

OVERCOMING THE ENEMIES OF FAITH

DR. BOBBS LYONGA

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WHY I WROTE THIS BOOK

It takes faith to move mountains, and the mountains of life are real and they affect everyone. All mountains can be moved by faith, be it a mountain of sickness, poverty, failure, barrenness, stagnation etc.

Faith is a force. A force mighty enough to grant you victory in the face of every challenge no matter the name or duration it has lasted. It will forever remain the victory that overcomes the world. Thus, it takes faith to live at the 'over-comer's' realm, reason why it must not be compromised. In the spirit realm, faith failure is likened to heart failure in the natural.

Satan understands that he will inevitably lose once he is battled in faith, for faith is the realm that makes spiritual battles winnable. Remember that Satan stood helpless before your faith and saw you walking majestically out of his kingdom the moment you put your faith

in Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. What happened is that your faith kept him in check.

Consequently, all that which God has in stock for you on the grounds of redemption is yours to claim by faith. Therefore, it is unto every man according to his faith. Your faith determines your testimony; it determines your measure of inheritance as well as the quality of your Christian life.

We are admonished to fight the good fight of faith, implying that there are enemies of faith. Beloved, this book examines some of the commonest enemies that Satan uses to attack your faith on a daily basis, as well as the strategies to overcome them.

The fight of faith has the following Characteristics:

It Is A Fight, Not A Joke.

I believe many people take for granted their God given responsibility to develop their

individual faith to Chrislike maturity, and in so doing, they end up paying dearly for it. Attempting to strengthen your faith only when you are challenged, is trying to prepare for war amidst a battle.

It Is A Good Fight.

A good fight because there is inevitable victory in faith. Genuine faith never fails to receive victory.

It Is A Fight Only You Can Fight.

God will certainly allow mature believers to carry baby Christians on their faith for a while so they can obtain answers to their prayers. However, in time, everyone gets to a point where receiving from God requires personal faith.

WHY YOU SHOULD READ THIS BOOK

In reading this book therefore, my hope is that your faith will be so robust, to put the devil on the run in your life and to successfully tackle and conquer every giant standing on the way to your promised land.

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CHAPTER 1

FAITH VERSUS FEAR

AND HE SAID TO THEM, “WHY ARE YOU SO FEARFUL?

HOW IS IT THAT YOU STILL HAVE NO FAITH?”

(MARK 4:40)

Fear is an enemy of faith. In the story above, the disciples saw the raging storm, and the waters filling the boat, and were attacked by the spirit of fear.

You notice that, as soon as fear attacked their minds, Jesus at that instance, described them as having no faith. This is not to say they hadn't any faith. Rather, the Lord was teaching us that, the spirit of fear has a paralyzing effect on faith. Fear cripples faith muscles and renders faith impotent. That is to say, faith and fear are incompatible. The two can never cohabit. It is either a person is in faith, or he is in fear.

As a believer, you need to understand that the spirit of fear only attacks you through your

unrenewed mind. Hence, you can resist the spirit of fear and command it to leave.

Jesus told His disciples that they had no faith. But, as a New Testament believer, there is no way you could be without faith. For, to be without faith will imply that you are no longer a child of God. We are saved by grace through faith. So, you must have faith to be saved.

This same account according to Saint Mathew, is rendered as the disciples having little faith (Mathew 8:26). Meaning, little faith is the category of faith that can easily be attacked by the spirit of fear.

If you are a victim of the spirit of fear, you have to upgrade your faith to great faith. Little faith is moved by what it sees while great faith is moved by what it believes.

Little faith can initiate the process, but cannot sustain the miracle it initiated. Brethren, like Kenneth Hagin will rightly say, "Fear and doubt are the twin that Satan uses the most to rob

God's children of their blessings." Fear is an enemy and should be treated as such.

"FOR GOD GAVE US A SPIRIT NOT OF FEAR BUT OF POWER AND LOVE AND
SELF-CONTROL."

(2 TIMOTHY 1:7)

Fear is a spirit. Thus, the moment you begin to feel fearful, it is not just a negative thought going through your mind, but you are actually being attacked by a bodiless entity called the spirit of fear.

Interestingly, every spirit can be dealt with in the name of Jesus. Once you understand that fear is a spirit, you equally realize that you can bind that spirit and command it in the name of Jesus to leave.

Fear is of the devil because it is not of God. Now, the point I'm trying to make is this; everything from the devil is like the devil and must be angrily resisted by the child of God.

If fear is of the devil, then as a child of God, you have no business being afraid. On this note, I bind every spirit of fear molesting your life in the name of Jesus. I command every yoke of fear to be destroyed right now in the name of Jesus.

“THERE IS NO FEAR IN LOVE; BUT PERFECT LOVE CAST OUT FEAR:
BECAUSE FEAR HAS TORMENT. HE THAT FEARS IS NOT MADE PERFECT IN
LOVE.”

(1 JOHN 4:18)

Faith breeds peace, whereas fear has torment. It is easy to know when you begin to accommodate thoughts of fear. What happens is that, you lose your peace and become agitated.

Anxiety, worries, and a general panic stricken state connotes the torment of fear. To believe God, is to stand still and hold your peace. When your heart is fixed on God because you trust in him, you will enjoy perfect peace.

You know, religious folks believe perfect peace is only in eternity, but Isaiah notes that by faith, we can enjoy perfect peace while on earth.

“THOU WILT KEEP HIM IN PERFECT PEACE, WHOSE MIND IS STAYED ON
THEE: BECAUSE HE TRUSTS IN THEE.”

(ISA 26:3)

Perfect love cast out fear. Meaning, growth in the knowledge and wisdom of God is paramount in dealing with the spirit of fear. To remain a spiritual baby, is to remain a permanent victim of fear. But, as you mature in knowledge and the love of God, it becomes easier to walk triumphantly in faith.

I once heard a great servant of God say he had deleted all fear files from his mind. In other words, he said, “I can’t be afraid.”

The great apostle John says there is no fear in love. Meaning, it is actually possible for a believer to come to a stage of fearlessness in his life, just like a charging stallion racing with its rider to the battle field in absolute fearlessness.

I decree in the name of the lord Jesus Christ that you are coming to the place in your walk of

faith, wherein you will never again in your life know the meaning of fear in Jesus name.

“FEAR THOU NOT; FOR I AM WITH THEE: BE NOT DISMAYED; FOR I AM THY
GOD.

(ISA 41:10)

When you know who is with you, in you and for you, then you will cease to fear. You see, the spirit of fear is largely sponsored by ignorance.

Someone rightly said that fear, is having more faith in the ability of the enemy, than in the ability of God. It is the knowledge of God's ability that makes the difference amongst men.

“I SOUGHT THE LORD AND HE HEARD ME AND DELIVERED ME FROM ALL
MY FEARS.”

(PSALMS 34:4)

You can be delivered from all your fears. Whatever the devil is threatening your life with right now is just a threat, and that is all there is to it. That is to say, you can perpetually silence the devil in your life. And friends, you don't

need any other help but the help of God to be delivered from all your fears.

I know that when people feel threatened, they can do and undo. Some can even go as far as to compromise their faith in Christ. God is big enough, to help you conquer all your fears, and silence all the threats of the enemy. What is that challenge threatening your life and peace? I curse it in the name of Jesus!

I decree divine intervention and I prophesy that before you are done reading this book, that test will become your greatest testimony in the name of Jesus Christ!

Now, let me address whosoever is threatening your life and jeopardizing your destiny. I decree that, that person will not survive the judgmental fire of God in the name of Jesus.

“FOR YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE SPIRIT OF BONDAGE AGAIN TO FEAR;
BUT YE HAVE RECEIVED THE SPIRIT OF ADOPTION, WHEREBY WE CRY;
ABBA, FATHER.”

(ROMANS 8:15)

I find it quite interesting, that another name for the spirit of fear is the spirit of bondage. Meaning, anytime you allow fear in your heart, you give the devil permission to enslave your destiny. Fear attracts all manner of bondages.

Fear can cause you to sin and even deny God. Fear can make you poor, fail, stagnate, sick, and even die prematurely. I curse every fearful thought, suggestion, and imagination in your mind right now to die in the name of Jesus.

“BUT THE VERY HAIRS OF YOUR HEAD ARE ALL NUMBERED. FEAR YE NOT,
YOU ARE OF MORE VALUE THAN MANY SPARROWS.”

(MATHEW 10:30-31)

When you know your real value in the eyes of God, how much he cares for you and is jealous over you, you will cease to worry about a lot of things. Value communicates importance and importance determines attention.

Child of God, you have the Lord's permanent attention because you are the apple of his eyes. By the revelation of his wonderful love for you,

I decree the casting away of every spirit of fear in the name of Jesus Christ. Fear limits possibilities, whereas faith multiples possibilities.

As you embark today on a most exciting journey of faith, I decree that you will not know limitations. You will not know frustration. You will not know stagnation. You will not know oppression and you will never again be molested by the devil in Jesus Name!

CHAPTER 2

FAITH VERSUS FEELINGS

“FOR WE WALK BY FAITH, NOT BY SIGHT”

(2 CORINTHIANS 5:7)

Sight, is one of the five physical senses. The other four are the sense of taste, hearing, smell, and touch. The realm of feeling is in the realm of the senses. Walking by the senses is an enemy to faith.

Now get me right; in the natural, you certainly have to walk by your senses. For example, if you wanted to cross the road and saw a car coming, you would better believe what your eyes see and step aside.

But, in our spiritual (Christian) walk with Christ, walking by the senses is a limitation because the senses have to do with feelings and faith has nothing to do with feelings.

The only evidence that genuine faith stands on is the word of God. Abiding to the realm of feelings is abiding to the realm of the senses, and feelings can be misleading.

Take for example the case of Abraham. At a hundred, it is obvious that his body did not feel like that of a man who could father a child because he was already impotent.

Likewise Sarah, who at ninety, probably did not feel like a woman who could become pregnant and deliver a child. But, standing on the promise of God, they disregarded their feelings, believed God, and counted Him too faithful to fail and eventually Isaac was born.

Faith does not work by feelings. It only works by the word of God. When hands are laid on someone in need of healing and the person is asked, "Do you believe you are healed?" If he says, "Yes, I do because I feel much better now," you perceive right away that the person is not

healed because he is at the sense realm, crediting his healing to his feelings.

It is obvious then, that when this same person begins to feel different, he will once again confess his sickness and it will sure return on him with full force. What you say is what you have.

Do not say you are healed because you feel much better after hands were laid on you. Rather, believe that you are healed because it is written, "They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover." That is faith talking.

The language of faith is the word of God, nothing more, nothing less. It is absolutely impossible, to function at the sense (feeling) realm and receive from God. Faith is the evidence of things not seen, not sensed, and not felt.

I guess no other story in the bible illustrates better the battle between faith and feelings like the account of Thomas the apostle. When

Thomas was told that Jesus had risen from the dead, he disbelieved the claims of the other apostles and vehemently testified that he could only believe that Christ was indeed risen from the dead if he could touch (sense or feel) his wounds.

The Lord eventually gave him the opportunity to act on his unbelief and upon touching Jesus wounds, he exclaimed “My Lord and my God!” The lord in response said, Now you believe because you see (feel) me, but blessed are those who believe without seeing (feeling).

The lesson the Lord is teaching us through Thomas’ experience is; we should believe God in spite of our senses. Learn to believe God in spite of your feelings. Faith is beyond the realm of the senses. Once the force of faith is triggered, God goes to work. With the switch of faith kept on, feelings will eventually come. Believing comes before feelings.

You believe to feel. You do not feel to believe you are healed. The man Kenneth Hagin said, he began declaring audibly, “I believe I receive healing for my deformed heart, for my incurable blood disease, and for my paralyzed body...” while his legs were perfectly numb. He even made an effort to move, but his legs were as dead as two dry logs of wood.

Yet, upon maintaining the right confession and actions, it wasn't too long until feelings began returning to his legs, and before long, he was at the breakfast table after sixteen long months being bedfast. Friends, never allow your feelings to defeat you. Never allow your feelings to rob you of God's best for your life.

Once, Smith Wigglesworth was asked how he felt and he responded saying, “I don't ask my body how it feels, I tell it how to feel.” Such is the language of a man who has understood how to work his faith and get results from God.

It is said of Archbishop Benson Idahosa, that one day he was to go for a program and he realized one of his legs would not move. A sudden attack of paralysis hit the leg to prevent him from carrying on God's assignment.

This giant of faith, after dressing up, picked up his bible and declared to the leg, "Leg, I'm going ahead for the meeting, if you care you can follow me behind." Upon that declaration, the leg had no choice than to follow him to the program. Never allow your feelings work against you.

Personally, I remember some years back we had a crusade at Tekeh - Tombel road. I had fasted and prayed so hard for the program, only for a heavy down pour to disrupt the program at the last minute.

While in Kumba, I called the pastor of Tekeh and told him to dismiss the crowd because there was no way I could make it to Tekeh. I undressed, break my fast with a good meal, and

took my mind off the program. Less than an hour later, the pastor from Tekeh called and informed me that the rain had ceased and that the people had re-gathered and were expecting me.

I tried to dissuade him, giving several excuses how I could no longer minister after such a heavy meal, but he insisted. I thought to myself, I will just go for them to see me, raise a couple of prayer points and close the meeting.

Upon my arrival at Tekeh, I felt so dumb and dry in the spirit. Yet, seeing how expectant everyone was, I decided to lay hands on a few sick folks. Amazingly, we had the most astonishing miracle service, one I had never seen in my ten years of ministration. The power of God was so drastic that a life centipede jumped out of a lady's body. Till this day, that crusade is much talked about at Tekeh.

If I had succumb to my feelings, I would have mounted the pulpit and announced, "People of

Tekeh I am sorry I cannot minister tonight because I feel so disconnected from God's power. You guys stand up, stretch hands and pray for me." I would have been a disappointment to the minions who came seeking the face of God.

Faith is movement in spite of opposition. God had planned to bless His people and just wanted someone to avail himself for Him to use. Bless God I moved in spite of the odds. God saw my going to Tekeh that evening as an act of faith and blessed us beyond our expectations.

Faith got the job done, and brought down the power of God on that crusade ground so mightily that a certain lady who had a condition in her legs, was hit by the power of God over a hundred meters away from the crusade ground. Right there in her work shop, the power of God hit her legs and healed her condition. She ran to the crusade ground where she shared her testimony to the glory of God.

For faith to be stable, it needs to stand on something more stable than feelings-the everlasting word of God that abides forever. To walk by feelings is to be carnally minded, while to walk by faith is to be spiritually minded

CHAPTER 3

FAITH VERSUS NEGATIVE CONFESSIONS

**“SAY UNTO THEM, AS TRULY AS I LIVE, SAYS THE LORD, AS YOU HAVE
SPOKEN IN MINE EARS, SO WILL I DO TO YOU”**

(NUMBERS 14:28)

A negative confession is not necessarily saying something negative; rather it is saying something which is contrary to the promises of God. For example, saying “I believe if I’m sick, God will heal me” is quite a negative confession for two reasons: First, God did not promise to heal you, he already did so two thousand years ago. Healing in the redemption is a statement of fact and not a promise.

Secondly, the statement “If I am sick...” is wrong because you are creating the possibility to be sick, whereas in Christ, divine health is fully part of your inheritance. In Christ, God has made provisions for you to live all the days of your life without pain, sickness, and disease until you fall asleep in the Lord.

Friend, this is the gospel. Please understand that your faith can never rise above your confessions. Your confessions actually set the landmark to your blessings.

“WE HAVING THE SAME SPIRIT OF FAITH, ACCORDING AS IT IS WRITTEN, I BELIEVED AND THEREFORE HAVE I SPOKEN; WE ALSO BELIEVE AND THEREFORE WE SPEAK.”

(2 CORINTHIANS 4:13)

Beloved, the above verse indicates that if what you believe is not vocalized, it is not faith. In other words, you haven't truly believed the word of God if you are not confessing the same with your mouth. If it is not spoken, then it is another spirit in manifestation, not the spirit of faith.

“I BELIEVED, THEREFORE I HAVE SPOKEN.”

(PSALMS 116:10)

You see, the confession of your mouth must align with the believe in your heart for it to be faith. Thus, when for example you claim you are

healed but keep saying, “The pain is killing me,” you are not acting in faith. Let me reiterate, your confession sets the landmark to your blessings because your faith can only rise to the level of your confession. It takes faith to receive from God.

The children of Israel confessed to their detriment when they complained that God had brought them to the wilderness to die and for their children to be fatherless. And behold, that is exactly what they got. Since their faith could not rise above their confession, they were defeated by their negative confession, not by the giants in the land.

Many of God’s children today are also sinking in life because of negative confessions. Friends, if you want your faith to work, watch your words. The faith in your heart can only be released by the words you utter. Whenever you talk, it is your faith speaking.

“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 SAYS SHALL COME TO
PASS; HE SHALL HAVE WHATSOEVER HE SAYS.”

(MARK 11:23)

What you say is your faith speaking. The scriptures say you shall have what you say and not what you believe. This implies that, if you believe the right thing but say the wrong thing, your negative confession will strangle your faith.

If you believe what the word says, but say things that are contrary to the word, your faith will not work. There is no gainsaying therefore, that a negative confession is one great enemy to faith.

“THAT IF YOU CONFESS WITH YOUR MOUTH, “JESUS IS LORD,” AND
BELIEVE IN YOUR HEART THAT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, YOU
SHALL BE SAVED.”

(ROMANS 10:9)

When it comes to salvation, we realize that the two aspects of faith come to play. First, you

have to believe in your heart and second, you have to confess with your mouth. You have to confess Jesus as Lord to be saved. It is the confession of Jesus as Lord that destroys your allegiance to your former master, Satan. Your confession puts God in charge of your life.

“FOR WITH THE HEART MAN BELIEVES UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS; AND WITH THE MOUTH CONFSSION IS MADE UNTO SALVATION.”

(ROMANS 10:10)

Confession is made unto salvation. The word salvation comes from the Greek word *sozo*, which connotes “Healing, soundness, deliverance, safety, preservation etc.” Thus, it is upon your positive confession of God’s word, that you actually enjoy the benefits of your salvation.

Believing in the heart gives you a right standing before God, but the actual manifestation of your blessings, hinges on your positive confession of God’s word. Your faith determines your fate. Your understanding of faith determines how

outstanding you become. God cannot change your life until he can change your confession.

Words are spiritual containers of the power of God. Words are the way God works. It is words God used to create the universe. When your words agree with your believe, you create the right environment for God to work in your situation.

Learn to align your confession with the word of God because Jesus, your High Priest is seated on the throne to ensure the words you speak come to pass in your life. God says; decree a thing and it shall be established. By your positive confession, you give Him something to work with that will bring about the tangible manifestations of your faith.

CHAPTER 4

FAITH VERSUS NEGATIVE ACTIONS

“YOU SEE THAT HIS FAITH AND HIS ACTIONS WERE WORKING TOGETHER, AND HIS FAITH WAS MADE COMPLETE BY WHAT HE DID.”

(JAMES 2:22)

God’s general, Kenneth E. Hagin once said; the Lord told him, “Your actions either defeat you or bless you.” That is to say that, your faith is not faith until it is accompanied by corresponding action. Faith is an action word and believing is acting on the word of God.

When you believe the word but fail to act on it, you simply mentally agreed to the truthfulness of the word. In the school of faith, actions matter. Positive actions that agree with God’s word, will build your faith, while negative actions that are contrary to the word will destroy faith.

A negative action is an action of doubt and unbelief. You see my friends, faith is just like love, and it can only be expressed by your

actions and confessions. Faith without corresponding actions is dead. Negative actions kill faith.

When the ten spies brought back an evil report (a report of doubt and unbelief) to the children of Israel, the bible says that they wept, grumbled, and rebelled against Moses.

By their negative actions, they eventually failed to obtain God's promise of entering the Promised Land and died in the wilderness. Your faith will not crash in Jesus name. It is not enough to celebrate the promises of God, but you must equally watch and see that you act in accordance with God's promise for your life, to live the reality thereof.

Moses too, failed to enter the Promised Land because he acted in unbelief. God asked him to strike the rock the first time the people complained for water. He did, and the water flowed.

But then, the second time they complained, God asked Moses to speak to the rock (since Christ the living rock that was amongst them cannot be crucified twice), but Moses went right ahead and stroke the rock just like he did the first time.

The water did flow, but God was angry with Moses for failing to honour Him before the people, because Moses had not acted in faith (in accordance with God's instruction). Eventually, Moses was defeated by his negative action.

Friend, with God, actions are weighed because God can see your faith through your actions. Faith without corresponding actions is dead and dead faith will do you no good.

It takes living faith to move the living God. Kenneth Hagin said; he once ministered to a minister of God who was sick. He said in the cause of praying for this man of God, he felt a strong presence come into the room and upon opening his eyes to look, he saw the lord Jesus

in an open vision standing with a vial of oil besides this minister.

Kenneth Hagin said; he turned to the minister and said, "The lord Jesus is standing right by your bedside with your healing, rise up and collect it."

He said this man unconsciously directed his gaze directly to where Jesus was standing, made an effort to stretch his hands, then dropped them and dropped his head confessing, "I can't, I just can't."

The man did so about three times, and the Lord turned to Kenneth Hagin and said, "You asked me to heal him and I came right here to his bedside with his healing, but he refused to receive it."

It was God's will to heal that man of God, but he was defeated by his negative action and confession and eventually died prematurely, without fulfilling God's plan for his life.

God has made everything available to us that pertain to life and godliness. It remains your responsibility to receive it. This, you can only do when your actions agree with our believing.

Stop struggling to believe the word of God, all there is to do is just act on the word as though it were true. Receive grace today to become a doer of the word in the Name of Jesus.

Early in the year 2018, the lord impressed in my heart to build my own residence. Amazingly, this instruction came only a few days after I told the leaders of our church that we were not to carry out any project that year, seeing how much we had spent the previous year and the year before in the construction of our church auditorium.

In obedience to the word of God, I looked for a well digger to dig the well that will supply water for the said project, and we agreed on the amount I was to pay him.

Friends, I can attest before God and man that all these arrangements were made without a dime in our church coffers. One of our junior pastors visited me that morning and when he saw the work, he was so excited and dropped a seed of ten thousand francs.

So, I can rightly say we launched the building of that house with ten thousand francs. Guess what? To the glory of God, within six months, we spent millions on a project that was launched with just ten thousand francs.

People have accused me of being an occultist, considering the way we get things done in our ministry. I agree to the charge. The reality is this, the only occultism I know and practice is called faith in the living God.

Faith puts man in God's class. i.e. the realm where all things are possible. Faith is a universal currency. By your faith, you can trade and obtain by far what your account could ever provide for you.

Personally, my whole life has been a life of faith. I went into ministry by faith, got married by faith, planted branches by faith, and obtained my first and second cars by faith. Built our church auditorium by faith, built my house by faith, and friends, we are just bracing up to begin the most exciting part of it.

In all these ventures, if I had gone by my account or the church account, nothing would have been done till this present date. But ignoring how “rich” (let the poor say I am rich) we were, I stepped out by faith. God showed up, and showered us with His blessings beyond my wildest imagination.

Oh! What a beautiful life the life of faith is. If you wait for fair weather, you will never get anything done in life. Receive grace today to begin a most exciting adventure of faith in Jesus Name. How wonderful it is to see how faith can commit God to act.

In the year 2018, I moved over to Douala to plant a branch of our ministry. After four weeks of fruitless efforts in search of a hall, I finally decided to claim by faith the one I thought will suit the purpose.

Some of the brethren discouraged me saying the hall could never be given out to a church. Ignoring all their comments, I planned our inaugural service in that same venue and sent out invitations, asking people to join me there on a Sunday morning at 9:00 AM for service without even knowing who the owner of the hall was.

God saw that my faith had committed him to act, and bless God, He moved in our favour. The night before the service, one of our pastors and I went to negotiate for the hall we had already advertised in our program, and sure enough it was given out. Only, the owner told us we could only use it for that Sunday and that will be the last.

However, in the course of the service, I announced to the church that our next meeting was still to hold there the upcoming Sunday, committing God again to act. And bless God, this time the hall was given to us to use as long as we will desire to be there, under conditions you will find nowhere in the city of Douala, where accommodation is a major challenge. It is unimaginable how easily faith can get things done

CHAPTER 5

FAITH VERSUS DOUBLE CONFESSIONS

“A DOUBLE MINDED MAN IS UNSTABLE IN ALL HIS WAYS”.

(JAMES 1:8)

A double confession is one of the greatest enemies to faith because it is an unstable confession that is constantly wavering between different opinions. On one hand, it is confession of faith and on the other, a confession of doubts and unbelief.

It is the result of failing to holdfast unto one's confession of faith. It is dangerous because a negative confession has the power to destroy the positive confession you earlier made.

**“CAN BOTH FRESH WATER AND SALT WATER FLOW FROM THE SAME
SPRING”**

(JAMES 3:11)

In the natural, it is not possible for the same spring to bring forth both fresh and salt water,

and so too is a double confession an unlawful operation in the realm of the spirit. The point here is that, it is not enough to make the right confession, for we must hold fast to the same until the manifestation comes.

It was E.W Kenyon who said he was defeated in life until he realized that the problem was not the devil, it was rather the double confessions he used to make, confessing at one time his healing and the next moment his pain. Once he corrected his confession and held fast the right confession of God's word, things turned around and he began walking in victory.

“LET US HOLD FAST THE PROFESSION OF OUR FAITH WITHOUT WAVERING;
(FOR HE IS FAITHFUL THAT PROMISED).”

(HEBREWS 10:23)

Friends, I can tell you that holding fast to the right confession will prove to be one of the most difficult things to do. Indeed, holding to a singular confession is an aspect of the fight of faith we are called to fight as believers because,

each time your mind reclines to the natural, you will be tempted to make the wrong confession.

As a university student, we learnt to make negative confessions such as, “Things are tough, things are tight,” while soliciting sympathy and help from friends and loved ones. Even after graduating from the University, this attitude stayed with me. When friends will call me on phone and ask, “Man, how is the going?” without thinking, I would immediately respond, like before “Man, things are tight.”

On my way to church one day, I remember I was trusting God for a certain amount of money I’d claimed in faith. Then my phone rang, and one of those old friends was at the other side of the line and he asked, “Man, how are things?”

Without blinking, I quickly responded, “Things are tight.” Instantly, I heard an audible voice say behind me “That is exactly why things are tight, because you just said so.” Those words brought me to the consciousness that I had been making

n g a double confession, and that was the reason for the scarcity I was experiencing back then.

I repented, and from that day forward, I changed my confession. Once I pray and believe God for something I need, be it finances or healing, I fight to hold onto my confession until the manifestation comes.

People say “talk is cheap,” but friends, I can tell you that right talk is not cheap at all. Right talk is very expensive, that is why people find it difficult to talk right. Now, someone may ask, “For how long should one hold unto his confession of faith?” The response is this, hold unto your confession until your manifestation comes.

Kenneth Hagin said; he maintained a particular confession for four solid years before his manifestation came. Friend, do not waver, holdfast to the confession of your faith till the very end. It will pay off richly.

You see friends; the bible is not just asking you to hold fast to your confession of faith without giving you reason for encouraging such an attitude.

“LET US HOLDFAST THE CONFESSION OF OUR FAITH WITHOUT WAVERING;
(FOR HE IS FAITHFUL THAT PROMISED).”

(HEBREWS 10:23)

The second part of that verse says; he is faithful that promised. So, you are to holdfast your confession of faith on the grounds of God's faithfulness.

He is faithful that promised, and if you are convinced of his faithfulness and know that he can by no means fail, you can be one hundred percent confident that as long as you hold unto the confession of his word, He is certain to make that word good in your life.

God is not man to lie! Neither is He the son of man that he should repent. Thus, a double confession is actually the product of your lack of confidence in God's faithfulness. Doubting the

faithfulness of God affects your confession. Doubting his faithfulness is reflected in your double confession.

The bible heroes of faith had confidence in the faithfulness of God, and counted him too faithful to fail. Consequently, they always received the manifestation of God's promise in their lives.

“AND BY FAITH, EVEN SARAH WHO WAS PAST CHILDBEARING AGE WAS
ENABLED TO BEAR CHILDREN BECAUSE SHE CONSIDERED HIM FAITHFUL
WHO HAD MADE THE PROMISE.”

(HEBREWS 11:11)

God does not just want you to remember his promises without you remembering the character of he who stands behind those promises.

Faithful is he that promised. Wherefore, I admonish you to holdfast to the confession of your faith without wavering, and the hand of God will be evident in your life. He did not fail Abraham, so he will not fail you.

Faith holds the same value anywhere in this world and it will deliver accordingly notwithstanding your condition, denomination, colour, education and gender. My counsel to you is to follow the example of the apostle Paul who said:

“SO I STRIVE ALWAYS TO KEEP MY CONSCIENCE CLEAR BEFORE GOD AND
MAN”

(ACTS 24:16)

Your conscience will not be clear with all men just because you want it so, No! You will have to work on it. The above verse says strive, and to strive demands some effort on your part. Fighting to maintain a clear conscience is another dimension to the fight of faith.

I call on you right now to drop this book and prayerfully examine your heart. Ask the Lord to reveal to you all those you need to forgive and do so right now. If you need to make a phone call, then do so. If you have to meet some of the people physically, then equally do so.

As you do this, I curse every symptom of affliction on your body to disappear in the name of Jesus. Satan will never have the upper hand over your life.

CHAPTER 6

FAITH VERSUS MENTAL ACCENT

**“BUT THAT ON THE GOOD GROUND ARE THEY WHICH IN AN HONEST
AND GOOD HEART HAVING HEARD THE WORD KEEP IT AND BRING
FORTH FRUIT WITH PATIENCE.”**

(LUKE 8:15)

Mental accent also known as mental agreement, is believing the truthfulness of the word in your mind, but failing to act on it. Simply put, mental agreement is believing the word of God with your head. But, you know friends, it is not with the head (the mind) we believe God. We believe God with our spirits.

**“FOR WITH THE HEART MAN BELIEVES UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS AND WITH
THE MOUTH CONFESSION IS MADE UNTO SALVATION.”**

(ROMANS 10:10)

Mental accent is an enemy to faith, because it looks like faith whereas it is not faith. In the natural, a counterfeit note might look very much like the original, but you know you cannot

use it to purchase anything in a supermarket because the machines will detect it as a false note and it will be rejected.

Similarly, trying to substitute mental accent for genuine bible faith has caused many to crash. They thought they were operating in faith, but little did they know that genuine faith can only proceed from the heart (the spirit).

“THAT IF YOU CONFESS WITH YOUR MOUTH THE LORD JESUS AND BELIEVE
IN YOUR HEART THAT GOD RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD, YOU WILL BE
SAVED.”

(ROMANS 10:9)

Again and again, you find it written “with the heart man believes.” Until you believe God with your heart, it is not faith. Now, understand that it is possible for you to have faith in your heart (spirit) and doubts in your mind, and still have the word work for you.

Why? Because faith does not proceed from the mind, it works from the heart. Doubt only becomes a big problem if it enters your spirit.

“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 SAYS SHALL COME TO PASS; HE SHALL HAVE WHATSOEVER HE SAYS.”

(MARK 11:23)

The Lord Jesus teaching on the subject of faith made this profound statement, “...and shall not doubt in his heart.” You see, once there is doubt in the heart, faith is paralyzed. Whereas, doubt in the mind is inconsequential to living faith in the heart.

The point is this; faith is not of the mental realm. That is why mental accent, accenting or agreeing to the truthfulness of the word intellectually is not faith, since it is of the mental realm.

What is the difference between a believer who is operating genuine bible faith and one who is functioning by mental accent? The difference is that the believer operating on genuine bible

faith will act on the word for that is what faith is it is acting on the word.

When you believe the word in your heart, you will act on it. On the contrary, the believer functioning by mental accent will fail to act on the word. The mental accent believer will agree with the word and confess it with his mouth, only, his actions will never line up with the word because he is not acting from his heart (spirit).

Revelations are caught with the spirit not with the mind because God guides man through his spirit.

“THE SPIRIT OF MAN IS THE CANDLE OF THE LORD, SEARCHING ALL THE
INWARD PARTS OF THE BELLY.”

(PROVERBS 20:27)

Meditation is the process by which the word of God is transferred from the mind to the spirit. Thus, the cure to mental accent is quality time spent meditating on the word of God. Once the word gets into your spirit, you will act on it.

“SURELY THE CHURNING OF MILK BRINGS FORTH BUTTER”

(PROVERBS 30:33)

Meditate the word until the light breaks forth in your spirit. Meditate the word in your mind until the consciousness of it dawns on your spirit. Once the word registers in your spirit, you will believe God with your heart. It is then; you will begin to make bold declarations according to what you have believed and see instant results.

You can never generate the force of faith that is needed to move your mountain from your mind because mental accent is an enemy of faith. The force of faith that can move all mountains is one that proceeds from the spirit of man.

CHAPTER 7

FAITH VERSUS BITTERNESS

**“HOLDING FAITH AND A GOOD CONSCIENCE. BY REJECTING THIS, SOME
HAVE MADE A SHIPWRECK OF THEIR FAITH”**

(1TIMOTHY 1:19)

Bitterness and faith cannot and will never mix. Faith only works with a good conscience. The moment bitterness creeps into your heart through the front door, faith takes off through the back door. This is because faith only works by love. Thus, failing to walk in love is an enemy to your faith.

**“FOR IN JESUS CHRIST NEITHER CIRCUMCISION AVAILS ANYTHING NOR
UNCIRCUMCISION BUT FAITH WHICH WORKS BY LOVE.”**

(GALATIANS 5:6)

Faith works by love, meaning the absence of love paralyses faith. That is why to walk by faith; you must keep a clear conscience before God and man. Giants of faith are giants of love. Your faith can rightly be measured by your

walk in love. The two contemporary heroes of faith have good testimonies in this regard.

Dr. Kenneth Hagin said he always examined his heart to ensure he never bore the least ill will against anyone. No wonder he was such a faith giant. In fact, he said he developed his love walk so much that other ministers saw it as a weakness in his life. This is because he is compelled and constrained by his love for God; he tolerated things which a man walking by the flesh would never tolerate.

A case in point is when he was invited as a guest speaker to a certain church far from his home town went along with his wife and for the entire week he was there to minister, the pastor and his leaders never served him a single meal.

He continued ministering on an empty stomach for over four days before God led one of the deacons of that church to bring them something to eat. The man never complained to anyone, but suffered silently as he patiently went on

blessing God's people. I pray God gives me such a heart.

Talking about the love walk of Smith Wigglesworth who was another giant of faith and Kenneth Hagin's role model, Hagin reports that once in Wigglesworth city, there was a retired American veteran who became mentally ill and went around terrorizing the local inhabitants.

In his attacks, he injured so many people, but the local authorities were patient with him because of his services to their nation. However, as he attempted to assault the county's sheriff on one such occasion, he was gunned down. As the news of his death spread through the little community, the local inhabitants made nasty comments about the man.

A couple of ministers discussing on the subject asked Wigglesworth what he thought about the man. To their utter amazement, he was the only

one to make a positive comment about this man as he remarked, "The old man had very beautiful eyes." While all others focused on the man's weaknesses, the giant of faith saw the one good thing the man had; beautiful eyes.

I believe amongst the several hindrances to faith, bitterness tops the chat as one of the major reasons why the faith of so many believers is not working. If you want your faith to work, you must let go of bitterness, grudges, anger, animosity, and every other thing that poisons your heart against your fellow men.

In the case of exercising faith for healing, some people do not need hands to be laid on them, they only need to forgive and let go of offenses in order to receive theirs. When you forgive those who have offended you, you position yourself to receive forgiveness from God, and with God, forgiveness equals healing and deliverance.

“BLESS THE LORD OH MY SOUL AND ALL THAT IS WITHIN ME BLESS HIS
HOLY NAME, WHO FORGIVES ALL YOUR INIQUITIES AND HEALS ALL YOUR
DISEASES.”

(PSALM 103:1)

People can carry out self-deliverance just by releasing those they have imprisoned in their hearts. Kenneth Hagin explains that anytime he prays and discovers he cannot make the faith connection, the first thing he does is to check inside. i.e., check his heart to see if there is anything there that hinders his faith from working.

CHAPTER 8

FAITH VERSUS SIGHT

“ ...THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”

(ROMANS 1:17)

In your natural walk, you are called to walk by sight or better still by your five physical senses. In your natural walk, seeing is believing. The only challenge now is that as a born again child of God, you are called to walk by faith and not by sight.

You see friends; the Christian walk is a spiritual walk because the Christian life is a supernatural life. The new birth is supernatural. The new creation is “superman” so to speak.

To experience the supernatural, you must engage the laws of the supernatural, amongst which is the law of faith. Thus, the walk of faith is a spiritual walk and it cannot be practiced by the use of the five physical.

“FOR WE WALK BY FAITH AND NOT BY SIGHT”

(2 CORINTHIANS 5:7)

I love the way in which the good news translation renders this verse. It says:

“FOR OUR LIFE IS ALL ABOUT A MATTER OF FAITH, NOT OF SIGHT.”

(2 CORINTHIANS 5:7)

This implies your walk of faith has more to contribute to your life than that in which the five physical senses are involved. As a child of God, it is limiting to walk only with the five senses.

“...THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”

(ROMANS 1:17)

The just shall not live by fasting and prayer, but by faith. Thank God there is a place for fasting and a place for prayer in a believer's life. However, fasting and prayer cannot do that which is meant to be accomplished by faith.

It does not really matter how much you can fast and pray, the truth is that, if at the end of your

fasting and prayer you fail to believe God's word for your situation, you will be defeated.

The attitude of faith is fundamental to living a victorious Christian life. Looking at the earth walk of Jesus, we discover that his entire life was characterized by the attitude of faith. When you walk by faith and not by sight; you speak the faith language, practice faith actions, and live by the attitude of faith.

In the miracle of turning water into wine, Jesus obviously was not walking by sight and neither where those servants to whom he gave instructions. In fact, one could say his mother Mary sensed already that if Jesus was to do anything, then the kind of instructions he would give those servants would not make any sense at all. Thus, she cautioned them well ahead of time to do whatever he would ask them to do.

"HIS MOTHER SAID UNTO THE SERVANTS WHATSOEVER HE SAYS UNTO
YOU, DO IT." (JOHN 2:5)

And true to the words of Mary, Jesus' instructions to those servants was to carry from the water they used in filling the water pots and take some to the master of ceremony.

If those servants were walking by sight, they would not have dared to take any such risk. Walking by faith, they could see wine in that cup instead of water. Friend, that is what it takes to see the miracles of God in your life; acting by faith on the word of God.

Another good illustration of Jesus' faith walk is the biblical account of Jairus' daughter's healing.

"GIVE WAY, FOR THE MAID IS NOT DEAD, BUT SLEEPS. AND THEY
LAUGHED HIM TO SCORN."

(MATHEW 9:24)

Everyone in the compound was mourning because the girl was clinically dead, yet when Jesus appeared at the scene walking by faith and not by sight, he radically and boldly

declared without fear of controversy, “The girl is not dead, only sleeps.” What audacity!!!

I think the mere fact of wanting to sound logical, civilized, educated, rational etc., is the reason most people cannot walk by faith. They have educated themselves to the detriment of their hearts. They are afraid of what the society may think of them should they act by faith.

The mourners, we are told laughed at Jesus scornfully. Until you are willing to be ridiculed by the society for your faith, then you have not started walking by faith. Dealing with mockers, is another dimension to the fight of faith.

Like bishop Oyedepo puts it, until the word of God can fool you, it cannot profit you. If the word has successfully convinced you, then you will not bother what others think about your stand of faith.

If someone for instance, refuses to acknowledge that my name is Bobbs Lyonga and I am concerned about it, then there is need for me to

see a psychiatrist. Kenneth Hagin explained that people always thought he had lost his wits when he chose to talk faith rather than unbelief.

To walk by faith, you must be willing to be treated as dumb by some folks who are too unspiritual to understand spiritual things. Still on the faith walk of Jesus Christ, let's examine one more example; the case of Lazarus.

When it was time for Jesus to raise Lazarus from the dead, he told his disciples "let us go and wake Lazarus," using the normal language to describe someone who is naturally asleep.

The disciples who thought he was talking about natural sleep responded and said; "If Lazarus is sleeping then he will wake because nobody sleeps naturally without waking up" (Paraphrased).

They were walking by sight, so they could not understand Jesus' language. Have you realized how baffling it is for carnal people to understand the faith language? Nothing

confuses a carnal man like the language of faith. My wife and I have trained our children to practice kingdom semantics.

I remember we once had a call from school concerning our eldest daughter. Her teacher said the child had been telling her “Madam I’m strong, so I need to go home.”

The entire teaching staff of that institution gathered but could not figure out what the child was trying to say, in spite of the fact that they were all professing believers. None of them could figure the child was talking scriptures (let the weak say I am strong), not until we arrived at the scene and explained to them what the child was actually saying.

Similarly, when Jesus realized that the disciples could not understand kingdom semantics, he told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead.”

The Lord explained to me that, the reason why Jesus usually described those he wanted to raise back to life as being merely asleep and not

dead, is because Jesus understood the laws of faith; you can only have what you say.

So, when Jesus said the dead were merely asleep, that made it possible for him to raise them from the dead as easily as you would wake up someone from sleep, without straining. Your confession either eases or complicates your situation. Beloved mind your words.

We are told in the book of Genesis that whatever name Adam gave to the animals is what they are called till this day. So, what you name stands. What you name will stay. The name you give to anything is what it becomes.

If for example, you have a pain in your body and choose to name the pain cancer, beloved cancer is exactly what you will have.

If a pregnant woman suddenly begins to experience a flow of blood and declares, "Oh! I've just had a miscarriage," then that is what she will get. By the laws of faith, we understand her miscarriage is not because she bled, but

because she saw blood, believed it was a miscarriage and confessed with her mouth the miscarriage she had believed in her heart.

Another woman with a similar experience, who understands how to put her faith to work will simply disregard her experience as a trick of the enemy and boldly declare, “It is blood I saw and not a baby. I believe my baby is still in my womb according to God’s word that says there shall be no miscarriage in the land.” And by her faith, her pregnancy is sure to stand. Truly, walking by sight has cost the body of Christ so much more than we tend to realize.

Several stories in scriptures reveal to us how dangerous it is for a child of God to walk by sight. For example, when Lot was to separate himself from Abraham, he made the fundamental error of choosing by sight.

“AND LOT LIFTED UP HIS EYES, AND BEHELD ALL THE PLAIN OF JORDAN,
THAT IT WAS WELL WATERED EVERYWHERE, BEFORE THE LORD
DESTROYED SODOM AND GOMORRAH, EVEN AS THE GARDEN OF THE
LORD.”

(GEN 13:10)

Lot chose by sight, forgetting that all that glitters is not gold, and he eventually lost everything he had laboured for, including his wife. Lot did not realize his eyes will mislead him to settle in a land under the curse of God.

The place looked like heaven physically, but spiritually speaking, it was a time bomb. Lot ended his life as one of the greatest tragedies in the Old Testament history. I decree that you will never end like Lot in Jesus' name

CHAPTER 9

FAITH VERSUS NEGATIVE SUGGESTIONS

**“FOR THE REST, MY BROTHERS, WHATEVER THINGS ARE TRUE,
WHATEVER THINGS HAVE HONOUR, WHATEVER THINGS ARE UPRIGHT,
WHATEVER THINGS ARE HOLY, WHATEVER THINGS ARE BEAUTIFUL,
WHATEVER THINGS ARE OF VALUE, IF THERE IS ANY VIRTUE AND IF
THERE IS ANY PRAISE, GIVE THOUGHT TO THESE THINGS.”**

(PHILIPPIANS 4:8)

Have you ever wondered about the recommendation of Philippians 4:8? It is because the mind of the believer is the battle ground of the enemy and since the victory that overcomes the world is our faith, it is important to watch the suggestions you entertain in your mind.

You see, the mind is the gate way to the spirit where faith resides. You protect your spirit by protecting your mind. This implies that before the enemy can have access to your spirit, he must first get a firm grip of your mind.

It is impossible to be all negative and expect to walk in faith. Consequently, any battle you cannot win in your mind you certainly will not win it in life.

Faith is not just a mighty spiritual force that emanates from the spirit, it is also a mindset. Yes, there is something called the faith mindset which has to do with conditioning the mind according to God's promises. What you settle your mind on will either strengthen or weaken your faith.

The faith mindset is having a mind that is tailored with scriptures. What God has not said does not exist and everything God has said is all the reality there is.

A man like Bishop David Oyedepo functions with the faith mindset. His wife once informed him that she had just had a miscarriage, but he responded by saying; "It can't happen!" He ended the discussion as such and went ahead to request for his evening meal. Guess what? That

declaration put the devil in his place and according to the seasons of life, that child was born.

Kenneth Hagin recounts the story of Smith Wigglesworth; how he once travelled to America and declared on stage that anyone he laid hands on should not appear on the prayer line a second time, because according to God's word; when hands are laid on you, you are healed

He mentions that, a certain man violated Wigglesworth's instructions and sneaked his way into the prayer line a second time.

Unfortunately for him, the man of God spotted him out as he mounted the stage and immediately asked him, "Sir what are doing on this line when I laid hands on you yesterday and declared you healed?" The man then responded by saying, "But sir, as you can see for yourself I am not yet healed".

Upon hearing this, swiftly admonished him by saying “Sir, I won’t allow anyone come up here to talk unbelief to me. You were healed yesterday according to God’s word; I demand you leave this stage now.”

Note that Wigglesworth’s reaction signified a faith mindset that is highly conditioned by the word of God. Trying to be sympathetic at times does not really help people grow; on the contrary, it helps to destroy their faith. That fellow finally saw what Wigglesworth was trying to teach him and eventually got the manifestation of his healing.

The mindset of faith is a mind that has defined its language and actions only within the parameters of God’s word. If God says I can, then I can. What God says I have, I have.

To grow in faith, there is a real need to guard your mind against suggestions that try to undermine God’s word in your mind.

“FOR THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE ARE NOT CARNAL, BUT MIGHTY
THROUGH GOD TO THE PULLING DOWN OF STRONG HOLDS; CASTING
DOWN IMAGINATIONS, AND EVERY HIGH THING THAT EXALTETH ITSELF
AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD, AND BRINGING INTO CAPTIVITY EVERY
THOUGHT TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST”

(2 COR 10:4-5)

To develop the faith mindset, strongholds of negative thoughts must be pulled down. Imaginations and suggestions from the enemy must be cast out. Whatever thought that tries to take ascendancy over God’s word must be brought into captivity.

Some of the avenues the enemy explores to make suggestions to your mind include; your current experiences, negative past experiences, family background, and experiences of others you look up to.

Current Experiences

Most at times, the enemy tries to take advantage of the current negative situations surrounding your life in order to make ugly

suggestions to your mind. You can imagine the kind of thoughts that must have been creeping through Abraham's mind every time he looked at his wife Sarah.

Refuse to entertain any thought that is only pointing you to your current situation. Make the devil know that you know your future is bigger than what you are going through now. Weeping may endure for a night but joy will come in the morning. What you are going through is nothing compared with where you are heading to.

Refuse to give the devil attention by focusing on your trials and temptations. Refuse to give him that kind of attention, he does not deserve it.

“WHILE WE LOOK NOT AT THE THINGS WHICH ARE SEEN, BUT AT THE THINGS WHICH ARE NOT SEEN: FOR THE THINGS WHICH ARE SEEN ARE TEMPORARY; BUT THE THINGS WHICH ARE NOT SEEN ARE ETERNAL.”

(2 COR 4:18)

What you are going through now is temporary. It is only for a while and will soon change. That

is why God says, you are not to focus on your challenges, because they are subject to change.

Friends, I do not know what you are going through right now, but I prophecy that your change is coming right now in Jesus name. Believe in change; believe in your glorious future.

Negative Past Experiences

Another field the enemy loves to plough in order to bring negative suggestions to your mind is memories of past negative experiences. Once in a while, the enemy brings you fear by reminding you of some negative experiences that once plagued your life.

His intention is to pass across the message that it could happen again. But guess what? God has given you a most wonderful promise to deal with such threats from the enemy.

“WHAT DO YE IMAGINE AGAINST THE LORD? HE WILL MAKE AN UTTER
END: AFFLICTION SHALL NOT RISE UP THE SECOND TIME.”

(NAH 1:9)

Make the enemy know that as it is written, affliction cannot rise a second time. Listen to this now, I do not know what you suffered in the past that the enemy is using today to threaten your life, but with the grace of God upon me, I decree that afflictions shall not rise a second time.

Refuse to accommodate any fear in your heart; your God shall surely deliver you from every evil agenda of the enemy.

Family Background

Family background too is another area the enemy loves exploiting with fearful suggestions. The enemy will always try to point you to your background, as a means of setting an injunction in your mind on the bases of your background.

He will make suggestions like “You know how poor your family is, so do not even dream of becoming somebody great. Who will sponsor you to become a doctor?” Indeed, Satan is a trickster.

If the enemy has been making certain fearful suggestions to your mind on account of your background, it is time to relax because there is good news for you today. Your background cannot ground you down.

“THEREFORE IF ANY MAN BE IN CHRIST, HE IS A NEW CREATURE: OLD THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY; BEHOLD, ALL THINGS ARE BECOME NEW.”

(2 COR 5:17)

Are you in Christ? Then relax! You are now a new creation. A brand new being God just created in Christ. Born not after the will of man nor of blood but born of the Spirit. You have the life and nature of God, so you cannot be limited.

Not only are you a new creation, but old things too have passed away. All the old things associated to your ugly background have passed away; unrighteousness, disobedience, pride, failure, poverty, sickness, stagnation, delay, disappointment, shame, disgrace, confusion, defeat etc., have all past away. Glory!!!

In Christ, you are now a member of God's family. In God's family, none is permitted to be a failure. That is why you must dissociate your mind from any thought that wants to identify you with the weaknesses and limitations of your biological family. You are now a child of God. Think as and function as a new creation.

Experiences Of Those We Look Up To

I personally believe that this aspect is the enemy's best ground in making negative suggestions to our minds, by pointing us to the shortcomings of those we look up to.

I guess you too must have come across persons whose excuse for not going to church anymore is that leader or pastor who fell into sin. Have you come across any such person? Without advocating in any way the misuse of our bodies, I want to say all such excuses simply point to that fact that such fellows are victims of the enemy's deception.

There are those who do not believe in miracles because they know so and so person, who claimed to have been healed by God then lost his healing. We can go on citing several different examples.

I would like you to understand that Christianity is a personal walk with God and God has no favourites. Meaning, by virtue of the redemption, we all have the same stand before God, and he loves us with the same measure.

Thus, just because a person whom you looked up to as a spiritual giant failed, is no excuse for you too to fail. Rather, you should learn from their failures to avoid failing as they did.

The believer's walk of faith is a personal walk. Whatever your condition may be, it is your faith that will make the difference for you.

“ACCORDING TO YOUR FAITH BE IT UNTO YOU.”

(MATT 9:29)

It is unto every man according to his faith. It is your faith that determines your portion of inheritance, and you are responsible for your walk with God. You cannot blame your failure on another person.

Every man is responsible for his walk with God. If someone failed, it is between him and God. How do you handle the enemy when he begins to direct you to people who failed? You simply need to look in the opposite direction. Do you understand what this mean?

It means, you should deliberately decide to look up to those who in similar situations made it triumphantly and be inspired by their testimony.

“THAT YE BE NOT SLOTHFUL, BUT FOLLOWERS OF THEM WHO THROUGH FAITH AND PATIENCE INHERIT THE PROMISES.”

(HEBREWS 6:12)

You see, in the physical, nobody will want to follow or be inspired by a failure, so why should

you look up to failures when it comes to spiritual things.

You can clearly see my friends, that each time the enemy points you this or that person who in a similar situation like yours failed, just go ahead and remind him of the word of God. Then, point him to other saints who in similar circumstances got him whipped and thoroughly disgraced.

I think it was Kenneth Hagin who once said he will not follow any man until he is sure the person had a sound testimony.

Who in his right mind will be willing to learn driving in a driving school that has a reputation for producing drivers who all perish in motor accidents because of poor driving? Who in his right mind will be willing to undergo a surgery at the hands of a surgeon who only carries out one successful surgery in ten?

If you would not in the physical, then do not in the spiritual. Look up to those who have the

testimony of God's word. Nonetheless, never base your faith on a testimony. Let the foundation of your faith be the living word of God that abides forever.

Papa Enoch Adeboye (G.O Redeemed Christian Church of God), shares the testimony of how his wife was to deliver their third child through operation like the first two. But, he and the wife had prayed and agreed that this time she would deliver normally and not through operation.

As the days of her delivery drew near, they decided to visit his mentor with the wife for prayers for safe delivery, only for them to arrive at his house and found them weeping and wailing. What had happened? His mentor's daughter on putting to birth, passed away.

He said as soon as they got the news, the enemy immediately suggested to his mind "If this could happen to the one you look up to, then you can be sure something worse is awaiting your wife."

Which parent in his right mind will choose for his child a school that records below a five percent success rate every school year? You certainly will not, because you know the school will make a failure out of your child.

Acting in faith, he dismissed the thoughts and held on to his agreement with the wife for safe delivery, and in spite of the negative thoughts that constantly bombarded his mind, he successfully fought this fight of faith till the end on the grounds that his mentor was not his savior; Jesus was. And God, who never fails honoured their faith as the wife delivered safely.

To the mesmerization of the devil, he says that particular child was their fastest baby. Friends, it does not matter who failed around you, your faith will always make the difference for you. So, look up to God and keep moving.

CHAPTER 10

FAITH VERSUS DREAMS / VISIONS

“FOR THEREIN IS THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD REVEALED FROM FAITH TO FAITH: AS IT IS WRITTEN, THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”

(ROMANS 1:17)

If believers only had half of the faith they have in their dreams and visions, I am certain the world would presently have many faith giants. In my twelve years in ministry, I have realized that one of the highest factors that controls the lives of many Christians are dreams and visions.

But like I would say, nowhere is it written that the just shall live by their dreams. You see my friends, it is reiterated time and again; that the just shall live by faith.

“NOW THE JUST SHALL LIVE BY FAITH: BUT IF ANY MAN DRAW BACK, MY SOUL SHALL HAVE NO PLEASURE IN HIM.”

(HEBREWS 10:38)

The dream you dreamt must not come to pass. I know there are those who use dreams to

intimidate and frighten people. But friends, just because you dreamt it, does not mean it must come to pass whether good or bad.

What you dream is not as important as what you make of it. If it is a good dream, then it must be enforced on the altar of prayer for it to come to pass. If it is a negative dream, you can also abort it on the altar of prayer amongst other covenant steps that can be taken.

Nebuchadnezzar's second dream was one of such frightful nightmares, but at the end of Daniel's interpretation of his dream, this was his recommendation to king Nebuchadnezzar:

“KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR, PLEASE ACCEPT MY ADVICE. STOP SINNING
AND DO WHAT IS RIGHT. BREAK FROM YOUR WICKED PAST AND BE
MERCIFUL TO THE POOR. PERHAPS THEN YOU WILL CONTINUE TO
PROSPER.”

(DAN 4:27)

Certainly it was never God's intention for king Nebuchadnezzar to lose his throne and eat grass like an ox for seven years, but under the

prevailing spiritual condition he was in, his fate was inevitable. It became obvious that he will be judged by God for pride and arrogance.

Daniel's recommendation to the king was for him to change his ways and repent from his sins so that he could continue to prosper. In other words, the calamity that was programmed and which he dreamt about could be averted.

What you see in dreams is usually a reflection of your present spiritual condition, and it will only manifest in the physical if nothing is done spiritually to change it.

Dreams are prayer points, pointing to the fact that you need to make some adjustments in your spiritual life. Such too, was the case of Isaiah's prophecy to king Hezekiah of Judah.

All of these point to the fact that the Just shall live by faith, not by dreams. If you depend on dreams you will never successfully walk by faith. People tell me all the time what they dreamt about, and I always ask them, "Is that in

agreement with the word of God?" Beloved, if your faith is based on your dreams, then all it will take the devil to destroy your faith is just one cheap nightmare.

I once ministered to someone who was HIV positive. The person went back for the test in the same hospital and came with the result HIV negative. However, within two months, all the symptoms resurfaced. When I interviewed her, I realized some frightful nightmares she had after her healing, opened the doors to the spirits of fear and worry and the healing was lost.

God did not tell you or anyone else to base his or her faith on dreams. If you base your testimony on a dream, you can be sure that the enemy will rob you of that testimony.

Faith in God is faith in his word not faith in dreams. Beware of dreams; they are Satan's night traps. I will encourage you to keep a distance from anyone who constantly brings

you negative revelations. If you give them your ears, they will strangle your faith and compromise your destiny.

Some of these folks in church, who go around peddling fear by sharing all manner of dreams and visions, are evidently under the deception of the enemy. They can see things about people, but nothing for themselves that could better their lives. I really feel sorry for many of them. It is a wrong spirit.

Now get me right, am I saying God does not speak to his children through dreams? Certainly not! God does speak to his children through dreams as the scriptures attest to this fact. Yet, dreams are not the primary way through which God speaks to his children. Kenneth Hagin said; in his entire life, God only spoke to him through dreams twice.

I worry for those folks who over emphasize the aspect of dreams to the point of putting them ahead of the word, and are willing to hold onto

a so called dream or vision even when it is contrary to the word, and claim it was a revelation from God.

I guess you can see my point. The bible does not say as many as are led by their dream and visions are the sons of God, No! What does it say then? It says as many as are led by the Spirit, not led by their dreams.

Please understand that not every vision, revelation or dream comes from God, because even Satan masquerades himself as an angel of light.

“AND NO MARVEL; FOR SATAN HIMSELF IS TRANSFORMED INTO AN ANGEL OF LIGHT.”

(2 COR 11:14)

You see, Satan is the master deceiver. That is why you are to test every spirit to know if they are of God. Until you can fully comprehend these things, you remain at the mercy to be tricked into error and deception by Satan and his agents.

Kenneth Hagin once ministered to a man of God who had given up all hopes of being healed because of a vision he had. This man of God who was suffering from a terminal disease, was actively engaged in prayer one morning and as he was on his knees praying fervently, a bright light flashed in his room and as he opened his eyes, he saw (what apparently to him was) an angel. And the angel told him, "It is not my will to heal you." and the being disappeared.

This man of God believed after that strange encounter, that it was not God's will for him to be healed and began making allocations for his funeral. Friends, you see how that old serpent can be full of tricks.

When this whole thing came to the knowledge of God's general Kenneth Hagin, he asked this man of God only one question, "What does the word say?" Using the word of God, Kenneth Hagin was able to prove to this man, that God could not contradict his own word through a revelation or vision.

He made this man to understand that God could never say to his child “I’m not going to heal you,” because healing is not a promise, it is a biblical fact. The saying “he took our infirmities and bore our diseases” is not a promise, it is a statement of fact. “By whose stripes we were healed” is not a promise, it is statement of fact.

Healing for the body of Christ is not something God will do, Oh No! It is something he already did, and all there is for you to do now is to receive your blessing by faith. I urge you therefore, to purpose in your heart that you will walk by faith. Let dreams, visions, revelations, take the second place in your life.

To live by faith is to submit yourself to the dominion of the living word. Allow God’s word dominate your thinking, confession, and actions. What an exciting journey the life of faith can be!

Beloved, permit me to welcome you today to this most exciting journey that will finally

stamp every trace of reproach from your life and destiny, and empower you to reign in this life with Christ Jesus.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rev. Dr. Bobbs Lyonga is the senior pastor of the Throne Of Glory Ministries International (TGMI). An outreach based ministry with headquarters in Kumba, Cameroon.

As a missionary Pastor he has a unique grace to minister God's healing and deliverance power with a mandate to teach faith and demonstrate the glory of God.

He holds a Diploma in theology, B.Sc. in Plant Biology, a Masters in Ministry and Doctors in Ministry. He is married to Rev. Mrs. Lyonga Eleanor and together, they are blessed with four wonderful children.

As an outreach minister he is greatly used by God in crusades. He equally ministers over Majesty TV which is the television ministry of the Glorious church.



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<mailto:blelivesol@gmail.com>

ONE LAST THING

Important Notice

A. Life Is Terminal. “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.” Hebrews 9:27

B. Death Is Not The End Of Life. “And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.” Daniel 12:2

C. How You Live On Earth Determines Where You Will Spend Eternity. “So then, every one of us shall give account of himself to God.” Rom 14:12

D. Who You Live For Determines Who You Live With In Eternity. “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” Acts 4:12

How To Be Saved

Steps 1. Acknowledge in your heart that Jesus is Lord.

Step 2. Confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord.

Step 3. Believe that Jesus died for your sins and was raised three days later.

Step 4. Repent of your sins and get baptized in the name of Jesus.

Salvation Prayer

“God, I recognize that I have not lived my life for You up until now. I have been living for myself and that is wrong. I need You in my life; I want You in my life. I acknowledge the completed work of Your Son Jesus Christ in giving His life for me on the cross at Calvary, and I long to receive the forgiveness you have made freely available to me through this sacrifice. Come into my life now Lord. Take up residence in my heart and be my king, my Lord, and my Savior. From this day forward, I will no longer be

controlled by sin, or the desire to please myself, but I will follow You all the days of my life. My days are in Your hands. I ask this in Jesus' precious and holy name. Amen."

Welcome to God's family. Now, as a way to grow closer to Him, the Bible tells us to follow up on our commitment.

1. Get baptized as commanded by Christ.
2. Tell someone else about your new faith in Christ.
3. Spend time with God each day. It does not have to be a long period of time. Just develop the daily habit of praying to Him and reading His Word.
4. Ask God to increase your understanding of the Bible.
5. Seek fellowship with other followers of Jesus.

6. Develop a group of believing friends to answer your questions and support you.
7. Find a local church where you can worship God

