

# THE SCHOOL OF TRIBULATION

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#### **CHAPTER ONE**

# THE SCHOOL OF TRIBULATION

Metals become pure through long process of heating in the furnace. For a goldsmith to bring out pure metal, he must subject it to heat in the fire. When gold passes through fire, it comes out refined. Though fire is hot and uncomfortable it still refines.

Psalm 119:67: Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word.

Here is a man who picked up unforgettable lessons from tribulation. He was going astray before, but when he passed through affliction, it brought him to his senses. The prodigal son also learnt a few lessons from the school of affliction. There are many in the Bible who learnt lessons from the school of tribulation. Let us pick one example at the outset.

#### THE MAN MOSES

By the time Moses was through with the school of tribulation, he had learnt some lessons. God knew that he ought to be meek like a lamb for him to be able to take the stubborn people of Israel to the Promised Land. There was a wonderful testimony about Moses. The Bible says he was the meekest man that ever lived on the surface of the earth. If sonic people had a quarter of the power of Moses, no one would be able to talk to them anymore.

Moses also learnt that he needed to have lion-like determination. Although he was meek, he was highly determined. He also learnt that he had to be as calm as a sleeping ocean. The Israelites cursed him, provoked him, murmured against him and if not because he had learnt to be calm he would not have been able to lead them.

He also learnt that he had to be as firm as a rock which smiles at the storm. If you are furious with a rock and take up a cutlass, it would not be afraid. He also learnt from the school of affliction that nobody could make himself

great outside God. When he saw that an Egyptian was chiding an Israelite, he killed the Egyptian. The next time he was about to help two Israelites who were fighting, one told him, "Mind yourself, do not kill us the way you killed that Egyptian."

Nobody can make himself great outside God. No one can make himself something that God has not made him. If you try to become what God has not made you, you will become glorified nonentity. Moses also learnt how God could turn a nobody into somebody. The Bible records that of all the prophets no one was like Moses who spoke with God face to face.

#### **MY LESSONS**

I personally learnt some lessons in the school of tribulation. My father was a very poor policeman. Several times, he was warned at the police station to stop preaching to people at the counter and simply charge them to court. He suffered a lot because he would not collect bribe. He was then transferred to a station where he could not even get voluntary gifts for doing a good job. The day I was admitted to university was the day I learnt to depend on God.

The first fee paid for me was N50 which was borrowed. I learnt my lesson.

Immediately I got to the university I won a scholarship. The lesson I learnt was that God is my source. While I was in the university, I was seriously involved in the work of God. Almost every day of the week I was occupied with one activity or the other. At a time, I complained of too much work load and decreased the rate of my involvement and faced my academic work.

It was not too long when I developed acute head ache. Believers prayed for me, but the more they prayed the more serious it became. At a point I told the brethren to stop praying since I knew the cause of my problem. I cried to God for mercy and amended my way. The lesson I learnt from this was that you must put God first, then He will surprise you.

#### THE TROUBLE SEEKER

Sometime ago, I lived in a particular place where a woman magistrate lived about 50 metres away. One day, the woman wrote a petition against me: "There is one Dr. Olukoya living close to me. Every 3:00 a.m. he would wake up and begin to scream. He would say thief, prostitute, idiot and would scream till 6:00a.m. and afterwards he would go to sleep."

She maintained that I did that everyday. People thought it was a joke but she did not take it lightly, She wrote the petition to the commissioner of police and copied to the DPO in a nearby station and to my work place. I can still remember her last sentence in that petition: "People like Dr. Olukoya, who screams from 3:00a.m. to 6:00 a.m., are not supposed to live in an ideal environment such as ours."

One day, somebody asked her whether she had ever met me, the man she was busy accusing. She said, "I don't want to meet a rogue." One day, she took her lawyer and a policeman to look for me. When she met me she could not believe that I was Dr. Olukoya because, according to her my appearance did not portray me as 'a rogue' who could be making such noise at night. I told her that I never made the kind of noise she described. Then she said there were many people making such a noise in my room.

I told her to follow me to the room to confirm the truth, that I was not even married. I took her, the police and the lawyer to all the rooms in my flat. They checked under the bed and at all the corners of the house to verify her claim. When she entered the toilet to check I concluded that something must be wrong with her.

After she looked all round and could not find any person, she still concluded: "They have all gone to work." When they left, I started praying, asking God what might have caused this. It took me time to understand what was happening.

I was sent to Cuba and two days after I left, she came again to my place of work to report that I was again making the noise. The people she reported to said, "Madam, the man you are accusing is not in this country now," That was how God delivered me from her hands. It took me time to understand that her problem was the acidic prayer I was directing on satanic agents around. They wanted to get me out of that area because they were being hindered.

#### **Prayer Points**

- 1. All the camps of my enemies, receive confusion, in the name or Jesus
- 2. Lord, empower my life with Your authority over every demonic force that sets itself against my life.
- 3. Lord, let all the impossible begin to become possible for me in every department of my life.
- 4. Lord, take me from where I am to where You want me to be.
- 5. Lord, make a way for me where there is no way.
- 6. Lord, grant me the power to be fulfilled, successful and prosperous in life.
- 7. Lord, break me up in every department of my life.
- 8. Lord, make me to breakthrough into dumbfounding miracles in all areas of my life.
- 9. Lord, make me to break out of every obstacle on my way to progress in life.

#### **CHAPTER TWO**

# LESSONS FROM THE SCHOOL OF PRAYER AND FASTING

One night, a man who had five children had a dream in which a snake came and swallowed one of his children. The next morning, the man's wife landed in the hospital with the child who had lo be placed on the danger list. After a few days, the man dreamed again as the snake came and swallowed another child. The snake kept swallowing the children one after the other and their mother was full-time at the hospital.

#### THE DEMONIC SNAKE

The man ran around until he was directed to one powerful fetish priest who gave him some materials to burn in his house. He was told to allow the smoke of the materials burnt to circulate throughout the house. The very night he burnt the materials the snake came again with the head of the fetish priest and the only child that had been discharged from the hospital was admitted again.

The man was fed up and abandoned all the witch doctors and other beggarly powers. He ran back to God whom he had abandoned and started to fast and pray. All his prayer points were based on Isaiah 41:11-12 which says:

Behold, all they that were incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded: they shall be as nothing: and they that strive with thee shall perish. Thou shalt seek them, and shalt not find them, even them that contended with thee: they **that war against thee shall be as nothing, and as a thing of nought.** 

#### THE ENCOUNTER

The man remembered that anytime he dreamt about the snake there was always a rod in his hand, but he was not sure of the function of the rod. After three days fasting and night prayers, he saw what he could call a night vision.

He saw himself in a classroom and a man dressed in white clothes and with a radiant smile began to teach him. He instructed him to write down the lessons he would learn. As he did not realise the meaning of this, he asked the man, "Sir, do you realise that all my children are in the hospital and you are smiling like that? " The man said, "Just look and listen" and went ahead and said:

- 1. "Your enemy is using your weakness to his own advantage." (The man wrote this down).
- 2. The angel further said, "You must discover the weakness of your enemy and attack him through such weakness." The man could not understand, for this sounded very strange to him. He had thought that spirits did not have any weakness whatsoever and that all the enemies of man were powerful in all areas.

#### **DEEP LESSONS**

He asked the heavenly teacher to explain to him what he said and the teacher started to list the weakness of the devil. He said, "The first stronghold the devil uses for many people is ignorance, that is lack of knowledge. Some people rush to a particular mountain to pray.

They are ignorant that God is not geographically located. Some sit at the bar beach gazing at the sea with an open Bible in their hands.

They only stare at the Bible without reading it. Why? Ignorance. Some rush to the prophet and the prophet would use fresh eggs to bathe them. Why? Ignorance."

"The second lesson is that the devil is not omnipotent. He is not present everywhere. In fact, he has to move from place to place." The man noted this too.

The angel continued, "The third lesson is that the devil does not know everything. For example, if he knew that through death Jesus would conquer him, he would not have allowed Him to go to the cross. The nailing of Jesus to the cross was his undoing."

## SATAN'S LIMITATION

The devil is not omnipotent. He does not have all the powers. Only God has all the powers. The angel told the man that the devil is fighting a lost battle. He lost the battle at the cross of Calvary. What he is involved in now is a kind of guerilla warfare. He knew fully well that his defeat was a concluded matter and he knows that believers can enforce that defeat through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The angel told him also that the devil could not pray but man could pray. That is man's advantage over the devil. He can call upon God but the devil has nobody to call upon.

The angel also stated that the devil hates light and loves darkness; therefore, pull him to the light then he will run away. But as long as one is in darkness, that becomes the devil's delight. When somebody grinds a whole human being and uses it to make lipstick for people to use, the devil will be happy to keep people using such lipstick ignorant. He wants to keep people in darkness to his own advantage.

## WHAT THE DEVIL HATES

The angel told him that the devil hates the truth and advised: "You must tell the truth. Stay on the truth and he will run away. The small lies you tell give him the opportunity to work against you."

The angel told him that the devil hates praises to God therefore, we should offer praises to God always. Sing praises always; whether at home or abroad. Any time the devil does not hear your voice of praise, he comes to check what you are doing. When a life is praise-free, the devil invites all kinds of sicknesses and infirmities to gain access into that life.

The devil hates divine joy. The Bible says, "Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say unto you rejoice." The Scripture says, "The joy of the Lord is your strength." The angel also told the man that the devil could not

withstand regular bombardment with the word of God uttered in faith. That is why if you have the ability to talk, you still have a good defense.

#### **IMPREGNABLE FIRE**

I remember a confession made by a pastor about a member of his congregation who was selling salt and nothing but salt and was very rich. One day, there was a heavy downpour and the flood was so heavy that it swept away the member's store. When the pastor was told that all the man's salt had was destroyed he did not know how to console him.

He was deliberating on how to go about it, but to his amazement he met the man jumping, dancing and singing unto the Lord. The pastor greeted him and said, "Sir, have you not heard what happened to the store where you kept bags of salt meant for sale? He replied, "Yes, God has allowed the devil to destroy that shop because He wants to build a bigger one for me." The pastor was shocked at his response. The mall proved that he knew what it means to be an overcomer.

The man who had an encounter with an angel was told that his enemy could be likened to a serpent that could bit, spit, strangulate or swallow. When the enemy bites he injects poison into human bodies. He also blinds and maims. When he strangulates he breaks the bone to pieces. But when you become fire, you can protect yourself from his attacks.

Who maketh his angels spirits; his ministers a flaming fire. Psalms 104:4.

If any satanic snake injects poison into the body of a firebrand believer, the fire will bum it off. If it spits, the fire will destroy it. If it tries to strangulate, the believer becomes too hot for it. If it swallows, the fire will cause it to vomit.

The teacher continued: "The major entrances of the enemy are deceit and temptation. He deceives people to confuse them. He tempts men with evil when they fall out of God's way. He then ensnares and catches them with his net. He also accuses them of any small thing they do wrong.

#### THE ANGEL EXPLAINS

The angel also taught the brother that satan had instructed his followers to destroy Christians through money, power and sex. Incidentally these three things have done a lot of havoc to a lot of Christians. When someone is hungry for money or power, or is sexually perverse, he or she easily becomes a prey to the enemy. These are agents of destruction.

The angel also told him that satanic powers that had been operating in the lives of a victim for a long time would not go out peacefully without a vicious fight. The enemy would only respond to violence. Imagine a demon that has been living in a victim's body for 52 years, and the victim wants it out. It will resist eviction because it will not like to relinquish its accommodation.

The angels then started to ask the man some questions and to answer the questions himself. He said, "Do you know the meaning of Belial? Belial is the spirit of war and death. "Do you know the meaning of Beelzebub? Beelzebub means the lord of the flies." It is the spirit behind anything that flies like witches.

"Do you know the meaning of Jezebel? It is the spirit of worldliness and a spirit wife."

"Do you know the meaning of queen of heaven?

In the second heaven, where the devil operates, there is a queen there called queen of heaven."

The man then asked, "Is the queen of heaven mentioned in the Bible?" The angel answered in the affirmative. The Bible says in Jeremiah 44: 17:

But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offering unto her as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for then had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil. The queen of heaven is the spirit behind those who bake doughnuts and carry them to sell at burial grounds or road junctions.

## THE BROKEN HEAD

The angel told the man that the enemy operates with a broken head. The man did not understand this. The angel then quoted the Scripture that says, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman's seed and her seed shall bruise thy head, and thou shall bruise his feet" (Gen. 3:15). Then the man understood that the head of satan is already broken or bruised.

The angel instructed him: "Bind the strongman and then you can spoil his house." Never try to spoil the house of a strongman without first binding him. Do not try to recover your stolen properties without first binding the strongman.

The angel also explained to the man the meaning of strongman. He said: "Wherever satan gets to, he stations someone as a representative who works in his interest. This operation commander is called a strongman. He is a ruler over a system or unit of spirits. He is a commander of a unit of satanic soldiers while the devil is the chief commander."

A strongman can be assigned over individuals, families businesses, streets, churches or a nation. As soon as he is bound, you can spoil his house. It is then that his captives can be set free. It is then his control can be broken and his authority cancelled.

The angel told the man that with the secrets revealed he could overcome the enemy. When the man woke up, he was dumbfounded. Two things struck him: That the enemy is operating with a broken head and that the strongman has to be bound before his house is spoiled.

## A FATAL MISTAKE

The man then understood what to do. The next time the snake showed up, it made a fatal mistake. That is why we pray in this church, "Let my enemy make mistakes that will advance my cause." Evil spirits can make mistakes.

They made a great mistake about Jesus. Paul declared, "If the enemies had known, they would not have crucified the King of glory."

When the snake turned up again the brother was battle- ready. He cried with a loud voice: "I rebuke you and bind you, in the name of Jesus Christ." Immediately the snake stretched out as if electrocuted. The man roared, "Release my children, in the name of Jesus!" The snake vomited them one after the other.

The brother remembered what the angel told him that the enemy is operating with a broken head, With the rod the man used to see in his hand, he smote the head of the snake and to his amazement, the head became two. One was that of his former girl friend that he had wanted to marry but the marriage did not work out, the second was the head of that fetish priest he consulted.

#### SWEET VICTORY

The next morning, all the children recovered and were demanding food. Two weeks later, the news got to him that the fetish priest was dead and that the former girl friend ran mad. It then dawned on him that his former girl friend also consulted the same fetish priest he had consulted. He had made a mistake by going to where his enemy went, hence his problem multiplied. But thank God that he was later delivered.

Beloved, victory came to this man when he learnt certain things. That was how he broke the backbone of the enemy. If after a period of spiritual bombardment your problem persists, it means there are still some things to be broken. No matter how strong your enemy, he has some areas of weakness which you can use to his detriment.

#### **Prayer Points**

- 1. Anything from the kingdom of darkness that has made its business to hinder me, I single you out right now and bind you, in tile name of Jesus.
- 2. Be bound with chains that cannot be broken, in the name of Jesus.

- 3. I strip off all your spiritual armour, in the name of Jesus.
- 4. Lose the support of other evil powers, in the name of Jesus.
- 5. Do not involve yourself with me against, in the name of Jesus.
- 6. Lord Jesus, I thank you for the victory.
- 7. I renounced every signing of my name over to Satan, in Jesus' name.
- 8. I announce that my name is written in the Lamb's book of life, in the name of Jesus.

#### **CHAPTER THREE**

# YOUR PROBLEMS AND YOUR WEAKNESSES

A minister was praying for somebody and three demons came and gave the man being prayed for a terrible slap. The man fell down and before the minister could say. 'Jesus is Lord', he was no longer breathing. The minister got annoyed and said, "Okay, you three demons, stand at attention now." The demons could not go and were gripped by fear.

The minister then issued a word of authority: "I command the ground to open and I order you to enter." As the ground opened, none wanted to enter and two of them pushed one forward and in and the ground closed up. And like that the other two were also swallowed. The minister then prayed for the revival of the man and he was restored.

#### THE ENEMY'S STRONGHOLD

The second stronghold of the enemy is your own weakness. It is high time we refused our enemy to use our weaknesses against us. Sometimes the devil uses a quarrel between the husband and the wife as a weapon against them. When they fight, he is happy. Sometimes allowing the spirit of discouragement is a weakness which can becloud the soul. When victory is about to be won and the person is depressed it is a weakness.

Sometimes your weakness is giving room to sadness and worry. When you are depressed, the enemy would have every freedom to carry out his wicked operations. At times your weakness can be envy. You may envy others who have what you do not have. The enemy can use this against you.

#### **DIVINE SUFFICIENCY**

Some people think that God is geographically located. In the Bible, when God's people defeated their enemies, they said, it was because the God of

the Israelites was the God of the mountain. The enemies then said, "Let us arise and fight them in the valley and we shall defeat them." God said, "These people are ignorant, they do not know that I am the God of both the mountain and the valley."

There are some people who come to our church for prayer meetings and Bible study but on Sundays they go to white garment churches. This is a serious weakness and the enemy will use it against them. Your weakness could arise from using your mouth to strengthen him by confessing defeat. Anytime you confess defeat you are giving the devil an opportunity against you.

#### **AREAS OF WEAKNESS**

Your weakness may be traced to yielding to provocation. When your miracles are around the corner, you may suddenly get angry. When you remove your weakness, you destroy the backbone of the enemy. Samson had a weakness that was enough to destroy him. What was that weakness? It was love for strange women. He did nothing about it until it destroyed him.

There are lots of people who practise fornication, masturbation, lesbianism or homosexuality and are found in the church of God. They do not want to get out of their sins and they want to paralyse the strong man. No, it is not possible. The strongman will use their weaknesses against them. If Samson had dealt with his weakness, the backbone of the enemy would have been broken.

I know a man who, although he was a priest in one of the orthodox churches, he had about six girl friends in the church. But God loved him and anytime he was administering the Holy Communion something would be telling him, "You are going to hell." At a point the man realised his folly, resigned and became a member of another church.

#### SPIRITUAL ASSUMPTIONS

The weakness of Balaam was money. Had he done anything about it, the enemy might not have killed him. The weakness of Dothan, Abiram and Korah was spiritual pride. Some people believe that they know everything. You will hear them saying, "God has told me and that is it." But what they are saying that God told them may not be true. You hear them saying, "In fact, I have sought God's face and I am sure." The fact that you feel sure does not mean that you should no longer listen to your spiritual leaders.

Some people say, "I have fasted, I have prayed and so I am convinced." Korah, Dothan and Abiram said to Moses, "Are you the only one that God can speak to? Why are you lording it over the people?" They staged a coup against the man of God and what happened'?

They qualified as the first human beings who went to hell fire without dying. If they had done something about their carnal disposition, God would have helped them.

#### THE PERIL OF ANGER

After a man arrived from seven days fasting programme at a prayer mountain, the first thing his wife said was, "I want to go out to plait my hair." The man asked her to prepare custard for him but she refused, saying, "Pap? didn't you ask the angel to prepare one for you?" The man then gave her a terrible slap and she fell down and died. The man broke his fasting in the police station. If he had dealt with his anger before going to cry to God on the mountain, this incident would not have happened.

Some people's weakness is their sharp mouth. They have no control over their mouth. They speak 300 words per minute and 299 of them are satanic. The enemy will make them to keep talking.

What is the weakness the enemy is using against you? Some people's problem is inordinate lust for money. Some university girls are messing themselves up because of inordinate affection. Many of them are suffering right now. Many of them rush to the church for deliverance after they have got into trouble. It would have been better for them to avoid immortality.

A man attended a party, took a girl there and committed immortality with her. The girl gave him her address and asked him to pay her a visit by 11:00 p.m. When the man got to the place, to his amazement the people told him that the person whom he was looking for died two years back. The people advised him to go and look after himself when they sensed that he had had immorality with the spirit of the dead.

#### **DEAL WITH YOUR WEAKNESS**

The weakness of some people is poor management of their own secrets. The Lord Jesus asked us to be secretive about some prayers, because He knew that there are some secret prayers we must pray. When you are surrounded by jealousy and envy, secrecy is necessary. The Bible says, you are to love your enemies, you are to pray for them and you are to preach to them. But you are not to tell them your secrets. Many have handed over their secrets to the enemy. Locate your weakness because the strongman takes advantage of it.

Destroy your weakness, then the strongman will have no seat in your life. These are lessons to be learnt from the school of tribulation. Make use of them and you will begin to experience resounding victory.

#### **Prayer Points**

- 1. Oh Lord, locate and reveal to me any weakness in me that strengthens the enemy.
- 2. Every seat of the strongman in my life, be destroyed, in the name of Jesus.
- 3. I bind every strongman assigned to any situation in my life, in Jesus' name.
- 4. Let everyone begin to glorify the Lord because of me, in Jesus' name.

#### **CHAPTER FOUR**

# **GOD SHALL WIPE AWAY MY TEARS**

Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book? Psalm 56:8.

When words fail, tears flow naturally. Tears have their own language. They need no interpreter. When circumstances overwhelm you and the soul is completely overshadowed by what it cannot express, tears begin to flow. Do you know that God takes special notice of your tears? the Bible passage above tells us that God puts our tears in the bottle and enters our tears in His records. When God keeps record about your life. He records your tears.

#### **GOD KNOWS**

David stated that the Lord knew about his weeping. Sometimes a tear that drops on earth can summon the King of heaven. God never forgets those tears you shed. He is not unfamiliar with or unsympathetic to those tears of yours. Jesus Christ burst into tears because of Lazarus. He, who is God, wept at the tomb of Lazarus. He also bursted into tears because of Jerusalem, when He saw the terrible and awful consequences it would face for rejecting the Messiah.

The first tears mentioned in the Bible were in the book of 2 Kings and it says:

Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the caption of my people, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD. 2 King 20:5

Hezekiah had been sick and the pronouncement of death had been made upon his life by the greatest prophet in the land. He turned his face to the wall and wept bitterly. He never knew that those tears were entering a particular bottle in heaven. The answer to those tears came as God wiped them away, cancelled the pronouncement of death and added more years to his life.

#### **TYPES OF TEARS**

There are six different kinds of tears in the Bible but only one is good. The Bible talks about the following kinds of tears.

- 1. Tears of compassion.
- 2. Tears of repentance.
- 3. Tears of travail.
- 4. Tears of desperation.
- 5. Tears of sorrow and sufferings.
- 6. Tears of joy.

Tears were mentioned last in the book of Revelation which says:

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. Rev 21:4.

God is a dryer of tears. He wipes away all tears. I pray that all the tears you have shed in the past shall turn to a burning oil that will torment your enemies, in the name of Jesus. All the tears that the enemy has forced you to weep shall gather together and provoke your breakthroughs to manifest.

#### **BLESSED ASSURANCE**

There are some points you must bear in mind.

- 1. If you depend on men, your life shall be full of discouragement, disappointment and despair.
- 2. The most sincere of all men can fail because of the limitation of human nature.
- 3. You must not allow your circumstances to control you.

4. There will always be a period which will seen as if the Red Sea would not part.

Therefore, you need strength for that period. It is the dark hour. Jesus Christ had His own dark hour. There was a time the disciples were in the throes of a storm. They waited for the Lord to move at that desperate hour, but Jesus waited for them to move.

#### PEACE BE STILL

He waited for the disciples' prayer so that Me would move on their behalf. But the disciples were busy battling with their own strength and experience as fishermen. A lot of arguments must have gone on in the boat by the disciples on what to do. More water broke into the boat and the devil began to threaten them with tragedy. Every one of the disciples got desperate and woke Jesus Christ up. Although there was a great storm, when Jesus Christ rose up there was a great calm. God's voice spoke just once to the Sea of Galilee and since then the sea has become the most peaceful sea on earth. All you need is to provoke the divine voice to speak to the storms of your life. Invite God's voice to come into your life and your situation will change. God is ready to speak to any situation, storms and problems of your life and peace shall reign in your life.

#### **Prayer Points**

- 1. My Father, I know that you are able to do all things, therefore, manifest Your power in my life, in the name of Jesus.
- 2. Every power rejoicing at my sadness, die, in the name of Jesus.
- 3. Power of failure rejoicing at my sadness, die, in the name of Jesus.
- 4. Every drop of tears, become a testimony in my life, in the name of Jesus.
- 5. My Father, open Your book of remembrance for me now, in the name of Jesus.
- 6. Heaven over my joy, open, in the name of Jesus.

7. Every invisible fire burning in my life to torment me, die, in the name of Jesus.

#### **CHAPTER FIVE**

# **PRISONERS OF SPIRITUAL IGNORANCE**

One of the most tragic verses of the Scripture is found in Hosea 4:6:

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge: I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. Hosea 4:6.

Hosea stands out as a prophet of no mean stature. His prophecies were characterised by uncommon profundity. The above verse is talking about children of the most High God who exhibit spiritual ignorance. If you carefully read the verse, you will realise the gravity of ignorance. The Bible does not say, "My people are destroyed because of the fierceness of the devil." It says, "My people are destroyed because of lack of knowledge." When you are not well informed on any aspect of life you will become deformed in all other areas. Ignorance is more deadly than satan.

Pray like this:

- 1. I challenge every serpent and scorpion and I command them to be disgraced, in the name of Jesus.
- 2. I possess my possessions, in the name of Jesus.

#### **CLASSICAL BIBLE EXAMPLE**

In 2 Kings 6 we read of a classical example of lack of knowledge.

The king of Syria was in trouble and tried to solve the problem by capturing the man he believed was the source of his problem.

And he said, Go and spy where he is, that I may send and fetch him. And it was told him, saying, Behold, he is in Dothan. Therefore sent he thither horses, and chariots, and a great host: and they came by night, and compassed the city about. And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! how shall we do? And he answered, Fear not: for they that be with us are more than they that be with them. And Elisha prayed, and said LORD, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha. And when they came down to him, Elisha prayed unto, the LORD, and said, Smite this people, I pray thee, with blindness. And he smote them with blindness according to the word of Elisha. 2 Kings 6:13-18.

The servant of Elisha was going about with clear physical eyes but his spiritual eyes were blind. Chariots of heaven were around but he could not see them. Rather than see God he saw his enemies.

I want you to pray thus: Oh Lord, open my eyes, in the name of Jesus.

When the devil gets to know that you are ignorant, he will take it as an advantage to harass and threaten you. The ignorance of the servant of the prophet brought him fear and panic. The enemy intimidated him because he was ignorant.

#### SOME FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

- 1. Ignorance is the greatest enemy of man. When you lack knowledge, you are defeated in the battle of life, because there is a way to approach everything in life.
- 2. Ignorance is the root of most problems. Why? The true nature of a problem may be obscure.
- 3. Fear is a product of ignorance. A person who is scared is ignorant of certain things.
- 4. When you are at the mercy of ignorance, it will control you.
- 5. Ignorance is the mother of destruction.

- 6. The greatest enemy of ignorance is knowledge. Ignorance will always give way to knowledge.
- 7. Ignorance costs more than what you pay for getting educated. What you lose to ignorance will be more than what you spend in educating yourself.
- 8. Ignorance is the mother of suspicion.
- 9. Your attitude to problems is based on your level of knowledge.
- 10. Knowledge is based on what you learn from a teacher or through an experience.

#### **PRAYING A USELESS PRAYER**

A woman started a vigil at 9:00 p.m. and prayed aggressively until midnight when she started hearing strange sounds. She stood up and said, "With all the prayers I have prayed, how can witches and wizards be crying in my vicinity?" She started to quote some psalms:

Plead my cause, O LORD, with them that strive with me: fight against them that fight against me. Take hold of shield and buckler, and stand up for mine help. Draw out also the spear, and stop the way against them that persecute me: say unto my soul, I am thy salvation. Let them be confounded and put to shame that seek after my soul: let them be turned back and brought to confusion that devise my hurt. Let them be us chaff before the wind: and let the angel of the LORD chase them. Let their way be dark and slippery: and let the angel of the LORD persecute them. For without cause have they hid for me their net in a pit, which without cause they have digged for my soul. Let destruction come upon him at unawares: and let his net that he hath hid catch himself: into that very destruction let him fall. Psalm 35:1-8.

The woman then continued to pray until 4:00a.m. She discovered later that it was her refrigerator that was making such sounds and not witches and wizards. It was good she prayed but she prayed out of ignorance. Ignorance made her to say a useless prayer. Pray thus: "I will not pray useless prayers, in the name of Jesus."

## **EXAMPLES OF LACK OF INFORMATION**

One day, as a man was working on his farm, he heard a sound in the bush and thought it was a wild animal. He prepared to run, but as the thing drew near, it was a man. The farmer assumed that the man was an enemy, took his gun and was prepared to shoot. But when the man came nearer, he discovered that it was his brother.

He brought his gun down and moved forward to embrace him. What had been his problem? Ignorance. What would have happened if he had shot at his target?

A Christian lady failed every paper she sat for in an examination. She went for deliverance and when the deliverance prayer started, suddenly a demon spoke out of the mouth of the sister: "There is enough fire here, I want to go out." The demon spoke further, "Please, loose your hair attachment for it belongs to us."

The source of the sister's failure was the hair attachment she used her money to buy. It kept causing her to fail. Her problem was ignorance.

One prophet prayed for a woman and she later came to thank him and gave him seven eggs. The wife of the prophet saw the eggs and, being a very cautious woman, she said to her husband: "How can someone give you seven eggs? Eggs are sold 12s or sixs. Why seven eggs?" She said further; "Do not eat those eggs." The prophet said, "I will eat them" and he did. The next morning he started to excrete palm kernels and almost died in the process. Why? Even a prophet was ignorant.

#### **Prayer Points**

- 1. God, attack my ignorance, my lack and my mountains, in the name of Jesus.
- 2. I declare war against spiritual ignorance, in the name of Jesus.
- 3. I bind and cast out every unteachable spirit, in the name of Jesus.
- 4. I receive the anointing for success in my ministry, in the name of Jesus.

- 5. I shall not be an enemy of integrity, in the name of Jesus.
- 6. I shall not steal God's money, in the name of Jesus.

#### **CHAPTER SIX**

# THE DIVINE PERSPECTIVE

God's perspectives on various issues of life differ from man's. That is why the Scripture says that God's ways are different from man's ways. The way the Lord looks at a thing is not the way man looks at the same thing.

If a man can discern the way, the word and the will of God over an issue, he would be free from several things that cause heartaches and headaches.

Let us examine what we call problems. How do human beings look at problems and how does God look at the same?

Man has his own definition of problems and God has His own too.

A man may define a problem as:

- 1. A situation that is against one's progress.
- 2. Circumstance that works against one's comfort.
- 3. A situation that amputates or burys one's joy.

How does God see a problem?

- 1. An opportunity to glorify His name and prove His power. To Him a problem is an opportunity in disguise.
- 2. An opportunity to manifest His ability. A problem to God may be a way of promoting our spiritual maturity, an opportunity to grow to maturity. The Bible says, "Before I was afflicted I have gone astray but now my eyes behold thy law."
- 3. God's opportunity to display His power and might. A problem is God's way of proving our integrity. God wants to know how serious we are.
- 4. A disorganised order. That is, God has put things in order but you are trying to disorganise it. That is a problem in God's perspective.

- 5. A way of producing a sense of dependence on God fully, knowing that the arm of flesh will fail you.
- 6. God's way of preparing you for spiritual ministry. You may see it as problem and even fast and pray against it, but God sees it as an instrument in preparing you for spiritual tasks ahead. God sees a problem as enrolment in the school of diversion.

As a couple were preparing for marriage, everything was in order and they were waiting for the day of wedding to come. Two weeks to the wedding the man had an accident and broke his leg, so that he could not walk. The wedding was postponed and the man asked, "Lord, why have you allowed my leg to be broken?"

#### **GOD'S HIGHER WAY**

Suddenly, the country where the husband and wife to-be were, went into civil war. They were enrolling men for warfare. The man whose leg was broken would have been enlisted as a soldier if not for his leg that was broken.

None of the man's mates who enlisted in the war came back alive. What saved him was his broken leg.

The point being emphasised here is that no matter what you are going through, endeavour to know what God is saying. If God is laughing at your situation, the best step to take is for you to start laughing at the situation too. If God is smiling at the condition, you too should be doing the same.

#### **BE OF GOOD CHEER**

The only time you are permitted to worry is when God too is worried. And we know that God is never worried about anything. There was a problem on the sea. The wind was blowing contrary to the disciples, but Jesus saw it as a sleeping time. He, therefore, continued to sleep at one part of the boat. The disciples were supposed to be sleeping peacefully, but instead they were screaming that they were in danger. Some people came to our Lord Jesus, saying that a girl was dead. Jesus said, "Be of good cheer, she is sleeping." Sleeping? That was how Jesus saw the girl. The servant of Elisha saw death when he and his master were surrounded by enemies. But as far as God was concerned, protection of Elisha was not an issue; it was already guaranteed. It is always advisable to find out how God sees a particular problem. God has such creative methods that would always beat our wildest imagination. It is possible for Him to do more for you than He did for others.

Moses was at the Red Sea and could not solve the problem at hand by throwing stones at it; he had his rod. When David faced Goliath, he needed a stone and used it to defeat Goliath. When Elisha faced evil soldiers he needed fire and used it. It is time we asked God to perform internal surgery to remove the spirit of doubt in us.

Pray right now: "Every spirit of doubt, come out of my life, in the name of Jesus."

#### MAN IS PURPOSEFULLY CREATED

Man is a special creature. According to the book of Psalms, he was fearfully and wonderfully made. He was purposefully created. Other God's creatures were spoken into being, but God sat down to create man. God first moulded man, formed his mouth and his nostrils and breathed the breath of life into him and he became a living soul. He had a purpose for man before he was ever created. God had a detailed programme of what man should do, how he should do it and the method he must adopt.

As long as a man is following the programme of the Almighty, he would have no problem. But immediately he diverts, he is in trouble. That is why there can never be peace on earth until the Prince of Peace comes, because man would always do things his own way without following God's way or instruction. People abandon the plans and purposes of God for their lives and pursue their own agenda. Once a man abandons God's agenda for his life, the enemy has the legal backing to enslave him.

## THE COSTLY MISTAKE

A sister was praying for a marriage partner and God opened her eyes to see a queue of 15 men. God said: "Fourteen of these will ask for your hand in marriage but they are diversions. You should not marry them. If you marry any of them, you will be in trouble. After 14 of them have come and gone, the right man would then come who is the 15th and at the rear."

If the sister had married the first man on the queue, confusion would have come up in her life. She would have missed the one she ought to marry. The result would be confusion galore.

#### THE DIVINE PURPOSE

Life is a journey. It has a beginning and it has an end. God has a divine purpose for individuals. The most terrible thing that can happen to anybody and destroy his potentials is when his life's journey is diverted. The person may be doing a very good thing but it may not be the right thing.

If a person is meant to be a lawyer and he becomes a medical doctor because his father and mother were medical doctors, he has missed out on God's plan. He may not be successful in such a vocation. He may be busy killing patients. And each person will issue curses at him as result of the patients who die in the course of his treatment.

## **Prayer Points**

- 1. Oh Lord, remove my feet from every ungodly journey, in the name of Jesus.
- 2. I shall not disgrace the call of God upon my life, in the name of Jesus.
- 3. I shall work in holiness every day, in the name of Jesus.
- 4. I bind the spirit of sexual immorality, in the name of Jesus.
- 5. I receive the culture of loyalty in my ministry, in the name of Jesus.
- 6. I shall not become an old king that is resistant to advice, in the name of Jesus.
- 7. I shall not live a wasteful and extravagant life, in the name of Jesus.

8. I shall not serve my wonderful saviour for filthy financial gain, in the name of Jesus.

#### **CHAPTER SEVEN**

# THE DIVERSION OF THE BLACK MAN

How did the enemy divert so many people in the black race.

- 1. Through birth: If you were once conceived in sin under the canopy of d mons, that means you were diverted from birth.
- 2. Sexual intercourse: People were diverted through sexual intercourse with satanic agents. Once you are joined with a woman or a man through the sexual act, there is a covenant that is bound to control you. All kinds of useful and talented men have become nonentities through being caged by strange women.
- 3. Careless eating: There are people who cannot control their appetites. They eat anything anywhere and thereby enter into evil covenants.
- 4. Through dreams: All strange dreams that are repeated should be carefully watched.
- 5. Contact: Any contact with evil people or occult activities can cause evil diversion. Anyone who reads occult books will be diverted from God's purpose. If you join a secret or evil society, then you have diverted your course and those of your children.
- 6. Night party: Realise that a lot of people at night parties are not human beings. When you go to such kind of places you may end up being diverted.
- 7. Greed and lust: Lust for wealth, power or fame has diverted so many people.

#### **REPOSITION YOURSELF**

It is high time you dismantled the wall of ignorance. It is time you pulled down evil barriers. Pull down the power that is keeping you below. Ask the

Lord to rediscover you and redirect you in the way you should go. You can only be what God wants you to be when you are divinely positioned. That is why you need to be repositioned. Remember that crabs cannot fly. A fish cannot swim in hard concrete. Do not manifest spiritual ignorance.

#### **Prayer Points**

- 1. Father, in the name of Jesus, I bind all satanic agents harassing me. I send the judgment of God upon them.
- 2. I refuse to be treated like an unwanted garbage in the journey of life, in the name of Jesus.
- 3. Every rough area of my life, be straightened by the blood of Jesus, in the name of Jesus.
- 4. Every activity of satanic supreme court against my life, be paralysed, in the name of Jesus.
- 5. Every stumbling block on my path, I kick you away, in the name of Jesus.
- 6. Every satanic altar erected against my destiny, fall down and die, in the name of Jesus.
- 7. Every deeply-rooted problem, be uprooted now, in the name of Jesus.
- 8. I break every foundational witchcraft stronghold, in the name of Jesus.
- 9. I break satanic foundational marine strongholds, in the name of Jesus.
- 10. Every satanic prayer against my destiny, be reversed, in the name of Jesus.
- 11. Every evil water poured on the altar of my life, dry up, in the name of Jesus.
- 12. Oh Lord, give me the fire that the rain of the enemy cannot quench, in the name of Jesus.
- 13. I refuse to be taken captive by any satanic prophet, in the name of Jesus.
- 14. I bind every internal strongman, in the name of Jesus.
- 15. Every satanic prayer mat used against me, be roasted by fire, in the name of Jesus.

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#### About the Book

The School of Tribulation harps on an inconvertible truth. It highlights the fact that trials and tribulations are courses which everyone who has enrolled in the University of Experience must take.

The author reiterates the fact that tribulation is the ladder to greatness. Drawing upon the experiences of notable characters in the Bible, the author challenges and encourages those who are in the throes of tribulation to take heart and persevere.

Benefits of tribulation are enumerated. Positive attitudes are admonished.

#### About the Author

Dr. D. K. Olukoya is the general overseer of the Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries and the Battle Cry Christian Ministries.

The Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries' is the largest single Christian congregation in Africa with attendance of over 200,000 in single meetings.

MFM is a full gospel ministry devoted to the revival of Apostolic signs. Holy Ghost Fireworks, miracles and the unlimited demonstration of the power of God to deliver to the uttermost. Absolute holiness within and without as spiritual insecticide and pre-requisite for heaven is openly taught. MFM is a do it-yourself Gospel Ministry, where your hands are trained to wage war and your fingers to do battle.

Dr. Olukoya holds a first class honours degree in Microbiology from the University of Lagos and PhD in Molecular Genetics from the University of Reading. United Kingdom. As a researcher, he has over seventy scientific publications to his credit.

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