



# The Link

Vol. 3, No 2(2003)

A quarterly non-denominational publication to the body of Christ

*"Take my yoke upon you and learn of me...For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:29, 30)*



Saved to Serve

The Price for Greatness

When in Christy

Do not become a Casualty

The gifts and the calling of God

God the giver of gifts, Calls

The Holy Spirit & the life of a believer

Wisdom Nuggets

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**THE LINK** is a non-denominational teaching magazine published quarterly and sent or delivered free to your home, churches, ministries, schools, establishment & (or) any believer that request a copy. **THE LINK** carries no subscription or news-stand price.

**IT MUST NOT BE SOLD.**

This publication is financed as the Lord provides through a group of brethren.

We would like to know how this publication has been of benefit to you, feel free to write or call.

You can also send in your gift(s) to improve the quality of this publication.

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#### **What The Link Ministries is sent to do:**

God has sent us out with a burden for the body of Christ; to teach and expound the word of God and bring timely messages as directed by the Spirit of God to arouse the body and cause the work of God to go unhindered by the adversary.

- We have a mission to reach believers and present the truth to affect the way we live and work for the master.
- We have a clear instruction to raise disciples for Christ, who will receive and understand God's call/assignment for them.
- We will open the eyes of believers to the mysteries of the kingdom of God at each door God opens to us.
- We will nurture and grow believers to maturity and make them to depend on God and stand firm in this perverse period.
- We will draw many sons of God together and create opportunities for them to become useful instruments to reach many and bring glory to God continually.
- We will not be involved in condemning, criticising or bringing men of God down; we will bring men of God to limelight and make their work to bring glory to God continually.

**The Link Ministries is not in anyway a part of any denomination.**

**The Lord commissioned us to break the wall that divides us and bring the word of God to everyone irrespective of where we belong (denominations).**

**We are mandated to use every opportunity to achieve these; the publishing of this magazine, The Link, is one of those means and we will also get to you by organising conferences, seminars, solemn assemblies and ministers forum in various parts of the country.**

**We will all be prepared working for our God and passionately seek the Lord as we await His soon return.**

**Praise God for His grace to be available to serve you through this ministry.**

**Yours in His Service,**

**Segun Ajayi**

# Saved to Serve

Segun Ajayi

*“Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited and redeemed His people, and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David, As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets, who have been since the world began” (Luke 1:68-70).*

*“To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life” (Luke 1:74-75).*

Above is the prophecy of Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, confirming what Christ is coming to accomplish in our lives. Confirming that Christ is coming to save us, and put us in a state that we might be able to serve God.

When the Lord Jesus eventually came, the passion in His heart is to leave us an example of a life of dedication to His father’s work and also to leave behind faithful servants ready to serve God and bring in the great harvest and glory to His father.

He said, *I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work (John 9:4).*

*"My food," said Jesus, "is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work (John 4:34) (NIV).*

Jesus said to his disciples, *"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."*(Matt 9:37-38).

Let us consider the great salvation we received through our Lord Jesus Christ before considering the kind of service we should be engaged in.

## ***A great salvation***

We got through our Lord Jesus Christ:

### **1. Mercy from God**

Remember we were sold under sin and we merit God’s punishment as a result of our sin. We have all sinned and come short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23).

The Bible says the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23), we became separated from God as a result of our sin and we were under the wrath of God. We were doomed for God’s destruction. God

considered our fallen state and had mercy on us by sending His Son, Jesus Christ.

God showed us His kindness and love, not by our works of righteousness but according to His great mercy, He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Ghost (Titus 3:4-5).

### **2. Justification by faith**

We became justified not on the basis of what we have done to merit it but by the price Christ paid for us and we received justification by faith in what Christ has done. As the scripture says that we that were heathens are justified as a result of our faith in God that justify the ungodly.

The same way Abraham believed God and it was accounted to Him as righteousness, we became righteous, as we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ and what He has accomplished for us. Praise God. We are now justified by His blood and saved from wrath through Jesus (Romans 5:9).

### **3. Peace with God**

We now found peace with God, Christ mediation between God and us. What a wonderful thing that we can be brought to God despite the fact that we were doomed for destruction as a result of our sinfulness? Therefore being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Romans 5:1). Christ became our peace by breaking down the middle wall of the law and ordinances that cannot bring us salvation and He gave us access to the father by faith.

### **4. Holiness & Righteousness.**

The coming of the Lord Jesus Christ makes out of us that accepted Him a new man created after God’s likeness in true holiness and righteousness. Old things passed away and we became new creatures ready to please our God. We received grace to say ‘No’ to every works of unrighteousness, and we can discern between good and evil, being ready to expose all works of unrighteousness; what a great grace.

### **5. Reconciliation with God.**

We became God’s own having been reconciled to God by the Lord Jesus Christ. God is not condemning us again as a result of our sinfulness

and through us He can reconcile the world to Himself (2Corinthians 5:19).

Christ made peace through His blood and reconciled all things to God. We that were before enemies of God as a result of the way we lived and our wicked deeds He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death to present us Holy and without blame in His present. Praise God.

## **6. Deliverance from our enemies**

When Christ came, he openly defeated the devil and his cohorts and brought them to open disgrace. He brought the devil on his knees as he obtained a name that is higher than all other names, at the mentioning of the name of Jesus, all authority and dominions bow and their knees are bent in submission to Christ. We were brought into this inheritance and made to sit with Christ, far above principalities and powers. (Philippians 2: 9-11, Revelations 12: 11).

We also obtained deliverance by the blood of Christ and our testimony of what He has accomplished in us; hi, we are no longer subject to satan and demons. We are made free and set on high to exercise dominion over every power of the enemy through Christ. We can tread upon every power of the enemy because Christ gave us all His authority (Luke 10:19). Wow, the enemy lost his hold on us and through the Lord Jesus Christ we can break the yoke of the enemy from the lives of the people He has held captives. What a legacy Christ gave to the Church.

## **7. Light & Guidance**

We now walk in the light, and we no longer have any relationship with the unfruitful works of darkness. We begin to enjoy an enduring relationship with one another and with Christ, His light shining upon our ways. Christ also left us an active partner in the person of the Holy Spirit to guide us every step of the way so that we don't lose our way, and we can still walk in the truth (John 16:13). The Holy Spirit reveals God's purpose and counsel to us. We are not left in the dark concerning any of God's plans for us. Every step of the way He is also present to administer the Church. Praise God. We can consider ourselves privileged to walk with the personality of the Holy Spirit who guides us everyday into the things that bring glory to God.

## **What are we expected to do?**

Having considered all that Christ has come to do for us and has accomplished, we are expected to have every confidence and willingness to serve Him. As declared by Prophet Zechariah, we can now serve God with all fears removed, all inhibitions removed, our fellowship with God (as it was at the Garden of Eden before man fell) restored, and all authority given to us. The Holy Spirit has been given to us so that we can be Christ's witnesses having received His power (Acts 1:8).

Brethren, consider all that He has done already, we need to open ourselves to Him to use us in any way He desires to do.

Being now made free from sin, we became servants unto God and we serve Him all the way.

Present yourselves to God, being ready to serve Him just like soldiers surrender themselves to serve in the Army and being ready to obey the instruction from the commanding officer. Are you ready to serve God and be open to Him to heed His instructions? Do you know what He has asked you to do? Remember, whatever He asked you to do, do it (John 2:5). Begin to seek His face and surrender your will and life at pleasing Him.

He that is already in the ministry, continue in ministering, do not be tired or think of retiring, rather re-fire, God will take you through all the challenges you are facing. The Lord did all things and went all the way to Calvary for you. Will you not go all the way for Him?

If you are still in doubt about what God is calling you to do, be found busy for Him in the vineyard. In the course of your faithfulness, God will speak to you and give you instructions regarding your life and ministry calling. Do not become slothful in business. Give God your best. Condescend and serve God in whatever capacity, even if it means being a gatekeeper in the house of God. God will reward all your labours of love. Do not be weary in service (1Corinthians 15:58). God gave you His son and He will freely give you more grace to serve Him more. Remain in His service till He comes. God bless and keep you.

# The Price for Greatness

**Mark 10:42-45** *(But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister and to give his life a ransom for many).*

These were the golden words of Christ and the example He has shown in service to us all. The passion in my heart as we consider this subject is to reflect on the price we need to pay to achieve greatness.

The problem in our days is that many wanted to be served and they do not want to serve others; many want to enjoy the glory and accolade of greatness without considering what value they are giving to others. This has made so many in the body of Christ to forget that they need to serve Christ by serving their brethren and giving themselves up for the sake of their brethren. We need to reflect on the kind of life Christ lived and what examples He showed us as He served. Did He achieve greatness as He served? Why should we follow in His footsteps? What price did He pay?

## Jesus Christ, the perfect example

Jesus Christ taught with His life and His words:

### 1. Washed the Disciples feet:

In John 13:13-17 *(Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, the servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them)* Jesus washed His disciple's feet as an example not only to show humility (humility & servant hood are connected) but to demonstrate that he is ready to serve His brethren in any way possible, even taking up a role that is meant for a slave to do.

In those days it is only slaves that washes their masters' feet (the feet the lowest part of the human body, already exposed to all manner of dirt and rubbish through trekking, requires someone's commitment and servitude to watch), Jesus was able to condescend Himself to serve His disciples, who He called brethren despite the fact that He is

the master and He being addressed as master. This I believe is not a mere ceremony as we might consider it to be but it is the essence of service that prepared Christ to be able to pay the ultimate price for His the world.

Can we serve our brethren in roles that mean descending lower than we can contain, living unto them as if we are their slaves? A lot of time our leaders wants to enforce this on us, but if it does not come as a result of conviction from the heart of the followers, such service will not be acceptable to the Lord. They will tend to serve grudgingly and will not serve Christ but trying to please you as a leader.

### 2. Jesus gave Himself up

Phil 2:6-8

*(Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!) (NIV).*

When Jesus Christ chose to leave the very nature of God to take on human likeness, it must have seemed to Him like He was becoming nothing, reducing Himself to nobody. He eventually paid the ultimate price by dying for us. What a great level of service for His brethren.

*1 John 3:16 "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren"*

After giving His life for us, He received honour and greatness:

Phil 2:9-11 "Therefore **God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name**, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (NIV).

The ultimate reward for service is God's recognition and promotion, which a lot will not want to wait for and will want to install themselves in offices they did not qualify for (we qualify by our service).

**(Continued on page 15)**

# Women in Ministry

Kunbi Ajayi

Throughout all the world history the entity woman, her roles and actions has been a cause of much controversy. Who is woman and what is her ministry / her roles in ministry? What and how can she contribute to the realisation of the goals of the kingdom of God?

## Who is this important figure, woman?

The scripture defines the woman as “the bone of my bones and the flesh of my flesh, SHE SHALL BE called WOMAN, FOR SHE WAS TAKEN OUT OF MAN” (Genesis 2:23).

As we consider who the woman is and what her roles in ministry are, we would look at:

- What ministry?
- Her challenges
- Who do I cry to?

## What ministry?

From Genesis 2:23, we saw that a woman got her name from the man and because she was taken out of man. In the beginning the Lord gave the woman just one ministry and that ministry is to be a helpmeet to man (Genesis 2:18).

Since the fall of man, her ministry has taken on more forms and has expanded in scope. We want to look at some biblical examples of women in ministry.

**Deborah:** Deborah was a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth. She judged Israel at a time (Judges 4: 4). She was introduced in the scripture not only as a prophetess but also the **wife of Lapidoth**. She judged Israel successfully and was numbered with the 16 judges that ruled Israel. God used her to administer His righteousness and judgement to the people of Israel. Great victories were wrought at her time and oppositions were subdued and glory given to the Lord.

From the very beginning of time, the Lord has given woman a chance to bring glory to His name. Some of them in very dramatic ways and often times He has used the most unusual of vessels like Rahab the harlot and the Syrophenician woman. God used some of them in very salient and inconspicuous way, nonetheless with very far reaching impact. All in all He has created woman to bring glory and honour to Him. God in the infinity of His wisdom knew that man cannot accomplish all that He has to accomplish and so

He made him an helpmeet. Oh you woman is your place only found in the boutique? Is your knowledge limited to both international and local cuisine? Is your impact felt only because of the aroma of your perfume or deodorant? Or as you pass through the stage of life you impact lives for Christ, you change the lives of a whole nation the way the woman Deborah did.

**Phebe:** In Romans 16:1, Phebe was a deaconess of the Church at Cenchrea. Her duties being to attend to female converts, helping them to get ready for baptism, to visit the sick and those in prison and to attend to all parts of the Church work among women which could not be performed by men. She was adjudged to be probably the bearer of the epistle to Rome. Here we see the picture of a servant, a selfless one at that. She was not a deaconess because she was educated, we see a woman completely sold to serving the Lord.

If you look at her retinue, there is no place or space for gossip or idle jesting, no room for rumour mongering. You see the picture of help, succour, and apparel of godly purity that becomes a true daughter of Zion. How about you? Are you not involved in ministry as a MRS (**Minister of Rumour carrying Services**)? Are you not just a deaconess just in title but no fruit to show for it? Are you impacting the lives of people positively in what you are engaged doing in the house of God?

Often times most of us women desire the fame and accolades of people like the founders of Salvation Army and the Foursquare Gospel Church, who were women, but we are not ready to pay the price. We are not ready to carry any cross but we desire to wear crowns.

What about **Priscilla**, a teacher and a helper (Romans 16: 3)? Remember **Anna** the prophetess and the **four daughters of Phillip** (Acts 21: 8-9), who prophesied. **Euodias** and **Syntyche** are mentioned as being leaders of the Church at Philippi (Philippians 4:2). You can be like them and even do better.

## Her Challenges

Wherever you go, there are expectations from husbands, children, relations, friends, jobs, Churches and even the communities we live in. There are even those things we expect from ourselves. In all these we must allow God to direct all things. Never mind what the outspoken feminist of our time are saying that a woman should not be subordinate to her husband. Even when you are Pastor, Dr (Mrs), Evangelist and raiser of the dead, the Bible teaches that women should be reverent, respect and submit to their husbands. Submission does not cast a woman into bondage and reduce a woman to a slave. On the contrary, it allows for more freedom because we are obeying the law of God.

What about the challenges of tradition and years of the woman being seen as nothing more than a baby making machine and a cook? Even in the Church it is hard for women to be seen as being vessels of honour in the hands of a mighty God that uses the weak things to confound the strong.

In Numbers 6: 2; it is written that a woman can also be a Nazarene, who has vowed to separate himself or herself to the Lord. Because you are a woman is not a limitation it can be an invitation for you the weak to become mighty and great in the hands of almighty God.

What about the competition between her roles as a mother, a wife and a minister? There are times she will feel she is running a 7-day week; a 24-hour day and she actually feel like running away. Do you remember the woman in Proverbs 31? In fact you don't want to hear about her, and you still want to be the best the Lord wants you to be for Him. Simply cast all your cares on the Lord because the Lord cares for you. Knowing you can do all things through Christ that strengthens you (Philippians. 4:19)

## Who do I cry to?

As a woman in the ministry and in your role as a home manager, there are burdens so heavy it looks like you will get crushed under it. Problems come your way that you cannot share with anyone because the world and even the church demand that you be a superwoman.

Fellowship and communion with God must be come pre-eminent priority of our lives. We must allow Him to direct us in all things. When we put God first, He will generously allow us time for the important. He knows all of our possibilities and all our limitations, knowing who we are in Him and having the assurance that He is directing our steps brings balance and stability to our lives.

## A final word

Having surrendered yourself to God as a woman to be used as His vessel, you must be an example of believer in every conduct and conversation (1Tim 4:12).

Be distinct and different, not conforming to the world. Flee every appearances of evil. Run away from all evil and dead works of the flesh. (Galatians 5:19-20)

Let nothing take the place of God in your heart. Love your husband, your children and give attention to your home but remember to honour God and give God your love and affection.

We can easily become obsessed and be taken over by the expectation we have created for our self and the expectations of others. By allowing these expectations to make us so busy, we loose touch with God, the end result being hypocrisy and self-deception.

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "You are worried and upset about many things, but only one thing is needed." Luke 10:41-42(NIV)

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When we demonstrate our faith in God by obedience, He not only promises to provide for us, He will provide – *Benny Hinn*

Some never get started on their destiny course because they cannot humble themselves to learn, grow, and change – *Cast Treat*

The Blood of Jesus washes away our past and the Name of Jesus opens up our future – *Jesse Duplantis*

Do what you can, with what you have and do it now!  
– *George Washington Carver*

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## Wisdom Nuggets

(Continued from Page 20)

Life is too short to live it bored. Do something that makes a difference. Live from your heart. Live your dream. Get on a team that is dedicated and committed to winning – *Charles Kraft*

Lead me, follow me or get out of the way  
– *General George Patton*

# Do not become a Casualty

## A closer look at Stress Management

### What is Stress?

Stress is the "wear and tear" our bodies experience as we adjust to our continually changing environment; it has physical and emotional effects on us and can create positive or negative feelings. As a positive influence, stress can help compel us to action; it can result in a new awareness and an exciting new perspective. As a negative influence, it can result in feelings of distrust, rejection, anger, and depression, which in turn can lead to health problems such as headaches, upset stomach, rashes, insomnia, ulcers, high blood pressure, heart disease, and stroke. With the death of a loved one, the birth of a child, a job promotion, or a new relationship, we experience stress as we readjust our lives. In so adjusting to different circumstances, stress will help or hinder us depending on how we react to it.

Too much stress can seriously interfere with your ability to perform effectively.

The art of stress management is to keep you at a level of stimulation that is healthy and enjoyable. This article will help you to monitor and control stress so that you can find and operate at a level that is most comfortable for you. It will discuss strategies to reduce or eliminate sources of unpleasant stress. It will also explain what can happen when you do not control stress properly.

Most people realize that aspects of their work and lifestyle can cause stress. While this is true, it is also important to note that it can be caused by your environment and by the food and drink you consume.

There are several major sources of stress:

- *Survival Stress*: this may occur in cases where your survival or health is threatened, where you are put under pressure, or where you experience some unpleasant or challenging event. Here adrenaline is released in your body

and you experience all the symptoms of your body preparing for 'fight or flight'.

- *Internally generated stress*: this can come from anxious worrying about events beyond your control, from a tense, hurried approach to life, or from relationship problems caused by your own behavior. It can also come from an 'addiction' to and enjoyment of stress
- *Environmental and Job stress*: here your living or working environment causes the stress. It may come from noise, crowding, pollution, untidiness, dirt or other distractions. Alternatively stress can come from events at work.
- *Fatigue and overwork*: here stress builds up over a long period. This can occur where you try to achieve too much in too little time, or where you are not using effective time management strategies.

### Stress Signals

- Waking up early or inability to sleep
- Migraine or headache
- Loss of appetite
- Misplaced anger or aggression
- Sighing
- Isolation
- Boredom/Loss of interest
- Tiredness

### *How Can I Eliminate Stress from My Life?*

As we have seen, positive stress adds anticipation and excitement to life, and we all thrive under a certain amount of stress. Deadlines, competitions, confrontations, and even our frustrations and sorrows add depth and enrichment to our lives. Our goal is not to eliminate stress but to learn how to manage it and how to use it to help us. Insufficient stress acts as a depressant and may leave us feeling bored or



dejected; on the other hand, excessive stress may leave us feeling "tied up in knots." What we need to do is find the optimal level of stress that will individually motivate but not overwhelm each of us.

### ***How Can I Tell what is Optimal Stress for Me?***

There is no single level of stress that is optimal for all people. We are all individual creatures with unique requirements. As such, what is distressing to one may be a joy to another. And even when we agree that a particular event is distressing, we are likely to differ in our physiological and psychological responses to it.

The person who loves to arbitrate disputes and moves from job site to job site would be stressed in a job which was stable and routine, whereas the person who thrives under stable conditions would very likely be stressed on a job where duties were highly varied. Also, our personal stress requirements and the amount which we can tolerate before we become distressed changes with our ages.

It has been found that most illness is related to unrelieved stress. If you are experiencing stress symptoms, you have gone beyond your optimal stress level; you need to reduce the stress in your life and/or improve your ability to manage it.

### ***How Can I Manage Stress Better?***

Identifying unrelieved stress and being aware of its effect on our lives is not sufficient for reducing its harmful effects. Just as there are many sources of stress, there are many possibilities for its management. However, all require work toward change: changing the source of stress and/or changing your reaction to it. How do you proceed?

#### **1. Become aware of your stressors and your emotional and physical reactions.**

Notice your distress. Don't ignore it. Don't gloss over your problems. Determine what events distress you. What are you telling yourself about meaning of these events? Determine how your body responds to the stress. Do you become nervous or physically upset? If so, in what specific ways?

#### **2. Recognize what you can change.**

Can you change your stressors by avoiding or eliminating them completely?

Can you reduce their intensity (manage them over a period of time instead of on a daily or weekly basis)?

Can you shorten your exposure to stress (take a break, leave the physical premises)? Can you devote the time and energy necessary to making a change (goal setting, time management techniques, and delayed gratification strategies may be helpful here)?

#### **3. Reduce the intensity of your emotional reactions to stress.**

The stress reaction is triggered by your perception of danger-physical danger and/or emotional danger. Are you viewing your stressors in exaggerated terms and/or taking a difficult situation and making it a disaster?

Are you expecting to please everyone?

Are you overreacting and viewing things as absolutely critical and urgent? Do you feel you must always prevail in every situation?

Work at adopting more moderate views; try to see the stress as something you can cope with rather than something that overpowers you.

Try to temper your excess emotions. Put the situation in perspective. Do not labor on the negative aspects and the "what ifs."

#### **4. Learn to moderate your physical reactions to stress.**

Slow, deep breathing will bring your heart rate and respiration back to normal.

Relaxation techniques can reduce muscle tension. Electronic biofeedback can help you gain voluntary control over such things as muscle tension, heart rate, and blood pressure. Medications, when prescribed by a physician, can help in the short term in moderating your physical reactions. However, they alone are not the answer. Learning to moderate these reactions on your own is a preferable long-term solution.

#### **5. Build your physical reserves.**

Exercise for cardiovascular fitness three to four times a week (moderate, prolonged rhythmic exercise is best, such as walking, swimming, cycling, or jogging). Eat well-balanced, nutritious meals. Maintain your ideal weight. Avoid nicotine, excessive caffeine, and other stimulants. Mix leisure with work. Take breaks and get away when you can. Get enough sleep. Be as consistent with your sleep schedule as possible.

#### **6. Maintain your emotional reserves.**

Develop some mutually supportive friendships or relationships. Pursue realistic goals which are meaningful to you, rather than goals others have for you that you do not share. Expect some frustrations, failures, and sorrows. Always be kind and gentle with yourself -- be a friend to yourself.

**(Continued on page 16)**

# The Gifts and the Calling of God

Rufus Oladosu

Rom 11:29

“For God's gifts and his call are irrevocable” (NIV).

## Diversities of gifts

The essential nature of God is LOVE. It is the nature of genuine love to give. The Living God is a giving one. His greatest gift to the world is Jesus Christ; "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son...." John 3:16(NIV); God's most valuable gift to the Church is the Holy Spirit; "Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him. By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive..." John 7:38-39 (NIV)

However, beside these gifts of the members of the Holy Trinity, God has also dispersed through men His manifold gifts for the fulfillment of His eternal purpose. These gifts can be broadly divided into three main categories, namely: **Natural gifts, Spiritual gifts, and Ministry gifts.**

## The Natural gifts

*Exodus 31:1-6 (Then the LORD said to Moses, "See, I have chosen Bezalel son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah, and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts to make artistic designs for work in gold, silver and bronze, to cut and set stones, to work in wood, and to engage in all kinds of craftsmanship. Moreover, I have appointed Oholiab son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan, to help him. Also I have given skill to all the craftsmen to make everything I have commanded you"): (NIV).* In this passage, the scripture reveals that God gave an assignment to Moses to build the tabernacle, a dwelling place for His glory, which is a type of His Church today.

God also called certain men and equipped them with gifts to build the tabernacle. God expected Moses to reveal the plan, supervise and inspect upon completion to ascertain its conformity to God's specifications. The gifted craftsmen are also expected to receive details and deploy their talents and gifts for the work of the Lord.

This same principle holds true in the body of Christ; each member of the body of Christ is differently gifted naturally. It is expected of each one to discover, develop and deploy the gifts for the work of the Lord. Each one is called and gifted for a particular assignment. Have you discovered yours? Just like unexercised muscle loses its tone, unused gift loses its value. We shall all give account for the gifts and talents to us.

It is unwise to cry for spiritual gifts and compete for spiritual offices while you are neglecting the natural gifts you were created with. Faithfully use what you have and more will be delivered to you.

## The Spiritual Gifts

*1 Corinthians 12:7-10 (But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.*

*For to one is given by the Spirit the **word of wisdom**; to another the **word of knowledge** by the same Spirit; To another **faith** by the same Spirit; to another the **gifts of healing** by the same Spirit; To another the **working of miracles**; to another **prophecy**; to another **discerning of spirits**; to another **divers kinds of tongues**; to another the **interpretation of tongues**.)*

In the above passage, nine gifts or manifestations of the Spirit are mentioned. These are Spiritual gifts and not what an individual has naturally by his make up.

Unlike the natural gifts, which are available to all men, the Spiritual gifts belong only to genuine Christians and are never for personal aggrandizement or commercial use.

For clearer understanding, spiritual gifts are divided into three subgroups, these are:

### 1. The power gifts:

These are gifts employed to do something supernaturally, they include:

- Gift of (special) faith
- Gifts of healing
- Working of miracles

They are indispensable for the ministry of evangelists.

### 2. Revelation Gifts

These are gifts that help to know something supernaturally. They include:

- The word of wisdom
- The word of knowledge
- The discerning of spirits

These gifts are essential for the ministry of Prophets.

### 3. The vocal gifts

These are gifts that help to say something supernaturally. They include:

- Prophecy
- Speaking in tongues
- Interpretation of tongues

All ministers of the gospel, and indeed all believers, should frequently operate in these gifts.

It is important to take note of certain points in the exercise of the Spiritual gifts.

- ✓ They are given under the prerogative of the Holy Spirit (1Corinthians 12:11). It is dangerous to 'manufacture' or 'concoct' them.
- ✓ Their exercise must build the body of Christ and not divide and destroy it (1Corinthians 12:7).
- ✓ They should be exercised orderly within the parameters of biblical safeguards (1Corinthians 14:26-33).

- ✓ These gifts though immensely important, will not benefit anyone when not channeled through love (1Corinthians 13:1-2).

Receive and exercise the gift(s) given to you. Mistakes may be made at the beginning but as you mature, greater accuracy will be attained.

## The Ministry Gifts

*Eph 4:11-13*

*It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. (NIV)*

The ministry gifts are also called the gifts of men. These five-fold ministries include Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers.

### 1. Apostles

They are sent to open new area for the gospel and guard the Church against false doctrine and practice. They can operate in other offices when not available or developed. Hence they frequently exercise all of the spiritual gifts and perform in any of the other ministry gifts. Every genuine missionary is an Apostle.

An example is Paul (Galatians 1:1, 2:8, 2Corinthians 12:12).

### 2. Prophets

They can help to reveal the things in the mind of God for a particular time and expose the schemes of the devil. The gift of prophecy and at least two of the revelation gifts are essential for this office.

An example is Agabus (Acts 11:27-28; 21:10-11)

### 3. Evangelists

They bring the unbelievers into God's kingdom through the preaching of the gospel often accompanied with signs and miracles.

An example is Philip (Acts 21: 8, Acts 8:5-8).

### 4. Pastors

They are set in the body of Christ to nurture, correct, and deploy believers into Christian

service. They are shepherds and hence they always stay with the flock. (1Peter 5:1-3)

An example is Timothy (1Timothy 1:3,).

## 5. Teachers

They expound the truths of the gospel, helping believers to grasp and apply them correctly.

An example is Apollos (Acts 18:24-28, 1Corinthians 3:6).

## Please take note of the following:

- Ministry offices are not titles. It is useless to call yourself something while no fruit is showing forth. (Mathew 7:20, John 15:16)
- It is Christ who sets men in offices. So it is expected that we properly understand the area of His calling and not venture into a position that one is not empowered and called to be. (1Corinthians 12:28)
- Ministry gifts function best when they help the members of the body discover their gifts and calling and deploy them appropriately. (Ephesians 4:11-12)

It is my prayer that you will understand your place and occupy it till Christ comes.

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# THE GIVER OF GIFTS, CALLS

Segun Ajayi

**Ephesians 4:4-16** *“There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called--one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it. This is why it says: "When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men."(What does "he ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly regions? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.)It was he, who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work” (NIV).*

Praise God, the Lord Jesus called us all into one body by His Spirit having received gifts for the benefit of the body. By the same calling, He endows grace unto men for service. We want to look at the purpose of the ministry gifts. There is a definite conviction in my heart that the Lord is still calling men and women into His service and will use them having endowed various gifts for effective service of those He calls.

## *What is the purpose of the ministry gifts?*

### 1. To prepare God’s people for the work of service

God that gave out gifts to men did not do this so that men and women can flaunt themselves around that they are this or that (Pastor, Apostle, Evangelist etc.) but He is expecting men and women to use these gifts to prepare His body to be effectual in serving Him.

The work of preparing God’s people starts at the time anyone is born into the family of God. God’s intention is that every man and woman will become effective workmen and women serving Him and bringing glory to Him. God is giving instruction to everyone born into the kingdom of God, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' Matt 21:28<sup>b</sup> (NIV).

The first purpose of the ministry gifts is to set men on the part of usefulness by preparing them with everything they need to be effective serving in the vineyard. Use the gifts accordingly. Breed workers in the vineyard; breed men and women that will discover God’s purpose for their lives in the ministry and cause the work of God to go unhindered.

### 2. To build the body of Christ

When everyone that God give gifts to, use this ministry gifts to prepare men and women for service,

the body of Christ will continually grow. I begin to look at a mathematical progression of everyman breeding men like themselves and the astronomical growth we should expect in the body. Alas, a lot of our men of God would not want their flock to discover what God have in stock for them and what they can be in the hands of a mighty God, the giver of gifts. They don't want their men and women to become ministers like them for fear that they lose their flock and their authority over them. Remember, despite the fact that Christ sent out His disciple out after giving them an idea what His father sent Him to do and He gave them authority to perform miracles, they still came back to Him and they were subject to Him.

Luke 10:1, 17 "After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ....The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."" (NIV)

Let the body of Christ grow, do not worry about ministries springing up right and left of your own, God that called you is a God of geometric progression and He is able to bring many to your fold. As men become like you in ministry you should become more fulfilled having caused a tremendous growth to the body. As ministries spring up as a result of men and women that you are breeding more labourers are being sent into the plenteous harvest. The Church of God is thus growing. Breed others like you. Teach men to become useful in the hands of God and anoint them for service.

### **3. That we should mature from infancy**

All fathers & mothers all over the world desire that their children should grow from infancy and become adults like them, able to take their own decision and be responsible.

The desire of the giver of the gifts, the head of the Church, is to make out of every believer men and women that can grow into maturity that will not be susceptible to the cunning craftiness of the enemy and can take decision and responsibility.

In my study I discover that this maturity will not come to us till our faith takes root in the Son of God, Jesus Christ and what He has accomplished for His body by His death. A lot of time, this seems elusive because the body of Christ as diverse as we are we have not agreed that we are only justified by faith, not by any institution we have set up and the standards and laws we put up in such institution. Men are then entrapped in the institutions rather than acknowledging the

finished work of Jesus Christ that brought justification. Until, the body of Christ comes to terms with what Jesus Christ has achieved, men will never come to maturity and their faith can be swerved by men.

Also maturity cannot come until men begin to seek God, know Him and what He has for them in His word. The scripture says **my people perish for lack of knowledge** (Hosea 4:6). Hence many depart from the knowledge of God and begin to run after men and after strange signs and wonders, which God can accomplish in their lives and through them without the help of any man.

When we become mature as a result of what the gifts have been used to accomplished, we would be able to demonstrate the same unction and anointing as Jesus Christ demonstrated, coming to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

It seems that the reasons why the Church is not experiencing the great work that Jesus Christ did is because the ministry gifts have not been used as they ought to be used to bring the Church from infancy to maturity. We will soon see a greater manifestation of God's power in our generation when the ministry gifts as endowed by the giver of the gifts are put to the right use and not for self aggrandizement and showman ship as we have seen in most circles.

Note also that when we come into maturity, the believers will not be easily carried away by any cunning craftiness of any man. The devil knows we are in the end-time and if we don't arise and be what God wants us to be, so many people will be deceived and will be carried away by the evil wind of the end-time. "The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons". 1 Tim 4:1 (NIV)

### **4. That we be able to grow unto Him in love and be fitted together to supply what is needed in the Church**

When the ministry gifts given are put to use in the Church as God desires, we will definitely grow together in the Lord. The Church will begin to live together in harmony; there will be cessations of every form of strife and schisms as have characterized our settings. We will no longer struggle with one another over positions and authority since we will all look up to the Lord, the giver of these gifts.

The Apostles will do his work, the Evangelists will function accordingly, the Prophets will prophecy, the Pastors will take care of the flock and the Teachers will be allowed to teach and will teach undisturbed. Every man will be made to do exactly what he or she is expected and gifted to do in the body to supply what exactly will make the body of Christ to be what God wanted it to be, a perfect system working harmoniously.

When God placed you in the body of Christ, He

# God is Calling

didn't do it without purpose. God has a plan to use you to minister to others. Now, don't be frightened about this. If God chooses you for a ministry, He will give you the tools to perform that ministry. We call these tools "ministry gifts."

Each of us has to discover our ministry gifts. Fortunately, this isn't hard, *if* we listen to what the Holy Spirit is saying to our hearts. The problem is that sometimes out of fear or pride, we try to adopt a gift or ministry which God never intended for us to have. Sometimes we will even be pressured by well meaning people into a particular ministry and end up regretting it. What we need to do is follow the leading of God in this matter and not the leading of man. Here are some tips for discovering your own ministry gifts.

**1. Look at what you are already doing without thinking.** Many times you may already be operating in a ministry gift without being aware of it. For instance, do you find yourself being able to share your testimony with virtual strangers with ease and they accept the Lord when you do, then you may have a gift of evangelism. So, you may already have a ministry without knowing it.

**2. Learn about the Gifts and Ministries of the Spirit.** Often times when people learn about the ministry gifts, they will be astonished and say, "You mean *that* is a ministry gift? I've always felt led to minister in that manner, but I didn't know it was that important." As you learn more about the gifts you may discover that you are already operating in them, but you also gain an understanding of each gift as being awesome and wonderful. To help you learn about the ministry gifts, you have a brief listing of some found in the Bible along with descriptions of each already discussed in this edition of the magazine.

### 3. Pray for the Lord to show you your gifts.

The Bible says that if we lack wisdom we are to ask of God. Well, if you need guidance in understanding your gift, God is there to give it. If you sincerely want to be used of God, he will show you what He has planned for you.

**4. See what "feels" right.** This is a bit hard to explain, but if you are walking in the spirit, certain ministry gifts will feel "right" or "appropriate" for you. Someone mentions something like a need for teachers and something in your spirit will say, "Yes, that's exactly where I need to be."

### Please note the following:

- **There is a divine call:**  
You cannot enter ministry because you want to, or feel like it. You cannot make yourself a ministry gift. You cannot enter the ministry because someone else tells you that you are suited for it
- **You can recognize a divine call:**  
You will have a conviction in your own Spirit, a witness in your own heart. The call of God comes upon your spirit, not your flesh. There will be a **divine** compulsion on the inside of you. 1Corinthians9:16 "Woe is me if I do not preach the gospel."
- **Methods of the call:**
  1. May be dramatic as was Paul's experience on the road to Damascus, Acts 9.
  2. May come by inward witness or knowing
  3. Prophecy does not call a person, but should only confirm what you already know in your spirit
  4. The method of the call is not important, it will vary with individuals and the way that God deals with them; Scripture has nothing to say on the way a person is called, but obedience to the call is important.
- **An anointing evidences a divine call**
- **Whom God calls, He equips**
  1. He gives supernatural equipment to do the job. This is grace - God's power and ability.
  2. Different offices function differently and need different types of grace. Eph. 4:7;

Rom. 1:5; 1Corinthians 3:10. There are also different measures of grace.

3. Every Christian can have spiritual gifts operating through them, but ministers will be equipped to minister regularly with those gifts necessary to stand in that office
4. The ministry gifts consists not only of name, but in demonstration of power (1Corinthians2: 4-5; Acts 8:10-24; 1Thessalonians. 1:5; 1Corinthians4: 20)
5. A man's gift will make room for him, Proverbs 18:16
6. Higher offices do not receive any more reward; there is just greater responsibility that goes with the office. **God rewards faithfulness, not offices.**

➤ **One must be faithful**

1. The gift, as well as the character of the individual, must be developed and mature. It takes work, dedication, consecration, submitting to the will of God, and study. (2 Tim. 2:15)

2. Preparation time is not lost time
3. Getting out too soon can cause hurt to the individual as well as to the Body of Christ. 1 Tim. 3:6-7
4. Most people do not start out where they will end up. Do what your hand finds to do. This is preparation and part of the training and will give one experience.
5. The growth and developing of the office is progressive.
6. Let God make you the minister He wants you to be. Take time to wait on God.
7. Realize the call, be faithful to work for God wherever you are, and let God promote you. Stay open to God and flow in the direction He has for your life.
8. Do not intrude in the wrong office; can cost you your life and ministry
9. Do what your hand finds to do. Ecclesiastes. 9:10; Col. 3:23

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## **THE PRICE FOR GREATNESS**

(Continued from page 5)

Our service to God as we serve one another will bring God's honour and promotion.

John 12:26

“Whoever serves me must follow me; and **where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me**” (NIV).

Service involves giving your up your time, resources, energy, will, gifts and talents so that someone else will benefit. It means being at work for someone else. Jesus calls His disciples to be servants and calls us by His own example and with direct challenges.

Jesus Christ left heaven to become a man so that He might redeem all men. He served by dying. He taught His disciples that **the greatest one is the one who served**. He taught by action like when He washed their feet.

We are called to serve God. We must be careful to put God first in our service, God will surely honour those who serve Him and raise them to greatness.

As we unselfishly give ourselves in any situation in other to meet the needs of our brethren for Jesus sake, we are channelling a path for our greatness in time to come.

When it comes to the things we do for God and others, we cannot claim special privilege. We serve God and others not on the basis of what we are or have, but on the basis of what God has made us and what God has given to us.

*Luke 17:10 “So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty’ (NIV).*

We are unworthy, but of a great worth in the hand of a worthy and great God.

(Continued on Page 16)

# Do not become a Casualty

(Continued from Page 10)

The following hints also provide you with a program for managing stress.

## **Delight Yourself in God**

Wait upon the Lord (Isaiah 40:31); remember that God will strengthen you in that situation. Do not fret, rather cast all your cares on the Lord, He cares for you. Put your trust in God, retreat into His presence and ask the Lord for direction in that situation. Do not hastily make any decision. Calm down and God will speak to your heart. Focus on God who can deliver you from every situation and can comfort you by His Spirit. It is well.

## **You Should Organize Yourself.**

Take better control of the way you're spending your time and energy so you can handle stress more effectively.

## **You Should Control Your Environment...**

...by controlling who and what is surrounding you. In this way, you can either get rid of stress or get support for yourself.

## **You Should Love Yourself...**

...by giving yourself positive feedback. Remember, you are a unique individual who is doing the best you can.

## **You Should Reward Yourself...**

... by planning leisure activities into your life. It really helps to have something to look forward to.

## **You Should Exercise Your Body...**

...since your health and productivity depend upon your body's ability to bring oxygen and food to its cells. Therefore, exercise your heart and lungs regularly, a minimum of three days per week for 15-

30 minutes. This includes such activities as walking, jogging, cycling, swimming, aerobics, etc.

## **You Should Relax Yourself...**

...by taking your mind off your stress and concentrating on breathing and positive thoughts. Meditation on the word of God, progressive relaxation, exercise, listening to relaxing music, communicating with friends and loved ones, etc.

## **You Should Rest Yourself ...**

...as regularly as possible, sleep 7-8 hours a night. Take study breaks. There is only so much your mind can absorb at one time. It needs time to process and integrate information. A general rule of thumb: take a ten minute break every hour. Rest your eyes as well as your mind.

## **You Should be Aware of Yourself.**

Be aware of distress signals such as insomnia, headaches, anxiety, upset stomach, lack of concentration, colds/flu, excessive tiredness, etc. Remember, these can be signs of potentially more serious disorders (i.e., ulcers, hypertension, and heart disease).

## **You Should Feed Yourself / You Should Not Poison Your Body.**

Eat a balanced diet. Avoid high calorie foods that are high in fats and sugar. Don't use drugs and/or alcohol. Caffeine will keep you awake, but it also makes it harder for some to concentrate. Remember, a twenty minute walk has been proven to relax well.

## **Enjoy Yourself.**

It has been shown that happier people tend to live longer, have less physical problems, and are more productive. Look for the humour in life when things don't make sense. Remember, you are very special and deserve only the best treatment from yourself.

If stress continues to be a problem, talk it over with your pastor, counsellor, or another professional for advice and guidance.

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## ***THE PRICE FOR GREATNESS***

(Continued from Page 15)

I therefore charge you brethren as Christ has shown us, to use whatever gift or talent you have and every opportunity you have to serve others, remembering you are serving Christ not man. In due time God will promote you and the glory will be God's.

1 Pet 4:10-11

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen" (NIV).



# THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE LIFE OF A BELIEVER

‘Ranti Ogunkunle

*John 14:16-18 “And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”*

This was a prophetic promise from our Lord Jesus as regards two unique but separate encounters, which every Christian would (should) have with the Holy Spirit; The Holy Spirit dwelling with and being in the believer.

In essence there are two experiences:

**The indwelling of the Holy Spirit** (to have the Holy Spirit living in the believer) and **the infilling of the Holy Spirit** (to have the infilling power of the Holy Spirit).

The same Holy Spirit indwells and fills a believer for different reasons and for different purposes. Just like water can be used for bathing and drinking purposes at different times and like a woman plays the roles of a wife, a daughter, a mother at different times to different people depending on her relationships to them, so also is the Holy Spirit to believers.

Paul the apostle received the revelation of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in a believer’s life as, he said: in *Romans 8: 9 & 11* “*But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. ... But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.*”

Prophet Ezekiel also prophesied the believers’ experience of the infilling power of the Holy Spirit as he also said in *Ezekiel 36:26-27* “*A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.*”

Let’s look at the two experiences of the encounter with the Holy Spirit under the following:

The TIME of the experience

The PLACE of the experience

The PURPOSE of the experience

## THE TIME OF THE EXPERIENCE

The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit – the moment when one is saved the Holy moves in to take residence in the life of the believer because God releases a deposit of the Holy Spirit at new birth, to make or set apart for God.

*2Corinthians. 1:22 “ Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.” KJV*

*2Corinthians. 1:22 “who has placed his mark of ownership upon us, and who has given us the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the guarantee of all that he has in store for us” GNB (Good News Bible)*

*Ephesians 1:13 “And you also became God’s people when you heard the true message, the Good News that brought you salvation. You believed in Christ, and God put his stamp of ownership on you by giving you the Holy Spirit he had promised” GNB (Good News Bible)*

So at birth into the family of God the Holy Spirit is given to indwell the believer as a seal – mark and stamp of ownership.

On the other hand the infilling power of the Holy Spirit is a separate experience and subsequent to salvation, that is it comes after salvation.

*Acts 1: 8. “But ye shall receive POWER, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”*

## THE PLACE OF THE EXPERIENCE

The indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit is a deposit in our spirit man; whereas, the infilling power

of the Holy Spirit comes upon us to enable us to become a carrier of God's power in our mortal bodies.

*Joel 2:28 " And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit."*

This experience of the infilling power of the Holy Spirit enables us to become a carrier of God's power upon our mortal bodies to work the impossible, the miraculous, the incredible signs and wonders.

When the Holy Ghost came, the tongues of the believers spoke in unknown languages, (*Acts 2:4 "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance"*) fulfilling the prophecy of Joel in 2:28-29.

The evidence of speaking in tongues follows the Holy Spirit's baptism. This is the GATEWAY into experiencing the other gifts of the Holy Spirit, through this eyes are empowered to see vision, mouth empowered to prophecy, mind stimulated to receive word of knowledge and word of wisdom, hands are divinely electrified to perform healing etc.

*Acts 10:38 " How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."*

## **THE PURPOSE OF THE EXPERIENCE**

The indwelling presence of Holy Spirit is to produce the quality character and the kind of life that Jesus lived here on earth in the believers, i.e. to have SUPERNATURAL power to live like Christ. The Infilling power is to have SUPERNATURAL power for service and to fight and overcome the devil.

The Indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit therefore produces the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

*Galatians 5: 22-23 "But the Spirit produces love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, humility, and self-control. There is no law against such things as these."*(Good News Bible)

*Galatians 5: 22 "But the fruit of the (Holy) Spirit (the work which His presence within accomplishes) is love, joy (gladness), peace, patience....."* (Amplified Bible)

*Romans 5:5b " for God has poured out his love into our hearts by means of the Holy Spirit, who is God's gift to us".* (Good News Bible)

The Holy Spirit living and manifesting through us enables us to live the Christian life - Matt. 11:28-30.

To be meek and lowly like Christ can only come by the indwelling Holy Spirit. Each believer has the duty to look up to the Holy Spirit and allow Him to live through him.

The secret of living and not sinning is the seed in the believer, which is the deposit of the Holy Spirit within him.

*I John 3:9 "whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God."*

The Infilling power of the Holy Spirit produces the Spiritual gifts.

*1Corinthians 12:8-10 "For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:"*

## **Communion of the Holy Spirit**

*2Corinthians. 13:14 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen"*

Communion means to communicate/fellowship/relate with somebody. To commune is to converse confidentially and sympathetically. It is represented in both Hebrew and Greek by several words literally signifying to speak. To communicate is to impart something to another, so that it becomes common to the giver and the receiver. In 1Titus 6:18, "willing to communicate" (the Revised Version, margin "sympathize"), represents a single word, and refers to the habit of sharing with others either sympathy or property. The Revised Version gives "companionships" for the word 'communications' in 1Corinthians 15: 33.

Furthermore the terms "communion" and "fellowship" in the Bible designate acts of fellowship observed among the early Christians or express the unique sense of unity and fellowship of which these acts were the outward expression. The several passages in which these terms are used fall into two groups: those in which they refer to **acts of**

**fellowship**, and those in which they refer to **fellowship as experienced**.

All of this explains the exact kind of relationship that should exist and be maintained between the believer and the Holy Spirit.

There is a communication - **The Holy Spirit communicates/shares with us what Jesus has done for us**.

*John 16:14-15* " He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you.

The Holy Spirit brings the things of God into our experience. **Ephesians 1:3** "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ" (NIV).

**2 Peter 1:3** "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness" (NIV).

These passages showing what Christ has accomplished for us already. All we need to do is receive as the Holy Spirit shows it unto us (by revelation through communion).

*Galatians 3:14* " that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

The Holy Spirit is indispensable in the lives of all believers.

The Holy Spirit works through the Word of God – *2Thessalonians. 2:13.* ".....God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth:"

The extent of the communion/manifestation of the Holy Spirit in a believer depends on the amount of the Word of God stored in him. After all the 'real thing' called 'Coke' is the 'liquid content only' of the Coca-Cola bottle, very much similarly, what makes a Christian is the Word content.

### **How to relate practically with the Holy Spirit**

Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God; He is God; Therefore reverent, worship and adore Him. We should always expect to hear from Him.

Acts 15:28; Acts 16:6-7 - Holy Spirit has a plan for your life. Enquire from Him. The Holy Spirit can hear, see, feel, and can be annoyed. Be careful not to grieve the Holy Spirit –

*Isaiah 63:10* "But they rebelled, and vexed his Holy Spirit: therefore he was turned to be their enemy, and he fought against them".

The Holy Spirit can be quenched. He can be resisted. The Holy Spirit knows when He is appreciated and welcomed into our life and situation. *1Thessalonians. 5:19.*

### **The Power of the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit is the Power of God for service, power for the supernatural – *Luke. 24:49, Acts 1:5-8.* As we have seen before, this mortal body can be made to do what ordinary human flesh cannot do.

The power of the Holy Spirit is GREATER and MIGHTIER than all the physical powers put together.

In *John 3:3, 5-6 & Titus 3:5*, The Holy Spirit is the power of God for regeneration; spiritually dead men are transformed into SAINTS by receiving the Holy Spirit. The power of the Holy Spirit breaks all yokes and bondages of sin.

The Holy Spirit is the power of God for creation (*Job 33:4, Ps. 104:30*). The Holy Spirit was the creative power of God in Genesis. The Holy Spirit was the power of God that made way in the wilderness; that parted the Red Sea into two; that created water from the rock, which created sweet water from bitter water at Marah.

We have heard testimonies of the Holy Spirit creating ORGANS in human body, creating child in barren women. Power of Holy Spirit creates supernatural wealth and breakthroughs – *Deut 8:18* etc.

The Holy Spirit is the power of God for healing and deliverance from demons and evil spirit (*Mt. 12:28, Acts 10:38, Isaiah. 10:27*).

The Holy Spirit is the power of God for quickening, restoration and resurrection (*Romans 8:11, II Corinthians. 3:6, Ezekiel. 37*). Dead businesses and lives can resurrect by the power of the Holy Ghost. Dead marriages, dead ventures, failing memory and failing health can be quickened to top performance by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Since the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit has been here, working in the lives of men and women on the earth. All we need to do is invite Him to enter into our lives. You can then become a carrier of this power. (...His power is at work in us) *Ephesians 3: 20*  
I pray for more of His power and manifestation in my life EVERYDAY.

# Wisdom Nuggets

**Listed below are life-changing quotes of men and women of God and some great men and women. They will be of great inspiration and blessing to you.**

Never doubt in the dark what God has shown you in the light - *Edith Edman*.

The power of God will take you out of your own plans and put you into the plan of God – *Smith Wigglesworth*.

Faith sees the invisible, believes the unbelievable and receives the impossible.

Worry does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow; it empties today of its strength.

Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God – *Corrie Ten Boom*

Fear tolerated is faith terminated – *Kenneth Copeland*

When the storms of life strike, it's what happens in you that will determine what happens to you – *Jerry Savelle*

Your life is only as productive as the freshness of your walk with God – *Randy Shankle*

When you come in contact with the anointing of God, it not only effects your moment, it effects your tomorrow – *Creflo Dollar*

You must flow with the will of God, in the service of God, to obtain the power of God – *Benny Hinn*

Whatever God's word says I am – that's what I am! Whatever His word says I can do – with His help I can do! Whatever His word says He will do – He will do! – *Kenneth Copeland*

Repentance is a change of willing, of feeling and of living, in respect to God – *Charles Finney*

Dependence upon God makes heroes of ordinary people like you and me – *Bruce Wilkinson*

One of satan's primary weapons is ignorance. If he can stop you from knowing, he can stop you from growing.

If you are at the same spiritually today that you were yesterday, you are a backslider - *Smith Wigglesworth*.

Success is when preparation meets opportunity

Sow a thought, reap an act. Sow an act, reap a habit. Sow a habit, reap a character. Sow a character, reap a destiny.

Don't be 'one of these days...' Christian, be a 'This is the day!' Christian.

I know success or failure in my life or ministry does not depend on my skill or even on external circumstances, it depends only on my faithfulness. God will give me the gifts necessary to do whatever He calls me to do, and He will not be hindered in His work by circumstances – *Lester Sumrall*

Christianity is not a struggle to become something; it is a choice to let Jesus be! – *Malcolm Smith*

God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supplies – *Hudson Taylor*

The purpose of prayer is not to change our circumstances, but to change us – *C.S. Lewis*.

To avoid criticism, do nothing, say nothing, be nothing – *Elbert Hubbard*

Most men can stand adversity, but if you really want to test a man's true character, give him power – *Abraham Lincoln*

Getting knocked down doesn't make you a loser, everybody gets knocked down. Winners get up! Be a winner....Get up! – *Charles Kraft*

To go to the next level you must be will be willing to say 'No' to the good so you can say 'Yes' to the best.

After you are born again, and after you have developed the habit of investing daily time in God's presence, your passion becomes a clue to what God really called you to do – *Charles Kraft*

***(Continued on page 7)***