



CUT IT DOWN!

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Chapter One

CUT IT DOWN



*An evil tree cannot bear a good fruit
no matter how well we decorate it*



Beloved, you are not in this world by accident as there is a divine purpose for creation. Eventually, everyone shall give an account of what he or she did with his or her life. I want you to read this book prayerfully and as you do so, the Lord will open your eyes to areas in your life that need urgent spiritual surgical operations.

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

The Bible says: **"Buy the truth and sell it not"** (Proverbs 23:23). It also says: **"You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free"** (John 8:32).

I would like you to meditate on these Scriptures.

The truth is very stubborn. No matter what you do to it, it will still stand because it is the truth. It is also very expensive and unfortunately, becoming scarce even in the house of God. It is gradually becoming a rare commodity even in the lives of born again Christians.

Lies, it is said, may dominate for years but when the truth comes; it breaks them into irreparable pieces. Until you call a particular thing what God calls it, you are still joking.

In the Bible, Brother Stephen was dragged before the Jews to defend himself, he was accused of preaching against the Jewish temple and wanting to change Moses laws. With boldness he told them the truth by calling them what they really were, "stiff-necked and uncircumcised in

heart whose forefathers specialised in persecuting prophets." They become mad.

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

When you come to the house of God and hear the truth, it should yield fruit in your life. It is possible for you to love the truth but it is only when you practise it that it will set you free. There is nothing like half-truth as far as the Bible is concerned. That is why Revelation 21:8 says: **"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."**

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

A certain woman rushed to me and said her husband had just thrown out her belongings and asked her to go and that he had also burnt her passport. She gave a catalogue of the man's wickedness and I was moved by her story and requested that we saw the man together. Shortly before we got to their home, we saw the man going out, and guess what happened. The woman pointed at him and said, "Doctor, that is him crawling out like a snake." Then I said, "Sorry, madam, if you can call him a snake in my presence, I wonder what you will call him at my back." The truth is that the man was not the problem, rather it was the woman's tongue.

SECRET SINS

All the secret sins that people are committing will eventually be seen by everybody. It is difficult to cover a sin because you have to commit another

sin to cover a previous one, and as this progressed, the devil drags you farther and farther.

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

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

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

Why we plant orange trees is that we want them to produce fruits and we would not be happy if they are producing only leaves and flowers. God has planted us to bear spiritual fruits. He is the heavenly Gardener.

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

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

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

How sad will it be if you disappoint Jesus. That fig tree that failed to give Him fruits to eat when He was hungry, disappointed him. He therefore promptly pronounced a curse upon it. "No man shall eat from you hereafter." Clearly put, He told the tree that it would never bear fruit anymore. And expectedly, the tree dried to its roots. What tragedy it would be if the heavenly Gardener comes to us and finds the same spiritual fruitlessness in us and pronounces the same curse. What a calamity it would be for God to say, "Replace him." God cannot leave a vacuum in His kingdom. And to every unprofitable tree, that command would eventually come and pleas would be useless because God will certainly cut it down.

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

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

Some people are pushing themselves into a position where God will say, "I give up on this one because he is not serious." What a disaster it will be for the heavenly Gardener to cry, "Cut it down."

There are already thousands of saints in heaven crying to God day and night to bring His timetable of man to a close, so that they can enter into glory. Yet the Lord is waiting for many who are wasting their lives now instead of coming to repentance.

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

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

Our lives must bear fruit. The Type of fruit our lives must bear is clearly spelt out in Galatians. A 22-23. It says, "**But the fruit of the Spirit is love joy, peace long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance against such there is no law.**" It is a single Spirits made up of of nine parts.

In an average church only 20 per cent of the congregation do the hard work. The rest of them do not really work hard. This is not what God wants. Unfortunately, many Christians are lazy spiritually and this is disappointing to God. How can someone give his life to Christ at 60 and not be serious with God after having served the devil for so long? Can you not see that some of us are trying to play on God's intelligence by rushing to Him only when we have a problem? Is it not sad that the lives of many Christians are not attracting people to God?

Consider this parable in Matthew 25:14-30 which says: **"For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to every man according to his several ability and straight way took his journey. Then he that received the live talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents; behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents; behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy lord. Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou has not strawed. And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not and gather where I have not strawed; Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own, with usury. Take therefore**

the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents. For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

SPIRITUAL PARASITES

A man found that he had been infected with leprosy on his neck, so he went and sewed clothes that would cover his neck in order to hide the ailment, instead of going for treatment. Are you like that? Are you suffering from spiritual paralysis? Are there things that are wrong in your life? Those wrong things are what the Bible calls parasites. These parasites would hinder you from bearing fruit.

Some people have mouths that can say anything to anybody at anytime. And when cautioned, they would say, "I should be allowed to speak my mind." What do you expect from a mind that is not regenerated? Are you a fruit-bearing Christian?

There is no partial holiness, there is no partial or temporary Christianity. There is nothing like partial lies or partial truth. A vessel is never partially clean, it is either clean or dirty. You are either a Christian or a sinner. You are either into God or out of Him. An evil tree cannot bear a good fruit no matter how well we decorate it. Education, if applied wrongly would corrupt instead of yield fruits.

So many things prevent Christians from bearing fruit. For example:

1. **Jealousy:** Jealous people find it difficult to prove themselves and catch up with others. They do not rejoice with others when they are promoted over them. They are not ready to promote anything that does not benefit them directly. They are hostile and angry with people and

secretly rejoice when people fail. Any work you do for God with envy and jealousy in your spirit is useless as far as God is concerned.

2. **Pride:** Another terrible spirit is pride. Pride is like acid. It eats and destroys good things. It promotes arrogance, blinds the mind to righteousness and ferments unteachable spirit.

A proud person finds it difficult to accept corrections. A proud person is deeply involved in himself.

Stubborn people are fruitless because they have the attitude to do things their own way. They are stubborn and inflexible. They rebel against their leaders and refuse to submit to anyone. They claim to know everything.

Prayer Points

1. Holy Spirit, I surrender totally to you, in the name of Jesus.
2. My life must bear fruit whether the enemy likes it or not, in the name of Jesus.
3. O Lord, give me the grace to focus on you always, in the name of Jesus.
4. Lord Jesus, take absolute control of my life, in the name of Jesus.
5. Every falsehood in my life, die, in the name of Jesus.
6. Glory of the living God, overshadow my life, in the name of Jesus.
7. Every curse of barrenness upon my life, break, in the name of Jesus.

Chapter Two

THE TYPE OF FRUIT WE SHOULD BEAR



*We shall be judged on the basis of the
fruit we bear*



In this chapter, we will look at the type of fruit God expects us to bear.

Love is part of the fruit we should bear. Love helps us to overlook the fault of others, and to love God, ourselves and our neighbours.

Joy is also part of the fruit that God wants us to bear. Paul was in the Philippian jail and yet with all the stripes given to him, he could rejoice and praise the Lord. He had the joy of the Lord in his heart.

Peace is part of the fruit God wants us to bear. Jesus was inside a terrible storm and yet He slept peacefully. Peter had a nice sleep even when he knew he was going to be killed the next day. The Jewish word for peace is shalom. Shalom means that everything is in order. That is how God wants our spirits to be.

Longsuffering is also part of the fruit He wants us to bear.

Faith and meekness are parts of the fruit.

Temperance, gentleness and goodness are other parts. Nobody will judge us according to the level of miracle we perform. We shall be judged on the basis of the fruit we bear.

One day, the trumpet will sound and with it that terrible command: "Cut it down," will be given for the fruitless ones. Fruitlessness will take unserious Christians to hell fire. When you have love in you, peace will reign.

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

The most terrible thing is to live without purpose. Ask yourself, "Why am I here? Why do I allow my spiritual life to continually go down?" We must wake up from our spiritual slumber and decide to bear fruit. Earthly posts

will get us nowhere. It is not how your fellow human beings see and judge you that matters but what you weigh on God's scale. There is no middle position, you are either for God or against Him. Talk to Him and resolve that the terrible curse of "Cut it down" will not be your portion.

Prayer Points

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

Chapter Three

BUY THE TRUTH



*You may give everything to obtain the
truth but you must not take anything
in exchange for it*



The topic of this chapter is taken from Proverbs 23:23 which says: **"Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding."**

The satanic market has all kinds of merchandise which include lust as well as pleasures of the world and of the flesh.

SATANIC VENDORS

Everyday, in the streets, on television and radio, we see and hear satanic traders calling on people to "come and buy." But the response of a heaven-bound candidate should be, "No, I will not buy that, I will buy the truth and only the truth?"

Portiphah's wife said to Joseph, "Come lie with me." She kept on harassing Joseph but he did not succumb to her bidding even though he did not have to pay money to have her. Likewise, there are satanic vendors and dealers all over the place who are increasing in number by the day. They are saying to us, "Come lie with us, come and buy what we are offering you." Every true believer must turn down their offer and buy the truth instead. We are surrounded by satanic vendors of all sorts. They display all kinds of things in the name of the gospel.

TRUTH IS SACRED

Sometime ago, the Lord said to me, 'Son, the moment you start preaching the truth, your enemies shall increase.' But I said, 'Lord, I don't want them to increase,' and God said, "Then stop telling the truth." So, the moment you start telling the truth, your enemies shall increase too.

The most unusual person that has influenced my life was one straightforward preacher. He had problems no doubt but he was a straightforward man. He did two things that many people would consider quite absurd. But when you are in the school of truth, you do not have to be afraid for your life. There was a wedding somewhere and he was the officiating minister. He said, "Beloved, we are gathered today to join these two people in holy matrimony. This ceremony is just to legalise what these two people have been doing for four years illegally, because they cannot tell all of us here that they have not been sleeping together. So, we are just here to legalise what, according to the Scriptures, they have been doing illegally." The bride and the bridegroom were shivering but the man just looked up and went on. Many people thought he was a crude pastor.

Also, at a funeral where he ministered, he said to members of the congregation, 'Do you see the man in the coffin? I want to confirm to you now that he has gone to hell fire because several times, while he was alive, he was so drunk that he fell into the gutter and his poor wife had to bring him out of the gutter and take him home.' He said to his widow, "Don't cry. I wonder how you were able to live with him while he was alive." Then he said, "In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit ..." That was the end of the message. Some of the guests were amazed and vowed not to come to the man's church again. But the man said the truth.

Satanic vendors make bad things look like good articles. Whatever you are going to buy with your life, make sure it is the truth and whatsoever you have to sell must not be the truth like Esau sold his birthright. You may give everything to obtain the truth but you must not take anything in exchange for it.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BUY THE TRUTH?

It means to give God everything that must be given up in order to be saved. It means giving up everything for the sake of heaven. No man or woman shall go to heaven while he or she is still living in sin or favours sin. Give

up anger if that is your sin. Give up alcohol, pride, impatience, hatred, greed, lusts of the heart, envy and jealousy. Give them up.

Since you cannot have Christ and also have your sin, get a divorce completely from sin and take holiness. This is what it means to buy the truth.

What else does it mean to buy the truth? It means that if your salvation should cost you much pain, you must not mind. Even if it means breaking up an old relationship for the sake of your salvation, you should not mind.

The maximum you can live on earth is probably 120 years or if you like, 200 years. But by the time you are 200, you will be useless to yourself and everybody. Eternity has no end, and you cannot afford to destroy that eternity with your temporary sojourn here. So, if for the sake of not missing eternity you have to give up something that will cause you much pain, give it up.

Many people take five minutes journey to hell fire through fornication or adultery. How can a person spoil the whole of eternity for five minutes enjoyment? It is better for one to bear all that has to be borne than to lose out at last.

If the price to obtain eternal security is that of temporary sorrow, buy the truth at that price. It is worth it. Jesus says you must be willing to lose your eye or your hand in order to keep your life. It does not mean you should cut off your hand or pluck out your eye. He is saying, "No matter how important that thing is to you, drop it. The Bible says, "Seekest thou anything great for thyself, seek them not if they will hinder you from entering into life" (Jeremiah 45:5). Anytime you want to do anything and you find out that it is ungodly, no matter what you are being offered, don't do it. This is what the Bible means when it says, "Buy the truth."

Buy the truth means to be ready at all costs to hold fast to the truth. It may be dangerous to hold fast to the truth but at the end of the day, the truth

cannot be defeated. Prefer to lose your position than tell a lie, even if it is for a profit. The three Hebrew men were more willing to go into the fiery furnace than to worship the image of Nebuchadnezzar. If the business you are doing cannot be run along scriptural principles, you will end up in hell fire. Why should a believer want to tell lies to get money? God is your source not your country's economy. Run the risk of being poor than agreeing with a lie.

Buy the truth as the martyrs did when they gave their bodies to be burnt. If you lose your body now but not your soul, you have made a very good bargain because a mansion is waiting for you in heaven. If you gain your body and lose your soul, it is a useless bargain.

THE EXAMPLES OF THE APOSTLES

The apostles of old were stripped off their possessions, yet they stuck to the truth. They were driven from their homes yet they stuck to the truth. They sealed their testimony with their blood, yet they stuck to the truth. They were falsely accused of the most deadly crimes, yet they stuck to the truth. They were declared to be the cause of great calamities, pestilence, famine and earthquakes and anything that went wrong. They were thrown into lions' dens, yet they stuck to the truth. They were considered as the pests of the society, yet they stuck to the truth. Many of them were thrown to wild beasts, yet they stuck to the truth. Many of them were burnt alive. Some were thrown into theatres of baffle, yet they stuck to the truth. Many of them had their families sacrificed before their eyes, yet they stuck to the truth. Some were crucified like Jesus, yet they stuck to the truth. Some were covered with the skin of animals and thrown among animals to be torn apart by them, yet they stuck to the truth. The punishment of these Christians were sometimes made a public entertainment, yet they stuck to the truth. Multitude of people assembled together to enjoy the sight of them being destroyed by lions and to greet their dying cries with laughter and applause, yet they stuck to the truth.

Nowadays, some people would steal money and say it is a miracle. Buy the truth as many renowned men of God have done and gone to prison for it.

If you lose your body, wealth or friend but not your soul, you have made a very good bargain. It is a blessed exchange. Run the risk of losing your situation or position for the truth. Do not believe that you have to compulsorily live like the people of the world. A Christian carpenter came to a man of God for counselling and said, "The only business that is available to us is building temples of idols. There is no other business." He wanted to know whether he should continue. The man of God asked, "As a Christian, must you use your profession to build houses you know are going to be used to accommodate idols?" He asked the man of God how he would live without money. In return, the man of God asked him, "Must you live?" Sometimes, it is more useful to die than to live and go to hell fire.

To buy the truth also means giving everything instead of parting with Christ and eternal life. It means giving everything instead of parting with the Holy Spirit. It means giving everything instead of parting with your Christian integrity.

Buy the truth. Do not throw your life away on a lie. Never mind the label on the bottle, seek to see whether it is the truth. Believe all the Bible truth. Do not pick and choose. Do not believe some and leave the rest. Do not sell the truth for anything in the world.

Prayer Points

1. O Lord, let your revival fire fall upon my life, in Jesus' name.
2. I will serve the Lord all the days of my life, whether the enemy likes it or not, in the name of Jesus.
3. O Lord, have mercy on me, in the name of Jesus.
4. Every enemy of my everlasting peace and joy, die, in the name of Jesus.

5. Every enemy of heaven in my life, die, in the name of Jesus.
6. O Lord, take me to the mountain top, in the name of Jesus.
7. My life, magnetise the favour of God, in the name of Jesus.

Chapter Four

BABIES IN THE HOUSE OF GOD



*If we are not ready to leave our
feeding bottles, toys and nappies, we
cannot grow*



In the church of God today, we have jealousy, envy, lack of love and selfishness, lack of the fruit of the Spirit, lack of spiritual power, etc. The simple reason is that many members are underdeveloped. They are babies in the house of God.

Some people pretend as if they are God's referees. They are their own pastors, their own prophets and their own everything. They are babies.

Hebrews 5:11-14 says: **"Of whom we have many things to say and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For at the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For everyone that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."**

1 Corinthians 3:1-2 says, **"And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat; for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able."**

Those that God expects to be at stage three are still struggling at stage one. You can have a baby pastor, baby house fellowship leader, baby Sunday school teacher or baby choir member. And once they are like that, God sees them as small children who misbehave and shout in the market place.

It is possible for somebody to prophesy and the prophecy is happening instantly but he is still a baby prophet. The case of baby Christians is like that of nursery school children who need their teachers to direct them. Some people have been coming to church for two or three years yet they have not read the New Testament through.

Some do not even read their Bibles daily, they just come to church and pray fire prayers. When they get home and the devil comes at night, they do not have sufficient word of God in them to say, "It is written." They would only be able to say, "I send every arrow back to the sender." That is good but it is better when you know the scriptural backing of "Back to the sender." If you do not know that, it will be difficult to defeat the enemy.

One simple way of knowing baby Christians quickly is by the kind of quiet time they observe. They do "crash-programme" quiet time. On Monday, they read their Bibles and pray a bit because it is the first day of the week. The rest of the week, they are not serious. Such people suffer from spiritual malnutrition. If somebody does not have food in his stomach and he is rushed to the hospital, no matter the kind of drugs they give him, it will not work until he takes some food.

HOW TO GROW UP

1. **The first thing we should do is to humble ourselves and realise that we need to grow up.** Stephen was filled with the Holy Ghost. He was honest, full of the word of God and worked mighty signs and wonders, but as powerful as he was, in the church he was only an usher. He knew the Bible very well. In Acts. 7, he told the people the history of the Jews though he was not a Jew. By the time he finished with them, they threw stones at him, but he looked up and said, "I see Jesus standing up." He could see Jesus in heaven without closing his eyes. "I saw the heavens opened, and I see Jesus standing," he said. But those who were throwing stones at him did not see anything.

Some Christians have never seen an angel. So, if we are not ready to leave our feeding bottles, toys and nappies, we cannot grow. The other time, after I had become a university graduate, I had some business to do at my former primary school. I went there and saw the kind of small seats and small desks we were using. I found that they were now too small for me. Why? Because they remained the same size while I have grown up.

2. **We must be serious with our quiet time.** Adult Christians should not engage in "crash-programme" quiet time or lazy quiet time.
3. **We must not depend on others.** We must learn to depend on God. Baby Christians are always asking other people to pray for them. They are always looking for somebody to comfort and take care of them. Some sisters are fond of saying that they are looking for somebody to take care of them. I wonder if that is why they want to marry. They forget that they too have to take care of the person they are going to marry. There are others who are always looking for spiritual consultants who complicate matters for them.

What most Bible Colleges teach people is how to maintain themselves and others as babies. That is why many pastors in the streets these days are trained to entertain people. We have many pastor- entertainers, whereas pastors are not meant to entertain. Their assignment is a very serious affair. They are meant to prepare and develop the saints to be ministers themselves.

Many prophets, if somebody goes to them and says, "Sir, I have headache," they would say, "Pain, pain, go away." If the person comes again, he would ask, "Has the pain gone?" The person may say, "Yes, thank you Sir, "and goes away. But on his way home, if somebody mistakenly steps on him, he may utter a curse against the person and the pain which he has prayed away will come back.

Instead of taking the hard way of brokenness to free their lives of problems, some people are busy looking for temporary solutions, or for somebody who will give them spiritual valium. Jesus is not in the business of giving anybody spiritual valium. He says, "Take my yoke upon you for my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

WHAT IS A YOKE?

A yoke is a wooden structure used on the necks of horses or cows to ensure that they do not move their necks about freely. When a yoke maker wants to be really wicked, he will leave very little space for the beast's neck. But Jesus says that His own yoke is easy because He will put an extra space so that you can move your neck around. But it is still a yoke. Instead of taking His yoke upon us, we are looking for consultants or one bearded man somewhere with weird hair and saliva pouring out of his mouth as he is prophesying. Such consultants need attention themselves and people are going to them for attention. It is a tragedy.

SOLDIERS OF THE LORD

A lot of people take the house of God as a hospital instead of an army barracks where we are called to be soldiers. We need to be soldiers of the kingdom. If soldiers are going to the warfront and there is a forest in the way, they will not begin to look for who to consult. They would cut the trees. If it is a river, they would build a bridge and cross over it. If there are mountains, they would blast them up so they can move ahead. That is why the book of Hebrews laments that the time you ought to be fathers and teachers, you are still asking for nappies, feeding bottles, pacifiers and baby rattles.

Sometime ago, I saw a man of about 65 at a spinsters and bachelors' meeting and I wondered what he was looking for. Before I knew it, he picked up one girl from somewhere to marry. If a man of 65 is still a baby, when will he grow and where is he going?

HOW TO KNOW IF YOU ARE STILL A BABY

Babies are recognised by their nature. They really do not know the value of things most times. When spiritual things are of very little value to you, then you are a baby. If buying a new car every year is more important to you than expanding the kingdom of God, you are a baby because the Bible says:

"Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness and all other things shall be added unto you." Why do we seek those other things? We seek them because they have not been added. Why have they not been added? They have not been added because we have not sought first the kingdom of God.

There wouldn't have been so many problems if everyone finds God's kingdom first. If you are living completely for God's kingdom then, it is in His interest that you are healthy, you have good food and everything else that you need.

A lot of people can only be useful to God when they are very sick. Immediately they are strong, they will rebel against God. Some people cry to God to heal them, but when they were healthy, they were useless to Him. They want God to heal them so that they can be more rebellious. God too will say, "If it is this sickness that will drag you to heaven, you better keep having it." What we need most now is not paracetamol prayers or paracetamol deliverance. When you can seek first the kingdom of God and have it, other things will be added to you.

Children are fond of looking at things on the surface. If you present a big bag and a small one to a baby with the small one loaded with money, the baby will pick the big one, whereas there is sufficient money in the small bag to buy ten of the big ones. Christian babies are just like that. Spiritually immature people only look at things from the outside. With all that is going on now, some people still dance throughout their church services and after that everybody is tired and sleepy.

If you do not deal with the sin in your life, you will never deal with the surface ones. The reason some people are finding it difficult to adjust outside is their inner sins which they have not dealt with.

Quarrelling and divisions are common among children. Many people need to cry to God to open their heads, take out their brains, wash them in spiritual detergent, brush them and put them together again so that they will

be useful to the Lord. Many come to services day in day out, year in year out, yet their lives are not changed. This is the reason God seems to be far away from many people.

I am yet to see a believer who does not want God to be close to him or her, yet this is not always the case. The church of Ephesus was a very active one but the members lost their first love. What is your first love? Your first love is the Lord Jesus Christ. It is your strong dedication, strong consecration and strong commitment. Many of us who sing, "Do you love Him? Yes, I love my Lord," are fake and there are many fake members, fake pastors, fake evangelists, and actors in the house of God. Are you a fake Christian? You know yourself.

When some people first got born again, they were on fire for God. But now the fire is no more. Some preached in all buses as far as they had the opportunity, but now, they have stopped. Remember God does not accept excuses, and you cannot blame anybody.

Many people have allowed the love for this present crooked generation to replace their love for Christ. They have relegated Jesus to the second position. They have more respect for the opinions of men than what the word of God says. Where is your first love?

Many people who come to church are completely dead to the voice of the Holy Spirit. When you ask some people to evangelise in the bus, they would tell you that they have passed that stage, that it is for smaller boys. The big truth is that they have cooled down.

DAVID LIVINGSTONE -A RUGGED MAN OF GOD

Some years ago, I felt challenged when one white man was talking about the man called David Livingstone. He said the first time he saw David

Livingstone was when he came to give a talk in a university. He said usually, when speakers were invited to talk in that university, the students would first of all throw tomatoes and all kinds of things at them. But the day David Livingstone was introduced and he got on to the stage, nobody could throw anything at him because he was like somebody who had walked thousands of miles. His left hand was limping because the arm was almost ripped off by a lion. His face was leather brown as a result of the hot African sun, although he was a white man. He came to the stage half blind as a result of a branch of a tree that hit his eye when he was moving about preaching the gospel in the jungle and his body emaciated. He went further to say that for the first time, for two hours, during a lecture, nobody went to the toilet, everybody was transfixed. He told them that his favourite prayer point was, 'Lord, send me anywhere, only go with me. Lay any burden on me, only sustain me. Cut away any ties, but let the tie that binds you and I remain.'

Livingstone watched one of his children die in the forest and at the same time they called him from England and when he returned, they told him that his father was dead. He wept like a baby. He refused to stay in England although he was persuaded to stay. Rather, he yielded to the call that said, "Go, preach the gospel." He ran back to Africa. His wife left him and returned to England and died after being battered by the African weather. By the time he came back from his wife's funeral, he discovered that his possessions in the jungle, where he was preaching the gospel, had been stolen by the natives. After sometime, a man called Stanley was sent to look for him. Stanley found him and tried to convince him to go back to civilization but he refused. It got to a stage when David Livingstone could not walk again. He went around in a stretcher carried by two people with a Bible in his hand preaching the gospel. The whole of his teeth fell off, yet he continued. Finally, on a rainy day, the boy waiting on him noticed that he did not hear him pray in the morning. He called his name "Boanah, Boanah," which means master. But Boanah did not answer.

David Livingstone died right here in Africa. For 39 years, the man walked 29,000 miles on foot in the African continent.

So, if you notice that your zeal for the work of God is reducing and you are devoting more time to your fiancé, husband or wife, there is a problem. If you are only close to God, or sing praise worship songs, when things are going well, then there is a problem.

When you are doing nothing specific for the advancement of the kingdom of God, or you ran away from your church because they did not vote for you as the harvest committee chairman, there is a problem.

If you always leave the service before the grace is shared, your fire is going down. If you do not belong to any group or house fellowship in the church, and you do not contribute anything to the work of God, you are living a vagabond spiritual life. Are you selling the truth? Think about it.

Prayer Points

1. O Lord, change me to what you want me to become, in the name of Jesus.
2. Let the zeal of the Lord consume me, in Jesus' name.
3. I bind and paralyse every spirit of slumber, in the name of Jesus.
4. O Lord, place me on the rock that is higher than I, in the name of Jesus.
5. Every owner of evil load in my life, carry your load, in the name of Jesus.
6. Ancestral powers insisting that I must serve them, die, in the name of Jesus.
7. O Lord, fill me afresh with your fire, in the name of Jesus.

Chapter Five

THE LORD GOD OF ELIJAH



*The church of God is not looking for
cosmetologists or powerful dressers,
what we need in the house of God
now are surgeons who would take a
knife and cut her through*



The purpose of this chapter is to appreciate our Lord God from the viewpoint of that great prophet, Elijah. The Bible says that Elijah was a man of like passion as you and I, yet our Lord God manifested Himself in his life in such extraordinary ways that sometimes makes one wonder why such responses from God are not so common today.

What was it about Elijah that distinguished him from the rest and made God so endeared to him? You will discover as you read along.

2 Kings 2:11-14 says: **"And it came to pass as they still went on and talked that behold, there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire and parted them both asunder and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven: And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and the horsemen thereof: And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces. He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan. And he took the mantle of Elijah that fell from him and smote the waters and said. "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" And when he also had smitten the waters, they parted hither and thither and Elisha went over."**

There is a significant position for Elijah in the whole of God's programme.

Malachi 4:5-6 says: **"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."**

So, if Elijah did not come, the Lord said He would have smitten the earth with a curse. Luke 1:5-30 tells us the wonderful story of John the Baptist, the way he was conceived and the prophecy about him.

For 400 years, God did not speak to anybody and the first time He decided to start talking was through a tremendous and wonderful man called John

the Baptist, a forerunner of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible says, "There is no prophet greater than him." How can a prophet be greater than a forerunner of the Lord Jesus Christ? It is not possible. Jesus Christ is the fullness of the divine revelation to man, so anybody that came to advertise Him has to be the greatest of the prophets.

Luke 1:12-13 says: "And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled and fear fell upon him. But the angel said unto him. Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John."

Then in verses 14-17, He gave a wonderful prophecy; **"Thou shall have joy and gladness: and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink, and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost even from his mother's womb. And many of the children of Israel shall turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."**

When John the Baptist was born, he was an unusual man. If Elijah and John the Baptist were to be pastors of churches today, I am sure many people would run away from them because fire would fall down on fornicators inside the service, and they would roast or sinners would be somersaulting at the back for committing an offence against the Lord God of Elijah. In addition, their clothes would be smelling because they did not change clothes too often neither did they put on perfume, but they had power. Please note, I do not say that people should not have their baths. No, after all, physical cleanliness is said to be a good compliment of godliness.

One good thing about the ministry of John the Baptist is that he was a very precise person. He always went straight to the point and his words were like fire.

THE MINISTRY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

It was John the Baptist that said, "The axe is laid to the root of every tree and any tree that does not bear a good fruit shall be cut down and thrown into fire" (Matthew 3:10).

He was the one that called the scribes and pharisees a generation of vipers. He said to them, "You generation of vipers, who asked you to flee from the wrath to come?" Hot messages. These are the kinds of preachers we need now. The Elijah kind of message, the Elijah kind of spirit, the Elijah kind of power; the spirit of violence in the kingdom. These are the kinds of people we need to operate in our generation.

The church of God is not looking for cosmetologists or powerful dressers, what we need in the house of God now are surgeons who would take a knife and cut her through. It may be painful but these are the kind of pastors that we need now whose messages are the messages of the last days.

The message of John the Baptist was: "Any tree that does not bear good fruit shall be cut down and thrown into the fire." And God is still doing that now. All the useless trees growing in the house of God, all the useless ministers, useless workers, useless members, that are all over the places are now being cut down and removed as the last days are here. Where do you stand? That is the question.

THE IGNORANCE OF THE DISCIPLES

When Jesus was leaving the earth, his disciples did not know the kind of kingdom that Jesus came for. They asked foolish and political questions like, "O Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" It was painful to Jesus. They were all looking for different things just as there were many people at the cross who only came to watch. Even when Jesus was on earth, they were looking for the wrong things. Somebody like the thief,

Judas Iscariot, also would have said, "When will this man take over the government and make somebody like me a governor, so that I can steal money." Judas knew that Jesus had power to take over because several times they wanted to make Jesus king but He ran away. Judas knew that He had that power to rule if He so desired. But Jesus was not interested in ruling, so when he saw that his desires and ambitions were failing, he went and betrayed Him. His inordinate ambitions had blinded him from seeing the real blessings that Jesus came for.

The other disciples too, like John and his brother were more occupied with sitting at the right hand and at the left hand of God in the kingdom of heaven when they were still living here on earth. They wanted promotion without work. Their cares were more in their personal glory. Somebody like Thomas, as an academician, rationalised everything; he could not believe the words of his own master concerning his return. Someone like Peter did not want Jesus to die. They were all selfish. There are some people in the church who work hard only when they see the General Overseer. That is "eye service." It shows they are not serious. I hope you are not like that; "Show-glass Christians."

Jesus told them that it was not for them to know the time and season the Father has fixed by His authority. to return the kingdom to Israel. Jesus said it was not for them to know but that they shall receive power after the Holy Ghost has come upon them, and they shall be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and unto the uttermost parts of the earth. After Pentecost, they did not preach the kind of message Jesus wanted them to preach in Jerusalem. The only man that preached the correct message of the spirit and power like Elijah was Stephen. By the time he finished, people were grinding their teeth. The Bible says, they put their fingers in their ears; they did not want to hear anymore of what Stephen had to say and they pounced on him at the same time, at the command of the devil.

Unfortunately, what many people want is not what they need. The Bible says, the time is coming when they shall no longer listen to sound doctrine, but they shall look for their own preachers who will be tickling their ears and exciting them. A sinner is jumping up on one leg and shouting on stage

and preaching cute messages and people just love him for that. That is satanic deception and error of the last days.

THE MINISTRY OF FIRE AND POWER

It is the real message we need now and it is with the same spirit and power that we can operate in the last days. Elijah operated at a time when the powers of darkness had completely paralysed Israel so much that they threw down the altars of God and forgot about serving God. So, when Elijah ended up at the celebrated contest at Mount Carmel, the first thing he did was to repair the altar of God that had been broken down. They had forgotten the worship of Yahweh and were worshiping Baal. That was the level Israel got to and Ahab was in charge. Ahab was a female-man controlled by his demonic wife, Jezebel; who brought the demon from her country and established it in the whole place. That was the time Elijah came. We need that kind of ministry now; the ministry of fire and power and for us to have it, we must work harder than we are doing now.

If you have been a Christian for a year or two and you still bother about the way people are looking at you, then there is a problem. For how long will you tarry in the primary school department of faith? When will you grow above malice, envy, playing with your enemies and leaving your substance to fight shadows? Think about it. We are supposed to move in that kind of ministry. Our shadows are supposed to chase demons. That is how the God of Elijah operates. When we are passing by, witches and wizards are supposed to be hiding from us. Our houses should be so charged that it is only a witch that wants to commit suicide that will decide to fly over them. Even the saliva from our mouths should become fire and if you spit the saliva on the floor and somebody decides to collect the sand and use it for evil purpose, it would explode in his hands. This is how God wants us to move.

I remember a church I attended many years ago. Everybody knew that anytime we gathered for service, we were at the warfront. I find it difficult

to believe today, how a serious man of God can wear a whole 10 yards of clothes that makes it difficult for him to move and he is busy folding it up and down when there is a lot of work to do. In that church, if you wore that kind of clothes, you would carry a demon home. If you want to survive in that kind of place, you have to be on fire just like any man of God that wants to survive now.

The issue of fornication and adultery are supposed to have disappeared from the life of any serious believer. But if you are still battling with these, you cannot be in the last day army. In that church, whenever we started praying, unbelievers became afraid of taking the bridge at the back of the church. Only born again Christians could use the bridge. Some of them even started speaking in tongues without being our members.

Instead of evil people running from one herbalist to another looking for how to deal with a Christian, the reverse is the case. It is Christians that are running around seeking for counselling against evil spirits. Your lot as a believer is that if somebody takes your case to herbalists, they will refuse to work with your name.

Why is it that many Christians have never even seen a single angel in their dream, let alone recognise them physically. Whereas in those days when they locked people up, angels came to set them free. Why? It is because we are not consecrated enough. We have been wrongly programmed.

WAY OUT

We need to call on the God of Elijah. When we call upon Him, things will begin to happen. Many people need to be touched a second time. That you have been speaking in tongues for five years will not help you. You need to collect new fire. Let the fresh fire of the Almighty start to burn in your life. Drop the primary school things.

The Bible says some people that are supposed to be adults are still babies. At such times they are supposed to be teachers, they themselves need to be taught the basics of the doctrines of Christ. There are some who used to be healthy, but now are sick. Such people still carry tablets in their bags when they come to spiritual clinics. Some used to see visions of heaven and the Lord Jesus but now it is bad dreams or slender beautiful women.

Believers who are meant to vomit fire on the enemies are eating in their dreams and seeing the dead. Some used to hear music from heaven; but now they are hearing strange noises. God used to speak to some people clearly but now they hear very little. We need to call on the God of Elijah.

Elijah was an important prophet in the Old and New Testaments. Although we do not know much about his parents, yet he made history in the name of the Lord. He was the first prophet to announce that there will be drought to punish God's enemies. He was the first prophet to lock up heaven and put the key in his pocket and said, "There will be no rain except by my word." He was the first prophet to multiply food, raise the dead, pray for immediate rain, write a death letter to a king and the first prophet to call down fire.

When Elijah had gone by a whirlwind to heaven, his servant was stuck at a place called "Jordan." He could not build a bridge to pass nor swim over. He was in trouble and could not do anything. He would have been destroyed by wild animals but then he screamed, "Where is the Lord God of Elijah?" And as he did that, that God answered.

Prayer Points

1. Where is the Lord God of Elijah? Manifest yourself in my situation and circumstances, in the name of Jesus.
2. Fire of God, enter into my life, in the name of Jesus.
3. O Lord my Father, do everything in your power to give me victory, in the name of Jesus.

4. Every strange spirit in my life working against my divine original, die, in the name of Jesus.
5. Every anti-testimony altar fashioned against my destiny, be dismantled, in the name of Jesus.
6. Holy Ghost fire, separate me from every evil pattern, in the name of Jesus.
7. Foundational barriers to my next level, break, in the name of Jesus.

Chapter Six

WHO IS THE LORD GOD OF ELIJAH?



*The Lord God of Elijah is the God
that answereth by fire*



This chapter answers the question, who is Lord God of Elijah?"

1. The Lord God of Elijah is the one that makes a way where there is no way. He can part your Jordan so that you can cross over.
2. He is the God of multiplication.
3. He is the God that brings the visible out of the invisible.
4. He is the God that can provide for His people through humanly impossible means. The Lord God of Elijah was the one that fed Elijah through the ravens.
5. He is the one who looks after all those who loose themselves in Him, like the widow of Zarephath.
6. He is the God of resurrection. He gave power unto dead bones, and they came alive again.
7. He is the Lord that can give supernatural strength. Elijah ran 30 miles on foot and the chariots could not catch up with him. The Lord of supernatural energy.
8. The Lord God of Elijah is the God that answereth by fire.

May be you are at the end of the road now and a particular problem seems to have caged you in, call on the Lord God of Elijah, let Him answer by fire. One big truth is that the man who can really pray has nothing to fear. Lots of people are at the point of despair and the Bible does not want anybody to despair.

Sometime ago, a sister was planning to move out of her husband's house because they were barely able to eat half a meal a day. Her salary and that of her husband put together would not even pay the house rent let alone buy food. The husband was praying for breakthrough. One day, in anger, he called on the God of Elijah to answer by fire before going to work. He

could speak Arabic and English languages. His work was to serve food in a restaurant. One day, an Arab came to eat in the restaurant and could not place his orders because he could not speak English. So, this brother helped him out and the man was happy to meet somebody who could speak Arabic. As he was eating, he called this brother and wanted to give him another job after asking for his salary. The Arab offered him a job as his interpreter with a salary of 1,000 pounds a day. The brother thought he was joking. The Arab paid him a month in advance and so the brother resigned and they left together. When the brother got home and showed his wife the money, she almost ran mad. She could not believe him for ten minutes. That is what happens when a person decides to call upon the God of Elijah. He will always answer by fire.

YOUR RIVER JORDAN

You are going to call on the Lord God of Elijah like Elisha did when he was by his own river Jordan. You might have arrived at your own River Jordan and the enemies are laughing at you and asking you to show them what your God can do. It is also good to tell them, "I serve the God that answereth by Fire."

Prayer Points

1. I will not reap any satanic harvest, in the name of Jesus.
2. Untouchable power, indestructible power and unchallengeable power, fall upon my life now, in the name of Jesus.
3. Let the fire of the Almighty God soak my hands now, in Jesus' name.
4. Let fire come down and suppress all my oppressors, in Jesus' name.
5. Let the God of Elijah divide my Jordan, in Jesus' name.
6. Lord God of Elijah, convert my disappointments to miracles, in the name of Jesus.

7. Lord God of Elijah, sack all those who are sitting on my seat, in the name of Jesus.
8. Lord God of Elijah, bring the visible out of the invisible for me, in the name of Jesus.
9. Lord God of Elijah, paralyse every household wickedness, in the name of Jesus.
10. Lord God of Elijah, take me to the rock that is higher than I, in the name of Jesus.
11. Lord God of Elijah, remove inherited limitations from my life, in the name of Jesus.
12. Lord God of Elijah, make me an environmental transformer, in the name of Jesus.
13. Lord God of Elijah, empower me to laugh my enemies to scorn, in the name of Jesus.
14. Lord God of Elijah, do a new thing in my life, in the name of Jesus.

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