

# POWER AGAINST CAPTIVITY



**Dr. D. K. Olukoya**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

TITLE PAGE

COPYRIGHT & PERMISSIONS

## Chapter One

WHAT IS CAPTIVITY?

## Chapter Two

MAJOR CATEGORIES OF CAPTIVITY

## Chapter Three

SOME IMPORTANT STATEMENTS ABOUT CAPTIVITY

## Chapter Four

SIGNS OF CAPTIVITY

## Chapter Five

SATAN'S STRATEGIES FOR PUTTING MEN INTO  
CAPTIVITY

THE STRATEGIES OF SATAN THAT HAVE NOT CHANGED  
A NAME CAN PERFORM FIVE FUNCTIONS:  
DELIVERANCE FROM A BAD NAME

## Chapter Six

RECEIVING POWER AGAINST CAPTIVITY

SOME LESSONS LEARNT BY JOB  
HOW YOU CAN LIMIT GOD

## Chapter Seven

HOW TO OVERCOME CAPTIVITY

[PRAYER POINTS](#)

[TESTIMONY](#)

[EIGHTEEN YEARS CAPTIVITY BROKEN](#)

[OTHER PUBLICATIONS BY DR. D. K. OLUKOYA](#)

[BACKCOVER](#)

## CHAPTER ONE

# WHAT IS CAPTIVITY?

**Psalm 126: 1-4 says, "When the Lord turned again the captivity of Zion, we were like them that dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The Lord hath done great things for them. The Lord hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad. Turn again our captivity, O Lord, as the streams in the south."**

**Psalm 53: 6: "Oh that the salvation of Israel were come out of Zion! When God bringeth back the captivity of his people, Jacob shall rejoice, and Israel shall be glad."**

**Isaiah 59:5 says, "They hatch cockatrice eggs, and weave the spider's web; he that eateth of their eggs dieth, and that which is crushed breaketh out into a viper."**

This is a good description of bondage.

**Job 42:10 also says, "And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends, also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before."**

The Lord turned the captivity of Job, He reversed that captivity.

**Psalm 68:18 says, "Thou hast ascended on high, thou has led captivity captive; thou hast received gifts for men, yea, for the rebellious also, that the Lord God might dwell among them."**

Here captivity is treated as a personality. Somebody led captivity captive and after he had done that he received gifts for men that the Lord God could dwell among them.

Captivity means the same thing as bondage. Both have one thing in common: they hinder or remove a person's freedom and destroy it completely. Sometime ago, a white woman said on television: "If I

wanted to go to a shop to buy something, I would make up for two hours and if I had to go to a place in the evening, I would start making up from 7 am, and did it for eight hours. I did not know that I was in bondage." That was the bondage of make-up.

The word 'captivity' is taken from the word 'captive'. Somebody who is in captivity is a prisoner, whether the person knows or not. We have so many unconscious prisoners; those who think they are actually enjoying themselves but are prisoners.

There is no real freedom except in God. Those who say they are free or open-minded or liberal are just being liberal for the devil. All "free thinkers" are thinking for the devil. True freedom can only come from God. Anybody who is still afraid of guns or threats or death is not free. If your mind and soul are bound then every other thing is lost. What the devil normally does is to capture the soul and mind, and once that is done, every other thing is lost. Let the enemies take your body, or even pluck your eyes if they want them, but ensure at all cost that your mind and soul are free. Only those who are free indeed can really live. Remember the story of the jailer and Paul. They had dragged Paul and Silas on the ground and punished them even though they had done nothing wrong. They beat them and put them in the innermost prison but at midnight, they started the prison choir. The Almighty enjoyed their music and very soon called out to Mr. Earthquake: "Where are you? Go and clap your hands at that meeting of Paul and Silas." Mr. Earthquake went and clapped his hands and every prisoner was set free. When the jailer saw them, he said, "Men and brethren, what shall I do to be free," because these were men, who were bound physically but were free spiritually." Would to God that Christians of nowadays are like these men. We need prayers.

Many people are bound but when they see a freeman they want to destroy him. Many have been walking upside down all their lives and when they see somebody walking right, they would say he is crazy.

## CHAPTER TWO

# MAJOR CATEGORIES OF CAPTIVITY

There are several kinds of captivity that sons of men experience.

**1. Internal captivity:** This is when a person is a prisoner internally although he may be smiling to people externally. The external may not reflect what is going on internally.

**2. External captivity:** This is the obvious type. It can be seen that a person is under a form of bondage.

**3. Remote control captivity:** This is when a person is being controlled by a demonic person who is far away. Satanic people construct dolls or effigies to represent people. Whatever they do to these effigies would be happening to the people anywhere they are. Sometimes, they do this by evil summon. They summon the spirit of a person to their demonic meetings and pass a wicked judgment on the person. Some of the people you see all over town, wearing suits and carrying on as if all is well are being remotely controlled from their hometowns. That is why a believer should pray that God should bless him or her. Do not say, "I wish I could be driving in that big car like that man." If the man with the big car is being manipulated by remote-controlling powers and God answers your prayer of wanting to be like him, you will come under the manipulation of remote-controlling powers too. They would start controlling you the way they are controlling him. If somebody was under a remote-controlling chain and the sword of the Holy Spirit cuts the chain, fresh miracles would bombard him in a dumbfounding way.

**4. Personal captivity:** This is when somebody who knows that a particular thing will harm him but still goes back to it. For example, if somebody knows that anytime he goes drinking and smoking, he



comes home with a headache, and still goes to drink and smoke, such a person is under personal captivity.

**5. Inherited captivity:** There is inherited captivity. In this case, the victim is bound before he is born. It is captivity from the womb and the victim starts life on a deficit.

**6. Captivity by force:** There is also captivity by force. The victim does not like it but he is forced to be there.

A certain sister hated eba, which is food made of cassava flour. But one day in her dream, somebody force-fed her with it. When she woke up, she found that she was ten times her size, and from that day she developed a terrible disease. She had been forced into captivity.

**7. Accidental captivity:** There is also accidental captivity. This is a situation where somebody is meant to get into trouble but another person just walks into it. Or for example, somebody had been coming to work early everyday but turned up late the day the boss came on a surprise visit.

**8. Ignorant captivity:** There is also ignorant captivity. Its victims are completely ignorant of the fact that they are in captivity.

## CHAPTER THREE

# SOME IMPORTANT STATEMENTS ABOUT CAPTIVITY

It is better to starve than to be a well-fed slave. Many people are well-fed slaves but it is better to starve and be free. That is, whatsoever you are doing, you know that your stay on earth is temporal. There is a day of reckoning when you will tell God how you spent your life on earth.

Lean liberty is better than fat slavery. What some refer to as freedom now is just exchanging one type of slavery for another. I know a girl who used to complain everyday, "I need freedom, I need freedom and I must escape from this house." She said that her daddy and mummy were too strict and that she must get out. And the only way of getting out was by marriage. She was 15 so, she could not go out. She decided to get pregnant. Her parents asked her who impregnated her and she came with a boy of 17 who did not have even a room of his own but was still sleeping on a mat in his uncle's house. The girl wanted freedom and the freedom she got was another slavery.

If a person is in bondage and does not know and is praying, nothing will happen because God would not be giving the person goodies inside the cage. He will prefer that the person gets out of the cage so that he can be a partaker of His blessings. A lot of Africans are caged. Until they come out of their cages, they cannot enjoy God's blessings. The rain of blessing may be falling around and a caged fellow would be seeing it but cannot come out to get anything.

The ability of God to make captivity captive is something that is not clear to so many people, Some people are quick to forget that aspect of God. God has a method, which is not clear to man yet. When you

talk about light and darkness, hot and cold, death and life, it takes a lot of effort to go from one extreme to another. In most cases people just give up and learn to live with their conditions but Jesus reverses things. He is a specialist at reversing things: He changes darkness to light. He changes a bad person to a good person. He changes a lion to a lamb. He replaces fear with peace.

It is true that man sometimes finds himself in helpless situations for which he is not responsible. Nevertheless he is in bondage. For example, two parents noticed that their daughter was very intelligent but they were poor and could not afford to send her to school. So, when a very rich old man came and promised to sponsor her education on the condition that he would marry her, they agreed. The girl was only eight years old then, and she got married off to a man of 45. The man financed her education until she passed through secondary school. But she never liked this man. In fact, she hated him. She gave her life to Christ, became a Christian and realized that the marriage was a form of captivity and began to think of how to get out.

There was also the case of a girl of two who was sleeping gently on her bed, and a man of about 46 came in, raped her and caused a permanent damage to her body. Now, she is born again, but she is already in captivity out of no fault of hers.

A man lost both parents when he was six months old. He had to live with five different people. He never in his life enjoyed parental love. He married the first wife and she ran away, married the second one, she ran away, number three ran away and so did numbers four and five. When he married number six, he came to the church for deliverance. He was in captivity. He was not the one who killed his parents, he just found himself in that situation.

## CHAPTER FOUR

# SIGNS OF CAPTIVITY

**1.** When a person who has a sharp memory discovers all of a sudden that he now finds it difficult to remember things, it is a form of captivity.

**2.** When a person who was prosperous suddenly has nothing, that is captivity.

**3.** When a person who used to be very healthy suddenly becomes sickly, there is captivity.

**4.** When a woman's husband suddenly loses interest in her, it is a sign of captivity.

**5.** When you do your best to normalize things but they keep getting worse, it is a sign of captivity. If your situation is so bad that sometimes, you feel like dying, it is a sign of captivity.

**6.** Inability to memorise things is a sign of captivity.

**7.** It is captivity when you decide to try Jesus for some time and if He does not perform, you will give up.

**8.** If you notice that you have a low image of yourself, you are in captivity.

**9.** If you are always confused, it is a sign of captivity.

**10.** Inability to believe God wholeheartedly is a sign of captivity.

**11.** Perhaps in your heart you do not really accept messages about holiness, prayer and the Bible, but you are just coming to church because you have heard testimonies, or you have had horrible nightmares making you to be afraid, it is captivity.

**12.** Laziness: A certain man came to me for prayers and talked for one hour, jumping from one point to another. I said, "No problem,

sir," and gave him a prayer point and said, "Sit down and begin to pray and let me see what will happen." I went away and after about five minutes, I heard him snoring. But when he talked for one hour he did not sleep. It was captivity.

**13.** When there is hatred and bitterness in your heart against others, it is captivity.

**14.** All irrational fears are forms of captivity. Some people tremble when they see an ambulance passing and hooting its siren. It is captivity.

**15.** Complaining or grumbling because of any small thing is captivity.

**16.** Drug abuse, overeating, uncontrollable sexual urge, etc. are all forms of captivity.

**17.** Irrational crying: when a mosquito bites you, you cry; when there is no food, you cry; when there is traffic jam you cry, it is captivity.

**18.** Irrational violence, that is, when somebody turns everything in the house upside down and after some time he apologizes: "I am so sorry. I am ever so sorry. I do not know what happened to me, I am so sorry, please forgive," It is captivity.

**19.** Extreme restlessness, that is, jumping from one place to another is a form of captivity.

**20.** Constant use of bad language is a sign of captivity.

**21.** Not caring how you spend your time is captivity.

**22.** Being sleepy when you are doing spiritual things is captivity.

**23.** Things moving about in the body is as a result of captivity.

Perhaps, this is your situation, I have good news for you. God is able to reverse your captivity. He can make your enemies to swallow their words. He has done it before, He has been doing it and can do it again. God knows that many people got themselves into their present situations through ignorance. Young people who have the opportunity of learning how to pray in order to receive their God-

chosen partners and are not grabbing it should ask the older ones about their experience. If these older ones knew one quarter of what they know now, they would not have made mistakes.

A lot of people saw captivity and out of ignorance went headlong into it. If some sisters had prayed, they would not have ended up with the men they married. Then, they had said, "Love is blind." Now that the love is beating and harassing them, they are running helter-skelter. But God who is faithful can forgive you for those periods of ignorance. The Bible says that the time of ignorance, God winks at it. Since He can forgive you, He is able to bring you out of your captivity. The devil dealt with Job but God brought him out of captivity and turned his weeping into joy.

## CHAPTER FIVE

# SATAN'S STRATEGIES FOR PUTTING MEN INTO CAPTIVITY

The devil has not changed his strategy putting men in bondage. It is still the same old devil, he has not changed. He started at the Garden of Eden where Adam lived. Adam means "earthy or red earth" or "of the ground" or "taken out of the red earth." The location of the Garden of Eden and its climate suggest that its first occupants were not white people. Adam did not resemble today's white man. Adam was a very special person, he was neither white nor black, he was a superman. He was put in the garden and if he had continued there, he would have turned the whole of the world to Eden and there would have been no need for anyone to die. The name of Adam's wife was Eve. Eve means life or life-giving. So, Mr. Red man married Miss Life-giving. Both of them entered into captivity by satanic strategy.

## THE STRATEGIES OF SATAN THAT HAVE NOT CHANGED

**1. Making people to listen to him:** Satan caused Eve to listen to him, when he came to Eve and said, "Mrs. Adam, what are you doing in the garden? She said, "Nothing, I am strolling around." Satan said, "How is your husband?" She said, "Fine." Satan said, "What happened last night?" and she replied. If the first time the devil said, "Good morning," she had said, "Just shut up and leave," she would not have had any problem. So, listening to the devil is the beginning of problem for anybody. Do not listen to him so that you will not do his bidding.

**2. Putting a question mark on what the Lord has said:** For example, God has made some promises for everyone. Do not allow the devil to put a question mark on them. Do not allow him to ask you: "Do you think it will happen?" He asked Eve, "Has God said you shall not eat of every tree in this garden?" Just ask him to get out and he will shut up.

**3. He causes people to doubt God and believe him.** This is what he did to Eve.

**4. Inordinate ambition:** He made Eve to have unholy ambition. She wanted to become like God.

**5. Appealing to people's appetite:** He appealed to Eve's appetite. Another source of captivity is the mouth gate. A lot of people die through the mouth gate. A man was given some food at a party, and because he loved the aroma, he decided to put it in a warmer. He ate all the other food items that were not very delicious in the morning and in the afternoon and kept the nice smelling one for the evening. When he wanted to open the warmer, something held him back urging him to wait for the food in his tummy to digest. After the digestion, as he opened the warmer again at midnight, a dove flew out of it. This means that if he had eaten the food, which was rice and fried plantain, he would have become a witch.

These Satan's strategies have not changed. If you listen to the devil today you can enter into captivity. The devil puts question marks on what God has said. If you believe him, you will enter into bondage. People who doubt the word of God enter into bondage, People who have unholy ambition enter into bondage. People who eat what they should not eat because they have an unholy urge to eat get into bondage. Those who buy everything they see and throw it into their mouth are looking for trouble. Those who go to the market and taste the same item from different sellers before they buy are looking for trouble.

**6. Appealing to people's sense of beauty:** Satan appealed to Eve's sense of beauty. He said, "This thing is beautiful to eat." A lot of people get carried away by this kind of statement. But the Bible



says that beauty is vain. I feel sorry for the big men who run after ladies. They feel they are committing immorality with one lady not knowing it is with a host of them, A man died in a hospital and as they were taking his body to the mortuary, they found that his right leg was shaking and they began to shout, "He has come back to life." They brought him back and he said, "Just discharge me let me go. I promise I will not commit adultery again," Within the brief period he was dead, a woman he slept with, who was another man's wife, walked in and said, "Idiot, you thought you were sleeping with a woman, It was a goat you were sleeping with, you are finished." When he got out of the hospital, he decided to become very careful and forsake his evil ways. When the Bible says, "Do not commit fornication, do not commit adultery" and you feel you are being hindered from having fun, you are going into captivity and when you get in, getting out is not easy.

**7. Getting people to disobey God:** All the above six strategies only lead to the greatest sin in the universe which is disobedience. The sin of disobedience leads to captivity. The moment you begin to disobey the Almighty God, you enter into bondage.

**8. Household wickedness:** Adam and Eve gave birth to two sons, Cain and Abel. Cain means possession or acquisition and Abel means vapour or breath. I do not know why Abel was given the name. Mr. Possession killed Mr. Vapour. This leads us to another strategy of satan to lead people into captivity. It is known as household wickedness.

A man was having problems in Lagos and went somewhere to find out the source of the problems. He was told that his mother-in-law was responsible and that he should go and see her. He went to the woman and after exchanging greetings with her, he said, "Mama, I am here for you to help me." She asked him how she could help and the man said, "Since I married your daughter things have not been going well, etc" The woman said, "Is it now that you want to know why you are suffering?" The man said, "You mean you are in charge?" The woman said, "Why should I not be in charge? You bought a vono mattress for my daughter and I am sleeping on a

mat." He said, "Ah, but she is your daughter." She said, "Shut up." He told her that if vono bed was the problem he would get her one. But the woman said that was not the only thing. She asked for a fan too and asked him to bring them first before they could talk. The foolish man jumped into his vehicle, went to Lagos, bought a mattress and a ceiling fan and rushed back. She now said, "Lagos man, you are welcome," and took him to a small tree at the backyard and said. "Under this tree is your virtue. You can see that the tree is dry. But since you have done like a good boy now, I will favour you." She poured water on the place to make it wet and told the man to go back to Lagos. The man left and truly it was as if things began to progress little by little until they got bad again and he went back to the woman in the village only to discover that both she and the tree were dead. Meanwhile, he had entered into another captivity of household wickedness.

**9. Addiction:** After God had delivered Noah from the flood, he decided to plant a vineyard and began to drink from it and got drunk. Noah was the first man in the Bible to become addicted to drinking. Addiction too, is another strategy of the devil to put people in captivity. Anyone who drinks alcohol or smokes cigarette or takes tobacco, or takes satanic injections is only strengthening the cage. You may be doing this secretly and deceiving your family, but very soon your secret will be exposed like the morning dew.

**10. Evil names:** After Cain had killed Abel, Adam and Eve gave birth to another son called Seth which means appointment, compensation or substitute. Seth had children and grand children until they got to Enoch who gave birth to Methuselah. Methuselah means "when he is dead he shall be sent" or "messenger of death." Along the line, came Noah which means rest or comfort. Noah had a son called Shem, which means a name. It is from him that the Jews descended. He had another son called Ham, which means thick or dark from whom the black man descended. His third son was Japheth which means enlargement from whom the Europeans descended. The devil uses names to put people in bondage. Some

problems are tied to the names people bear. If a person bears a cursed name, it will be a source of oppression.

## **A NAME CAN PERFORM FIVE FUNCTIONS:**

1. It serves as a form of identification.
2. It can reveal something about the person.
3. It can ascribe things to the person.
4. It can personify. It directs something from the person to the immediate environment.
5. It can portray the image of the person's family background.

When a man's negative experiences begin to agree with the interpretation of his name, it means that the name is cursed. Jacob had to change the name of Rachael's last son from Benoni, which means the son of my sorrow to Benjamin which means the son of my right hand. If he had retained the name Benoni, he would have continued to be a person of sorrow. The name a person answers on earth can be of concern to heavenly beings. Names carry meanings and may affect the lives of the bearers. They have spiritual power to influence those who bear them. A cursed name can spell disaster even for a very good Christian. When John was to be born, God said, "Call him John." When Jesus was to be born, God said, "Call Him Emmanuel," which means God with us. So, find out whether your name and your father's name imply evil. What is the meaning of your surname? Does it align you unpleasant experiences of life or are you dedicated to local gods or goddesses? Does your name have anything to do with market days or a particular tree or animal? Is your name linked to late warriors who fought and killed people? Does your name have to do with idol worship, familiar spirits, reincantation, witchcraft practices or bad family histories? You must check your name to know what it means.

When a Christian has a name that has to do with misfortune, tragedy or evil trend, he does himself a lot of harm by retaining it. It

is also not good to have a combination of good Christian names and demonic surnames.

A cursed name will authorize a particular demon to exercise power over you and your circumstances. Does the combination of your name cause embarrassment in heaven? If so, you should consider changing it.

If you have meaningless names you had better change them to meaningful ones. Some names are given under very sad parental experiences. Some people are named in front of a stream or shrine. Some are named by the priest or witchdoctor of the area where they were born. If you do not know the meaning of the name you bear, demons know. Satan and his agents will work tirelessly to execute the curse on such a name. Modern-day believers and children who do not know the meaning of their names or the place or town where they come from had better find out because that may be where their problem is rooted.

## **DELIVERANCE FROM A BAD NAME**

Reject a bad name and pick up a new one. Destroy the spiritual principles by which the evil name operated and bring into force the blessings of the new name. God knows that a lot of people are in trouble through ignorance on this issue, but He is ready to deliver them.

The journey into bondage is one that you must understand because part of being free is knowing what enslaves. You may walk into bondage when you eat food from the table of the devil. The devil has his own dining table, and he cooks very beautiful palatable meals. You enter into bondage through the use of jewelry without knowing their spiritual implications. You take a journey into bondage when for whatever reason you are sleeping with a person who is not your legitimate husband or wife.

You get into bondage when your closest friend is a witch or has familiar spirit. If you are always eating in the dream, you are on a journey into bondage. If you consult false prophets and herbalists,

you will enter into bondage. The more herbalists you consult the stronger your cage becomes and the wider your name is circulated to evil powers and they suck your prosperity dry.

You are on the journey into bondage when you use the psalms unscripturally. Praying with strange names such as Raphael, Uriel, Elira, etc. is taking a journey into bondage. Reading the so-called Sixth and Seventh Books of Moses when Moses did not write any such books, amounts to renovating the cage. You enter into bondage when incisions are made on your body. You go into bondage when your mother is not the first wife in a polygamous home. You are on the journey into bondage by drinking satanic holy water, or when you pray using incense and candles or perfumes. You get into bondage when you are memorizing incantations, including those you learn from the television.

You enter into bondage when you lose your dresses mysteriously. You enter into bondage when your placenta is under evil control or when you use spiritual sponge and spiritual soap. When you bathe at seas and rivers, you get into bondage, A woman can enter into bondage when many men are harassing her for marriage.

## CHAPTER SIX

# RECEIVING POWER AGAINST CAPTIVITY

The first thing that God requires to make a person's captivity captive is genuine repentance. Perhaps you are always fighting with people wherever you go and still carry the Bible. God is saying, "When will this one stop fighting so that I can make progress in his life." Perhaps you are an abortion expert. You have aborted all God's prophets and they are making noise at the throne of God saying, "Lord, will you allow this dirty woman to continue to kill your prophets? Require our blood from her hand," and you are busy saying, "It is not my fault." God is not asking whether it is your fault or not. All He wants is repentance.

May be it is idol-worship that God wants you to forsake. Many people have exalted many things above God. Maybe your own is nagging; you are always complaining about your husband or wife at home. Maybe God wants you to get out of evil associations. For example, the school of disrespect and dirtiness, bad companies, demonic associations, etc. God waited for Job to learn his lessons. It was after Job had learnt his lesson that God made his captivity captive.

### **SOME LESSONS LEARNT BY JOB:**

- 1. He learnt that evil should not be given any chance.
- 2. He learnt that it was wrong to blame God for what the devil has done.
- 3. Job also learnt that devil was behind all his sufferings and not God.
- 4. He learnt that he should not have cursed himself.
- 5. He learnt that he should have prayed for his friends,

From your present problem, what lessons have you learnt? As soon as Job learnt these lessons, God said he was ready. He was cursing himself and saying all kinds of things. But when God bombarded him with questions such as: When I laid the foundation of the earth where were you? Declare it if you have knowledge. He would not answer. He asked him more questions. Then it got to a point where Job said, "I know that my redeemer liveth and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth." So if you are cursing your mother or the day you were born because of your situation, you need to repent.

A person who refuses to learn from his school of captivity is a failure. There are generally seven signs with which to recognize those in the school of failure.

1. They are always neutral over spiritual things. For example, they do not take spiritual holiness seriously.

2. They go to church when they feel like it and when it is most convenient.

3. They look at the inconsistencies and fault of others. They find faults and criticize others and ignore their own faults.

4. They unite with worldly things like clubs and fraternities. I am sorry for anyone who has his name in the register of worldly clubs but do not have it in the Book of Life. It is amazing to see some pastors performing burial rites for dead members of occult groups and herbalists. I consider it very funny. Indeed the judgment of God would be hard.

5. They run around with carnal Christians and make friend with unbelievers.

6. They make immorality their food.

7. They do not learn from their mistakes.

Another principle of making captivity captive is the fact that nothing good comes easy. Being a spiritual giant does not happen overnight, it takes a lot of effort. Most good things are difficult to obtain but the land of opposition is a land of opportunity. Before the parents of

Samson could deliver him it took them some time. His mother was banned from drinking wine and alcohol and some other things. The parents of John the Baptist had the same experience. Today, we are enjoying the benefits of salvation but it was not an easy thing for Jesus to do. Imagine the man who stood by the woman at the well and said, "I am the living water. If I give you my water you will never thirst." And the woman said, "If you have that kind of water give me also so that I don't come here to fetch water any more." Imagine the man who said that coming to the cross to say, "I thirst, give me water." Trials will lead to success. People will ridicule you but it is part of the show, People usually criticize the man at the front not the man at the back. Even on the cross, Jesus was still being criticized. Maybe you have criticized your parents and asked them to leave you alone as you have your life to live and that you are a modern person and now you are having problems. May God have mercy on you. Do you know what they did to you when you were eight days old? Now they see how you are going and have realized that it was as a result of what they did. They are advising you on the basis of that and you are asking them to get lost, you better be wise or you will only be long in captivity. Nothing good comes easy. When you have a battle to fight, violence is required. The Bible says that right from the time of John the Baptist, the kingdom of God suffers violence and the violent takes it by force.

Do you feel limited? Do you feel confined? Do you feel like you are in bondage? Are there barriers and bands in your life that need to be broken? Do you fall in and out favour? Somebody loves you today and tomorrow, you get there and he says, "Get out, I don't want to see you again." Do you experience powerlessness? Do you notice that what used to take five minutes of praying now takes five days? Do notice that your spiritual gifts are fast disappearing? Are you busy looking for a job without success? You are praying, believing that your prayers would bring answer but no solution and the devil is even tempting you to go back to the world. Do you pretend about your problems? You have occasionally thought about yourself and said, "Well the best thing is to give up." You need to repent.



Some people are too scared to commit fornication physically but the thing has completely gripped their hearts. They just cannot stop their hearts from thinking fornication. You look at your life and it is like even your own parents have lost interest in you and people are gossiping about you and laughing at you. You have gone for countless counsellings and the result seems to have yielded nothing. The devil keeps singing to your ears that you are a failure, or you notice that you experience hindrance in anything you want to do. You have been coming to the house of God for years, yet nothing is happening or you are a sister and you have turned yourself into an emergency cook because you want a husband. These are all signs of bondage.

Many people have ladders through which evil spirits come into their lives. If such people decide to pray with aggression and violence and take to heart what the word of God is saying, freedom is sure because Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. That voice that said, "Let there be light" and there was light, only has to say to you, "Today, be free," and there will be freedom. He does not have to say more.

One of the most outstanding scriptures is found in Psalm 78: 40-42. It says, **"How oft did they provoke him in the wilderness, and grieve him in the desert! Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel. They remembered not his hand, nor the day when he delivered them from the enemy."**

The Israelites had got so used to bondage that they limited God. When you blame God or other people for your circumstances, the barrier remains in place. Your position as a believer is this, others may but not you. It may be happening to others but not you because your case is different. Can you imagine that as powerful as God is, people can limit Him in their lives? That is what that scripture is saying. It says, "They turned back and limited the Holy One of Israel." Has it ever occurred to you that you might be the one limiting God in your life? You may wonder how possible it is for you to hinder God when He has all the powers. God did not create us like robots

or lifeless equipment. He created us with a soul and we can choose what we want.

## **HOW YOU CAN LIMIT GOD**

**1. By forgetting what God has done for you:** If you forget what He has done for you, you cannot overcome your captivity because you have limited God's ability to work for you. Remember your position before and your situation now. Remember the victories God has won for you. To forget is to plan for present and future failure. The Lord gave food to the Israelites without a bakery. He gave them water without a well, electricity without machines, health without medicines, clothes and shoes that never got worn out for forty years. But they hindered God in their lives. Some are afraid that the enemy would start running after them now that they have given their lives to God. Some are saying that since they testified to what God did in their lives, problem has started. The devil uses things like that to shut people's mouth because he does not want them to get out. That way, people limit God.

**2. Turning back on the day of battle:** Proverbs 24: 10 says, **"If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small."** Turning back on the day of battle is limiting God.

Psalm 78: 9-12 says, **"The children of Ephraim, being armed, and carrying bows, turned back in the day of battle. They kept not the covenant of God, and refused to walk in his law. And forget his works, and his wonders that he had shewed them. Marvellous things did he in the sight of their fathers, in the land of Egypt, in the field of Zoan."**

Turning back on the day of battle is limiting God. When you say, "I am fed up," you limit God because the angel bringing your miracle could be standing at the door but because you cannot not see beyond your nose, you are busy saying negative things. Once you do that, you are turning God away. When you go back to your old ways, you limit God's power. When you try herbalists because answer to your prayer seems delayed, you are limiting God. Know

that since the devil is the one putting diseases on people, he has some power to remove some diseases in order to convince people that he has power. He would remove tuberculosis and replace it with Aids.

Several years ago, a woman came to one of our meetings and told me that her husband died of Aids and that she was afraid that she might die of the same thing. I told her she would not die but live whether her husband had Aids or not because the blood of Jesus is stronger than Aids, She praised God and started worshipping God. Then one day, a miserable counsellor told her to go and do a medical check up if that was what killed her husband and stop talking about faith. Unfortunately, she heeded the evil counsel and was not coming to services regularly again. She went for the test and the result read positive. Immediately she collected that result, life lost all meaning to her and she began to lose weight, this was somebody who was living well. I never saw her again until I heard that she was dead. Never limit God's power, It is when the battle becomes tough that tough people get going. Losing the battle is losing the war. There will be no Moses without a Pharaoh. There is no Elijah without Ahab. There is no Esther without Haman, and no David without Saul. So, you cannot have a distinction without sitting for any examination. You cannot become an army general by sleeping on your bed. No enemy, no victory. No enemy, no throne, no battle, no crown. So giving up is like disobeying God. You do not know how long God has travelled. It may just be one more blow that you need and your breakthrough will come. But you refused to give that blow and wonder why the captivity is keeping long. Or are you like the children of Ephraim? The Bible says that they were armed and they counted bows but on the day of battle, they ran. Adversity is a breeding ground for miracle. The land of opportunity is the land of opposition. Canaan was a land flowing with milk and honey but right in the midst of the land, were giants. God may be waiting for you to grow up to the level where you can maintain your breakthrough. When you lose contact with God, you book an appointment with the devil. There is no triumph without trial.

Do not allow fear to turn you back. When you fear that a problem will overcome you, you limit God. Thou shall not be afraid. Fear is a spiritual cancer and must go. It is the opposite of faith. Anybody fearful is useless to God. If you exercise fear that a problem will overcome you, it will be so. The Bible says that the fearful ones will go to hell fire like the fornicators. Are you afraid that a sickness will kill you? Have you started reading about the sickness to know more about it? Are you bothered that you will not be able to pay your children's school fees? Are you afraid that you will lose your husband so you are monitoring him around? Are you worried that something that a sharp dreamer saw about you will come to pass? Are you afraid that you will never come to the top? These are ways of limiting God.

**3. Following other gods:** Despite the many wonderful things God did for the Israelites, they turned against Him forgetting that He is a jealous God (Exodus 20: 5). Everybody is worshipping something. If you do not worship the true God, you are an idol worshipper. An idol is anything that is exalted above God. Idol worshippers include those who say, "My job does not allow me to come for fellowship." Many people, these days, are worshipping the god of their belly. Such people are not interested in anything that does not have to do with food.

Giving God's glory to something else is idolatry. Stubbornness is idolatry. Some have turned sex to their idol. That is all they talk about. In their rooms, you see calendars of naked women and all kinds of obscene pictures. For some people, it is sports, During football matches, they forget about fellowship. They abandon the house of God for what they call soccer. Sometime ago, some believers were crying because a particular team lost a match but never in their lives have they cried for a sinner to repent. Some actually fasted for that team to win but they have never fasted for their pastors who are in occult societies to get out.

Some people have made education their idol. They forget that the arm of flesh will fail them. The last time I went to pray for somebody at a Psychiatric hospital, I did not like what I saw. A lady had just

been brought down from England. She had her lipstick below her lips. So what was the use of her master's degree certificate? When you bow down to worship an image, whether the image is Mary, Diana or Venus, you are an idol worshipper. The Bible did not say you should be bowing down to Mary. She was a sinner like all of us and she knew that she needed the Holy Spirit that was why she gathered at the upper room to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the other disciples. God became angry with the Israelites for forsaking the tabernacle of the Lord.

What is the focus of your own life? What is the most important thing in your life? What do you spend your money on? How do you spend your time? Are you willing to give up those things that are separating you from God?

## CHAPTER SEVEN

# HOW TO OVERCOME CAPTIVITY

1. The first thing you must know is that you must learn your lesson from your present situation before God delivers you from it. Have you learnt your lesson? God will not turn again your captivity until you have learnt your lesson. This is to ensure that you do not go back into that captivity and lose what God has helped you to restore. Have you learnt your lesson? May be it is your impatience that led to the bondage you are in now. May be your marriage would have been in place if you had exercised a little more patience. Have you learnt that lesson now?

Perhaps, you got into bondage because of anger. Have you learnt now that it is not good to be angry? Perhaps you got into bondage by fornicating, like the brother who picked a girl somewhere and took her home and the girl turned into a coffin. When that brother eventually ran to Jesus and saw the light, he started looking straight when driving. He no longer looked to the left or to the right.

May be it was alcohol that put you in bondage. Have you learnt your lesson? Is it idol worship, murmuring, complaining, disrespectfulness and dirtiness that put you in bondage. Have you learnt your lesson?

Perhaps you keep bad company. Have you learnt your lesson? With all the messages they have heard and the prayers they have said, some people still choose to call themselves witches and wizards or familiar spirits. What wasted lives. They eat from the dustbin, inside banana trees or iroko trees or they are dying and coming back again. Is that what you like to be doing when Jesus has a better life for you? Have you learnt your lesson? Have you cheated in an examination? Have you learnt your lesson? Do you have

unholy love for money? Have you learnt your lesson? Are you fighting your in-laws? Are you honouring God with all your substance? Is it carelessness or disobedience to God? Have you learnt your lesson? After Job learned his lesson, God turned his captivity.

Do not give up. Remember what God has done for you and be grateful to Him. Remove fear. Reject every idol. Fill your life with the words of God and confess His words.

Know for sure that the enemies of man cannot be begged to leave him alone. What they understand is absolute defeat. You cannot appeal to the devil. Jesus crushed the head of the serpent.

### **PRAYER POINTS**

1. I renounce the signing of my name to satan, in the name of Jesus.
2. I announce that my name is written in the Book of life, in the name of Jesus.
3. (Lay your right hand on your chest and pray this) Any power using my blood for evil assignment, lose your hold, in the name of Jesus.
4. Every witchcraft cage, be destroyed by fire, in the name of Jesus.
5. Every unconscious cage manufactured by household wickedness, be roasted, in the name of Jesus.
6. I refuse to be caged, in the name of Jesus.
7. I remove myself from every remote-controlling power contrary to the will of God, in the name of Jesus.
8. I decree freedom into every area of captivity in my life, in Jesus' name.
9. You captivity, I command you to be captive, in Jesus' name.
10. Captivity, release me, in Jesus' name.

11. Anything in my life that the power of captivity is using against me, come out by fire, in the name of Jesus.
12. I break and lose myself from every bondage of slavery, in the name of Jesus.
13. I terminate every journey into captivity, in the name of Jesus.



# TESTIMONY

## **EIGHTEEN YEARS CAPTIVITY BROKEN**

My name is Bala Matthew, I am from Borno State and a graduate of Business Administration, University of Calabar. I graduated in 1990 and was doing my NYSC programme in Kaduna. There, I met a friend who graduated from the same university as I and I housed him because he did not have a place of his own. Both of us lived together with his girlfriend. One eventful day, I woke up to hear some noise outside my apartment. I rushed outside to see what it was only to discover that my friend and his girlfriend were being beaten by a group of people. I intervened and my landlord also came to the scene and suddenly my landlord was hit by one of them and he fell down. He was immediately rushed to a nearby hospital where he was admitted. The following day, I visited him in the hospital to sympathise with him and apologise for what had happened. He accepted my apology and I spent some time with him and left. He did not look as though something was going to happen to him. The second day, I was at home when some people came to me and asked me if I was Bala and I said yes. They said I was under arrest and told me that my landlord was dead and I murdered him. I tried to explain all I knew but they did not listen. I was taken to the police station and locked up. The actual culprits fled and I was arrested. Ten years later, I was taken to the High Court and was condemned to die by hanging. From 1990 to 1995, I was taken from one prison to another and was in the condemned criminals cell. Eventually, I was taken to Kirikiri prison in 1995 waiting for the day I would die by hanging. At the Kirikiri prisons, members of MFM used to come to preach. However, in August 2008 I saw one of the prisons workers with a copy of the Fire in the Word journal titled: "COMING OUT OF CAPTIVITY." I begged him to allow me to glance through it and he said it was an outdated one. I insisted and he gave it to me. I read the Fire in the word and prayed all the prayer points therein and slept

off. As I was sleeping, I had a dream in which I saw a very narrow way and underneath the road was a grave. A man like Master Jesus was standing at the other end of the road. As I crossed over, he asked me if I stepped on that grave and I said no. He held my hand and told me that he was interested in my case.

The following day, some prison warders came and called my name several times but I refused to answer remembering the dream I had the previous night. After sometime, my colleague there urged me to answer and I reluctantly did. They brought me out and took me to the office where I saw a woman from Amnesty International. Each time we saw that woman, we knew someone was going to be granted pardon. The woman asked me if I was Bala Matthew and I said yes. To God's glory, I was taken back to court the second day, where the judge told me that they had read in a daily newspaper that I had been discharged and acquitted a long time ago. Before now, my mother had sent me her last message saying that she had sold all she had in pursuit of the case that if it was the will of God for me to die for a crime I did not commit, so be it. By this time I had spent 17 years, 8 months in criminal detention. In the court, some documents were signed and I was finally moved to Ikeja. I asked the judge and one of the men there who discharged my case and if anyone filed an appeal on my behalf and they said no, but that an order came from the Appeal Court that I should be set free. And that was how 18 years captivity was broken. I was discharged and acquitted. I give God the glory. Praise the Lord!

**Bro. Bala**  
***MFM Abaranje***

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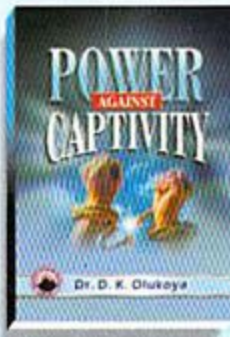
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## POWER AGAINST CAPTIVITY

Many people have been bound for a long time. Many have been walking up side for a long time. And unfortunately too, many have been exchanging one type of slavery for another. These kinds of situations have made life hell on earth for all affected persons. Captivity is slavery and it has different categories. Ignorance in this area has perpetually kept a lot of people in bondage. Dear reader, this book is your key to freedom from all forms of captivity. So, do not miss it.

### *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' Headquarters is the largest single christian congregation in Africa with attendance of over 120,000 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 Micro-biology from the University of Lagos and a PhD in Molecular Genetics from the University of Reading, United Kingdom. As a researcher, he has over seventy scientific publications to his credit.

Anointed by God, Dr. Olukoya is a prophet, evangelist, teacher and preacher of the Word. His life and that of his wife, Shade and their son, Elijah Toluwani are living proofs that all power belongs to God.

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