



POWER *of* BROKENNESS



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THE POWER OF BROKENNESS

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1

The POWER Of BROKENNESS

BROKENNESS

Brokenness is an essential ingredient of spiritual warfare, Jesus is our perfect example in the realm of spiritual warfare. He was able to publicly declare.

John 8:46

"Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, Why do ye not believe me?"

Brokenness is a key weapon of spiritual warfare. When you are broken internally, you have made adequate preparations for spiritual warfare.

This has to do with a lot of spiritual warfare. The three major elements of warfare are:

1. **Dealing with the devil and his cohorts.**
2. **Taking control of your mind.** Your mind is the greatest battlefield. You must establish a solid immigration control on the door of your mind, because if you lose the battle of the mind, then, you lose every battle.
3. **Crucifying the flesh.** The big truth is, that satanic attacks cannot prosper against our lives, if our flesh refuses to co-operate with them, as it is written in Colossians 3:5.

"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:" Col 3:5

If we daily mortify our flesh, the devil will have no landing place in our lives. If you are living a life that is dead to sin, as the Scripture commands, you will not surrender to satanic suggestion; you will not respond to the temptations of the flesh, because dead men do not respond to temptations.

MORTIFY THE FLESH

Dead men do not commit fornication. Dead men do not abuse people. Dead men are incapable of doing what people, who are alive are doing. This is where the power of broken lives lies. When you live a life of brokenness, you will not be threatened by temptations. rather. the power behind the temptations will avoid you. But, in a situation where you are threatened by temptations all the time, it means that you are not broken.

If there is an area of sin in your life, that you have not dealt with, the enemy will use it as a door to attack you, and all the prayers against him will be to no avail. In such a case, the devil is not the real enemy, but your carnal mind and flesh, which are not submitted to the Holy Spirit.

THE BROKEN LIFE

A broken life can never be a raw material for the devil. A broken life knows the secrets of the law. It is immuned to satanic arrows. It will trample permanently on serpents and scorpions. It is a terror to demonic forces. When a broken life goes into a particular situation, demons walk out. A broken life will move under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. It will offer the devil no cooperation at all. It is dead to worldly opinions.

A man may jump and shout at the devil all day, but if he allows one area of his life to go unchecked, or unguarded, he would be courting trouble. Big

sins will not get many Christians to hell fire, because many of them will not get involved in those ones; but the little ones such as little stealing, little lies, little malice, little prayer time, abusive words, critical spirit, etc. will push people to hell fire.

Herein, lies the trouble. This is where God is having problems. God will not force you to live the kind of life you want to live. It is a matter of choice. That is why Joshua stood before the Israelites, and said, "I set before you this day, blessings and curses, death and life. Now chose the one you want." It is a matter of choice.

If you are broken, you would not be bothered about the comments of somebody in darkness on your dressing. Somebody in darkness should not dictate to the person in the light, how he should live his life. A broken life offers no protection to the enemies.

Unbrokenness will do your spiritual life a lot of harm. If you joke with brokenness, it means, that you are not a disciple. The Lord only uses broken vessels. Peter was a broken man. Anytime he made a mistake, he agreed. The Bible says, that when he denied the Lord, he went out and wept bitterly. When the Bible says, that somebody wept bitterly, it must be a serious matter.

Peter was carrying the power of God about, because he was a broken man. "Art thou also that man's disciple?" If you are truly His disciple, you would be broken. That thing inside you, that makes you very annoyed, wants to make you a child of the devil. It has to go. That thing that makes you to tell lies, is turning you into a child of the devil, who started lying from the beginning. There is no truth in him at all.

"Art thou also that man's disciple?" If you are, you are a correct representative of the body of Christ. If you are not, you are one of those whom the Lord is complaining about, that they are moving behind schedule. You are also one of those blocking the prayers of the saints. You must move forward, and become a disciple.

If you can still be annoyed easily, and you can fight, you do not belong to God, yet. You belong to the devil. God cannot manage you. God cannot

manage a person, who gives in to fornication, adultery, alcoholism, or who has an unforgiving spirit. He says, that if, you want to be hot, you should be hot, if you want to be cold, you should be cold. You cannot sit on the fence. Those, who sit on the spiritual fence, are fired from the two ends. God will fire them, and the devil will fire them.

"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." John 13:34-35

2

The MISSING INGREDIENTS

Love your God and love your neighbour. Love sums up the whole Christianity, and it is the distinguishing mark of a true Christian. Without love, spiritual gifts are useless. Take away love from the earth, and what you have is a graveyard. The problem we have in the house of God today is, that there are a lot of Christians, who do not love one another.

There is a lot of malice, and unforgiving spirit towards one another. Those, who have such attitudes, are not the disciples of Christ. They may be coming to the church, but they are not true disciples. They may be doing all sorts of activities, but they are not true disciples.

The Bible tells us, that God is love. His own love is unconditional, impartial, ever-lasting, infinite and perfect. Love is never wasted. The love that expects positive reactions, or results is not true love. Love that expects something in return, is not the true love that the Lord wants His disciple to have. Love never makes any demand. Love only gives, it does not stop giving, because others do not reciprocate.

The perfect lover will devote himself to others. Jesus did that. He gave Himself to us, but what did He get from us? We crucified Him. The most outstanding thing, that our Lord Jesus did, was to love the unlovable, but many of us are quick to write off anyone, who offends us, even, if he really does not know what he does. We retaliate at the slightest offence.

The missing ingredient in the love, was startling vision. When I was a young Christian, we had one evangelist, who subjected his counselees to seven days dry fast, and they would be struggling to pray, but he would go home and feed himself well, before coming for the prayers. He was bankrupt in love. The Corinthians in the Bible had a wrong view of true Christianity. They thought it was just prophetic knowledge, the ability to

speak in tongues, or miraculous power. But, they ignored the key point of discipleship, which is love.

Recently, the Lord showed me a vision which bothered me. Different groups of people were preparing to go to heaven.

- 1. The first group was praying seriously.**
- 2. The second group was reading their Bibles with full concentration.**
- 3. The third group was just singing praises and waving their hands unto the Lord and was in the attitude of worship.**
- 4. The fourth group was making hot Bible confessions.**

All of them were heading towards a beautiful mansion. But, when it remained a little for them to get there, there was a diversion and the signboard said, "hell fire." I thought they would continue on the way to the beautiful mansion, but they did not. Instead, they took the diversion. I said, "O Lord, what is wrong? What is happening?" Then, He said, "I traded with them and I lost. They were practising these things, but they were bankrupt in love."

When the vision cleared. I was worried, because I saw these people praying, reading the Bible, praising God, confessing the word of the Lord, and were heading towards a beautiful mansion, and, then, diverted into hell.

If you do not enjoy a good relationship with anybody, you need prayers. If, you have no friend, you are a loner and you lock yourself up, there is problem. Some people are like that, and when you tell them to change, they would say, "no", that they do not want trouble. The question I normally ask them is, "If we all lock ourselves up like that, would there be fellowship?"

If you are going to fight;

- 1. Fight for the relationship, and not against it.**

- 2. Fight to improve, not to destroy.**
- 3. Fight for reconciliation, and not for separation.**
- 4. Fight to preserve the relationship, and not to destroy it.**
- 5. Fight to win your wife, and not to lose her.**
- 6. Fight to win your husband, and not to lose him.**
- 7. Fight to save your marriage, and not to break it.**
- 8. Fight to solve the problem and not to salvage your self-pride.**

If you are going to fight, fight to win. Do not fight to lose.

A loving person will control all his unloving attitudes, with his will power. You can be saved without spiritual gifts. You can make heaven, without receiving the gift of words of knowledge, or words of prophecy, but you cannot be saved without love. All the tools, and talents that are not motivated by love, are a waste of time. That is why the whole of the Bible, is bound up by one word-love.

Examine yourself now. Is there anybody you do not greet? Is there anybody, that you do not feel happy hearing his voice? Then, you are not a disciple. You need to sit down and readjust. It is amazing to know that sometimes some husbands, and wives come to church, but they do not talk to one another. They come to the church, and do not sit together. Something is wrong with such couples. They are bankrupt in love, and that is a serious situation.

I know many people, who can speak in tongues, can call fire prayer points but they do not have one atom of love. There are wicked husbands, who beat up their wives, even though, they come to church. The Bible says, "By this shall all men know that you are my disciples when you love one another."

When love is presented before you, you can chose what to do. You can decide to love yourself. You can love your God, and your neighbour. The Bible tells us, that the man, who loves his brother dwells in light, but if he

hates his brother, he is in darkness. There are only two kinds of love. Either you love yourself, or you love others, and your God.

When you concentrate all your attention on yourself, then, you are a selfish person, and do not have the kind of love we are talking about. Selfish love can be described as poison, that a person absorbs everyday. It will demote a person from being a true disciple.

Are you the kind of person, that is still fighting with people? How long will you stay in that kind of school? While others are collecting power, and are moving forward, you are still busy wasting time with unforgiving spirit, and unloving attitudes. Examine your heart now. It is important, that you sort out this before the Lord.

3

LOVE and its PROPERTIES

The Church of today is very ostentatious. We are busy showing off our achievements, our laurels, our destructives, and our qualities. But, in all, we have little to show in the area of love. Love is so unique and practical, that it is difficult to parade it. Love is costly. Love is sacrificial. Love gives and gives. Love is tasking. It is energy sapping. True love costs. Most of the time the rewards, or the gains are not attractive. Loving the unlovable is not easy. We are not always thanked for sacrificial acts of love. This explains, why true love is rare in Christendom.

You cannot claim to be a true disciple, without true love. There is a sharp contrast between true love, and love of self. When you love yourself, and have no love for others, you are not, yet, a disciple.

If you want to be a true disciple of Jesus. His love must be in your heart. that love in your heart will flow out to others.

When you see a person, who has knowledge of all mysteries, has the faith to move mountains, and has memorised the whole Bible, you could say, he is a great man. But, according to the Bible, he is nothing if, he has no love. A man could be distributing money to beggars every week, but the Bible says, it profits such a person nothing, if he lacks love. We find all these in 1 Corinthians 13.

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my

body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. 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 faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity. "1 Corinthians 13: 1-13

Love of self has destroyed many things in the house of God. A lot of people want to push themselves forward, forgetting the admonition of Jesus, that when we come to a place, we should stay at the back, and then, we can be invited to the front.

Love of self is a love, that drinks water, while his neighbour is dying of thirst. Love of self is the love that has 200 shirts, 200 skirts and blouses, whereas, somebody else is wearing one shirt, or skirt everyday, and the former is not ready to give. Love of self, is the love that keeps the best to himself, when there are things to be shared. He keeps the best place for himself.

Those, who make use of papers, Bibles, etc, to reserve seats in the church for people, who are still having their bath at home, while some people are standing outside, lack love in their hearts.

Love of self satisfies alone. Love of self makes a person to boast about himself, and is dead to the words of others. Love of self makes a person to make a choice and force it on others.

Love of self leads to self-pity. Those, who do so intentionally, do not want others to ask them for help. Love of self advertises his own ideas, and despises those of others. Love of self, simply put, is selfish. In fact, the greatest of human suffering is caused by love of self. The Bible says, "Love God and love thy neighbours as thyself, then, you fulfill the whole of the commandments, then, you are recognised as a disciple indeed."

THE CHARACTER OF LOVE

The first character of true love is patience. Love suffers long. The original word from which the word "suffers" is derived, means to hold off one's anger. That is, when somebody irritates you, love makes you to hold on your anger, and seek a peaceful resolution without bitterness. In moment of animosity, when people fight with you, love will show affection. The one, who loves will patiently wait for the improvement of others. He does not complain always.

This is one area where the enemies are cheating believers. We do a lot of good praying, and other things, but there is no love. A lot of people are losing their blessings, as a result of this deficiency. When you look at the way some Christians act, you wonder, if they had ever read the Bible. It is because there is no love.

Love copes with sufferings. Love endures pains, sorrows and anger. Love endures the selfish and critical nature of others. Love, that is patient, is not judgmental. It does not rush to criticise people on assumptions, or expectations. Love that is patient, does not retaliate. Love that is patient, does not promptly punish. It exhibits self-restraint in the face of provocations.

Several years ago, I knew a man, who often got angry with people. He used to boil anytime he was angry. His body would be shaking. He did not care whether you were a man, or woman. One day, out of anger, he hit a married woman, so much that she broke down and cried. But, the man noticed that I was always calm, and always tried to calm him down.

One day, he called me and said, "How come that when I am angry with everyone, you are always very calm?" I explained to him, that he had a problem, that the problem was, that the love of Christ was not in his heart, and that, if he continued that way, he would eventually kill himself.

PATIENCE

Patience does not surrender to circumstances or succumb under trial. Therefore, to be patient is to be long-tempered, and not short-tempered. Patience is putting up with bad treatment. You calmly handle, or receive injury from others, without losing your temper. You are not upset, angry or revengeful. When you are inconvenienced, or when they take advantage of you, the love in you will enable you to endure.

Patience is to refuse to pay evil with evil. It is to turn the right cheek, when you are struck on the left. There are some men, who can keep malice for three weeks, and there are some women, who can keep malice for one month. They will not talk to you, and do not expect you to talk to them. True love is long suffering, and does not retaliate.

Patience is the most outstanding quality of love. Love that is able to turn to hatred overnight, is not love at all. True love can go through fire, sorrow and trouble. It endures suffering. Impatience is evidence, that there is no love. True love learns to wait.

There are many people, who are difficult to live with, but, when you are patient, you are able to live with them. True love does not owe money, or hesitate to pay. It does not steal other people's money. It shows concern for others.

True love is patient, and endures long. It is never tired of waiting, and waits without murmuring. It never gives up, and it is able to suffer. Beating your wife does not show love. Saying, "I am tired of your nagging, so I am leaving, and I will not eat your food" is not love. And, the wife that says, "Well, I, too, will refuse to cook", does not have love.

I want you to examine the quality of love in your heart. Ask yourself: "Am I truly a disciple? Can I call myself a disciple of Christ? Is His love in my heart? Do I really love others, as I love myself? If Jesus comes now, and begins to examine my heart, what would He find? Will He find any hatred against anybody in my heart? If He is able to find it, then, I am not a true disciple. Talk to the Lord, and ask Him to forgive you for areas you have exhibited unbroken spirit. And, the Lord will help you, as you do so, in Jesus' name.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Oh Lord, break every idol present in my heart, in Jesus' name.
2. I refuse to cooperate with the spirit of death, and hell, in the name of Jesus.
3. Every rebellion in my heart, die, in the name of Jesus.
4. My head will not be prayer proof, in Jesus' name.
5. Every viper in the tabernacle of my life, die, in the name of Jesus.
6. Every viper surrounding my destiny, die, in Jesus' name.
7. Every enemy spreading evil mats for my sake, die with the mats, in Jesus' name.
8. Any evil image representing me in the dark world, fall down and scatter, in the name of Jesus.
9. O God, arise and reign in every department of my life, in the name of Jesus.

4

KNOWING and LIVING by the TRUTH

The Bible says, "*Buy the truth and sell it not.*"

The Bible also says,

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
John 8:32.

I would like you to meditate on the above Scriptures.

The truth is very stubborn. You can do whatever you like to do with it, and it will still stand, because it is the truth. It is also very expensive, and unfortunately, becoming scarce, even, in the house of God. It is gradually becoming a rare commodity, even, in the lives of barn again Christians. Lies, it is said, may flourish for years, but when the truth comes, it breaks them into irreparable pieces. Until you call a particular thing what God calls it, you are still joking.

Brother Stephen in the Bible was dragged before the Jewish people to defend himself, being accused of preaching against the temple, and wanting to change Moses' laws. With boldness he told them the truth, by calling them what they really were, "stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart, whose forefathers specialised in persecuting prophets." They became mad.

The best insecticide against error, is the truth, hence the common saying that truth is always bitter. Right now, if you can locale any falsehood in your life you need to talk to the Lord. Ask Him to flush out every falsehood in your life, in Jesus' name.

"When they heard these things they were cut to the heart and they gnashed on him with their teeth." Acts 7:54

When you come to the house of God, and hear the truth, it should yield fruit in your life. It is possible for you to love the truth, but it is only when you do it, that it will set you free. There is nothing like half truth. It is a lie, as far as, the Bible is concerned.

"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." Revelation 21:8

A certain woman was rushed to me, and said her husband had just thrown out her belongings, and asked her to go, and that he had also burnt her passport. She gave a catalogue of the man's wickedness, and I was moved by the story. I requested that we saw the man together.

Shortly before we got to their home, we saw her husband going out, and guess what happened. The woman pointed at him, and said, "Doctor, that is him crawling out like a snake." Then, I said, "Sorry, madam, if you can call him a snake in my presence, I wonder what you will call him at my back." The truth is that, it was not the man, that was the problem, rather it was the woman's tongue.

One man of God said, that when the Spirit of God came upon the apostles on the day of Pentecost, there was a sound of a great rushing mighty wind, but that when the Holy Spirit decides to depart from somebody's life, He would leave quietly. Samson did not know, that the Spirit of God had left him at the time he was captured. He had become what we call an empty barrel. Many empty barrels are found in the house of God today. They are found speaking different languages. shouting, preaching, but as far as God, and the devil, are concerned, they are just empty barrels. Secret sins in a life will constitute the root of many other sins.

All the secret sins that some of us are committing, could be likened to a sleeping dog, which will eventually wake up, and be seen by everybody. It

is difficult to cover a sin, for you have to commit another sin to cover a previous one, and as this progresses, the devil drags you farther and farther. Samson began to joke with his call, then, he began to tell lies. He lied to cover up his former lies, until the Spirit of God left him.

Perhaps, you have been going to a particular ministry for sometime now. It is good for you to review how profitable, that place has been to you. One of the greatest tragedies of life, is wasted time, for it is never recovered. Beloved, it is possible for someone to be making a loud noise, yet, he is saying nothing. Your actions in the church do not really matter. The most important thing is how you react to issues, when you get out of the church. The devil will be very stupid to grab you in the house of God, for he knows, that he cannot withstand the power of corporate prayers.

What is in the temperature of your spiritual life now? Is it the Holy Spirit alone, that is pastoring your life? Please, get me right, I am not asking whether you are a pastor, a general overseer, or what have you. You may talk about the speck in your brother's eyes, while leaving the log in your own eyes, but know, that God Almighty is going to cut you down, if you are unproductive.

5

the FRUIT you must BEAR

We plant orange trees, because we want it to produce fruits, and we will not be happy, if the tree is only producing leaves and flowers. God has planted us here to bear spiritual fruits. He is the heavenly Gardener. Meditate on this passage:

"He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree; and find none: cut it down, why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering, said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it. And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down." Luke 13: 6-9

Jesus was displeased, because the tree was fruitless, so He gave an order to cut it down, for it was using the space that a fruitful tree should be occupying. Who do you think Jesus was talking about? What do you think He means? That is why, I say you must know your purpose here on earth.

How sad will it be if, you disappoint Jesus? That fig tree, that failed to give the Lord Jesus fruits to eat, when He was hungry, disappointed Him. The Lord, therefore, promptly pronounced a curse upon it, that "No man shall eat from you thereafter." Carefully put, He told the tree, that it would never bear fruit anymore. And expectedly, the tree dried to its roots.

What tragedy it would be, if the heavenly Gardener comes to us, and finds the same spiritual fruitlessness in us, and pronounces the same curse? What a calamity it would be for God to say, "Replace him." God cannot leave a vacuum in His kingdom. And, to every unprofitable tree, that command will

eventually come and, please, will not be useful, because God will certainly cut it down.

Are you a fruitful Christian? Can you say, that since you were born again, you have done anything profitable for God? Or, your life has been characterised by requests to God only? What have you done for Him? Do you not know, that the Lord has been waiting for a long time for your life to produce fruit?

Take the case of Joseph's two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. Father Jacob deliberately placed his right hand on the junior, while his left hand was on the senior, meaning that Manasseh had been replaced.

A particular generation of Israelites left Egypt for the promised land. But, one day, they began to say, that they were like grasshoppers, and were not able to do anything. So, God said, "Since you say that you are grasshoppers, you are grasshoppers indeed, and you will not get there." A new generation with only Joshua and Caleb from the 600,000 people, that started the journey entered into the promised land.

Some of us are pushing ourselves into a position, where God will say, "I give up on this one because he is not serious." What a disaster it will be for the heavenly Gardener to cry, "Cut it down!" There are already thousands of saints in heaven, crying to God day, and night, to bring His timetable of man to a close, so that they can enter into glory. Yet, the Lord is waiting for more, who are wasting their lives now, instead of coming to repentance.

The Bible says, "Eyes have not seen, ears have not heard, neither has it entered the heart of man, what the Lord has planned for His people.

Our lives must bear fruit. The type of fruit our lives must bear is clearly spelt out in Galatians;

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance against such there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23

It is a single Spirit made up of nine parts. In an average church, only 20 percent of the congregations do the hard work. The rest of them do not really work hard. This is not what God wants. Unfortunately, many of us have been lazy in our Christian lives, and this is disappointing to God.

How can someone gives his life to Christ at 60, and yet, not be serious with God, after having served the devil for long? Can you now see that some of us are trying to play on God's intelligence, by rushing to Him only when we have problems? Is it not sad, that the lives of many of us are not attracting people to God?

Consider this parable in Matthew:

"For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability and straightway took his journey. Then he that received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents; behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents; behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou has not strawed. And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord

***answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not and gather where I have not strawed; Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."* Matthew 25:14-30**

A Korean pastor died seven days after the death of his wife. Many people thought it was the shock of his wife's death that killed him. While they were preparing his body for burial according to Korean custom, he woke up, and said, that he was not dead. Then, he narrated the vision the Lord showed him. He said, he saw his wife in heaven in her beautiful mansion. He was also shown his own mansion, that was not as beautiful. In fact, it had no roof. He was told that his wife's house was more beautiful, because she had sent more materials up than he had done. And, just as he was about to go, father Abraham called him, and said, "Warn my children that the time is at hand."

A man found that he had been infected with leprosy on his neck, so he went, and sewed clothes that would cover his neck in order to hide the ailment, instead of going for treatment. Are you like that? Are you suffering from spiritual paralysis? Are there things, that are wrong in your life? Those wrong things are what the Bible calls parasites. Parasites will stick, and hinder you from bearing fruit. Some people have mouths, that can say anything to anybody at anytime. When cautioned. they say, "I should be allowed to speak my mind." What do you expect from a mind that is not regenerated? Are you a fruit-bearing Christian?

There is no partial holiness, there is no partial, or temporary Christianity. There is nothing like partial lies, or partial truth. A vessel is never partially clean, it is either clean, or dirty. You are either a Christian, or a sinner. You are either into God, or out of Him. An evil tree cannot bear a good fruit, no

matter how good we decorate it. Education, if applied wrongly, will corrupt instead of yielding fruits.

The following things prevent Christians from bearing fruit.

1. **Love:** Love is part of the fruit we should bear. That love will cause you to overlook the fault of others. Love for God, love for our neighbours, and ourselves. Joy is also part of the fruit that God wants us to bear. Paul was in the Philippi, jailed and, yet, with all the stripes given to him, he was able to rejoice, and praise the Lord. He had the joy of the Lord in his heart.
2. **Long-suffering:** Long-suffering is part of the fruit He wants us to bear. Faith and meekness are parts of the fruit. Temperance and self control are other parts. Nobody will judge us, according to what level of miracle we perform. We shall be judged on the basis of the fruit we bear.
3. **Jealousy:** Jealous people find it difficult to prove themselves, and catch up with others. They do not rejoice with others, when they are promoted over them. They are not ready to promote anything, that does not benefit them directly. They are hostile and angry with people, and secretly rejoice, when people fail. Any work you do for God with envy, and jealousy in your spirit is useless, as far as God is concerned.
4. **Peace:** Peace is part of the fruit God wants us to bear. Jesus was inside a terrible storm, and, yet, He slept peacefully. Peter had a nice sleep, even, when he knew he was going to be killed the next day. The Jewish word for peace is called, shalom. Shalom means, that everything is in order. That is how God wants our spirits to be.
5. **Pride:** Another terrible spirit is pride. Pride is like acid. It eats and destroys good things. It promotes arrogance, blinds the mind to righteousness, and ferments unteachable spirit. A proud person finds it difficult to accept corrections. A proud person is deeply involved in himself. Stubborn people are fruitless, because they have the attitude to do things their own way. They are stubborn and inflexible. They rebel against their leaders, and refuse to submit to anyone. They claim to know everything.

An axe is laid to the foundation of the tree, the Bible says, and everything, that does not bear fruit shall be cut down, and thrown into hell fire.

The most terrible thing is to live without purpose. Ask yourself: "Why am I here? Why do I allow my spiritual life to continually go down?"

Let us all wake up from our spiritual slumber, and decide to bear fruit. Earthly posts will get us nowhere. It is not how your fellow human beings see and judge you that matters, but what you weigh on God's scale. There is no middle position, you are either for God, or against Him. Talk to Him, and resolve that terrible curse of "cut it down" will not be your portion.

Beloved, one day the trumpet will sound, and with it that terrible command of: "Cut it down," will be given for the fruitless ones. Fruitlessness will take unserious Christians into hell fire. When love is in your life, peace will reign.

PRAYER POINTS

1. I loose myself from any power of bewitchment, in Jesus' name.
2. Satan, I close any door, which I have opened to you, in Jesus' name.
3. I pull down any evil stronghold, built into my life by any person, who was in charge of me at infancy, in Jesus' name.
4. Let every evil pronouncement made against me by evil tongues, be nullified, in Jesus' name.
5. Let all evil enquiry about me, be rendered null and void, in Jesus' name.
6. O Lord, replace in me everything, that needs to be replaced, in Jesus' name.

6

FAKE Repentance TODAY

For many years, I was in a church, where we do a lot of ceremonies. We opened our service with dancing. The time of processional hymn was dancing time, we danced into the church. We said the opening prayer, sang hymn No. 1, heard the announcement, sang hymn No. 2. Then, offerings were taken; sometimes, up to ten times during the service. They were not the kind of offerings, that the ushers collect, while you are seated.

The bowl was at the front, and you had to dance from your seat to the place, put in whatever you had and danced back to your seat. There were also special offerings by those, who had been healed of sicknesses, and those, who survived accidents. They came forward with their friends. Often offerings took up to two hours, and everybody would dance and rejoice. And, when it was time for message, people would be tired, because of the exercise, and would be sleeping.

The preacher would, then, say, "Well, when the soup is very sweet, you do not need too much of it, so five, or 10 minutes sermon is enough for us." That time the enemy was eating deep into the lives of people. It was very sad. We continued like that until one day, as we were clapping, jumping and rejoicing as usual, a woman, who had gone to the mountain, where she prayed for seven days came in, and said, that the Lord directed her to our church.

She sat down at the back, and watched as all of us were dancing, rejoicing and clapping. Suddenly, a word of prophecy came from her: "What are you doing here? All these noise you are making here, do you think it is getting to my ears? I am calling you only to one thing, Repentance." She said this twice and, then, said: "There are amongst us here, people, who are wearing wigs of animal hair on their heads, why will they not behave like animals." She went on, and on, and everybody calmed down.

It was the first time somebody told us the truth, which they say, is always very stubborn and very bitter. It is only those, who want to move forward, that like the truth.

The Old Testament opens with the book of Genesis, and closes with the book of Malachi. Between Malachi and Matthew, there was a space of about 400 years during, which there was no prophet, and as such, there was silence from heaven.

The first time a prophet came again on the scene, the first cry he uttered is in Matthew 3: 2: "Repent ye; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." The first cry after 400 years of silence from heaven was "Repent." Also, when Jesus came out from the wilderness after being tempted by the devil, His first message as we find in Mark 1:15, is repentance.

"And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him. Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." Mark 1:13-15:

If after 40 days of praying and Casting, the first message Jesus began to preach was repentance, it means, that repentance is a serious matter.

In Luke 13:3, Jesus hit the nail on the head, and says,

"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."
Luke 13:3

On the day of Pentecost, as Peter was preaching his first message, the Bible says, that as the people listened to him, they were so pricked in their heart, that they said, "Man of God, stop this sermon. What shall we do?" And, the first cry of Peter was, "Repent." When Paul came on the scene, too, he began to talk about repentance.

Many people go for deliverance, and end up without result, because they fail to realise, that the first requirement for total deliverance is repentance. Usually, the first message on the deliverance ground is on repentance.

The Bible says, "In His presence is the fullness of joy. When the enemy wants to start to attack us, his first point of call is the heart. When God wants to start moving in our lives, too, the first point of call is the heart. Therefore, one serious battlefield is the mind. I would not be surprised, if you have ever thought of killing yourself. Or, perhaps, battles have been fought in your heart regarding godliness, and unrighteousness, and unrighteousness has prevailed.

God is speaking to those, who are tired of living a life, that is less than that of the eagle. The eagle stays on the tallest branch of the tallest tree, on the tallest mountain. The hunter that would shoot down the eagle is not a small hunter. So, God is looking for those, who want to fly like the eagle.

If there is a counterfeit thing, it means, that there is its original; without the original, there cannot be the counterfeit. Repentance is a powerful word in the Scripture. It is repeated many times in the Bible. There would have been no need for repentance, if man had not found himself in the valley of sin.

If you go for deliverance twenty times, but fail to repent, the evil spirits will come back, and when they come back, you will need a stronger deliverance. When you drop a particular sinful activity, the spirit attached to that activity will no longer have a hold upon your life. Ignorance of this principle of repentance has produced much sorrow, and much frustration.

As long as there is a hidden sin in place, the evil spirits will come back. They can see the sin clearly. Any unrepentant person is a failure in the school of prayer, and a failure in the school of spiritual warfare. Every hidden, concealed, unconfessed, or unforsaken sin makes you a laughing stock in the eyes of the enemy. He will just be laughing at you, and you would be wondering why.

With truthfulness, you can go any length with God. Perfect repentance requires the truth. Demons will remain in place, when you cover up your sins. Without being truthful, you cannot set yourself free. It is the truth, that

can set you free. Repentance brings deliverance. Immediately, somebody begins to repent, there would be chaos in the kingdom of the devil. No one can really see the demon in operation, until repentance is complete in his life. Complete, or true repentance is the proper foundation for deliverance. Without it, evil spirits will always re-enter.

It is unfortunate, that the word repentance has disappeared from many churches today. In fact, many ministers rarely call their congregations to be sorrowful over their sins. They rarely call them to grieve over their wickedness. When we commit sin, we wound the heart of Jesus. This is why, it is dangerous to put off your repentance meant for today, to another day.

Many ministers rarely call people to repentance nowadays, that is why many Christians have little power today. The ministers are simply leading masses of unrepentant people into false peace. I fear that they are offering salvation to those, who have not repented. They say, "Fill the back of our form, shake our hands, and say, you are saved." They are promoting those, who are hiding serpents in their pockets. When the serpent begins to bite them, all of us will begin to pray for them.

Ministers are promoting those with lust in their hearts. I fear that many churches are focusing on remedy, while they leave the disease. In this twenty-first century, repentance, which is a New Testament doctrine, has become unimportant to many Christians. New churches offer prescription without diagnosis, and we have a lot of unrepentant theatre actors. They profess Christ on service days, but every other day of the week, they go back to their sin. When you see a person going back to his sin, the problem is that he never really repented, and this is very sad indeed.

There was a case of a fellow, who was in a burning building. Everybody escaped, but, because he was sleeping when the building caught fire, he was the only one left. The fire brigade came, and saw him on the roof wearing his pyjamas. They said, "Mr. Man, please. jump down." He said, "No, I am going to take my clothes from inside. I do not want them to see me in my pyjamas. The firemen tried to enter the building to save him, but they could not. They said, "Please, jump." He said, "No, how can it be said, that people

see me like this." While he was still arguing, the building collapsed, and he fell into the fire, and was roasted.

"How can it be said," has killed many people, and is still killing people, especially in this environment. "How can it be said," has made people to borrow money to do, for what they should not borrow money. "How can it be said," makes a person to cover up his offence, instead of repenting in the presence of God.

I read the story of a brother, who became born again, and enjoying the Lord and ministering to people, but he had no piece of mind. Therefore, he went to the police and reported himself, regarding a crime he committed 10 years before he got born again. He had killed his girlfriend, carefully folded the body, and threw it into the river. The police were surprised. He reported to the police, because he knew, that without restitution his repentance was not complete. His wife and children begged him not to do so, but he refused. He said, that it was better to die now, and have life eternal, than to live and later ended up in hell fire. Of course, he was promptly jailed. That is what is called repentance.

Many want to have Christ in their life, but they do not want to subtract sin from their lives. If you have Christ in your life, you will have to subtract sin from your life, so that your life could move forward. Repentance is like soap, if you do not apply it, it will not work for you.

7

the POWER of TRUE REPENTANCE

Repentance is hating those things you once loved. It is releasing your hand from the object it has clung to. Some people are clinging to masturbation, lies, anger, bitterness and unforgiveness. Repentance is when you let go all these. It is deep, radical, or fundamental change in one's life.

Repentance is when you come to the realisation, that everything is vanity. It is when you understand the Scripture, which says, "We brought nothing to this world, and it is certain, that we are not going to take anything out of it." What you eat from it, you will vomit in it.

Repentance has what the Bible calls godly sorrow.

"For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death." 2 Corinthians 7:10:

Repentance is the total sacrifice, and surrendering of oneself to obey, and submit to the word of God in all situations. It is to deny yourself, take up your cross daily, and follow Jesus. It is to come to Jesus with an attitude of "I cannot do it alone, help me, Lord." It is to come to Jesus with broken, humble, helpless, hopeless and unworthy heart. It is to completely change one's mind. It is to feel remorse for your sin against God. It is to be sorry, and feel terrible about your sin, and decide to change.

It is to put off the old man, and put on the new man. It is spiritual regret by a sinner, who has been convicted by the Holy Spirit. It is a spiritually produced sorrow, of heart for having sinned. A situation where somebody commits a sin, and there is no sorrow at all, shows that the person has gone. Unless he quickly prays his way back, he may be lost forever.

It is not a question of the dog, not hearing the whistle of the hunter, but a case of the dog being completely deaf and dumb. Repentance is when you are carefully aware of your spiritual poverty. It is the Lord's way of changing our behaviour.

The contract you are looking for that is making you to dress like Jezebel may soon lead you into hell fire. You must repent, and stop pleasing man. Repentance is surrendering to Jesus, making a u-turn from evil doing. It is the killer laying down his weapon, and saying, "I am not doing it again." It is the thief returning what he has stolen.

I remember the story of a 70-year old man, who on the second day, after he got born again, he brought to the church three wrist watches he had stolen 20 years ago, when he was a pick pocket. When he showed the first wristwatch to the counsellor, the counsellor looked at it, turned its back, and found his name on it. He remembered losing that wristwatch at a bus stop 20 years earlier.

The 70-year old man was keeping the weapon of hell fire in the house. Many of our sisters keep weapons of hell fire at home. For example, the complimentary cards of their old boyfriends. They keep such things at home, and are praying, that God should bless them.

COUNTERFEIT REPENTANCE

Repentance is not the sorrow of a thief, who was caught red-handed with stolen property, and is now afraid of what may happen. The fact that they caught you red-handed, and you feel bad is not repentance. You are just afraid of the consequences. It is not the reluctant apology of a person, who has been proved wrong. and he says. "Well, I apologise, I am sorry. Don't be annoyed". Or, "what else do you want apart from sorry." It is not the action of a person. who was forced to accept that he was wrong. It is not stopping a particular sin, because of some circumstances. For example. some people stop drinking, or smoking. because it is affecting their health.

An example of what repentance is not in the Bible is what Saul did. The question to him was "Why have you disobeyed the instructions of the

Lord?" He said. that he had carried out all the instructions. Then. Samuel said, "What. then, is the bleating of the sheep that I hear?" Many people are covering up, but the Lord can hear the bleating of the sheep in their camps. Instead of breaking down, and saying, that he was sorry, Saul was giving excuses. He was not repentant. Also, Judas did not repent, he just felt sorry. We are talking about repentance, not about being sorry.

If, as you are reading this chapter, you are still drinking, know that you are cutting yourself off from prophetic anointing. You will forever remain a bat Christian. You will not see anything. The Lord has a reason for banning all His prophets from drinking. So, if you do not want to become a prophet, you can go on. If you want to be a chicken, continue like that, but the day you say that you want to mount up, and see God, then, you have to stop.

Some traders are buying and selling successfully in the garden of your life, because you have not repented. The Bible says, that there was somebody, who wanted to repent, but it was too late, and he landed in hell fire. He lifted up his eye in hell, and saw Lazarus, and father Abraham in heaven, and said, "Father Abraham, please, send Lazarus to put one finger in the water to cool my tongue because I am tormented in this place." Abraham said, "No, he cannot come. Son, remember that when you were in the world you had a nice time, but Lazarus was suffering.

We do not pay undue attention to the rich. He said, "Okay, thank you, sir, but let him go and talk to my brothers, so that they can repent." Abraham said, "No, he cannot go back." He said, "Send somebody to them." Abraham said, "No, they would not hear." All the prayers of the man were turned down in heaven.

The repentance that does not bring tears to the eyes, that brings no mourning for sin, that brings no remorse, that makes you just believe, that you are right, it is no repentance. True repentance hates all sins. If you know the havoc that sin does, you will hate all sins. For repentance to be sincere, it must be total.

The tears of repentance are so precious to the Lord that He puts them in a bottle. The evidence of true repentance is what the Bible describes it;

"Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them." Matthew 7:20:

When you truly repent, the practice of wilful sin will stop. You do not preplan sin again. It does not get reduced, it stops. If you are not as angry as before, but you are angry at times, then, you have not repented. Lying will stop, deceit will stop. Stealing whether by biro, by mouth, or by hand, will stop. Restitution will begin to take place, hatred will cease, forgiveness for all those who have wronged you, will come into your heart.

Sex outside marriage will stop, adultery will stop. If you are not married according to the word of God, and you are living together, when you repent, first of all, restitution will take place. If you just picked a woman, without paying her dowry, without solemnising the union in a church, a court, or a mosque, she is just your girlfriend. You are living with her in fornication, and any child born from that union is a child of fornication.

Every true prophet of the Most High God has preached repentance. The reason for this is that without it, you are going nowhere. Everybody needs to repent. Sometimes repentance does not have to do with sin. You may need to repent from your lukewarm Bible study, your lukewarm prayer life, or your lukewarm witnessing. God wants everyone to repent, and it is a foundational doctrine of the church. The sad thing is that repentance has a time limit, and one day it will become unavailable.

If you are fully repentant, selfishness will stop, drinking of alcohol, and smoking will stop, and all ancestral worships will stop. When you are fully repentant, your interest in astrology, and looking for beggarly powers will stop. You will begin to hear the word of God, and to follow it. But, when your repentance is without restitution, it is counterfeit. You are not serious. If you stole somebody's thing, and say, "Sorry, I stole your thing," but you did not return it, you have not repented.

The Bible says, "He that covereth his sin shall not prosper, but whosoever confesses, and forsakes them shall have mercy," If you cover up your sin, God will fight you, you will be adding sin to sin. It will hinder your breakthrough. Many terrible things will begin to happen, and you will not know what you are going through. Without restitution, you are wasting

time. It is understandable when it is not possible. For example, if you offended somebody, who is already dead, there is nothing you can do.

Repentance without confession is counterfeit. When you do a general confession without telling the Lord what you did, it is counterfeit repentance. Repentance without instant obedience is not repentance, it is false. Repentance without breaking of the desire to continue to sin is not repentance. Repentance that goes with hypocritical concealment is not repentance. For example, if you know, that you do not like a person, but you are smiling and greeting him, and as far as you are concerned, if he falls down and dies, you will be happy, you are not repentant.

If you repent, but you still keep company with old sinner partners the repentance is false. Repentance that does not break the bridge between you, and the world is not repentance. If after repentance you are still ashamed of Christ; you cannot carry your Bible, and preach in the open, you have not repented. Repentance that will not forgive others is counterfeit.

WHAT TO DO

1. **You must recognise and admit to yourself, that you are a sinner.**
2. **You must confess your sins to God, and also to those against, whom you have sinned.** What does it mean to confess our sins? It means to own up, to tell God about them, to reveal and expose them, to make them clear. to unfold, uncover, and tear-off, or to get them off your mind.
3. **You must be sincerely sorry.**
4. **You must make restitution.** If you are eating with stolen spoon, you will have stomach problem. If you are sleeping on a stolen bed, you will have backache. If you are watching stolen television you will soon have problems with your eyes. Just make restitution.
5. **You must change your life, so that you do not repeat the sins.**

You must forgive those, who have sinned against you. If you have repented of a particular sin, you should not go back to it. The fact that you go back to it, means that you never repented. God wants to bless so many people, but would not open the windows of heaven, when you refuse to repent today.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Every enemy of prayer in my life, die, die, in Jesus' name.
2. Any sin that pursued my parents and is now pursuing me, die, in Jesus' name.
3. Any sin cutting the wings of my eagle, loose your holds upon my life, in Jesus' name.
4. My heart, refuse to be a garden of iniquity, in Jesus' name.
5. It is the will of God, that everyone should see and hear clearly. If anything is blocking your spiritual eye, it is an enemy indeed.
6. Every sin blocking my vision, be washed away by the blood of Jesus, in Jesus' name.
7. My dream life, receive deliverance, in Jesus' name.
8. Every cage of sin, break, in Jesus' name.
9. Every sin that is strengthening my enemies, loose your holds, in Jesus' name.
10. Every landing space of affliction, die, in Jesus name.
11. Holy Ghost fire, blood of Jesus, purge my heart, in Jesus' name.
12. Return unto your resting place, oh my soul, in the name of Jesus.

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The Book

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.

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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.

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