



Divine Encounter

Where Poverty Is Abolished by the
Abundance of Jehovah El-Shaddai



PASTOR E. A. ADEBOYE

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Preface

The scourge of poverty is terrible to bear. It has caused men created in God's image to sink below levels of respectability, honour and decency. It has made prostitutes out of many young women, drug pushers and barons out of able bodied young men. It has driven quite a few to become occultists, herbalists and fortune tellers.

Many homes have been wrecked out of a desire to make a quick fortune through gambling. The wretchedness of an impoverished family situation has caused many an intelligent young man and woman to be denied the benefit of access to secondary and tertiary education to the detriment of society in the long run. The author of this book never knew the comfort of shoes until he was 18!

The widow of the son of the prophet was left by her husband, at the mercy of his erstwhile creditors who had concluded arrangements to condemn her two boys to slavery in exchange for money her husband owed until his death. If God had not been merciful in providing an answer through Elisha the prophet, the widow's agony would have been multiplied and compounded by the loss of her two sons. When God finished with her, not only did she pay her debts, but she continued to live with her two sons (2 Kings 4:1-7). Thank God for providing an excellent way out of financial barrenness. His word says clearly;

I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as they soul prospereth (3 John 2).

God is happy when His children prosper as He declares in Psalm 35:27

... Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his serant (Psalm 35:27ii)

There is nothing noble or edifying about poverty. It has ruled, dominated, and oppressed too many in the church and for too long. Through this book, 'Divine Encounter' God has provided a way out. Based firmly on Biblical principles and characters, I pray that God Almighty may use this book to bring you out of gross poverty to a position where you will lend to nations and influence the course of

history in your lifetime.

Jesus' sacrifice on Calvary, which affects your finance, must not be in vain.

Chapter One



Isaac: A Young Man Who Rose Above His Circumstances

Whenever references are made to God as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the name Isaac rings a bell. We need to find out why God is referred to as the God of Isaac.

THE MAN ISAAC

Isaac encountered God and he was divinely favoured. From that moment on his life and that of his children was never the same again. Isaac's encounter with the Almighty entitled him to a place among the greatest of men who ever lived. You may ask, "how did Isaac experience a glorious encounter with God and what happened thereafter?" Let us see what the Bible says.

"1 And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar. 2 And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of. 3 Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father; 4 And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; 5 Because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws. 6 And Isaac dwelt in Gerar". (Genesis 26:1-6)

Here, we are told that a young man named Isaac had an encounter with the Lord. He lived at a time of famine. Things were very hard. The economy was in shambles. All the inhabitants of the nation found things very hard, including Isaac. Isaac decided to go to Gerar for sustenance. Unfortunately, Gerar was not spared the famine. At that point, Isaac was thinking of going to Egypt, when God told him: "Hold it, don't go down to Egypt. Stay where you are. I will be with you". Maybe, God is telling you right now: "You don't need a change of location. Remain where you are and I will bless you",

How come Isaac had an encounter with God? There are several interesting things in Isaac's story which I want to point out, in this chapter.

By the time you consider these points you will understand why God decided to favour Isaac with this encounter:-

1. Isaac was a miracle baby. He was born in miraculous circumstances. Are

you born again? If so, I put it to you that you are a miracle baby. The Bible declares so categorically.

“12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name”. (John 1:12)

It takes a miracle to make someone a new creature. According to the word of God those who haven't experienced the new birth are spiritually disadvantaged. This point was emphasised by Jesus.

“21 Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. 22 And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. 23 But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. 24 But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. 26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. 27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. 28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.” (Matthew 15:21-28)

2. Isaac was a covenant child. He was a product of a covenant between God and his father Abraham. Long before Isaac was born - this covenant was established.

“1 Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: 2 And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: 3 And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.” (Genesis 12:1-3)

A COVENANT CHILD

Abraham was specifically told that all nations of the earth will be blessed through his seed. Isaac was that seed. Isaac was the covenant child. Divine blessings were resting upon him even when he was in his mother's womb. Do you know that you are also a covenant child? This is made very plain in the Bible.

“13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: 14 That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith”. (Galatians 3:13-14)

Do you know that the blessings of Abraham were transferred to Isaac? That is not the end of the story. When Jesus died on the cross the same blessings were transferred to you and I, being beloved heirs of salvation. Tell yourself: **“I am a covenant child”**.

3. Isaac had a great name. The name given to him was prophetic and powerful. His name means “laughter”.

“1 And the LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did unto Sarah as he had spoken. 2 For Sarah conceived, and bare Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him. 3 And Abraham called the name of his son that was born unto him, whom Sarah bare to him, Isaac. 4 And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac being eight days old, as God had commanded him. 5 And Abraham was an hundred years old, when his son Isaac was born unto him. 6 And Sarah said, God hath made me to laugh, so that all that hear will laugh with me”. (Genesis 21:1-6)

The one whose name means “God has made me to laugh” knew that he was going to be wealthy. Poor people have little or nothing to laugh about. Men and women who put on rags do not laugh. When Isaac was named “laughter” those who were around him knew that he was going to have abundance and live a

happy life. His great prophetic name spoke volumes concerning the fact that he would be wealthy.

A GREAT NAME

You have a great destiny like Isaac. If you are a child of God, God has also given you a great prophetic name. Your name is not just “laughter”; you have been christened son or daughter of God. The Bible says:

“14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. 15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. 16 The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: 17 And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together.” (Romans 8:14-17)

Anyone who is a child of God is an heir of God and joint heir with Jesus Christ. Isaac had Abraham for a father, but you have the Almighty God for your Father. Abraham was blessed with material wealth, hence Isaac was the son of a rich man. But, I am the son of the richest man in the whole world. The earth and all the wealth in it belongs to my Father. Silver, gold and the cattle upon a thousand hills belong to him. My Father is the richest.

Everything that Jesus has belongs to me. I have a prophetic name by virtue of this. Therefore, I must prosper. If your name is prophetic, be assured that prosperity will come your way. Let me assure you even if all the money you need is not in your hands right now, it is coming.

4. Isaac was a believer. God told him; “Stay where you are and I will bless you”. He believed God and he was blessed. You are a believer too. It is by grace we are saved. Nobody can be born again except he or she believes. The Bible says,

“23 Jesus said unto him, if thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.” (Mark 9:23)

Are you a believer? I am a believer and I believe that I will not die poor. I believe that I will no longer borrow. I believe you are going to have a fresh

encounter with God. Isaac was obedient. This earned him fantastic blessings. He received every blessing promised. I have made up my mind that I am going to be obedient. If you also make up your mind to be obedient, you will also have an encounter. If you are willing and obedient you will eat the good of the land. No matter what the politicians are doing, you are going to eat the good of the land. Your success and prosperity is not based on politics. It is based on the word of God.

5. Isaac was very ambitious. God promised to bless him. Isaac quickly asked to know what he would do, in order to get the blessings. God reminded him of the law of harvest: If you sow you will reap.

“12 Then Isaac sowed in that land, and received in the same year an hundredfold: and the LORD blessed him. 13 And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great: 14 For he had possession of flocks, and possession of herds, and great store of servants: and the Philistines envied him”. (Genesis 26:12-14)

Isaac sowed and received a hundredfold increase within one year. Isaac would have stopped there but he did not. According to verse 13, he continued sowing, until he waxed great. Again one would have thought that Isaac would have stopped at that point but he did not. He put in more effort until he became very great.

HOLY AMBITION

If you want to experience Isaac's kind of divine encounter, you must be ambitious, but in a very positive way. He had such abundant material possessions that the Philistines began to be envious. If Isaac was satisfied with a hundredfold increase, that would have been the limit of his prosperity. However, Isaac kept on sowing and growing until he attained the peak of prosperity.

“13 And the man waxed great, and went forward, and grew until he became very great”. (Genesis 26: 13)

He was so rich that he stored servants as people would store goods. Isaac became so wealthy and prosperous that a whole nation began to envy him.

I have made up my mind that I will not rest until God has blessed me to the point where the whole world begins to envy me.

Isaac was not narrow minded. He had a very great ambition. He had a very great vision. He was not like some who would go to God saying, “O Lord, give me a second hand car or bicycle.” Isaac did not ask God to give him just one aircraft. Nobody will ever envy you if you have one aeroplane. There are several people in the world who fly about in private jets. However, when you get to a point where you have so many aircraft that you have to build a private airport, then people will envy you.

You must be ambitious. You must make up your mind that before you die, God will take you to a level of prosperity which will attract the envy of an entire nation.

6. The last but not the least of the important things which we can learn from the life of Isaac, is that he was completely surrendered to God. Read the passage below, and you will discover that Isaac was a model of commitment and consecration.

“And it came to pass after these things that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am. 2 And he said, Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of

Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. 3 And Abraham rose up early in the morning, and saddled his ass, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went unto the place of which God had told him. 4 Then on the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off 5 And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you. 6 And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together. 7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, my father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? 8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. 9 And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. 10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. 11 And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. 12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou anything unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. 13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. 14 And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen. 15 And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, 16 And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: 17 That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; 18 And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice". (Genesis 22: 1-18)

God asked Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Isaac followed the father obediently. When his father wanted to offer him as sacrifice, he did not refuse. He wholeheartedly accepted God's will.

A CHILD'S FAITH

Abraham would not have been able to demonstrate obedience to God if Isaac had kicked against being offered as a sacrifice by his father. Isaac was part of his father's step of faith of obedience. At that time the father was about 120 years old while Isaac was a young lad of 20. It was therefore easy for Isaac to struggle and escape. Isaac was fully surrendered. He was quiet as his father laid hands on him and he was probably saying something like this. "Daddy, do you want to sacrifice me to God? Just go ahead. I am ready to accept the will of God". No wonder God singled out Isaac and blessed him. God did not only bless him, God multiplied him. God requires total surrender. It is quite easy for God, to make you the envy of your nation. All He requires, from you is total commitment and surrender. I have stated it time and again that God is looking for treasurers. What God wants to do is to put billions of dollars in your account and turn around to say, "Son, I need half a billion dollars for the project in the church". Of course He will be glad if you can say; "O God, will half a billion dollars be enough? I am willing to give a lot more for the project. Even if you want everything, O Lord you can have it." This is what it takes to be a divine treasurer. God is looking for such people today. If you are ready to be a divine treasurer, God is ready to bless you with stupendous wealth.

Chapter Two



Jacob: A Supplanter Who Experienced A Breakthrough

In this chapter, we shall further examine the secrets of a divine encounter by studying the life of Jacob. Jacob experienced a divine encounter with God, and his story changed for good. The decisive divine encounter which he had drew a beautiful line of demarcation between his past and his future.

He had an encounter with God which wrote his entire history afresh.

The story is captured below:

“24 And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. 25 And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob’s thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. 26 And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. 27 And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. 28 And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed. 29 And Jacob asked him, and said, Tell me, I pray thee, thy name. And he said, Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name? And he blessed him there. 30 And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved”. (Genesis 32:24-30)

You have just read the story of a man who experienced a divine encounter. Several very positive things happened to him as a result of the encounter. The story of Jacob is a very familiar one. However, a lot of people have missed out on the essence of the spiritual lessons contained in the story. Jacob started on a very bad note. He had the notoriety of being a conman. No one would have thought that he could be eligible for a divine encounter. Who would have thought that a man who stole his brother’s blessing could qualify for an encounter with the Almighty? By the time this same man had gone to stay with his uncle Laban, and had robbed him of almost his entire flock. While he was fleeing from his uncle, he heard news that frightened him. Esau, whom he had defrauded some years earlier, was coming to pay him a ‘visit’. He was justifiably frightened and he did not know whether to go forward or backward. He knew that death was approaching. He remembered Esau’s earlier threat. “Don’t worry, Jacob, nemesis will soon catch up with you. As soon as our father dies, I am going to kill you for robbing me of my birthright”.

Jacob remembered the threat and sensed that his time was up, for by now they had lost their father. Jacob began to think very fast. He worked out a quick way of escape. He gathered choice gifts and sent it ahead in order to pacify his aggrieved brother. His thinking was, “Maybe, my brother will spare my life after receiving the gifts”. Something must have told him that palliative measures at this stage won’t work. He decided to wrestle with God as a last resort.

Jacob grabbed the angel of the Lord and declared, “I will not let you go unless you bless me”. The angel struggled to get away from Jacob, but he persisted in prayer. He prayed until he experienced a breakthrough. He had an encounter with God and his name was changed. He prevailed, and became a prince with God. Jacob knew that his future depended on that encounter. He prayed out his heart, and decided not to let the angel go, unless a change was brought into his situation.

His resolve was, “O God I won’t let you go unless you give me a breakthrough”.

Several things followed Jacob’s encounter with God. Here are the things that happened to him:-

1. The sentence of death that was hanging over his head was cancelled.

Divine encounter will cancel death and destruction. What is the use of prosperity to someone who is not alive to enjoy it? Of what use is money if you lack good health? My prayer for you is that you will have an encounter with God, which will cancel every threat of death. A Divine encounter will not only lead to prosperity, it will also lead to divine health. The Bible says:

“2 Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth”. (3 John 2)

You need divine health in order to enjoy the prosperity which God wants to give you.

2. Jacob experienced a change of name. You may wonder why God decided to change Jacob’s name. It is simply because names are very important. Your name reveals a lot about your personality.

The travails which you are going through at this moment may be because of your name. Moses' name means "drawn out of the water", and not surprisingly, water played a prominent part throughout his entire life. He changed water to blood. He brought water out of the rock. At Marah he changed bitter water to sweet. He crossed the Red Sea. His failure to get to the Promised Land was because of water. Moses was called "drawn out of the water" and water indeed occupied an integral part of his life. Water followed him wherever he went. What is your name? If your name is Esugbayi (which means Satan has received this), don't ever blame the devil for pursuing you. If your name is Esugbayi, I counsel you to change it to Oluwagbayi (God has received this). Read Genesis 17 and you will discover that God personally changed the name Abram to Abraham.

"5 Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. 6 And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee". (Genesis 17: 5-6)

Likewise, God also changed Sarai's name to Sarah.

"15 And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be. 16 And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her". (Genesis 17:15-16)

If any feature of your name has been working against you, the Almighty God will change it today. God can reverse the irreversible. God can rewind the tape of your life back to the day of your christening and reverse any negative thing attached to your name. God can erase anything in your past that is causing you trouble today.

3. Another benefit of Jacob's encounter with God was that his future became settled. As you read this book, I believe you will have a divine encounter that will settle your future permanently. The Bible says:

"10 Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings". (Isaiah 3:10)

This passage states that your future will be all right.

4. Jacob was blessed by God as a result of the encounter. You are going to have an encounter with God, and you will be blessed from this day henceforth. The fact that Jacob was blessed had many consequences. It means that whatever he touched would be blessed. Whenever God blesses, He does it comprehensively. When God blesses you, He blesses your hands, your legs, your mouth and every part of your body. Whenever God blesses you, blessings will follow you. Your ideas will be blessed. The Bible says:

“The blessings of the Lord, it maketh rich, and He addeth no sorrow with it”.
(Proverbs 10:22)

The blessings of God will lead to prosperity.

“20 The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is little worth”. (Proverbs 10:20)

There is no trace of sorrow in the type of blessing which comes from the throne of God. True blessings will lead to real prosperity. The elders say, “Running around does not lead to prosperity”. You can work your fingers to the bone without achieving prosperity. Many people work like elephants, and they eat like rats, but, there are other people who work like rats and eat like elephants. Such people are blessed. The Bible says:

“1 Except the LORD builds the house, they Labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain”. (Psalm 127:1)

Unless the Lord blesses your work, you will just labour in vain.

DIVINE INSPIRATION

You are scheduled for an encounter with God in your life. God will bless you, and whatever you touch will be blessed. Do you know that somebody can start off selling wood and become a millionaire? A car dealer, on the other hand, can labour tirelessly from month to month and end up in poverty and debt. Anything you touch shall prosper in Jesus' name. There was an accountant who was working in a particular company. The Lord told him to resign and he did. He started selling groundnuts. God gave him an inspiration and he started a franchise for groundnuts roasted in honey. The last time I heard about him, he had become the owner of three private jets - just by selling nuts. He has continued to prosper, because God is blessing him. Let God bless you today, and we shall soon dedicate your own private jet.

Jacob experienced a turnaround because he had an encounter with God. God cancelled the threat of death that was hanging above his head, changed his name, secured his future and blessed him.

Jacob on his part did the following three things:-

1. He gave what he had to secure what he wanted.

Read the passage below:

“13 And he lodged there that same night; and took of that which came to his hand a present for Esau his brother; 14 Two hundred she goats, and twenty he goats, two hundred ewes, and twenty rams, 15 Thirty milch camels with their colts, forty kine, and ten bulls, twenty she asses, and ten foals. 16 And he delivered them into the hand of his servants, every drove by themselves; and said unto his servants, pass over before me, and put a space betwixt drove and drove. 17 And he commanded the foremost, saying, When Esau my brother meeteth thee, and asketh thee, saying, whose art thou? and whither goest thou? and whose are these before thee? 18 Then thou shalt say, They be thy servant Jacob's; it is a present sent unto my lord Esau: and, behold, also he is behind us. 19 And so commanded he the second, and the third, and all that followed the droves, saying, On this manner shall ye speak unto Esau, when ye find him. 20

And say ye moreover, Behold, thy servant Jacob is behind us. For he said, I will appease him with the present that goeth before me, and afterward I will see his face; peradventure he will accept of me. 21 So went the present over before him: and himself lodged that night in the company”. (Genesis 32:13-21)

Jacob gave in an unusual manner. If you examine the details of what he gave, you will discover, that Jacob wanted something serious from God. The Bible says:

“16 A man’s gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men”. (Proverbs 18:16).

Gifts open doors. When you send forth gifts, doors will open automatically. Jacob sent a mighty gift ahead, and God responded by sending an angel to find out what Jacob really wanted. Many of us have a long way to go as far as giving generously to the Almighty God is concerned. The Bible says God loves a cheerful giver. God wants you to give, but He cannot accept any offering that constitutes an insult to Him. For your offering to be acceptable, it must be cheerfully given without any grudge, and befitting for the Creator of heaven and earth. When you give special offerings to God, He will look down and declare, “I think the giver of this offering deserves something special”.

2. Jacob wrestled in prayer. This is the second step taken by Jacob in his efforts towards securing a divine encounter. Jacob’s prayer was not ordinary. Praying, as far as he was concerned, meant wrestling. If you have ever watched before, you would discover that they go through quite an ordeal. If you think they are pretenders, you should go into the ring and experience the punches and bruises. Wrestling in prayer requires a lot of hard work. If you want to experience a divine encounter the way Jacob did, you need to wrestle in prayer today.

Chapter Three



Elisha: A Farmer's Boy Who Became An Anointed Prophet

God can turn an ordinary story into an extraordinary story. He can change a nonentity into a celebrity. He can convert an ordinary event into a significant and epoch-making event in a very wonderful way. When a man has an encounter with God, his story changes. From the moment when the encounter takes place, everything changes, and the insignificant becomes significant. Even when a non-achiever receives an encounter with the God of the universe, his story never remains the same.

A divine encounter is one factor which can rewrite the story of your life. The more you know about the importance of a divine encounter, the greater your opportunity for experiencing one. In this chapter, we shall examine what happened when a farmer's son had an encounter with God. The essence of the story is captured below:

“19 So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him. 20 And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee? 21 And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him”. (1 Kings 19:19-21)

The details concerning the early years of Elisha are very sketchy before his a divine encounter. His life was enveloped by obscurity but he was brought into the limelight through an encounter with God. Elisha woke up as a young man one morning and went to work. Little did he know, that his life was going to change radically that day. He was busy going about his daily routine when suddenly a man passed by and threw a mantle upon him. The life of the young man from that moment was never the same again. God is going to give you an encounter and your life will never be the same again. Not too long after that decisive encounter, this young farmer's son became the controller of kings and generals. God lifted him up far above his peers.

God will not stop merely with prospering you. He is going to lift you higher and

far above your contemporaries. God, wants to lift someone up any moment from now, and that person is going to keep company with governors, generals and presidents.

We have some salient things to learn concerning the encounter between God and Elisha. I want you to pay close attention to these important lessons. By so doing, you will gain an insight into how you can personally have an encounter with God. You need to know what Elisha did before he became great.

GOD DECIDES

1. The first lesson we can learn from Elisha's life, is that God is the One who decides who will have an encounter with Him. God is omniscient; He has perfect knowledge concerning those who will experience a divine encounter. God directed Elijah's step towards Elisha. To be specific, God had already told Elijah in I Kings 19:15-16:-

"15 And the LORD said unto him, Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria: 16 And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room". (1 Kings 19:15-16)

There were lots of young men in the land, but Elisha was God's choice. If the choice were to be dependent on man, Elisha would definitely not have been chosen. The Bible says:

"3 But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased". (Psalm 115:3)

Our God is most definitely in heaven but do you know that He has also chosen you for a miracle? God is the one who makes the choice and selects particular individuals to receive divine encounters. If you study the scripture closely, you will discover that God can be influenced. You can do things that will make God aware of you and declare; "This is the person whom I want to bless".

We have a fitting example in Acts 10:34-35.

"34 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: 35 But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him". (Acts 10:34-35)

It is indeed true that God is not a respecter of persons. Therefore, those who satisfy certain conditions qualify for His favour and benevolence. My prayer is that God will choose you as one of His favoured ones.

The Bible says:

“17 I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me”.
(Proverbs 8:17)

God appreciates and loves those who love Him. Those who seek Him also find Him. So far, we have discovered that there are certain things you can do to attract God’s attention in a special manner when He comes visiting. They are as follows:-

1. Praising and worshipping Him

When you praise and worship God, you draw His attention towards you. The Bible says:

“3 But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel”. (Psalm, 22:3)

God takes delight in the praises of His people. In fact, the Bible declares that He inhabits it. Perhaps you have wondered why I always prompt participants and worshippers at our programmes intermittently to shout “hallelujah” unto the Lord. It is simply because I know that the divine presence is both invoked and sustained by it. I know without any shadow of doubt that wherever people offer praises unto God, He wants to move in their direction.

Perhaps you are not able to sing like the nightingale, but you can surely offer shouts of “hallelujah” unto God. This is something which everyone can do. No wonder the Bible says:

“23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. 24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth”. (John 4:23-24)

Here, the Bible makes it clear that God is constantly looking out for men and women - and children as well - who will genuinely worship Him. I have personally cultivated the habit of regularly extolling the name of the Most High God. Whenever I lead participants and worshippers in congregational prayer, I often do so by calling Him names like: “King of kings; Lord of lords; the One who is higher than the highest, the One who is greater, than the greatest; the I Am that I Am; Lion of the tribe of Judah; the Bright and Morning star, for example”. When I mention these names of God, I am simply worshipping Him.

How would you feel if a total stranger walked up to you and began to praise you saying: “You are such a wonderful man. You are a symbol of excellence. You are the richest man in the world. You are the foremost captain of industry. In fact, you are the most effective managing director in the business world. I have heard wonderful stories of your kindness and generosity. I’ve also heard wonderful stories about your family history. I have been told that nobility and greatness run in your family”. If such a man continues to praise you in that manner, you may just decide to empty your pocket, and give him everything you have.

Worldly musicians are quite familiar with this secret. What do they generally do? They play their music and praise their audience with a view to making their heads swell. They exaggerate their achievements, and pour accolades on those whom they sense have money to give to them. Their words generally appeal to the ego of their audience, with the result that they lavish all they have on the musician. If praise, can make you offer the last dime in your pocket to the musician, how do you think God will respond when you sincerely praise His name and extol His majesty?

There is no way you can ever praise God that will ever do justice to what He really is. He is more glorious than anything you will ever call Him. He is greater than the greatest. He is higher than the highest. He is richer than the richest. He is stronger than the strongest. He is wiser than the wisest and He is the Most excellent One.

You need to make up your mind at this point that you are going to worship God as you have never done before. You need to praise and worship God in an exceptional manner.

2. You must be in the right place at the right time.

The second step which you must take to experience a divine encounter is to be in the right place at the right time.

Going back to the passage mentioned earlier, Elijah had to co-operate with God by being in the right place at the right time. No matter what God may have wanted to do for Elisha, nothing would have happened if Elijah had refused to play his part. God simply told Elijah go to a particular farm and he would find a young man there. He obeyed, and Elisha was actually at the right place at the right time. What do you think would have happened if Elisha had arose that day and said: "I'm not going to go to work today. I want to remain at home and sleep all the day". You can be sure that he would not have been able to benefit from Elijah's ministry.

You may not know when it is God's time to favour you with an encounter so you must ensure that you are always at the right place at the right time. Whenever and wherever there is a gathering where people worship God in the spirit and in the truth, don't miss out on such opportunity by being absent. Some people have missed great blessings in life by being absent when God visited their places of blessing.

God is not to be blamed when His people are not blessed as He is willing to bless them. The Bible makes it very clear that God never takes delight in withholding good things from those who serve Him faithfully.

"11 For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly". (Psalm 84:11)

Since God does not intend to withhold any good thing from you, you must be available to receive what He wants to give you.

NOT AVAILABLE

This reminds me, of the story of a particular man who missed out on his blessing by failing to turn up when God wanted to favour him. The man's relative pleaded with God saying, "Oh God, my relative is so poor and he needs your help". God replied, "I'm really interested in blessing him but he is so lazy that he can't be bothered to receive the help". Out of concern, the relative said: "Oh God, please give him a chance". "Okay", said God, "just watch".

God dispatched someone with a bag full of gold saying, "Take this to that man, I just want to favour him with this bag. He will be rich for life". Within a very short time, the bag of gold was placed at the entrance of the lazy fellow. The heavenly messenger knocked at the man's door saying; "We have a special message for you from the Almighty God". The man simply managed a drawling; "Gentlemen, don't disturb me, I'm tired and I need to take a good rest. I just can't get out of the bed, don't disturb my rest". Those who were knocking at the door persisted "The message we have brought for you, is very important. This is an emergency, just open your door and take the message." The man refused to be persuaded and insisted, "You are making a nuisance of yourselves in the neighbourhood. Stop disturbing me, just go away". The heavenly messenger had no option but to take the bag of gold back to heaven. My prayer for you, is that you won't ever miss out on your opportunities when they come knocking at the door.

3. Faith and hard work

This is another way, through which you can experience a divine encounter. This is made very clear as we examine the life of the character we are studying in this chapter. You need the combination of faith and hard work to experience a divine encounter. Faith without hard work may still keep you from your breakthrough. When God tells you that a mango is ripe, He expects you to rise up and pluck it, for the mango will not just fall on your lap without any effort on your part. The breakthrough which you are waiting for has been posted to you from heaven, but you must stretch out your hands and do the receiving. You must take practical steps if you are to experience divine blessings. For example, you may have to

apply for a job, request for a contract, make room for expansion and work hard towards achieving a greater level of blessing and prosperity. If you lay claim to having faith, you must also work very hard. The Bible says:

“6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him”. (Hebrews 11:6)

According to the passage above, you must be diligent. You must add hard work to your faith if you want to experience a spectacular encounter with God. God wants to grant you great blessing but you must be hard-working in order to handle and sustain this extraordinary level of blessing. When I became born again, I had a serious problem about the issue of tithes and offering. I felt that my entire income was grossly inadequate. I wondered why anyone should ask me to give 10% of my income to the church. It took me a very long time, before I believed that it was what God asked of me, convinced and decided to pay my tithe.

Those who taught me the principle of tithing assured me that I was going to experience prosperity through obedience. As a mathematician, I became curious. I wanted to know how 90% could become bigger than 100%. As soon as I started paying my tithe, God spoke to me; “Get ready for hard work as I have made up my mind to bless you”. In my heart, I wondered what kind of hard work was I going to do? I’m a teacher, what kind of hard work am I going to do besides teaching?” God assured me; “Don’t worry son, I’m going to bless you through teaching”. Although I was earning a good salary as a university lecturer, I didn’t expect the kind of doors to open which God opened for me. I was positively embarrassed as almost every school in Lagos State was looking for a part-time mathematics teacher. They approached my dean with a passionate plea. “We are told that there is a young man in your department who happens to be very good in mathematics. Will you kindly allow him to take up a position in our school teaching mathematics part time?”.

I soon started teaching mathematics on part-time basis in a particular secondary school in Lagos. Quickly, word spread to other secondary schools and before I knew what was happening, I started teaching in more than five secondary schools on part-time basis. What I was earning on my part-time job, was higher than what I had earned as a lecturer.

The money was there but it required a lot of hard work. Get ready for hard work as doors are about to open for your breakthrough.

4. Commitment to God

This is the fourth step you have to take in order to experience a divine encounter. The moment you are able to say, “Oh Lord, bless me for I am going to support the gospel”, you are ready for divine encounter. The only thing that matters is your usefulness to God. After all, you only need three meals per day. If you have too many clothes, you may have problems, deciding which one you want to put on. If you have too many shoes, you will face the problems which pair to put on. Those who are too rich have problems deciding what to use. The truth is that, all you need are two pairs of shoes, a good brown pair and a good black pair. As for food, you only need to pray “Oh Lord, give us our daily bread”.

When you are praying for prosperity, you should focus your mind on glorifying the God of prosperity and He will bless you. The greatest joy you can derive from prosperity is that you are able to do for God what you delight to do for Him. If it is your intention to use prosperity to expand God’s kingdom, God will always bless you.

5. Generosity

The fifth step, which you can take in order to encounter divine intervention in your life is to show generosity to the needy around you. What did Elisha do in order to experience his divine encounter? He killed oxen, boiled them and made a feast for everybody around him. No wonder the Bible says:

“31 Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner”. (Proverbs 11:31)

Those who are liberal will always experience divine blessings as God is looking out for generous men and women to appoint as His divine treasurers. When God knows that you are willing to give to others, He will bless you. God is looking for channels of blessings. He is looking for those who will give out some of their blessings, not those who are tight-fisted. Yes, God decides whom He chooses to be a beneficiary of His blessings, but you can influence Him to choose you by becoming an incurable giver.

Are you ready to fulfil all these conditions? Let me assure you, God is no respecter of persons. In fact, He is seeking for men and women to lavish His blessings upon. You can experience the greatest encounter in the history of the world if you meticulously follow the steps above. On a final note, let me ask you a crucial question: “If God suddenly turned you into a multi-millionaire how would you spend the money?” Something great is coming your way. You therefore need to prepare the ground. You should be able to ask yourself, “What would I do if God decides to bless me suddenly? Will I please the world or honour God?”

God is interested in your motive. He will surely play His own part. The question is, will you play yours? What will you do when your breakthrough comes? Will you prepare your heart to receive from God and pledge to glorify Him when He blesses you? You will discover that God has no problem with blessing you. You only need to fulfill His conditions and God will grant you blessings that surpass what Elisha experienced.

Chapter Four



Peter: A Fisherman Who Became An Apostle

A divine encounter can introduce dramatic changes into your life, for the following reasons:

1. It is possible for you to be given the privilege of a face to face encounter with the Almighty.

When you have such an encounter everything will change so much that your life will become the highest expression of what God can do in the life of a mere mortal. It is indeed true that a fisherman can become an apostle; an obscure character can become a prominent figure whose life story will continue to read thousands of years after his death. What you need today is a divine encounter.

2. A divine encounter is the greatest instrument of change: an experience which can change your status and life forever.

Perhaps nobody has any respect for you at the present time and you are viewed as persona non-grata in some places, but since you are going to have a personal encounter with God, you are going to become a celebrity. This possibility is made very clear in the Bible.

“8 He raiseth up the poor out of the dust, and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill, to set them among princes, and to make them inherit the throne of glory: for the pillars of the earth are the LORD’S, and he hath set the world upon them”. (1 Samuel 2:8)

God can lift up a beggar from a dunghill and give him a seat among princes. I believe you will have an encounter with God one of these days and you will begin to keep company with those who are listed in ‘Who is Who’.

Additionally, if you are already great and you have an encounter with God you will become greater.

The Bible says:

“5 Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on

thee do I wait all the day. 6 Remember, O LORD, thy tender mercies and thy loving kindnesses; for they have been ever of old". (Psalm 25:5-6)

God can promote a nobody into a somebody. He can also promote a somebody and make him even greater.

3. Whenever someone has an encounter with God, Curses are removed.

The character we are studying in this chapter happens to be Peter. He was smarting under the problem of futility and failure. He toiled all night and caught nothing. That was most frustrating. Why should anyone who works like an elephant eat like an ant. It is indeed a curse to work so hard and have nothing to show for it. Fruitlessness is a curse. Poverty is a curse. Barrenness is also a curse. Any curse that has reduced your existence to misery will disappear. If you have an encounter with God, you will have no reason to live under the burden of a curse.

The Bible tells us that Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law.

"13 Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree". (Galatians 3:13).

Whether it be the curse of failure, poverty, barrenness or lack of promotion, a curse is a curse and it will disappear at the point of divine encounter.

4. Lost opportunities are recovered.

One other thing that happens when you experience a divine encounter is that you recover lost opportunities. We have an important lesson to learn in Peter's case. He toiled all night and caught nothing. Before the encounter, his fishing endeavour had amounted to an exercise in futility. He had an opportunity to catch lots of fish but the opportunity yielded nothing. He actually washed his net, thinking all hope was lost. It was as if this particular fishing venture had come to an end with failure written in capital letters.

Jesus came on the scene and Peter's lost opportunity was restored. He was simply told: "launch out into the deep for a draught". It was another glorious opportunity for Peter. He carried out the instruction given to him by the Lord, and he came up with such outstanding success that broke all existing records in his fishing career. Have you ever lost opportunities in the past? Now is the moment of restoration for such opportunities.

In Matthew 8:1-3 there is a challenging story which clearly demonstrates the fact that one single instance of divine encounter can redeem apparently irretrievable circumstances.

"1 When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him. 2 And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. 3 And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will: be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed". (Matthew 8:1-3)

The situation of the leper was so bad that it can aptly be described as that of someone under a curse. He experienced a glorious encounter and the curse was removed. His case was incurable but God cured him. He was a nobody, who became somebody. He had lost the opportunity to live among ordinary people but God gave him another opportunity. God gave him an opportunity to go higher and attain a new stature.

Today, God is going to give you a similar opportunity. God will give you an opportunity that will lead you into a life of greatness. All the years that the cankerworm has eaten in your life shall be restored to you. This is made very clear in Joel 2:25.

"25 And I will restore to you the years that the locust hath eaten, the cankerworm, and the caterpillar, and the palmerworm, my great army which I sent among you". (Joel 2:25)

God is a God of restoration. I am confident that within one year, God can turn the tide and fully restore what you have lost in twenty years. I am equally confident that God can so visit you within one month and grant success and prosperity on a scale that will leave everyone around you in speechless wonder. I

am also very confident that God can do for you in one week what human beings cannot normally achieve in a thousand years. Additionally, I also believe that God can so exalt you in one day so as to make it difficult for people around you to recognise you.

5. It is an opportunity for an exchange

This is another important feature of a divine encounter. Do you know that God is a trader? In fact, He gets involved in what can be described as trade by barter. Whenever He wants to bless somebody, He first gives the person an opportunity to give something to Him. God wanted to bless Peter. That was why the Lord came to Peter with a request: “Lend me your boat and I will fill your net with fishes”. Abraham also had a similar experience. He, as it were, entertained God (an angel) and God fulfilled wonderful promises in Abraham’s life. God is actively involved in the trading business. Today He is looking for someone to trade with. The Bible says:

“31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint”. (Isaiah 40:31)

Bible scholars have interpreted the above passage to mean, “They that wait upon the Lord shall exchange their strength”. Those who want to benefit from a divine encounter will start with their little strength and end up obtaining the Almighty’s strength in return.

6. A divine encounter is not meant for lazy people

As we study the circumstances surrounding Peter’s divine encounter, we discover that it takes hard work or industry to experience a divine encounter. Lazy people cannot benefit from instances of divine encounter. If you have an encounter with God it will give you opportunities which will require hard work on your part. Of course, God will show you where to throw your net, but you will be the one that will do the throwing. You will also be the one, to pull the net after a catch. God may fill your net with fish, but it is your responsibility to work hard towards pulling the net ashore.

HARD WORK

God may endow you with great intelligence but you will have to spend hours studying your textbooks or notes. God may grant you open doors, but it is your responsibility to enter in and obtain your possessions. God will open doors of blessings and favour for you but He expects you to give of your best and fulfil your part of the contract.

A divine encounter can only be experienced by those who work hard. You need to put in a lot of hard work into the steps necessary to secure a divine encounter. You need to pray hard, praise God with all your energy, fast regularly and continue to give even when it requires great sacrifice. The Bible says:

“6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him”. (Hebrews 11:6)

God is not a rewarder of those who are lazy.

7. A divine encounter is not meant for thieves

Those who think they can experience a breakthrough by being devious or too clever will be disappointed. Some people have taken dubious business practises right into the church. They inflate the cost of building materials even when they know that it is meant for a church. Judas Iscariot thought that he was being smart by stealing from the bag, but at the end he was denied the divine encounter. Of course, he made some money while he was one of the disciples, and made even more money when he collected thirty pieces of silver as the price for betraying his Lord and handing Him over to be crucified. The money became useless to him, and he ended up trying to hand it back to those who paid him. He lost out.

When Judas made thirty pieces of silver in a single hour, he felt that he was smart. Maybe you remember how some of his colleagues had to depend on a coin that came out of the fish. When he collected so much money as the price for treachery, he must have felt that he had achieved what others could not achieve. But his ill-gotten wealth, soon became odious to him. A divine encounter is not for thieves, fraudsters and crooked people. It is for honest men and women who

are ready to work hard. It is meant for those who are looking for opportunities to prosper, and those who are ready to work when the opportunity comes.

8. A divine encounter is for people whom God Himself has chosen

The element of choice plays a crucial role when the issue of a divine encounter is concerned. If you take a second look at the story of Peter, you would discover that God specifically chose him, even though there were others in similar situations.

When Jesus got to the Lake of Gennesaret, there were two ships there. Jesus decided to choose the one that belonged to Simon Peter. God can choose you; that is His divine prerogative. He may choose you even though you don't even merit His choice. However, you must do everything to meet His conditions. You must be ready to work hard and pray hard. You must be willing to serve Him wholeheartedly. The moment God discovers that you are willing to serve Him; He will grant you a divine encounter.

If you examine the account of Peter, you will discover that he continued to serve the Lord after his encounter with the Lord. There is an opportunity for you today, even if people regard you as a nobody at the present moment, God will grant you a divine encounter which will turn you to somebody. God is going to give you a glorious encounter if you are ready to serve the Lord, with many blessings to follow. God will favour you with an encounter today.

Finally, you need to understand the fact that you must be saved before you can experience divine encounter. Prosperity without righteousness will lead to confusion. If you are not saved and you experience a divine encounter, you may regret it. God wants you to surrender your life to Him before such an experience.

Chapter Five



Jabez: The Handicapped Man Who Became a Celebrity

You can go from minimum to maximum. God can take you from level zero, to the pinnacle of your profession and give you a wonderful breakthrough. When you have an encounter with God, He takes you and changes the direction of your life. In this chapter, you will discover that it does not matter what level you are on right now. What matters is having an encounter with God. God is able to convert your status from being a nobody to being a somebody.

THE UNCHANGING CHANGER

If you are a student of biblical and Christian history, you will discover that God specialises in turning hopeless situations around. He is the only one who has the ability to fix situations that are completely out of order. Whenever He comes into contact with situations which human beings view as completely hopeless, He does what He alone can do. Time and again, he has demonstrated the fact that He is the unchanging changer of the situations of men and women. In summary, there is nothing God cannot do. What He has done for others He will do for you. Your case cannot be an exception. God has never been known to fail in the past and He will never fail in the future..

“9 And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, because I bare him with sorrow”. (1 Chronicles 4:9)

From the passage above we discover that human tragedies can become divine opportunities. Jabez is an unique Bible character. He started out on a bad note. The day he was born, he was named “child of sorrow”. Each time his mother called him in the morning she would say, “Sorrow, come here.”

One day, he got fed up being called ‘sorrow’. He cried unto God Almighty saying; “My mother calls me ‘sorrow’. My relatives call me ‘sorrow’. My friends call me ‘sorrow’. I want a change of name. I want you to bless me indeed. I also want You to enlarge my coast. I want You to lay your hands upon my life. I want You to keep evil away from me. I don’t ever want to have anything to do with sorrow.” The Bible tells us, that God granted his request.

Can you see a picture of your life mirrored in that of Jabez? If you call upon God today, God will answer you.

Let me briefly give you an outline of Jabez’s prayer.

1. “O Lord bless me”. What does it mean? He was asking God for several things. Firstly, he was asking God to meet all his needs. When God blesses you, all your needs will be met. That is why the Bible says:

*“22 The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.”
(Proverbs 10:22)*

When you ask God to bless you, you are asking Him to make you rich. Let me speak to you by the Spirit of God: you are going to become rich!

2. Jabez asked God to bless him indeed. He was not asking God to bless him just a little. He wanted God to take him, to the pinnacle of blessings. He told God to bless him greatly. In other words, he was praying; “O God bless me immensely. Bless me the way you blessed Abraham”. When you pray this prayer, you are also asking God to bless you the way He blessed Abraham.

34 “And he said, I am Abraham’s servant. 35 And the Lord hath blessed my master greatly and he is become great: and he hath given him flocks, and herds, and silver and gold, and menservants and maidservants, and camels, and asses.” (Genesis 24:34-35)

Abraham was extremely rich. However, you can exceed Abraham’s level of wealth. God wants to bless you greatly. In John 10:10, Jesus said;

10 “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)

Jesus is not going to bless you with an unremarkable life. He has promised you an abundant life. You can ask God to bless you indeed. David prayed in Psalm 119:17 *“Deal bountifully with thy servant, that I may live, and keep thy word.”* He was asking God to lavish blessings upon him. God wants to bless you. The nature of this blessing is described in Psalm 68:19 *“Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah.”* When blessings become so great as to be described as a load, then the beneficiary will truly be surrounded by blessings. God will bless you greatly today. You will receive great and unprecedented blessings.

3. Jabez also prayed: “O Lord, enlarge my coast”.

He was saying something like, “O Lord, I know that if you are going to bless me indeed, then I don’t have enough room at the moment to contain a blessing on this scale. This kind of divine encounter requires more space. Therefore, enlarge my coast.”

Jabez understood what the Bible says in Malachi 3:10:

10 “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” (Malachi 3:10)

Jabez was asking God, “Before you send mighty blessings to me, give me another miracle; enlarge the place of my habitation so that it will be able to contain everything you will send when your blessings keep pouring in”.

If you don’t ask God to enlarge your coast, He may limit your blessings. In John 4:7-15, we read:

7 “There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink. 8 (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.) 9 Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? For the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. 10 Jesus answered and said unto her, if thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.” The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? 12 Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank there of himself, and his children, and his cattle? 13 Jesus answered and said unto her, whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again. 14 But Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. 15 The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw.” (John 4:7-15)

Do you know what happened to this woman? She came with a water pot and

went back home with a well of water. You, too, can pray, “O Lord, replace my bucket with a well.” You need wisdom in order to receive maximum blessings from God.

If you fail to ask God to enlarge your coast you may limit the amount of blessing which you are going to receive from God. Each time I read the passage below I am bothered.

“1 And it came to pass that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God; he stood by the lake of Genessaret, 2 And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. 3 And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon’s and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. 4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your net for a draught. And Simon answering said unto him, Master we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. 6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes, and their net brake. 7 And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both ships, so that they began to sink.” (Luke 5: 1-7)

Peter lacked foresight. Maybe he underestimated the level of blessings which Jesus was going to bring in to his life. Can you observe that when he launched into the deep and caught the fish, he had a real problem. His boat was too small to contain the number of fish he caught. Even when he borrowed his friend’s boat, it proved inadequate. The two boats were so loaded, that they sank. If Peter had any foresight he would have prayed for the miracle of a boat that was larger than the two boats put together. Jesus was ready to give him as many fishes as he wanted but his boat was too small. The prayer you need to pray is, “O Lord, enlarge my coast. Increase my capacity to receive blessings”.

Tell me, if God decides to visit you right now, how will you contain the blessing? If God blesses you with a Rolls Royce limousine and you are living in a slum area, that will give you a problem. You need to move away from such an environment and start living in a better location or any other desirable neighbourhood to enjoy your Rolls Royce.

If God wants to bless you with a private jet and you happen to live in an impoverished area, you will have a problem on your hands. You must ask God to first transfer you to an area inhabited by extremely wealthy people before you can really live comfortably with your private jet.

You really have to ask God to enlarge your coast, otherwise you may remain limited in life. Many people are not able to get to the next phase of their blessings because their coast had not been enlarged. There is no way that God can pack a very mighty blessing into a very tiny space.

I asked the Lord a profound question at a point in my Christian experience. I mentioned that the Bible says that we will spend one thousand years before we shall finally go to heaven. “Lord I don’t understand, I said. “Why must we go back to the earth, after spending seven years in the clouds, for the marriage supper of the lamb? Why must we come back to the world? Why don’t we go from the clouds to heaven?”. The Lord gave a thought provoking answer.

He said, “Son, you don’t understand. Your body is so used to suffering that if you go straight to Heaven, the joy there will kill you. If you decide to put too much honey in a cup of tea for example”, He continued, “Your body will react to too much sweetness. You will surely throw up, because the body is not used to extremely sweet things. You only need a measure of honey. Too much of it will irritate your system. Your body will react to it. If I take you straight to Heaven, the joy there will be too much for you to cope with”.

Let me give you another example. You are a lecturer, on a modest salary, driving an ordinary family car. The car costs five thousand naira. If somebody comes to you, offering you a job which paid one thousand times as much what would you do with all the money? The joy of earning a huge salary might confuse you.

But if someone were to come to you saying, “I will give you a job, and you will earn four time your current salary”, you could surely contain the joy. You can cope with such a blessing. If the fellow doubles your salary after a while you will surely cope. You can grow gradually until you reach a level when you can cope with great wealth. A sudden change in your financial fortunes, however, will give you problems. The truth is this: you need one thousand years to prepare for the joy in heaven.

Jabez asked for greater room to cope with the blessing which God was going to

lavish on him. He asked God to enlarge his ability to contain the blessings which were coming to him. You must learn a lesson from Jabez. Ask for expansion, or else blessing might become a problem. If somebody comes to you right now and gives you a cheque which would make you a billionaire, you might faint. Even if you do not faint you might tell the fellow; “You must be talking to the wrong person”. God wants to raise you up, but firstly you must enlarge your coast.

4. Jabez asked God; “Let your hand be with me.” Why did Jabez pray this way? Read I Kings 18:46:

“46 And the hand of the Lord was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel.” (I Kings 18:46)

God laid his hands upon Elijah. He became supernaturally strong. Jabez knew that the blessing that was coming would be so weighty that he would need supernatural strength to carry them.

God is going to lay His hand upon you. No matter what blessing comes into your life, you need strength to cope with it. When God enlarges your coast, you will need God’s hand upon your life in a greater way. When God blesses you and enlarges your coast so that you end up leading a multi-national business you will require special strength to travel and supervise the operations of your companies.

If you are a pastor and you are presently in charge of one parish, when God enlarges your coast and a church of one hundred members becomes ten thousand, you will need supernatural strength to cope. If you happen to be an office assistant you will need supernatural strength when God enlarges your coast and you become the managing director of your own company.

There was a time when the Redeemed Christian Church of God had only forty parishes. It was quite easy to visit all the parishes at that time. I could do that within one month. Now God has enlarged the church. There is no way I can even visit all the parishes. I need more strength now to visit as many parishes as possible.

God must also give you the wisdom with which you will handle your wealth. The Bible says: “the prosperity of fools shall destroy them”. You, therefore, need wisdom to avoid being destroyed by your prosperity. He will also give you the

anointing to spend the money for the glory of God.

Some years ago, I was led by the Lord to preach on the television. The television station in Ilorin, Kwara State of Nigeria said there was no slot for me. I went to the office of the Head of Department and introduced myself saying; “I am the acting Head of Department of Mathematics at the University”. The man sat up and appeared frightened. They knew that I was an influential figure in the University and that refusing my request would cause trouble for them.

They came up with a clever tactic. They asked me to pay a huge amount of money. They thought that it would hinder me. They asked me to pay about two thousand naira, a huge sum of money in those days. I told them I would pay. We kept on paying that amount until their conscience troubled them, and they reduced the amount to less than half of what they originally asked me to pay, which was the real amount which we were supposed to pay. They inflated the figure to drive me away.

5. Jabez asked God to keep him away from evil. He knew that whenever blessings come, evil attacks are inevitable. He knew that some people would be jealous and try everything to make him fall. He therefore prayed to be kept from all evil even before the blessing came.

It is wonderful to note that the scripture states that God granted him all his requests. The Bible says; “This poor man cried and God heard him”. You are going to cry unto God today and He will hear your prayers. What was the result of the answer to the prayer of Jabez? He became more honourable than his brethren. He started with sorrow, got to the top, and became number one.

If you can pray today, God can pick you up from the lowest rung of the ladder and put you at the highest level. All those who have been mocking you will look up to you. God will make you honourable, mighty and exalted.

This is your moment of divine elevation and blessing. Pray with all your heart and the Lord will lift you up beyond your wildest dreams.

Chapter Six



When An Abandoned Ship Became An Instrument For An Unprecedented Breakthrough

The word of God is ever new. In it lies the key to your prosperity. God's word is fresh and enriching each time we go through it. There is a passage in the Bible which contains powerful secrets which will lead you into prosperity and wealth.

"1 And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret, 2 And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. 3 And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. 4 Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon, Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. 5 And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. 6 And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. 7 And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. 8 When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. 9 for he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken." (Luke 5:1-9)

There are various levels of prosperity. From the passage which you have just read, we discover that it is possible to get to a point when your prosperity will become very great. At that point, you will require assistance to cope with it. In the case of Peter, he had to ask for assistance from his partners to deal with the proceeds of divine encounter.

These days, God is lavishing on His children the kind of blessings that will cause many a boat to sink. Do you know what God will do? He will so bless you that whenever you want to take your money to the bank, the vehicle will be so loaded that people will think that you are carrying some heavy luggage. Who knows, you might even use a truck. Do you think that what I have just stated is near impossible? Then read these testimonies carefully.

The three testimonies below were forwarded to me by participants at the monthly Divine Encounter programme. To be precise, we received the

testimonies exactly one month after the first edition of the Divine Encounter services.

“A friend that I had not seen for a long time came and told me that he just felt like blessing me. He gave me twenty five thousand naira.” The sister who narrated this testimony was stupefied. Here is the second testimony: “I came across somebody I had never met all my life. He was a total stranger to me. He gave me a gift of 50 dollars. The fellow said: ‘God told me to give you something. That is why I am giving you this 50 dollars’.”

This is the third testimony: “A friend came to offer us a gift. Do you know the amount? Fifteen (15) million naira! Just a gift”.

You serve a big God. Don’t ever allow anyone to limit your dreams. I have learned to think and dream big. Therefore, I always exceed human limits in my planning. This reminds me of the time when we started building the Redemption Camp ground. I drew the plan for the first auditorium. I told the architect to make it 100 meters by 50 meters. Some people felt that we were too ambitious in our plans. They wondered how we would ever draw a crowd sufficient to fill such a big auditorium. I told them that the auditorium would need to be extended within two years. Some people found this difficult to believe, but within two years we had to extend the first building.

Dream on a big scale. Don’t occupy your mind with small dreams. If your dreams are small, your achievements will be small. Don’t ever limit yourself. I have stated this time and again. Those who own private jets are human beings like you. If your eyes will be opened to the greatness of Almighty God, you will always dream big.

In Genesis 17:1, we are given an insight into the greatness of God.

“1 And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me and be thou perfect.”

The phrase ‘Almighty God’ in Hebrew is Jehovah ‘EI-Shaddai’; The God who is more than enough. Your God is more than enough. His ability will always exceed your biggest dreams.

2. You must plan on a big scale. This is the secret of prosperity. When you dream big, you will make big plans. If you limit your plans to the present level of your achievement, you will never become greater. You must build your plan to the level of your big dreams. Some years ago, some of our members and ministers were surprised that I was building several pews. They wondered, “How would we ever get the crowd that will sit on the pews?” I told them that multitudes are coming. At that time I had not seen the crowd physically but I was seeing them with the eyes of the Spirit. Since the Bible says, “The just shall live by faith”, I drew all the plans by faith.

The need to make big plans is highlighted in 2 Kings 4:1-7.

“1 Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen. 2 And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil. 3 Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few. 4 And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full. 5 So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out. 6 And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, there is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed. 7 Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.” (2 Kings 4:1-7)

The woman was told to borrow as many empty vessels as possible. She was specifically told not to borrow a few. Do you know that the number of the empty vessels which she got, was exactly the number that God filled with oil miraculously? When there was no longer any empty vessel the oil dried up. How big you are going to become, will be determined by how big you make your plans. I want you to dream big. Begin to make plans on how you will convey participants to the Holy Ghost services with hundreds of buses.

3. As soon as you begin to make big plans, get ready to work hard. Great plans require much hard work. If you want to see big plans fulfilled you need to

work hard. Let us read a portion of the scriptures which teaches us that hard work is one of the requirements necessary to achieve exceptional prosperity:

“1 And the third day there was a marriage in Cana in Galilee; and the mother of Jesus was there: 2 And both Jesus was called, and his disciples to the marriage. 3 And when they wanted wine, the mother of Jesus saith unto him, They have no wine. 4 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come. 5 His mother saith unto the servants. Whatever he saith unto you, do it. 6 And there were set there six water pots of stone, after the manner of the purifying of the Jews, containing two or three firkins apiece. 7 Jesus saith unto them. Fill the water pots with water. And they filled them up to the brim. 8 And he saith unto them. Draw out now and bear unto the governor of the feast. And they bare it. 9 When the ruler of the feast had tasted the water that was made wine, and knew not whence it was (but the servants which drew the water knew;) the governor of the feast called the bridegroom, 10 And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse; but thou hast kept the good wine until now. 11 This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory: and his disciples believed on him.” (John 2: 1-11)

The wine had run out. The stewards approached Jesus. They were told to fill the water pots with water. The servants worked assiduously and filled all the pots. They filled the pots to the brim. Thank God they were not lazy. When the water became wine, each pot was filled to the brim with wine.

I have always emphasized hard work. Can you believe that the International Office complex was built in 18 days? You may wonder how we were able to achieve such an unbelievable task. We worked night and day. The roofing and the plastering were done in the night. In those days I would get there at exactly midnight. I would greet all the workers and move away from the site. Some of them thought I had gone to sleep. By exactly 2 am, they would find me at the site again. I would greet them, and those who were not working would wake up at that point. They would think I that would be my last visit, but at 4 am I returned, greeting and cheering them up. That was how we completed the building in record time.

4. Learn to give generously. Be a large scale giver. The Bible says “But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly.” (2 Corinthians 9:6). If

you are extravagant in giving, you will receive mighty blessings from God. If you give in small measure, you will only receive in small measure from God.

“9 And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. 10 And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so. 11 And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. 12 And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces. 13 He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan; 14 and he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and smote the waters, and said, Where is the LORD God of Elijah? And when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither: and Elisha went over. 15 And when the sons of the prophets which were to view at Jericho saw him, they said, the spirit of Elijah doth rest on Elisha. And they came to meet him, and bowed themselves to the ground before him.” (2 Kings 2:9-15).

I admire Elisha. He was an expert in asking for hard things. Many of us pray and ask for ordinary things. I have learned how to ask for hard things. Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah’s power. You must make up your mind to ask for what appears hard. Today, you can tell the Lord: “You have asked me to ask anything in your name. That is why I am praying such big prayers”. You might have asked the Lord that within the next two years you want to be the richest in the community or nation. Some people may laugh at such a big prayer request. Let them laugh. Those who are laughing at you right now will laugh with you later on.

“6 But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.” (2 Corinthians 9:6)

If you are extravagant in giving, you will find yourself challenged personally at a divine encounter services one day.

Real prosperity requires supernatural intervention. This explains why the people of the world go to herbalists for charms. Children of God do not need to consult occultists. The real source of wealth and the controller of all the resources in the world is our Father. He has decided to deposit that wealth into our hands.

One passage that has continued to challenge me is the story of Peter's encounter with Jesus. After meditating on the passage over and over again, I have discovered that it contains many vital lessons. Every time I study the passage, each verse comes across with many of spiritual lessons. Let us consider the lessons.

1. God wants you to move away from shallow waters and launch out into the deep. Tiny fishes reside in shallow waters. Go into the deep; that is where you find big fish like sharks. What does it mean? It means you must dream big. See yourself as a great person. God does not want you to remain insignificant. "Like father like son," says the popular expression. God does not want you to be small. Your Father is great. He is the greatest. In fact, He is greater than the greatest He is richer than the richest. He does not do things in small measures. How many children are born in one day? Thousands. God does not limit himself to sending only one child into the world in one day. The Bible says:

"18 Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." (Proverbs 29: 18).

Have a lofty vision. Don't be a midget. Be a giant. Seek to acquire a giant's mind set. Make up your mind that you are going to be a spiritual giant. Decide to receive mighty blessings from God. If you give in small measures you will receive small things from God. This reminds me of a popular saying in the Yoruba community in my country. "It is poverty that does not allow the poor to be rich. The oracle asked him to bring a goat, but he thought of giving something that was very small. He took a rat to the oracle and the oracle gave him the equivalent of a rat".

The Bible says God always give seed to the sower. If you want to be very rich, you must be ready to become God's treasurer. Be a giver.

5. You must pray big prayers. You cannot be rich without divine assistance. If God does not support you, no matter what you venture into, you will fail. Of course, I am aware of the fact that it is possible to receive prosperity from the devil's camp. For this reason you must pray. You must pray until you move the hand of God. Read this passage:

“9 And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. 10 And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so. 11 And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. 12 And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces. 13 He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan.” (2 Kings 2:9-13)

When I started going to England for the Holy Ghost Services, I had some experiences which taught my children that it pays to pray big prayers. One of our pastors opted to drive me whenever I visited London. He also volunteered to grant me unlimited access to the use of his bus whenever I was in London. Each time we drove past a car dealer's garage I would ask him to take me to a place where they sell old Rolls Royce cars.

When we checked the price of one car, we discovered that it was £40,000. The pastor would laugh -wondering how I would ever get money to buy a Rolls Royce limousine. He used to laugh because he knew how hard I struggled in those days to raise money to hold the Holy Ghost Service in London. One day we stopped at a shop which had a sale on. I wanted to buy a shirt. We discovered that the price of the shirt was £20. We left briskly because I could not remotely afford a £20 shirt. So, he was wondering how the General Overseer who could not afford a £20 shirt would ever dream of buying a £40,000 Rolls Royce. I simply told him, “Son, keep laughing”. On my way back from a trip to the United States of America, I stopped over in London. This same brother came to pick me up in his bus, but there was another brother with him. He walked up to me saying, “I have been instructed to bring you home in this car”. “Who?” I

inquired; “Who gave you the instruction? Tell me, who is the owner of the car?”. He smiled and said, “Daddy it is yours”. I discovered that it was exactly the same Rolls Royce which I had believed God would provide for me. I looked towards the direction of the pastor who normally drove me round in his bus and I reeled with laughter. He also laughed. He was pleasantly surprised.

EXPAND YOUR VISION

6. The last thing you must do is to expand your vision. By the time you have achieved what you previously envisioned, move forward and go for a bigger vision. I know that you have been thinking big in the past, but make it bigger.

“14 And the LORD said unto Abram, after that Lot was separated from him, Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: 17 Arise, walk through the land in the length of it and in the breadth of it; for I will give it unto thee. (Genesis 13:14,17)

God told Abraham that whatever he saw, would become his. Abraham was thankful to God. God told Abraham, “don’t stop there, walk through the length and breadth of your land. When you walk you will see more”. That is how you can also expand your vision. I want you to know that there is nothing which you could ever ask God for which would be too big for Him to do. Just keep on expanding your vision. Many people think that the Redemption Camp is unusually big. That was how I thought at the beginning. Now I have expanded my vision. Exactly one year ago, we had 1,500 acres. I am planning to acquire an extra four thousand acres. We are going to expand the Redemption Camp to Ikorodu town. There is one beautiful thing in expanding one’s vision; you won’t ever die too young. You will always be conscious of the fact that there is something which you are still pursuing. The day you think you have arrived, then you are ready to die. It does not matter what you see now; I want to assure you that in the Redeemed Christians Church of God we have not yet started.

I challenge you to take giant steps of faith, and launch into the deep. The Bible says:

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” (Hebrew 11:6)

Unless you have faith, you cannot please God. There is one particular passage I love very much. It is a very deep passage:-

“10 I am the Lord thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it.” (Psalm 81:10)

If you are ready to open your mouth wide, God will grant you your heart's desires.

Don't ever forget. You must be born again if you want to gain great benefit from what you have read in this chapter. If you desire the blessing that maketh rich, then you must repent of your sins.

Chapter Seven



Jacob: The Fugitive Who Became a Prince

The spiritual phenomenon known as a divine encounter has been known to have made the impossible possible, the unimaginable to happen and the incredible to take place in the lives of men and women. When you experience a divine encounter, your life will take a dramatic turn. Even if you are declared persona non-grata, God will turn your life round and give you a place in history.

There are several stories in the scriptures about breathtaking events which took place in the lives of people when they had encounters with God Almighty. These stories tell us time and again that there is nothing impossible for God and that whatever He has done for others, He can do for us.

In this chapter we shall undertake a character study which will incorporate into other character studies. The essence of these character studies is to reiterate the fact that God has never changed and will never change. Whatever He did in Bible times, He can do today.

Let us read the scriptures

“24 And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. 25 And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob’s thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. 26 And he said, let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. 27 And he said unto him, what is thy name? And he said, Jacob. 28 And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power With God and with men, and hast prevailed” (Genesis 32:24-28)

JUST ONE ENCOUNTER

Here, we read a challenging account of Jacob's encounter with God. This one encounter elevated him into the class of nobility. From being a fugitive he became a prince. This proves that you need just one encounter to experience a transformation that will forever change your life. You only need a single word from God, and you will assume the title of a prince.

Almighty God speaks once. God has spoken once and we have heard Him say twice that power belongs unto Him. The same God who said, "Let there be light and there was light" is speaking specially to you. He is telling you that you are a prince in the making. From this moment on you are going to be a prince or a princess.

A DIVINE DECREE

Jacob did not struggle to become a prince; he attained that position instantaneously by divine decree. From being an underdog he became a superstar. When God issues one single decree a borrower can become a lender, and a sick man can become a healer. When God gives you a label, it sticks. Whatever God calls a particular thing is what it shall be.

What does it mean when God calls you a prince? What does it mean to be a prince or a princess? As we look at Jacob's encounter with God, we shall examine the result of his being made a prince by God. A prince is someone who leads a group of people. This is clear from Deuteronomy 28:13

“13 And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them” (Deuteronomy 28:13)

Here, the Bible says that the Lord will make you the head and not the tail. When somebody is described as the head it means they occupy the position of leadership.

2. A prince remains a prince for life. A prince is different from a local government chairman, president or governor who usually serves for just one or two terms. A governor is elected into office while a prince is appointed by divine prerogative. God is going to make you the head for life. This has been divinely pronounced upon your life.

“13 And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them.” (Deuteronomy 28:13)

Once you are made the head you remain so; you will be above only and never beneath.

3. Princes rule by decrees. Princes do not need to apologise for what they do; they do not compromise their stand. Whatever they say rings with a note of finality or authority. Princes do not call a meeting and ask the participants to vote; they simply declare, “Here is a decree from the palace. This is what I want in my kingdom”. God is going to make you a prince or a princess today. From now on you will begin to rule by decree.

It is written:

“28 Thou shalt also decree a thing, And it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways” (Job 22:28)

Whenever you decree something, it happens. From now on whenever you wake up in the morning you will say, “I decree wealth to come into my life, breakthrough to flow into my territory. Prosperity, come!” and it shall be so unto you. Do you really believe that you have the power to issue decrees? Jesus Christ, the King of kings and the Lord of Lords, has given you the power of attorney. He has declared.

“14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.” (John 14:14)

IT SHALL BE SO

When you begin to make decrees as a prince, whatever you declare will happen. Whatever you ask to come will come and whatever you ask to go will go. Therefore, you can wake up in the morning and decree. "Poverty, go!" And it will be so. You will also say, "I command failure, defeat and sickness to go", and it will be so.

What you have just read is substantiated by the passage below.

"23 For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith." (Mark 11:23)

The Bible says that whatever you decree shall stand. Be assured you are no longer a pauper or a beggar; you are now a prince. You are no longer a coward. You are now a man or woman of authority. From now on, you should wake up each morning and say, "Sorrow, poverty and failure go!" and it shall be so.

A GREAT PRINCE

Have you ever wondered if what you have read so far is really possible? You may ask, has anyone ever become a prince and gone ahead to issue this kind of decree? There is one particular prince in the Bible who has done so. His name is Abraham. The story of one of his princely exploits can be found below:

“7 And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? 8 And Abraham said, My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together. 9 And they came to the place which God had told him of; and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. 10 And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. 11 And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. 12 And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. 13 And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son.” (Genesis 22:7-13)

Abraham did not behave like a beggar or someone who was in the dark as far as his princely rights were concerned. Even when God tested him, he behaved like a prince. His son Isaac asked to know where the lamb for the sacrifice would come from. He simply said, “God will provide Himself the lamb for the sacrifice”. There was no doubt whatsoever in his mind. He had the faith of a prince. True to his princely words, the lamb was provided before the end of that day. From now on, you too will wake up in the morning and decree that the Lord shall provide and it shall be so. When you decree, “The Lord shall provide a job or breakthrough”, it shall be so.

4. Whenever princes happen to go out, ways always open up to them. Princes always experience open doors. When a governor or a man of authority is going by car, the road will be cleared so that he can have an easy passage. As a result

of the divine encounter which you will have by reading this book, doors will begin to open.

“21 And Moses stretched out his hand over the sea; and the LORD caused the sea to go back by a strong east wind all that night, and made the sea dry land, and the waters were divided” (Exodus 14: 21)

Moses, the prince had an impassable obstacle before him. God miraculously caused an east wind to blow. Within a short time, a highway was created in the Red Sea. Right from this moment, you are going to wake up each morning and declare, “I am a prince of God, I hereby decree that everywhere I go today, ways will be open to me”. If any door refuses to open it will be forced open by the power of the Most High.

This reminds me of an incident which took place a couple of years ago, when I wanted to travel abroad. We left home quite early and we did not anticipate any unusual delay. Just as we were getting close to the airport we hit an obstacle in the form of an impassable traffic jam. The plane was billed to take off in less than an hour. Judging by the traffic situation, it could take close to two hours to get to the airport. We tried to turn back in order to find an alternative road. My driver, out of concern, asked me, “What shall we do sir?” I assured him, “God will make a way”. Exactly two minutes later, the sound of a siren came from nowhere. Car owners and pedestrians were pushed here and there. A VIP was coming.

Suddenly, the way opened. The car that was blowing the siren and the second car carrying the VIP drove through the heavy traffic. I tapped my driver, “That is the way I am talking about. Just drive along and follow the VIP’s car”. That was how God opened a way where there was a heavy traffic jam.

I believe you are going to have an encounter which will turn you into a prince. As a prince, you will simply stretch forth your hand, make a decree and ways will open.

5. Princes stay in their castles or palaces and have their goods and other material objects delivered to them. A king does not go about struggling; he simply sits down in his palace and people bring things to him. That is the mark

of kingship. When God makes you a prince, wherever your blessings are they will come looking for you. All those who are holding your blessings and miracles will not be at peace until they come looking for you. The Bible says:

“10 And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king. 11 And he said, this will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots. 12 And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to clear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots. 13 And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers. 14 And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your olive yards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants. 15 And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants. 16 And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and put them to his work. 17 He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants.” (1 Samuel 8:10-17)

When the children of Israel asked for a king, God told them if they wanted a king they would surely get one, but when the king comes he is going to take the best of your produce. He will take and put on your best clothes. He will take your most beautiful daughters as wives. He will turn your choicest young men to soldiers. He will demand the best and you will have no option than to give it to him. That is part of the characteristics of a king. The moment you become a king or a prince, the best will be reserved for you. No wonder the Bible says:

“If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land.” (Isaiah 1:19)

You are going to have a special encounter with God and the best of the nation will become yours.

DIVINE INTERVENTION

God is going to give you the very best in terms of prosperity. Only the best is good enough for a prince. Something happened several years ago when I was newly appointed as the General Overseer. I went on a personal visit to my home town. A member of my extended family came to pay me a visit. He happened to be an uncle. He looked up at me and said: “How can a big man like you who happens to be highly educated and well connected have no home in our village? Why don’t you put up a building? I am ready to assist by providing bags of cement and sand. Then you can pay me later when it is convenient for you”. I accepted the idea and told him to go ahead.

The building was put up, but I was left with a debt of three thousand naira, and my uncle kept harassing me to pay the debt. It became an embarrassing burden for me. Three thousand naira was a lot of money at that time. I simply told him, “Give me some time and I will pay your money”. As soon as I told him to give me some time, I cried unto God saying, “Oh Lord, help me, don’t let me be put to shame”.

A DIVINE SOLUTION

Before the man sent someone to demand the money, I spent all night praying. By the time I woke up the next morning, someone came to inform me that a stranger was looking for me. I asked that this man be allowed to come in. He was indeed a stranger. “Excuse me sir, who is the head of this organization?” he asked. “God”, I answered. “I understand that, sir, I’m asking to know who the human representative is”, he replied with a touch of courtesy in his voice. At that point I had no option than to tell him, “I’m the General Overseer”. “If you are the one”, he said, “then God has sent me to you”. He brought out an envelope from his pocket and stretched it towards me. “God instructed me to give this to you. At exactly this time yesterday I heard a strange voice, and God told me to get up and travel down to the south in search of the head of this organization”.

I collected the envelope and prayed for him. As soon as he departed, I quickly checked the content of the envelope. To my amazement and pleasant surprise, it was exactly three thousand naira. That was how God took care of my awkward situation and spared me embarrassment.

What you need is a fresh encounter with the Lord, and then your benefactors will come looking for you from the North, South, East and West. When you have an encounter with God, you will experience similar intervention.

THE SECRET

You may ask, what did Jacob the fugitive do in order to become a prince? The answer is he did not pray like a beggar, he prayed like a prince. He told God, “I am not going to let you go unless you bless me”. You need to pray like you have never prayed before. You must hold on to God and tell Him, “I am not going to stop praying until you pronounce me a prince”. You need to pray fervently until God makes you a prince.

The moment you become a prince, you will begin to enjoy the status described in this chapter. Pray as a prince, and you will rise up from the place of prayer, with royal blood flowing spiritually in your veins.

Chapter Eight



A Widow Who Moved From Penury to Plenty

In this chapter, we shall undertake a character study of a woman who moved from penury to plenty. Before she had an encounter with God, she was living in abject poverty. She grappled with mounting debt and her situation escalated until there was nothing left in her house but a jar of oil. Creditors even wanted to take her two sons away. In the midst of this terrible situation, she had a divine encounter at the end of which, she not only paid her debt but had more than enough to live on for the rest of her life.

“1 Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen. 2 And Elisha said unto her, what shall I do for thee? Tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil. 3 Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, even empty vessels; borrow not a few. 4 And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full. 5 So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought the vessels to her; and she poured out. 6 And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, There is not a vessel more. And the oil stayed. 7 Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, Go, sell the oil, and pay thy debt, and live thou and thy children of the rest.” (2 Kings 4:1-7)

This is a very familiar story, and it centres on a poor widow who found herself caught up in an embarrassing financial situation. She lived in debt. Consequently, she lived a fearful life, every day. Fear of her creditors made her heart beat faster. Every-day she expected that the creditors would come knocking, and this worries her greatly. One day, she grew tired of being in debt and she decided to do something about her situation. On that glorious day, she had an encounter with God and from that moment, she never lacked again. She paid all her debts and never lacked for the rest of her life. I believe that you are going to have the same kind of encounter which this woman had with God.

A lot of people have tried to make do with the bare minimum. They believe that living from hand to mouth is a normal human experience. Such people have yet

to discover the meaning of the words of Jesus:

“10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)

In this passage, we discover that there are three categories of life:

1. Life
2. Abundant life
3. More abundant life

Many people live at the first level; they just manage to exist. Such people manage to keep paying their rents and eat two or three meals a day. Such people go so far, but no further. Do you know what? God does not expect you just to have life; neither does He want you to have abundant life alone. He wants you to enjoy and experience the more abundant life.

AN OVERFLOW

It is certain that a divine encounter will take place whenever you get tired of merely existing. God wants you to be head and not tail. He wants you to lend to nations and never to borrow. The promise of God for you is that He will provide an ample supply of goods. You also need to wake up to the fact that God does not only want to make your cup full, He wants it to overflow. The moment you come to the realization of this fact, you will begin to experience a divine encounter. But if you are satisfied with the bare minimum, God may not do anything extra for you. This is what happened to the woman until she cried out for a change. She managed to survive each day but that was all.

One day came when she woke up and decided. "I will not continue like this. I am not going to remain poor". I made up my mind that I was not going to remain poor. Many people make this resolution. Early in life, they decide they will have the very best. This explains why many people become millionaires before they attain the age of 30. As far as God is concerned, the day you decide that enough is enough, He will start with you. As far as the woman was concerned, her circumstances pushed her into her breakthrough.

Unfortunately, many people have accepted problems as part and parcel of life. Many people are satisfied with second hand cars until they break down during a very important journey. When this happens such people will start thinking, "Wait a minute, I think I am better than this". The moment you wake up to the fact that billionaires and those who own private jets are mere human beings like you, you will desire a breakthrough. When you come to grips with this and start becoming angry with your situation, the tide will turn that day.

SEEK GOD'S FACE

When you also realize the fact that the kind of breakthrough which you need goes beyond what any man can give to you, you will seek God's face. If you must get to an exceptionally high level of prosperity, you will need God. The woman whose story we have just read knew that if she were to pay up her debts and live above subsistence level, she would need divine intervention. She knew that as she could not see God face to face, she must seek out a servant of God, tell him of her plight and ask for assistance in getting out of her problem.

The man of God linked the woman with the Creator of heaven and earth. Through the servant of God, the woman came face to face with the One of whom it is said:

"1 The earth is the LORD'S, and the fullness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein" (Psalm 24:1)

She came face to face with the God who gives power to obtain wealth. As soon as the woman had an encounter with the Lord, her situation changed.

What you need to do today is to make up your mind that you are going to stop struggling to survive. Things must change. You need also to make up your mind that you are going to become so blessed financially that your offspring will also remain wealthy. You must desire that God should bring you to a level of prosperity at which even if your grandchildren do nothing in their entire lives, they will remain rich. The moment you set your mind to achieving that level of prosperity, you will realize that no human being can take you there.

Therefore, when you know that the kind of prosperity which you desire is beyond the ability of man to obtain, you will turn unto God for an encounter.

The woman discovered that when a matter becomes desperate, one must turn to God. She did so and the man of God gave her a very important instruction; "Shut the door so that you can be alone with God. Shut out everyone so that you will not be distracted".

What you need to do in order to experience a divine encounter is to lock yourself

in with God. You must approach the One who has declared, *“I am the God of all flesh, is there anything too hard for Me?”* (Jeremiah 32:27) You must focus your attention on the God who said:

“15 Call upon Me in the day of trouble and I will deliver thee.” (Psalm 50:15)

You must call upon the God who said:

“6 And there shall be a tabernacle for a shadow in the daytime from the heat, and for a place of refuge, and for a covert from storm and from rain.” (Isaiah 4:6)

You need to lock yourself in with God and pray, “Oh! God, I am the one in need of prayer, help me”. Tell Him, “I need a breakthrough. I want to experience abundant life”. You need to tell Him, “Oh God, I don’t have anywhere else to go. You are my everything. Change my situation”. When you go to God with a burden in your heart, it becomes easy for you to obey Him.

What then can we learn from the woman? Let us examine what we can learn from this character study:

1. She obeyed the instruction given to her. Obedience forms an integral part of a Christian’s character. When you obey, God becomes committed to you. When you come to God with a burden, He is going to give you certain instructions.

The instruction given to the woman appeared tough. What she needed was money but she was told to go home and borrow empty vessels. The woman could have said, “Sir, what I need is money, not empty vessels”. Again, she would have argued, “If I pour the little oil I have into empty vessels and I then pour it into the bottle, a substantial part of the oil will be lost. Therefore, why waste the little oil I have, and go from certainty to uncertainty?” However, the woman did not argue, she obeyed. She was ready to do whatever God asked her to do.

Many people desire a divine encounter but are not willing to obey God. The condition for experiencing a divine encounter has been clearly spelt out in Isaiah 1:19:

“19 If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land” (Isaiah

1:19)

2. Hard work

The woman was ready to do a lot of hard work. It took a lot of effort to go from house to house gathering empty vessels. Pouring the overflowing oil into empty vessels also called for hard work.

The level of breakthrough which the woman experienced was determined by the number of empty vessels which she filled. When there were no more empty vessels, the oil stopped flowing. Anyone who wants to have an encounter with God must make up his or her mind to be ready to obey God and work hard. If you are asking for open doors, you must get ready for hard work. The moment God begins to bless you with open doors, you will need to work really hard. When opportunities come your way and contracts keep pouring in, you will need to work hard to keep up with the pace. It takes hard work to bring in empty vessels. When you turn to God and declare, "Oh God, I am depending on you", God will give you lots of instructions and ideas. God will tell you, "Pay all your tithes. Give your offerings. Pray night and day. Study the Bible and share the gospel with others".

3. Receive a life changing breakthrough

When the woman locked herself in with God, she was determined to reach the height that God had determined for her. God gave her only one breakthrough, and that was the end of the story. All you need from God is just one breakthrough. The Bible says:

"10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." (Malachi 3:10)

Here, God promises to pour out just one blessing. Just one blessing is sufficient to change your life forever. If you recall the story of Jehosaphat you will discover that when the enemy attacked him, God gave him one breakthrough. But it took three days to bring in the money. (2 Chronicles 20:25) I know there is someone who will be so blessed by God, that when they take their money to the bank, the bank staff will have to close their doors for three days just to count the money.

If God gives you just one breakthrough you will never need to borrow again. I am sure you are familiar with the story of Peter. He threw only one net into the sea, yet his boat and that of his neighbours were so filled with fish that they began to sink. The God of a single breakthrough is still on the throne today. For quite a long time, He has been waiting to give you one life changing breakthrough. He is ready to give you an uncommon breakthrough, if only you are ready to declare, “Enough is enough, I don’t want to manage my way life on my own anymore”.

You should ask God to so bless you extraordinarily, that you will single-handedly build a Christian television station and a hundred churches within one year!

4. Surrender your all to God

There is a very important point which we ought to take note of as we bring the woman’s story to an end.

“Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen.” (2 Kings 4:1)

The woman stated categorically that her husband feared the Lord. What she was saying is that her entire household led holy lives. Note this: you cannot expect a miracle from a holy God when you are living an unholy life. If you want something from God, and you are not willing to live a holy life, you are not asking for miracles, but rather for magic. God is not a magician. Anyone who wants to prosper without living a holy life should go instead to an occultist. What such a person needs, is a charm, not a miracle. When you obtain money from the kingdom of darkness, however you should be ready to pay the price.

GOD'S BLESSINGS

However, “*the blessings of the Lord, it maketh rich and he addeth no sorrow with it.*” (Proverbs 10:22). If you actually desire an encounter with God you must give your life to Christ. If you know that you are born again, but you are still living in sin, you must rededicate your life today.

The character we have examined in this chapter goes a long way to prove to us that anyone can experience a divine encounter. If a widow could experience an outstanding breakthrough, you too can experience an encounter with God. Just observe this woman's character and follow the principles which you have discovered. No matter how bad your condition is, God can bring about a change that will fill your mouth with laughter and your heart with rejoicing. Who knows? Your own encounter with God may become one outstanding story of God's goodness and His faithfulness.

Seek God's face today and your testimony will be a challenge to this, and indeed, to future generations.

Prayer Points

1. Father, choose me for your glory.
2. Father, I am ready for hard work; open doors unto me.
3. Praise and worship God in your own special way.
4. Father, if there is any curse left in my life, erase it today in the name of Jesus.
5. Oh God, let me have an encounter with you today.
6. Father, starting from today, give me a miracle in every area of my life.
7. Almighty God, choose me as a recipient of divine encounter today.
8. Father, beginning from now, make me a prince.
9. I decree in the mighty name of Jesus, doors and ways will begin to open unto me.
10. I decree that my miracles should begin to come in the name of Jesus.
11. Cry unto God, "I will not let you go except you bless me".
12. Father, from today, you can trust me, I will obey you, I will consecrate my life to you and surrender my life to you completely.
13. My Father, I am of the seed of Abraham, pour your blessing upon me in Jesus name.
14. Father, I am your miracle baby, so from today and onwards, let there be miracles in my life.
15. Oh Father, give me a mighty and a spectacular breakthrough in every facet of my life.
16. Every wall of Jericho that might want to stand against my prayer today must fall in Jesus name.
17. Father, the grace to obey you fully, give to me today in the name of Jesus.
18. Father, I have no one except you, help me today.
19. Father, thank you for the drops of mercy but now, I need the showers of blessings.
20. Father, oh Lord, give me one major breakthrough so that I will never lack again.
21. Father, this day, bring me out of obscurity into divine limelight.
22. Father, may every reproach, including poverty, death, lack of

promotion, sickness, disease, stagnation, ache be removed today to the glory of your name.

23. Father, make me a notable testimony to the glory of your holy name in Jesus name.

24. Worship God and praise His Holy name as no one else has ever done.

25. Holy Father, give me something to testify about.

26. Father, open my lips and my mouth shall show forth your praise.

27. Every reproach and obstacle in my life be removed in Jesus name.

28. My Father and my God, bless and prosper me mightily.

29. Lift up your voice and pray, "Father, let the power of your resurrection touch my life today".

30. Father, open a big and mighty way for me in Jesus name.

31. Father, take me from where I am to a height so great that my testimony will shake the whole world.

32. Oh Lord, give me a mighty divine encounter in Jesus name.

33. Almighty God, visit my home today.

34. Father, try me with a major breakthrough to the glory of your holy name.

35. Oh Father, issue a decree today that impossibilities will become possible in my life.

36. Father, make me an incredible sower.

37. Father, let my cup of joy overflow.

38. Oh God Almighty, don't let me miss my opportunity and my day of rejoicing.

39. Father, give me the grace to persist and pray until I get my miracle in the name of Jesus Christ.

40. Oh Lord, I know what I want: I want to be the head and not the tail, I want to be the greatest, the richest, the most anointed, the best for your glory.

41. Father, it is my turn now to share a testimony that will shake the whole world for your glory.

42. Father, destroy every trace of evil in my past today.

43. Dear Father, cancel every evil in my future, any death that is waiting for me, any sickness that is waiting for me, any loss that is waiting for me today in the name of Jesus.

44. Father, give me a new name of victory, breakthrough, success, prosperity and supernatural abundance in Jesus name.

45. Oh Lord, bless me today so that anything I touch will be blessed.

46. Ask God anything you want Him to do for you.

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