. The king was surprised and asked how he did it. The younger king replied that he ignored the crowd and concentrated fully on the water and the task ahead, because his life depended on it.

People will hail you, but when trouble comes, you will not see them. They will go somewhere else. People will criticize you, because what you have they don't have. So you should not be moved by them.

A broken person is dead to public opinion.

The reason many sisters are so stagnant and are where they are now because they are very conscious of public opinion. They want to do things gradually and say, "With my level of education, I shouldn't just rush to do anything. I will keep my Jezebellian attachments at home for now and will not wear them to church but I will wear them to work." God cannot use such people because He can see that you are not broken. When you are broken, you are dead to public opinion. How can somebody in the kingdom of darkness be

passing an opinion on you and you are taking it seriously? They are not supposed to compliment you. If bad people say that you are doing well, then something is wrong with you. They are supposed to say, "peculiar person, strange, what kind of person is this?" This is brokenness.

A broken person keeps cool under crisis.

I was so sad one day when some people were talking about a believer. They said, we are going to annoy him now, just wait and see. The moment the man came in, they said, "Sir, the file you asked us to look for yesterday, could not be found", and the man blew up in wild anger.

I was working with some people sometime back, where I had a boss who got angry at the slightest provocation. He was the first man I ever heard, telling a woman to go and dive into the lagoon. Instead of the woman to keep quiet, she said, "This shows how you talk to your wife at home." The man replied, "My wife is not as useless as you, you prostitute." The two of them then started a full scale fight. I calmed the man down. Anytime he got annoyed, I always had to calm him down and he was about thirty years older than me. One day, he called me and said, "I see that you are always very calm. Each time I lose my temper, you always keep me calm though you are younger than me. How do you control yourself?" That gave me the opportunity to preach to him; I told him it was only demons who got angry at the slightest provocation, and that he needed Jesus. He said that he would follow me to my church. I told him that this was not a matter of the church, but about giving his life to Jesus, that something had to happen to his life. Then he understood.

Many marriages break down because people practice the fire for fire approach. You want to prove your point, which will never get you a certificate. "I must make my point, I must prove my point. Just because I married you does not mean I will throw away my intelligence, after all I have a B.Sc. degree in Biology." Remember that, you are not married to Biology.

Broken people will allow God to show them areas of their lives that are not yet completely broken.

Broken people will honour their parents.

If you are a serious person and you know you have offended your parents in the past, you had better go and apologize to them now, so that God can change your name from Jacob to Israel too. Brokenness opens the door to personal spiritual revival. We are all going to cry out to God to break us and when He has done that, you will not need someone to confirm that you are broken. You will know that something has happened to your spirit. The kind of things that used to get you angry will not move you and will have no effect on you again.

Unfortunately beloved, many of us want to learn new things but, there is not so much to learn, rather there is a lot to flush out of our system. Most of us know too much, because we have read widely and listened to too many experts. But in spite of all these, a lot of people cannot stoop low enough to be converted and be like little children. When Jesus was on earth, the Scribes and the Pharisees who knew the Scriptures too much lost their blessings because they argued with Jesus. On the contrary, the illiterates received their blessings. Many religious people followed Jesus but got nothing, instead blind Bartimaeus, Zaccheus, and the woman with the issue of blood got their miracles.

Unbroken people have a desire to be well known.

There is a craze for popularity among unbroken Christian leaders now. They want to become like film actors and 'VIP's'. Any secret longing in your heart for popularity, shows that you are not broken. If there is something within you that wants to be widely known, brokenness is far from you. Jesus Himself shunned popularity. When they wanted to make Him king, He rejected it. A person could be a VIP on this earth and also be a VIP in hell fire.

At one meeting, I preached that we have a lot of baby Christians and unbroken people, in the house of God. Since we have so many babies, some of our programmes which ought to work well do not because the babies are

put in charge. The matured believers who are broken, know how to give but the babies are always receiving. Don't you see how many Christians flock to miracle services? You put a poster out saying, "The blind shall see, the lame shall walk," and people will flock to these meetings, but if you put another poster out saying "we want to look at the nature of hell", nobody will come.

I know a man who called a prayer meeting and nobody came. He then changed his strategy and said, "On the next day of the meeting, the Lord has said that three people are going to die unless they attend the meeting." The next day, they were all there; these are babies and unbroken people.

There was a man who arranged a crusade and told people that God will rain down naira. A lot of people brought all sorts of bags, including jute bags and came to the meeting. The man prayed, asking for money to come down. Then he told them that before God would fill their bags, they have to give something. He then asked them to empty their pockets, because the more they gave, the more they would get. He took the offering, came back and told them to open their bags. If they were not spiritual babies, they would have known that God would not print money in heaven. The man started praying and they were all shouting "Amen, Amen, Amen." Suddenly, they realised that they could not hear his voice again. The man had disappeared with their money. Why? They were babies.

I also told them on that day that in a certain church I used to attend. there were two kinds of preachers. The first group are the ones you call "revivalists." They would come and shout and make noise and everybody would be jumping up and down. By the time they finished you would not have gained anything. Then we had the second group of preachers with only one man in that class. His name was Pastor A. He preached very slowly, therefore a lot of the members in the church disliked him. Whenever it was his turn to preach many people will not listen. It was from him that many of the members first heard about the anti-Christ. He always told the truth whereas the others only got the people excited, with the "possess your possession" sermons every time.

Many people do not value good things because they are still children. If you tell a small child to choose between money and biscuit, he will probably choose the biscuit, because he does not know that the money can buy about

ten packets of that same biscuit. Spiritual babies cannot value spiritual things.

God gave Solomon four options - long life, riches, defeat for enemies or wisdom. He chose wisdom because his father had taught him to value spiritual things. Those who are unbroken do not value spiritual things. How can someone say that he has been born again for ten to twenty years and has not lead anyone to Christ? I am unhappy to tell you that most church goers are milk drinkers. How many adults can grow on milk?

There is a problem in the church today. We have gyrating sisters dancing like mermaids in the church. Jesus said, "It is written, thou shalt not commit adultery. But I say unto you that by lusting after a woman in your heart you have already committed adultery." He also said, "Whoever says unto his brother, raca or you fool, he is liable to judgment." It is a gospel according to Satan if you say, "Christianity is not dos and don'ts." In those days, when sinners came to church you would not hear them talk; but now, they are the ones encouraging the Pastor to, "preach it", "yeah, preach it", while the man is talking rubbish.

Many of us have not even had enough of the milk that the Bible talks about. Some who have taken the milk have not fully digested it. Those who are babies are easy to know.

Let me ask you my last question before we pray. Are you growing or are you just putting on weight? There is a difference; we have vertical growth and horizontal growth. Growing horizontally and responding does not mean that you are growing. So ask yourself a few questions today. Are you becoming more and more patient? Do you play with temptation or do you resist it from the beginning? Do you find joy in obeying the word of the Lord or are you the kind of minster who studies the Bible only because you want to go and preach? Are you able to control your tongue? Are you a peace-maker or a trouble-maker? Do people come to you for spiritual wisdom? Are you a friend of God or a friend of the world? Do you make your plans without considering God? Are you selfish when it comes to money? Are you unfaithful in your tithes and offering? Are you a prayer addict? Are you the kind who criticize and gossip?

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ONE IS BROKEN?

When you are broken, your life will be stable and you will walk by faith. You will be open to correction, and have a teachable spirit. You will be honest before your God all the time, and love people without reservation. You will be able to differentiate between good and evil. You will exercise complete obedience and have patience; whatever test you are going through, no one will be able to use you as a bad example.

But when it is a fake brokenness, such a person is like that rat, who had the body of lion but was still a rat inside.

You are going to pray now.

I want to ask a serious question which I want you to answer as honestly as you can. Are you willing to pay the price of brokenness? Are you willing to be insulted and not retaliate for the sake of the work of God? Are you willing to forgo some of your rights because you want God to use you? Are you willing to remain unprovoked no matter how much they try to make you angry? Are you willing to apologize even to those who have wronged you?

Know this for sure, God can only use broken things. He will make your life a spectacle before men and angels. They will look at you and wonder, provided you become broken. Broken people are not the kind of people who reserve one paint for their fingers for Sunday and another paint for Wednesday and another for Thursday.

You have to cry unto God.

PRAYER SECTION

1. O Lord, break me!
2. O Lord, make me a living sacrifice.

Do you know that unbrokenness can destroy God's plans for your life? God had a great plan for Samson, but because he was not broken he frustrated this plan. King Saul was chosen by God and because he was unbroken God rejected him. Saul a prophet, eventually ended up with familiar spirit. Unbrokenness is the reason for the caging of so many lives today. You are going to cry to the Lord like blind Bartimaeus like this:

3. I refuse to be caged by the enemy, in the name of Jesus.

Chapter IX

◆ PRIMITIVE CHRISTIANITY

The topic of this discourse is something from the heart of the Lord to everyone, who should be on fire for God. It is a message to those who are still looking forward to something in their Christian life, not those who believe that they have arrived, and there is nothing else to improve upon. So, this discourse is titled Primitive Christianity.

Let us start from a very simple thing. Why did God establish the ***Mountain of Fire and Miracles?*** How come you are here? Is your presence here by your own design? Certainly not! If it was by your own design, perhaps, you will be somewhere else. Let us start from the name: ***Mountain of Fire and Miracles.***

MOUNTAIN

You need to know what mountain-top life is. Many examples of mountain-top life abound in the Bible. Some of them are listed below, not only to paint what such a life is, but also to remind us of the great and monumental tasks which took place there.

- At Mount Sinai, Moses received the ten commandments.
- At Mount Horeb, Moses met God, by the burning bush and his life was never the same again.
- At Mount Carmel, Elijah challenged 450 prophets of Baal to a contest. He prayed a five seconds prayer and fire fell.
- Jesus, Elijah and Moses gathered at the mount of Transfiguration. Peter did not want to leave that place. He required that they build three tents

there on the mountain.

So, the mountain top life is the life in which you are on the mountain, and the enemies are down below in the valley. They cannot move close to you, because it is difficult for them to climb up the mountain. It is in the valley that you'll find the witches, the wizards and all those smaller spirits. The enemy who wants to pursue a believer to the mountain will really have to work hard. When you are on the mountain, you can boldly declare "Now shall my head be lifted up above my enemies round about me."

FIRE

What about the fire? John said, "Somebody is coming after me, the lace of whose shoe I am unfit to untie. He will baptize you with two things, the Holy Ghost and fire." A lot of people with the baptism of the Holy Spirit have no fire. When fire falls, all kinds of rubbish will burn away. On the day of Pentecost, when the power of the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples, it came as cloven tongues of fire. So much for the fire.

So, if you are attending the ***Mountain of fire and Miracles*** and you do not live a Mountain top life and there is no Fire in your life, then your name is written down in pencil. It may be recorded in our computer that you come here, but as long as you do not live a mountain top life, then you are wasting your time. God gave the name ***Mountain of Fire and Miracles*** to this ministry because He wants you to live a mountain top life. You must therefore improve.

MIRACLES, SIGNS & WONDERS

Other things to be considered are: miracles, signs and wonders. This is the third aspect of our name. It is the wheel on which the gospel moves.

- Therefore the ***Mountain of Fire and Miracles*** is meant for the revival of Apostolic Signs, Wonders and Miracles. And those who have been coming here can testify to it that God moves in signs, wonders and miracles.

- The ***Mountain of Fire and Miracles*** is meant to pull together the children of God who are lost in many churches, in the name of religion. The last time we took a census of those who come to our Wednesday meetings, we counted about 52 different fellowships. God is pulling out his people who have been trapped inside the net of religion. He is opening the understanding of people who have been made "fathers of the church" and "mothers of the church" to see through the vain titles which their enemies are using to destroy them. Many of us have practised religion for years. We have got confirmed and confused, and we are still there the way we were. It is amazing to know that while so many people are laying claims to certain positions, such as patron, matron, chairman, chairlady, mother-in-church, etc, they get weaker spiritually, and their enemies get stronger.

The ***Mountain of Fire and Miracles*** is created to be a spiritual war college, to teach people how to fight spiritual warfare. ***Mountain of Fire and Miracles*** is meant to turn the joy of your enemies into sorrow. It is also set up to build an aggressive army for the Lord in the last days, and deliver those who have become slaves to pastors, prophets, and apostles. It is a ministry of deliverance for those who have spent the major proportion of their lives carrying the bags of prophets about and believing that by doing so and following the prophets, there will be miracles for them. The ***Mountain of Fire and Miracles*** is meant to build up a heavenly bound aggressive Christians.

Nobody comes to ***MF*** by chance. You may wish to know that the ***Mountain of Fire and Miracles*** has never printed any poster and the General Overseer has never been on radio to say, "hey, ***MF*** is at Olasimbo street." Everyone who has come here to ***MF*** has done so because God brought him.

There are many people who come to our meetings because they consider the ministry as a fire brigade organisation. They run to ***MF*** to quench the fire of the enemy, and then go back to their vomit, that is, they return to their old lives once their problem is solved. However, this is not God's design. God wants every member of the ***Mountain of Fire and Miracles*** to be a "power and fire generator", like the woman who went back to her

village and called down fire. God did not design anyone to come here and be a spiritual bat, who is neither a rat nor a bird. God does not want that kind of thing. God does not want somebody to become a spiritual dwarf or a football to be played around by witches and wizards.

Let us face the fact beloved, many of us are not serious spiritually. We may be serious in our secular jobs as a banker, an accountant, policeman, soldier or whatever; but spiritually, we are not serious.

THE CHALLENGES

I have seen a lot of things happening at the Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries. Imagine you were in my shoes. What will you do if a lady walks up to you in your counselling room and says "Dr., I have a problem." And if to your response of "what is the problem?", the person says, "just follow me." Suddenly, she pulls up her skirt and you see two sexual organs. What will you do? Will you faint, or will you say, "Ha!, ha!, I have never seen this before." Many Christians sit down and are not bothered about their spiritual life and challenges as long as money rolls in, and things are good with them. The lady with the above problem may be the secretary in your office and you would not. Yet you call yourself a believer. What kind of Christian are you? And what kind of Christianity' will you be talking about?

What will you do if you are in your sitting room and suddenly you hear, "Cuckoo Rukoo". Then you come out and ask if there is a cock in the room and you are told, that there is no cock in the room. But the cock is indeed crowing from the room, what will you do?

Sometime in the past, somebody came to the counselling room and dropped an idol. Suddenly, the idol began to dance. This is not a story. I am not asking you to believe me but I am telling you what I witnessed.

Sometime ago, someone came up to me and said, "Dr., I have a problem; you really have to pray for me." I asked him what the problem was and his response was shocking. He said that, "You see, I sleep with my junior sister." I said that it was not a problem and that God would forgive him if he knelt down and ask the Lord for forgiveness. He said, it was not that simple

and went further to say, "My daddy and I slept with her," I asked, "Do you have the same father and mother with this sister?" He said "Yes! That is the problem." But God is able to forgive. What would you do with such an experience?

Consider this other experience: A lady came to me and said, "Sir, I can't get married because I don't have a vagina." What would you do if you were told such a thing? While many have been crying that they could not get married, there was somebody who did not have a vagina.

I have indeed Witnessed countless problems and bizarre things. Many women have had strange marks on them, many with the marks of "Ayelala" and "Emere" (Familiar spirit).

The question you need to address your mind to now is. "What kind of Christian will be able to cope in these last days?" Is it the kind of Christianity in which an African prefers to be an American? Or is it the type of Christianity where Christians dress like demons and are comfortable? Or is it where an average Christian cannot hear from the Lord? Or is it where believers are breaking the laws of God without any remorse? Or is it where a Christian comes to a place of fire like this for two years and is still battling with anger and unforgiving spirits without any success? Or is it where Pastors have abandoned the humble life of Jesus and are running after money? Or is it where the Pastors' hair is longer than the wife's hair? What kind of Christianity do you think can cope with all these things that I have emphasized?

Is it where people want the God of miracles but do not want to obey His words. They want the gifts without the Giver. They want salvation without the Saviour. They want healing without the Healer. They want charismatic manifestations and spiritual gifts without the necessary Christlike character. They want protection without the Protector. Is it where ministers of God are busy roaming around the houses of rich people and begging them for money.

I went to a place to preach and after the service, a man gave me his card and said he was an important man and requested me to come to his house. While others were asking me where the **MF**M church was, this rich man

was telling me to come to his house. I put his card in my pocket and kept quiet. On the way home I asked the brother beside me why he gave me his card to come to his house. He said that was what they usually do to some Pastors. Such Pastors would become busy running after them and disgracing God all over the place. Is this the type of Christianity that would cope during these end time days? The ministers of God should say to the rich and sinners that unless they change and turn to God, their money will perish with them. They should stop running after them. The simple question, is where do we go from here, with all these ugly situations? How come believers speak powerless tongues and then they get pressed down on their beds in the night by the spiritual enemies.

My mind was asking many questions and I put all these questions to the Lord, just as I have listed them above. The Lord's answer was amazingly clear and straight forward. He said, **"GO BACK TO SIMPLE AND PRIMITIVE CHRISTIANITY!"** Simple and primitive.

The problem that Jesus had with the Jews was that what He preached to them was too simple. How can we get to heaven? Jesus told them to repent, be born again, receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and live a holy life. They looked at Jesus and could not believe that they would not need candles, robes, slow procession, processional and recessional hymns. They found it hard to believe why "palm wine cups" would not be necessary for their heads, why washing of hands and feet would not be required, why harvest ceremonies would lose its pride of place, and why sacrifices of animals would be a thing of the past.

They said what Jesus taught them was too simple and that salvation has to be more complicated than that. They were fighting Jesus, and did not understand the crux of his teachings. They wondered why Jesus should ask them to love their friends and their enemies when Moses taught them the doctrine of an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth. What did He mean? They could not understand Him.

It is dangerous to lose the simplicity of Christ Jesus.

2 Corinthians 11:3

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

I don't know the purpose for which God brought you to ***Mountain of Fire and Miracles***, but if you leave ***MF***M and you are still a spiritual dwarf, then, it's not the General Overseer's fault.

SIMPLICITY!

SIMPLICITY! You need to know and note the following: sacred music without holiness is nothing. Fashionable dressing without the anointing of the Holy Spirit is nothing. Beloved, the big truth is this, and this has to be said over and over again, one day the money you have been running after, will desert you. They will put that money in your hand and the hand will not be able to hold it. A day is coming, when they will put those dresses that you like so much on you, yet, you will look like a misfit, probably like a cock with lipstick on his beak. Even the adultery and fornication you could not do without, which forced you to marry an unbeliever, will desert you. A day is coming when, naked women and men will be put before you, and you will be lifeless and not able to do any thing. A day is coming, when all the designer wears will turn useless, unless the Holy Spirit redesigns your life.

A day is coming when your definition of enjoyment will change and you will understand that true enjoyment is to live in God's favour and His will in this world, and the world to come. You will also understand that being in God's favour and will does not mean that everything will be as smooth as butter. One day, those who are still smoking cigarettes will stop. One day, you will sing the last verse of that last song, in your unbelievers' hymn book. One day, you will wear the last dress and then you will take the last drink. One day, you will eat your last meal. One day, you will read your last book. And for those who are still struggling with gold chains and all such things, one day you will wear your last chain. This is very serious!

Christians in those days were never in the majority; they were clearly in the minority.

When God destroyed the whole of the world in Noah's time, only eight people were saved, and God was satisfied. Eight out of millions!

When the children of Israel were leaving for the Promised Land. six hundred thousand men left, approximately three million people, (women, children and men), but only TWO men entered the Promised Land. God was not bothered.

Let us recall the battle of Gideon. There were thirty two thousand people who wanted to fight and God insisted that they must be tested. Eventually only three hundred out of thirty two thousand were chosen!

So, the Christians in those days were never in the majority, but always in the minority. They were the ones who were killed, persecuted and thrown to lions. These Christians were stripped of their possessions, and still refused to deny Christ. They were driven away from their homes, that notwithstanding, they refused to deny Christ. They sealed their testimony with their blood. They were falsely accused of the most dreadful crimes one could think of. When any calamity happened people would say it was the Christians who caused it. They were held responsible for the famines, the pestilence, the earthquakes, and considered as pests like mosquitoes, in the society.

Today many Christians are trying to merge with the world sinners, to become one of them. Christians are now willing to welcome unbelievers to the house of God. They are receptive to the sinful dresses of unbelievers, even in the Church. In those days, believers were looked at as parasites in the society and many were burnt alive in big arenas. People paid money to watch Christians being burnt. Some were crucified, while others were first covered with the skin of wild animals, before being thrown into the arena, where wild dogs brutalized them. Their cruel punishment was most often made a public entertainment. A multitude of people gathered together to enjoy the sight of Christians dying and crying out in pain. They laughed and applauded their woes. They haunted them like beasts and thousands of them were put in prisons. These were the people who sowed with their blood, what we are enjoying today.

Christians these days just want to serve the Lord on their luxurious beds, and yet, expect miracles to happen. No wonder, the enemies are getting stronger, and redesigning their strategies, to make many people become deliverance candidates. A lot of people are chained to their dead churches.

We have a traditional song we used to sing in those days. I implore you to sing the song now, as you read this book. Many people may find this discourse tough; however, it is the way the Lord wants it.

THE OLD TIME SONG

Give me that old time religion
Give me that old time religion
Give me that old time religion
It's good enough for me.

It was good for Paul & Silas
It was good for Paul & Silas
It was good for Paul & Silas
It's good enough for me.

Give me that old time religion
Give me that old time religion
Give me that old time religion
It's good enough for me.

It was good when it was on fire
It was good when it was on fire
It was good when it was on fire
It's good enough for me.

It will take me home to heaven
It will take me home to heaven
It will take me home to heaven
Its good enough for me.

YOU CANNOT MODERNISE GOD

The *Mountain of Fire and Miracles* does not practise modernised Christianity because God cannot be modernised, He cannot be improved upon. You may say that *MF* people are so old fashioned. You may not consider it terrible if only you knew that God too is old fashioned.

Danie11:9

"I behold till the thrones were cast down, and the ancient of days did sit,"

Who was the ancient of days? God. In verse 13, it is the same thing.

"I saw in the night visions, and behold, one like the son of man came with the clouds of heaven. and came to the Ancient of days and they brought him near before him."

Malachi 3:6

"For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."

"I am the Lord, I change not" means that God cannot be modernised or improved upon. It is good for all of us to know where we are in Christ. If anyone wants to run away, such a person can take the easiest route.

Hebrews 1:10-12

". . . and Thou Lord Hast Laid the Foundation of the Earth; and the Heavens Are the Works of Thy Hand: They Shall Perish; but Thou

Remainest; and They Shall Wax Old as Doth a Garment; and as a Vesture Shalt Thou Fold Up, and They Shall Be Changed: but Thou Art the Same, and Thy Years Shall Not Fall.

Then the popular preaching verse.

Hebrews 13:8

"Jesus the same yesterday, today and forever."

He cannot be modernised. He cannot be changed.

James 1.17 says this,

"Every good and perfect gift is from above from the Father of Lights, with whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

That is God for you. He is ancient, and does not change.

You may decide to change your ways and modify things to suit the world. But you cannot modernise God, He does not change. The moment a man sits down to modernise God, he becomes the architect of his own destruction.

AN OLD TIME CHURCH IN FRANCE

A long time ago, I was in France and someone invited me to one Pentecostal Church. When I got there, I was amazed. There were all sorts of people in attendance, both black and white. All the women covered their heads completely and they were not interested in displaying their hairstyles. They had read the scripture which said that God wets more interested in the inner ornament.

Being a minister, there were many things I noticed in the new place. No woman was putting on trousers, even though they were white people. No man had gold chains on, like a new convert. Humility was written all over them. All the singing was done from the bottom of the heart and the Spirit

of God just flowed all over the service. No wonder, they were putting chairs outside for the large congregation of people that came for the service.

Where I was sitting, a white woman sat beside me and was praying in tongues and the voice of her praying and her anointing touched me. Then she began to prophesy. One could feel the heat of the anointing upon her. In many Churches abroad, when there is a prayer meeting, they usually pray for their nation and leaders. A single person rises up and prays. And everybody says Amen. Then the next person rises up to take the next prayer point. And everybody says Amen.

But in this meeting, when they started praying, I opened my eyes. I said, "WHAT? This is France!" I used to think that only black people pray loudly and aggressively, but they knocked me off my feet. No wonder they called the place, "Old Time Pentecostal Assembly."

The **MF**M is a place for old time religion, a place for biblical Christianity. If you want to practise, liberal and compromising Christianity, **MF**M is the wrong place to choose. The truth is this, the present day believers, are yet to discover the footsteps of the Apostles, let alone walk in them.

The present day Christians do not wish to look different from the world. They find it hard to discard their make up and jewelry. They try to recreate God's creation by colouring their lips and their fingernails. They try to copy the hair texture of the white people. They wear skin tight and sexy dresses and unholy skirts that are afraid of the knees! Without the sexy dresses, many men are already having problems: why should believers then make the job of the enemy easier? Some women will wear large belts like weight lifters, and are not prepared to sweat in prayers. They want to copy the white man whose spiritual environment is completely different from ours. Many present day believers go about with no spiritual gift, at most they just prophesy. They tell lies to cover up their mistakes. It's difficult to find the truth among Christians again. Some of them are more worldly minded than heavenly minded. They have failed to climb the mountain of power that our Pentecostal fathers climbed.

Whereas when Jesus was in the world, he turned water into wine. The present day believers, however, are doing a much more 'difficult thing' and

turning the wine into water by copying the people of the world. The present day Christians are powerless and spineless. We also have a lot of part time Christians who are holy in the Church, but not holy outside. They think that the greatest thing in the world is to belong to worldly clubs of diverse names. They want people to know them.

I remember one story about the early Fathers who planted Christianity in this country. Some of these people talked to God face to face. When men who talked to God tell us what is wrong or right, people who have never seen an angel in all of their existence on earth should not criticise them.

Somebody came to the revival of a man of God and the person was wearing a juju waistband. When the man of God said, "Give me the juju waistband", the "juju" (traditional medicine) woman had no option than to give it to the man of God. The man of God threw it into the fire, the thing danced in the fire a little bit then jumped out and said, "Ajike, this is not our agreement."

Ajike said, "Yes, I know but Jesus has separated us." The man of God picked the thing again, while it was still talking and threw it back into the fire. The thing dance a bit and then jumped out and said, "Ajike, bring my pot." Ajike said "No problem, I will bring your pot."

Beloved, let's tell the truth. Supposing as you are sitting down now, and something drops from somebody's leg like a chain and begins to talk, What will you do? You will either run away or change your sit. That is the truth. The type of Christianity which will change things that will affect peoples' lives and foundations permanently for Christ, is the old fashioned Christianity.

Before 1840, Nigerians worshiped idols. Although the Portuguese missionaries got to Benin City in the 16th Century, they made no impact. It's a pity that they started their missionary activities in that place. If you have been to Benin, you know what I am talking about. By 1846, they got to Abeokuta. But Abeokuta is just waking up now. By 1846, they got to Calabar and the Baptists got to Ijaye in 1863. But the arrival of the missionaries did not break down the strongholds in peoples lives. No serious revival happened.

The early missionaries tried their best, by bringing western education to the people. They however did not dig deep into the people's lives. The people came to Church and kept their idols at home. The white people did not understand the local spiritual environment. So, they brought western education and the spiritual problems of the people remained. They did not have a spiritual strategy for this environment. Breakthroughs came only when God began to raise local men who understood the environment. We really must go back to our roots if we want to change our environment. We can not improve upon or change Christianity. Most of what we call liberality today is license to commit sin.

The devil's worshipers would agree to sleep in cemeteries at night because they want power, but believers find it difficult to hold personal prayer.

A child of the devil will abstain from sex for a whole year because he wants power. Believers wives usually tell sorry tales about their husband's lasciviousness. A believer wants to have carnal knowledge of the wife three times a day, and he wants power! What a pity!

A child of the devil agrees to go on a 201 days of fast, because he wants to destroy some people. A believer of Christ complains about hunger after 12 noon on the day they fast.

A child of the devil dare not disobey the instruction of their leader in the demonic world. A believer, meanwhile, will argue with one pastor, and fight with the other pastor.

It is good to know those who take Christianity seriously. Christians who want the power in Jesus must endeavour to embark on serious praying and fasting sessions. Our prayer from now on should be that all weak Christianity should die and power should come. The power of Christ is not meant to be distributed among ministers alone; it is for everybody. That is what the Bible says; It is for all not for a specific group of people. Christianity is aggressive. It carries on warfare daily with unseen powers. It is the only set up that can turn sons of darkness to light; that can go to the kingdom of darkness, grab their captives, and bring them out.

Therefore, if we want to operate successfully, our Exodus from Egypt must be as real as the Exodus of the children of Israel from Egypt. When the children of Israel departed from Egypt, the whole of Egypt knew that Israel had departed. There must not be anything in us that will tell the world that we are in the same boat. Egypt for us as Christians is the world. You cannot be in Egypt and the Promised Land at the same time. You must choose between the two.

Some have left Egypt, but Egypt is still in them.

Some have left Egypt, but their businesses are still in Egypt.

Some have left Egypt, but their dresses are still in Egypt.

Some have left Egypt, but their families are still in Egypt.

Some have left Egypt, but they are still using the cosmetics of Egypt.

External beauty is not what glorifies God.

I want to ask all the sisters reading this book one question and make sure you answer me sincerely. How many powerful sisters do you know in Nigeria? I mean, is there a powerful woman of God? BY the time you go round, you will find out that those who are powerful, are the old women who have abandoned everything to the Lord. they are the traditional, straightforward, mountain moving Christians. They are not those who will spend ₦21,000 to buy "aso ebi" (family clothe) and find it hard to pay ₦500 as tithe. Why is it that there are so many powerless sisters? It is because many of them prefer the lifestyles of the Egyptians and so have remained in Egypt.

I will now address the brothers. How many brothers see visions and revelations? Is it not true that majority of them are dream experts? The reason is simple: many of them are still in Egypt.

The truth has to be said beloved. If you like me very much and you say "I will give you a car", I will thank you. If you then come to me and say. "Eh, you know, I don't like what you preach, if you preach it again. I will take

the car." I will say. "Did I beg you before you gave it to me? Please take your car and go." If I need a car, before I walk to the gate, God will bring seven.

If you buy me clothes, and say I should not tell the truth, I will remove the shirt, trousers and shoes and give them back to you and still preach without them. Before I preach for three minutes, another shirt and trousers will come. I didn't beg you to give me the shirt and trousers. You did it to get blessed.

Christianity without power is like somebody who has no eyes but still went ahead to buy a pair of spectacles. It is like a trunk-less elephant.

THE ADDICTIONS OF THE APOSTLES

What happened to the early apostles? They were addicted to ten things and that was why they were able to pull down the powers of darkness and put heaven in the hearts of people. Until you get addicted to these ten things, you are playing games.

You need at least one hour daily prayer session to seek and get the power of God. You should add fasting to it, too! Your fasting should start now! You should be telling God. "I am tired of weak Christianity; I want power!" That is the player point. The ten things are:

AGGRESSIVE PRAYER

The Apostles were very aggressive in prayers. Didn't you read about their prayers in Acts chapter 4. The Bible says. "while they were praying, the place where they were gathered shook." It was an aggressive prayer.

PURPOSEFUL FASTING

They were addicted to purposeful fasting. If you look through the book of the Acts of the Apostles, you will notice the regular reference to fasting and prayer.

THE WORD OF GOD

They were addicted to the word of God.

HOLY LIVING

They were genuinely addicted to holy living. It was like a drug they could not do without.

FLOWING AND BUBBLING IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

They were addicted to flowing and bubbling in the Holy Spirit. We have read many times in the Acts of the Apostles that, "Peter was filled with the Holy Ghost"; and so was Paul and some other disciples.

AGGRESSIVE WITNESSING

They were addicted to aggressive witnessing. They preached everywhere they went, whether the people wanted to listen or not.

VIOLENT FAITH

They were addicted to violent faith. It seemed like they could not even think of any doubt. Whether God will do it or not, they were not worried. They had a violent faith, and put their lives into the hands of God.

INTENSE BROTHERLY LOVE

They were addicted to intense brotherly love. They loved themselves dearly and cared for one another. They didn't gossip about or malign each other.

OFFERING PRAISES TO GOD

They were addicted to offering praises to God. How could you explain Paul and Silas' praise worship session in the prison?

COMPLETE OBEDIENCE

They were addicted to complete obedience. Let's see what happens when you obey completely.

2 Corinthians 10:5-6

"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your own obedience is fulfilled."

If your own obedience is not complete you can not revenge. You cannot fight back your own enemy successfully. So the condition for pulling down all strongholds successfully is complete obedience. So, I want you to weigh your Christian life against the ten things that the apostles were addicted to. What is the way out? The way out is that old time Christianity which is found only in one word. BROKENNESS.

CHARACTERISTICS OF UNBROKENNESS

Several things can be used to recognize a Church where the members are not broken. Personality clashes, personal frustration, misunderstanding, physical and spiritual pride, and pursuance of personal ambition are such examples.

In order to pursue personal ambition, many people start small churches all over the town. This is because they do not want to humble themselves under their leaders.

One person came to me and said that he did not know what was wrong with his ministry. He complained bitterly that those who started their ministries at the same time as himself were already riding V-boot cars. We prayed just for two minutes and the minister of God began to grunt like a pig, and

wriggled on the floor like a snake. Is that someone who wanted his ministry to move?

People who were meant to work under an Elijah, and get a double portion of anointing from him, ran out before they sat for their spiritual examination. Therefore, the double portion eluded them.

Where there is no brokenness, we will find spiritual pride, a critical, spirit, lack of communication, immaturity, lack of true love, unforgiving spirit, independent spirit, and living above one's experience. In the ***Mountain of Fire and Miracles***, there is no one who is above the instructions of Jesus Christ. It does not matter if one is a pastor, priest, Sunday school teacher, or a house fellowship leader. Anyone who misbehaves is adequately disciplined. So, if pastors are disciplined, how much more members of the congregation? No one can adulterate what God is doing here.

There are many ways to recognize individual lives that are not broken. Pride, selfishness, self centeredness, wanting to be the first, and the best all the time, doubting, unbelief, enjoying sin, seeking ways to cover up sin instead of repenting, reacting when people do not love or appreciate you and hypocrisy are all signs of UNBROKENNESS.

Unbroken people avoid those who tell them the truth, and will not want to be criticized or corrected. They fail to understand that a man who hates correction will never improve.

People who refuse to correct their weaknesses, who are revengeful, and rejoice at the failure of others are not broken.

Some of the signs of the lives that are not broken are listed above. They pull others down with their mouths. They resist being commanded, but enjoy commanding others. They strike back at their offenders, and act before they think. They find it difficult to forgive others, and have no compassion for the lost. They are unable to spend hours before God. They are talkative, and challenge God's authority. They have inordinate desires for material things. They are restless when it comes to spiritual matters. They are easily provoked, and have no urge to grow spiritually. To make matters worse, they shift the blame of their faults on others. It is always somebody else.

When God falls on you, it will lead you to brokenness. The Bible says. "A broken heart and contrite spirit God will not reject." God moves close to such hearts; He always listens to broken spirits. God wants broken people. All other kinds of people are useless in the hand of God.

When you are broken, you will become humble, you will be committed, you will be sincere, and you will live a holy life. You will also be disciplined, obedient, and will not be the kind of person who will forget his root. You will not neglect your Bible reading, and will not be fighting silent wars with your husband or wife. Heaviness will not take over your heart, and you won't have an unteachable spirit. You will also not be a liar.

Jesus was hungry, yet He was feeding multitudes; He was thirsty, yet He is the water of life; He was tired, yet the Bible says that He is our rest; He paid tribute to Ceaser, yet he is the King of Kings; He prayed, yet he answers our prayers; He wept, yet he is the drier of tears; He was sold for thirty pieces of silver, yet He is the Redeemer of the world; He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, yet He is the great Shepherd; He was put to death, yet He is the Resurrection and the Life.

The Lord was able to use Peter because he was. a broken man. The first time the Lord came across Peter, he was fishing and caught nothing. Jesus said, "Throw your net by the right hand side." So many people are throwing their nets in the wrong place now. They are becoming foolish at what they thought they were experts at. "Throw your net", and Peter threw his net. Although he knew as a professional fisherman that the best time to catch plenty of fish was in the night and not during the day he obeyed the Lord, and threw his net into the sea as commanded. The Bible says that the net was breaking, because of the catch of fish. When Peter saw this, he did not need any other preaching He said, "What? Depart from me. I am a sinner." He knew his state. He was a broken man.

When he denied Jesus three times, the Bible says that he wept bitterly. No wonder, God was able to use Peter so much. Peter was the first person to preach in the Act of the Apostles. In the first few chapters of the Acts of Apostles, where people received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, Peter was

the preacher. Peter was there, when the Holy Spirit manifested Himself for the first time in the lives of people who were not Jews.

What do you want to do now that you have read this book? You need to rise up if you have not taken your Christianity seriously before now. You need to wake up from your spiritual slumber if you have been playing with the enemy for so long. You need to be tired of your lack of vision, and not of hearing from God. You need to know and understand that you are far below God's standard for you. A man who once gave us his testimony said that God showed him his 65% mark and said that so many people are below that mark.

PRAYERS

Beloved, how can it be said that after coming to Church you ended up in the same place as the unbelievers and the enemies you were binding? How can it be said that you bore a Christian name, went to a Christian Church and ended up in hell fire? How can it be said that you could not deliver yourself from this crooked generation? Therefore, raise up your voice in prayer and pray like this "Oh Lord, break me down now"!

Beloved, what do you want to say before the throne of God? Do you want to say that you did not hear the messages or that you did not have a Bible? What do you want to say?

Once more you are going to lift up your voice and pray. "Oh Lord, break me down and remould me."

God is calling you now that you should not remain the way you are; that you should move up unto the mountain, and indeed move up permanently from the valley to the mountain.

"Oh Lord, what a mighty God you are. We thank you for the opportunity to learn afresh from You. Our lives before you are useless if they are not broken. Lord, let the hammer of the Holy Spirit do a complete demolition now of all the lives that have been resistant to this hammer. Why should we engage in self righteousness, self justification and self satisfaction, when

Your word says, "They comparing themselves by themselves are not wise". Perform surgical operations in our spirits this moment, in the name of Jesus! All baby husbands and baby wives, treating husbands like slaves, treating wives like slaves, let the demolition power of the Holy Spirit breakdown such anti marriage forces, in the name of Jesus. Let it happen Lord. Let heaven be our priority, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

God of wonders we thank You.

Other Publications by Dr. D. K. Olukoya

- Students In The School Of Fear
- The Vagabond Spirit
- Power Must Change Hands
- Breakthrough Prayers For Business Professionals
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BROKENNESS

The Pathway to Spiritual Power and Maturity

“Verily, Verily, I say unto you,

Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die.

It abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit”

(John 12:24)

There is more to being a Christian soldier than attending Weekly Church Programmes.

Brokenness is a pre-requisite for being a true Christian Soldier.

This book teaches you result-oriented ways of escaping from spiritual stagnancy and its attendant frustrations.

Brokenness is a good spiritual thermometer for every child of God because at the end of the day, the requirement is that “He must increase, But I must decrease” (John 3: 30). Why? So “that you may be filled with all the fullness of God” (Eph 3:19)

You are encouraged by the Spirit of God, to read and study this book so that you can be at the spiritual height God expects you to be and not remain a Lilliputian all through your life. This is a challenge worth taking.

Dr.D.K. Olukoya is the General Overseer of the Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries and The Battle Cry Christian Ministries.

The Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries Headquarters is the largest single Christian congregation in Africa with attendance of over 120,000 in single meetings.

MFM is a full gospel ministry devoted to the revival of Apostolic signs, Holy Ghost Fireworks, miracles and the unlimited demonstration of the power of God to deliver to the uttermost. Absolute holiness within and without as spiritual insecticide and pre-requisite for heaven is openly taught.

MFM is a do-it-yourself Gospel Ministry, where your hands are trained to wage war and your fingers to do battles.

Dr. Olukoya holds a first class honours degree in Micro-biology from the University of Lagos and a PhD in Molecular Genetics from the University of Reading, United Kingdom. As a researcher, he has over seventy scientific publications to his credit.

Anointed by God, Dr. Olukoya is a prophet, evangelist, teacher and preacher of the Word. His life and that of his wife, Shade and their son Elijah Toluwani are living proofs that all power belongs to God.

ISBN 978 - 2847 - 05 -9

Published by:

MOUNTAIN OF FIRE AND MIRACLES MINISTRIES

Electronic edition produced by
ePubNow!



www.epubnow.com
www.digitalmediainitiatives.com