

Dr. D. K. Olukoya

Pavour Favour Mercy

DIVINE FAVOUR MERCY

DR. D. K. OLUKOYA

DIVINE FAVOUR AND MERCY

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I salute my wonderful wife, Pastor Shade, for her invaluable support in the ministry.

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All the Scriptures are from the King James Version

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Chapter 1

DIVINE FAVOUR & MERCY

Mercy is receiving unlimited divine favour. God specializes in lavishing His love upon His beloved children.

1 John 3:1

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

Divine love is the outpouring of favour upon us.

Psalm 5:12

For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield.

Psalm 102:13

Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to for the time to her yea, the set time, is come.

Proverb 12:2

A good man obtaineth favour of the LORD: but a mall of wicked devices will he condemn.

A day will come in every life when your greatest need is to experience divine mercy.

We can learn various lessons from various men and women in the scriptures who gained the attention of Jesus. We can gain some lessons from what they did to get that attention.

Let us look at some scriptural accounts, before we begin to look at the keys to receiving mercy from the Lord.

And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. Gen. 32:24-26

We see the case of the of the stubborn wrestler "Eagles do not fly in flocks and most people who ever got anywhere with God got there when they were alone. The wrestling, started from 10p.m to 5a.m. It was just one prayer point. Unless you bless me. I will not let thee go. The stubborn wrestler got the attention of the lord".

And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. Acts 16:25

We see the case of the two night warriors. "And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises unto God; and the prisoners heard them"

- 1. It was midnight
- 2. They prayed
- 3. The sang praises to God

They were not quite about it because other prisoners heard them. They were doing it with a loud voice so that other prisoners could hear them. They were not ashamed at all.

And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one's bands were loosed. Acts 16:26

These men got attention. Jacob got attention. He was alone. He stuck to one prayer point for 7 hours. These two men got attention. They rose up at midnight. They prayed. They sang in a loud voice and they got attention

And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, Matt. 8:5

We see the story of a man who understood the mystery of authority.

Notice that in the two cases we have read so far, we do not find men and women who broke down crying and covered their heads somewhere saying that life had been unfair to them. They did not take that approach. They took action to get his attention.

And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. Matt 8:6

The man was so good that he had feelings for his servant not even his children. He went out of his way to search for Jesus, because his servant not his children was sick.

The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and be cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. Matt 8:8-10

And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour. Matt 8:13

The man understood authority, "Man of God", you don't need to touch me. You just need to come to our house.

I know you have authority just speak the word. Everything we get from God is based on our faith. If a man of God could say "There is somebody here with so", Apart from the particular person any other person can lay hold on that word and claim it by faith.

This man was nice, a kind hearted man, who had feeling for his servant. He understood authority and he had a great faith he was able to get the attention

of Jesus.

And, behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue: and he fell down at Jesus' feet, and besought him that he would come into his house:

Luke 8:41

The Holy robbers

For he had one only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she lay a dying. But as he went the people thronged him. Luke 8:42

This was another man who got Jesus attention, he was the worshipping ruler and because of that he got Jesus attention. Worship can get you attention of Jesus.

And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any, Luke 8:43

Now we see the Holy robber.

Came behind him, and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanched. Luke 8:44

Came behind him, and touched the border of his garment and immediately her issue of blood seize.

And Jesus said, Who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me. Luke 8:45-46

Here was it woman who did holy stealing, she touched Jesus and withdraws virtue while others were there and they got nothing; simply because she had said once I just touch the edge of his garment I will be made whole.

And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; Saying, There was in a city a

judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me. Luke 18:1-5

This woman got attention by persistence prayers.

THE CRY

And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel. Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table. Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour. Matt 15:22-28

She cried, she worshiped, she prayed and she was broken.

And again he entered into Capernaum, after some days; and it was noised that be was in the house. And straightway many were gathered together, in so much that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them.

And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne off our. Mark 2:1-3

These are people who brought a sick man to the Jesus, when they could not gain entrance from the door; they tare the roof and came down to receive their miracle.

When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be for given thee. Mark 2:5

That is active faith.

And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou Son of David, have mercy on me. And many charged him that he should hold his peace: but he cried the more a great deal, Thou Son of David, have mercy on me.

And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called. And they call the blind man, saying unto him, Be of good comfort, rise; he calleth thee. Mark 10:47-49

Shut up! Die in your blindness. But the more they asked him to shut up he increased his volume". Your mouth shall be louder than those of your enemies in Jesus name, he asked for mercy.

DIVINE ATTENTION

Any cry from the heart will put a break on the Lord to listen to you. We do not understand the principles of aggression. The enemy tries to multiple problems and troubles would begin to happen. When you try to pray for mercy and divine attention.

I was in a meeting many years back. A professor came for prayers. He had invested his money into some business. The ship carrying the goods disappeared on the sea. I said, "Prof" you will have to pray today "Sit down and begin to pray, every owner of the load of poverty carry your load in the name of Jesus, because everything he invested was gone and poverty was coming.

VIOLENT PRAYER

He sat in one corner saying the prayer in British accent. I left him and faced other things. After about 30 minutes, I heard a scream. He became very violent. I said, "Prof, any problem"? He said "As I was praying, I saw one bundle of rags in my hand and I saw an angel standing before me. The rag had become two bundles. He said, the angel looked at him with disdain and said, "You want the rags to go. Pray violently".

As from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence and the violent taketh it by force. Why does the violence need to take it by force? The enemies of your soul is wicked. He is not ready to let go easily.

Blind Barthmeaus cried a holy cry to get the attention of Jesus. You shall get the attention of Jesus today.

HOW TO OBTAIN MERCY

Finally, to obtain mercy and experience divine intervention, you must take the following steps."

- 1. **Make God your friend.** Jesus said "Ye are my friends if you do whatever I command your. Anything God asks you not to do don't do it.
- 2. **Find time to be alone with God.** Be like Jacob.
- 3. **Learn operation push,** I.e. (pray Until Something Happens)
- 4. Be a worshipper.
- 5. **Practice night praying like Paul and Silas.** The apostles understood the power of night praying. When Peter was locked up in prison those who were praying for him to be released were praying at night.
- 6. Manifest Holy madness with your disturbing situation
- 7. Holy dissatisfaction.
- 8. **Violent faith.** The Bible talks about five levels of faith

(I) No faith at all And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith? Mark 4:40

(II) Little faith

And he saith unto them, Why are ye fearful, o ye of little faith? Then he arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. Matt 8:26

(III) Weak faith

And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about an hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sara's womb: Rom. 4:19

(IV) Strong faith

He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; Rom 4:20

(V) Great faith

When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no not in Israel. Matt 8:10

- **9. Desperate prayers.** When a desperate person is praying, it is different from that of any other person.
- 10. Targeted fasting.
- 11. Violent praise and worship bring the hands of God down.
- **12. Brokenness before God.** After the order of the syrophoenician woman.
- **13. Going out of your way to be a blessing to others.** Like the woman who gave her last meal to Elijah and blessing bombarded her.
- 14. Violent cry in prayer.
- **15. Key into God's promises.** Are there situations confronting you? Get the promises of God that are relevant to such situations.
- **16. Build up anti-doubt barriers in your heart.** Put a strong immigration officer at the door of your heart to shut out doubts.
- 17. Change your daily vocabulary to possibility.
- 18. Embrace words and thoughts that emphasize that all things are possible.

- **19. Do not be ashamed of praying in public.** Just as blind Bartimaeus and that woman crying was not ashamed they may laughed at them but they got their breakthroughs.
- **20.** Learn to appeal to the compassion of God. Say "Lord, help me. Lord has mercy.
- **21. Turn away from all sins.** The Bible says his ears are not heavy; his hands are not short that he cannot save, but your sin has made his hand to be short and his ears to be closed.
- **22. Believe the prophets of God.** When they give you Prophetic messages you must accept them.

When they ask you to take prophetic actions you must take it.

These are 21 keys that will make you get the attention of Jesus

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. Every pattern of my father's house, of my mother's house contrary to my destiny die.
- 2. Thou power of ancestral failure die.
- 3. Ancestral chain ancestral embryo, die.
- 4. Powers from my root, assigned to arrest my Progress, you are a tier die.
- 5. Blood of Jesus walk through my family, scatter every affliction in Jesus name.
- 6. Pray this 7 times: Ancestral bad luck assigned against me die.
- 7. Owners of evil load, hear the word of the Lord, carry your load by fire in Jesus name

Chapter 2

The POWER of effective Prayer

There are prayers and there are prayers. For your prayer to be effective you must follow the steps in this chapter. The question is How do you graduate to the level of prayer where you will argue with God in an organized manner and win?

But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend. Isaiah 41:8

- 1. **You must make God your friend.** If somebody is your friend you would not be afraid of talking to him or her. You must be born again and you must be living a life that is satisfactory to God. You are as close to God as you want to be. This is a very important fact which you need to take note of. If you want to be closer to God then work harder and consecrate yourself more.
- 2. **Get to that level where God can depend on you.** I pray that the Lord may be able to depend on you in the name of Jesus. That was one of the secrets of Abraham.

For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him. Genesis 18:19

In the above passage God gave a testimony about Abraham. The question you need to ask yourself is can God give this kind of testimony about me?

God trusted Abraham. God depended on Abraham. God was happy with him.

Jesus saith unto her, Woman, what have I to do with thee? mine hour is not yet come. John 2:24

God could go ahead and commit Himself to Abraham. Abraham was the first among men to know that Sodom and Gomorrah would be destroyed. You need ask yourself if God can commit Himself to you. The way you behave at your place of work, can he boldly say "This is my child?" Can you boldly preach in your place of work and somebody would not make jest of you because of your behaviour.

This is what happens sometimes when God looks around a particular place and He cannot find someone to commit Himself to. He would then decide to destroy that place. God could commit Himself to Abraham but He cannot commit Himself to many of us and this is a problem. When you are stealing the tithes that is due to Him is that when would he commit Himself to you?

3. You must know the Bible. You must be Biblically literate. You must read the Bible, understand, the Bible, memorize the Bible, eat the Bible and even swallow the Bible. If you have been born again for one or two years and you don't know a minimum of fifty two memory verses then you are not studying the Bible very well. One great and rewarding thing you can do to your life is to study the word of God. If you are going to be arguing with the almighty you must know His words.

4. You must know His promises.

For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. 2 Corinthians 1:20

Whatever your argument you can win it with the word of God when you remind Him of His promises. When you begin to remind God of His promises How would concede the argument to you

- **5. You must have a legal ground to stand on.** If your legal ground is not solid the enemy would push you away.
- 6. You must have knowledge of the secrets of the Lord.

And the Lord said, shall I hide from Abraham that thing which I do; Genesis 18:17

God did not want to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah without letting Abraham know about it first. This is a Biblical pattern. You find out that when God wants to do something terrible to people He would first of all tell His people what He wants to do. The Bible says that the secrets of the Lord are with them that fear Him. The Bible says surely the Lord does nothing unless He reveals the secrets to His servants the prophets. It is comforting to know that God reveals His plan to those who seek him.

Sometime ago somebody said that there are three kinds of people in the world. Some people make things happen. Some see things happening. Others just ask to know what happened. When you see and you know what is going to take place then you will know how to marshal your arguments. It is a disaster when somebody receives a secret from the Lord and I the person stubbornly walks into the danger.

7. You must learn the principles of intercession.

And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD. Genesis 18:22

God is looking for people who will stand before Him like Abraham. When you begin to intercede for others and you also learn that principle it also works for you in your life.

- **8. Pray persuasive prayer.** You must understand God's character. If you want God not to do a particular thing you need to know His character. Abraham knew God's character. He knew that He will not destroy the righteous with the wicked. Moses, too, knew the character of God. They knew that God is a righteous judge and a righteous God.
- **9. You must understand God's abundant grace.** It was that grace that made Abraham to negotiate for mercy. God gave him a very big discount for the number of righteous people. Almost ninety nine percent discount. Abraham knew that God was a merciful and gracious God and He began to ask.
- **10. You must mow the limit of God's patience.** When God went His way after speaking to Abraham the people of Sodom had arrived at their limit. There comes a time when a man should withdraw from his steps. When you are hearing the voice of God don't move, don't move. When you go ahead at

that time and you exhaust the limit of God's patience recovery becomes impossible.

11. You must be a man or woman of faith. Herein lines a great problem in the house of God. The Bible says without faith it is impossible to please God. Faith is a state of heart. Faith is a deposit in your spirit. Spirit is seeing with the eyes of God. It is seeing what you have not yet gotten physically but you are seeing it with the eyes of the spirit realm. Faith is a changing force. A thing may not move before but when a man of faith moves it it begins to move. Faith is a determination.

Faith is whole hearted certainty. Faith is an expectation, an unshakable confidence. Faith is radical readiness to obey God. Faith is to know that you know. Faith is Holy stubbornness. When we say Holy stubbornness that faith makes you to endure the most horrible suffering without yielding to the desire of your enemy.

Faith never surrenders to the enemy. Faith is very stubborn. It is a very strong character. If you have the kind of faith you should have the enemy cannot fight your faith into surrendering. The faith may die but they may not surrender. That is why faith is a substance of greatness. It holds firm to the vision of Heaven. Faith is never disobedient to the Heavenly vision. Faith runs and it is never weary. Faith walks and its never faints. Faith prevail where human strength fails. It takes a woman or a man of faith to argue with the Almighty and win.

And others had trial of cruel mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect. Hebrews 11:36-40

If we have faith as of old we will see mountains move as they have never been moved before. But our attitude is that of quiet unbelief and clever doubt.

- **12. Persistence.** Those who must argue with the Lord have to be in the school of persistent praying. Persistence is a delight to the Almighty. He enjoys it. Persistent praying shows that we believe God has the answers. Persistent praying demonstrates our sincerity. God sometimes tells us to see how sincere we are in our request. Persistence in prayer develops our faith. A man becomes physically strong by exercising his muscles. It is only through persistent prayer that our faith is strengthened and exercised. You should continue your prayer points until the following things happen.
- a) God assures you that He has answered your prayer and the answer is on the way.
- b) You receive what you ask for there and then.
- c) Or God reveals to us in a definite way that what we are asking for is not His will for us at that time.
- **d)** You must pray systematically. The Bible says line upon line, precept upon precept. You must be an organized prayer warrior because we are fighting an organized enemy. To be quite honest with you, the kingdom of darkness is more organized than most Churches. When you face an organized warfare with a disorganized prayer system you will be defeated.

Learn how to argue with God and win today.

Chapter 3

Pleading with GOD

Prevailing prayer is the type of prayer that brings results. Students of the school of spiritual warfare must learn to pray and prevail. There is no denying the fact that God answers prayers. But what we need to know is how to pray effectively. God's ears are open to the prayers of the righteous. When we meet the conditions stipulated by God we will obtain instant answers.

Prayer can be linked to arguing a case and winning the courts of law. The Bible has called students in the school of prayer to the place of an advocate or a lawyer who pleads a case.

"Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified."
Isaiah 43:26

"O that one might plead for a man with God, as a man pleadeth for his neighbour!" Job 16:21

"Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will plead thy cause, and take vengeance for thee; and I will dry up her sea, and make her springs dry." Jer 51:36

SPIRITUAL ADVOCACY

The first question that comes to your mind is this: Can a man argue with the Almighty? Yes.

And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten

calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation. And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand? Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever. And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people.

And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand: the tables were written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other were they written.

Exodus 32:7-15

And the LORD said unto Moses, Go, get thee down; for thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves: They have turned aside quickly out of the way which I commanded them: they have made them a molten calf, and have worshipped it, and have sacrificed thereunto, and said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which have brought thee up out of the land of Egypt. And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation. And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great

power, and with a mighty hand? Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own, self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it for ever. And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people. And Moses turned, and went down from the mount, and the two tables of the testimony were in his hand: the tables were written on both their sides; on the one side and on the other were they written.

The children of Israel had gone worshipping idols immediately Moses went to the Mountain. God told Moses to allow Him destroy them because they were ascribing the glory due to Him to idols. Moses said no and he marshaled the arguments that you can see above before, the Lord. When he marshaled these arguments one step at a time, the Lord decided to have mercy on them.

NO GREATER POWER

Prayer can persuade the Almighty from a cause of action. That is why we keep saying that the awesomeness of the power of prayer is not clear to modern man.

And the LORD said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous;

I will go down now, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know. And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD. And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? Peradventure there be fifty righteous within the city: wilt thou also destroy and not spare the place for the fifty righteous that are therein? That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that

the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? And the LORD said, If I find in Sodom fifty righteous within the city, then I will spare all the place for their sakes. And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes: Peradventure there shall lack five of the fifty righteous: wilt thou destroy all the city for lack of five? And he said, If I find there forty and five, I will not destroy it. And he spake unto him yet again, and said, Peradventure there shall be forty found there. And he said, I will not do it for forty's sake. And he said unto him, Oh let not the Lord be angry, and I will speak: Peradventure there shall thirty be found there. And he said, I will not do it, if I find thirty there. Genesis 18:20-30

Abraham had made his calculations in the above passage that there was Lot, there was his wife and his daughters and he thought that by the time these people are put together they would be up to ten. Unfortunately God did not arrive at that figure in his search for righteous people in Sodom and Gomorrah. So the place was destroyed. We could see the way Abraham organized his argument systematically.

THE ARRANGEMENT

Apart from the awesomeness of prayer another thing we need to know is that prayer must be organized. It is a credit to them because that time they did not have access to the kind of Bibles we have today yet they were organized in their prayer. If many of us step wasting our time being bitter and crying and we just sit down, marshal our arguments and put it before God we would be amazed at the results we would get. It is something we can even take a pen and begin to write like a petition to the Lord. This principle is in the Bible.

Produce your cause, saith the LORD; bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob. Isaiah 41:21

In the above passage we discover that we should Him strong reasons why He has to do what He should do now. That is like a lawyer brings forth your

strong reasons and arguments and presents it before the Lord. What do we mean by Argument?

An argument is a coherent series of statements leading from a premise to a conclusion. An argument is not vain babbling. There is a time to pray in tongues and a time not to pray in tongues. There is a time you pray in the spirit and there is a time you pray in your understanding. Unfortunately what many of us call prayer is vain babbling. An argument begins with a premise. It starts with a thought and a goal.

From that thought and goal you form series of coherent statements leading up to a conclusion.

THE PRESENTATION

An argument is not always about anger and throwing of stones in a bid to hurt somebody else. An argument does not have to be a disagreement. Arguments have to do with swaying other people's ideas to agreeing with your own. That's why one white man said argument is foolishness, but discussion is wisdom.

God went into great trouble to free the children of Israel. He turned water to blood, He brought frogs, Lies, Flies, He sent diseases to cattle, he sent boils, hails and fire, locust, darkness and He sent the death of the first born. These severe judgements were brought against Egypt because the Egyptians did not want to let the people of God go. They did not want to lose their slaves.

I pray that every Pharaoh that docs not want to let you go shall release you today in the name of Jesus.

From deliverance from that bondage, God brought Israel to the Red Sea. When they got to the red sea they looked behind them and saw the Egyptians pursuing them. They were afraid. They began to accuse Moses for bringing them there to die. Moses stretched forth his rod and they passed over unto the other land. For three million people to cross over they needed to be lined up one thousand deep by three thousand long. Pharaoh was so mad and dead in the spirit that he rushed into the waters. God took away their chariots wheels when the wall of water came in on the enemy. After God had done all that these same people now made a golden calf and began to worship it and God was at that point ready to destroy them.

Moses began his argument. He had a goal for the argument. He has a burden and a passion. This is where the trouble lies beloved. It is possible for you to argue with God and win that argument.

Chapter 4

Encounter with the GOD of JACOB

The God of Jacob is the God of refuge. He is the God who gives us hope in hopeless condition. The names we call God reveal His attributes.

Psalm 46:1-11

"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. There is a river, the streams whereof shall make glad the city of God, the holy place of the tabernacles of the most High. God is in the midst of her; she shall not be moved: God shall help her and that right early. The heathen raged, the kingdoms were moved: he uttered his voice, the earth melted. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Come; behold the works of the LORD, what desolations He hath made in the earth. He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth; He breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder; he burneth the chariot in the fire. Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen; I will be exalted in the earth. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. Selah.

NAMES OF GOD

God is described by many names in the Scriptures. For example, He is called:

1. Jehovah Shamah meaning 'I am there'. Jesus says "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the ends of the earth" He also says:

"Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have passion on the son of her womb? Yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee". Isaiah 49:15

In summary, we are the ones that forsake God; He does not forsake us.

2. Jehovah Shalom; meaning:-

"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." Isaiah 26:3

There was a brother who liked this verse and recited it every day and aloud. He had a friend who did not want to accept Christ as Saviour. One day, the unbelieving friend asked him to stop disturbing him with his recitation. The brother told him that any time he was in trouble; he should remember the God of peace.

One day, the unbelieving friend, was in his pharmacy when a little girl came to buy medicine for her mother. The man, who was fast asleep, woke up to attend to the girl. He gave her the first bottle in sight and the girl ran home. Suddenly, the man realised that he had sold out poison to the girl. He did not know her and so could not know where she could have gone. It dawned on him that he was about to kill a woman and if that happened, he would be in trouble. His license would be withdrawn and would probably be jailed.

Suddenly, he remembered his friend who had told him to call on the God of peace, whenever he was in trouble. For the first time in his life, he prayed to God. At that very moment, he saw the girl coming back crying. She said she fell as she was running with the bottle and the bottle got broken. The man gave a sigh of relief and that was how he surrendered his life to the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. Jehovah Jireh

It means the Lord will provide.

Philippians 419

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus".

4. Jehovah Nissi

The Lord our victor

1 John 4:4

"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world".

5. Jehovah Rapha

The Lord that healeth thee.

Isaiah 53:5

"But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed".

Most of these names are a description of God's character. They sound as if they are the observation of someone looking at Him and describing Him. Elijah addressed Him as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel.

1 Kings 18:36-38:

"And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this, people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. Then the fore of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked water that was in the trench".

After this short introduction, fire fell. Many people do not know why Elijah addressed God that way.

If you call Him this way, He will answer by fire.

Now take this prayer points, with holy violence before you go on before you go on.

- Let the God of Elijah destroy all my spiritual Baals in the Name of Jesus
- Let every challenge issued against me by satanic prophets, fall down to the ground and die.

What does God call Himself?

1. Exodus 3:14:

"And God said unto Moses "I AM THAT I AM" and He said "Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you."

2. Revelation 18:

"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty".

3. Revelation 22:13:

"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last".

Isaiah 49:25-26

"But, thus, saith the LORD, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the pray o the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee, and I will save thy children. And I will feed them that oppress thee with their own flesh; and they shall be drunk with their own blood, as with sweet wine: and all flesh shall know that I the LORD am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob".

When you are calling on God; you have to know who He is.

When the prophets of Baal had finished shouting to call their god, Elijah now introduced his own God.

1 Corinthians 8:5-6

"For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) but to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in

Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by Him".

Sometimes, when some people get attacked in their dreams, they call on God and nothing happens. It is because they have not identified themselves with Him. There is only one Lord, Jesus Christ and if there is anything through which you are calling God, which is different from the Lord Jesus Christ, then you are not serving the Living God. There is nothing like Jesus of Oyingbo or Jesus of Agege. If God should declare Himself as the God of Jacob, it means there is hope for you and me.

Chapter 5

Understanding GOD AS THE GOD of JACOB

The man Jacob. He is an interesting character in the Bible. He was born of a woman who had been barren for many years; so, he came as an answer to prayer. Right from the womb, he was a struggler.

He was a twin and he held on to the heel of his brother that came out before him. As he grew older, he became more fraudulent. He fraudulently collected his brother, Esau's birthright. He took advantage of the fact that the brother too liked food. As if that was not enough, he connived with his mother, to fraudulently collect his brother's blessings from their father. As from that day, the two brothers became enemies.

Esau sought to kill him and so, Jacob ran away, knowing that his brother being a hunter could get him even at a distance. For many years, he was in a foreign land where he got married and prospered. Jacob worked hard for seven years, in order to get the woman that he loved. He did not know that he was dealing with a father-in-law that was more fraudulent than he. He got married and on the night of the wedding it was the elder sister of the woman that he wanted, that was given to him.

He did not realise it until the following morning. It was then that his father-in-law told him that he could not marry the younger before the elder. He was still interested in the younger; so he served their father for seven years again, in order to marry her. When he was about to leave, he fraudulently got more flock from his master, who was also his father-in-law.

HUMAN TACTICS

After many years, he summed lip courage to face his brother and make things right with him. For fear of being turned down or aggressed, he sent his family ahead of him. He was left alone in the wilderness and he slept off. In his dream, he saw angels ascending and descending a ladder and he concluded that the Lord was in that place. He called the place 'Peniel'.

Genesis 32:22-32:

"And he rose up that night, and took his two wives and his two women servants, and his eleven sons, and passed over the ford Jabbok. And he took them, and sent them over the brook, and sent over that he had. And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. And he said: "Let me go, for the day breaketh". And he said "I will not let thee go, except thou bless me". And he said unto him: "What is thy name?" And he said: "Jacob". And he said: 'Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed". And Jacob asked him, and said "Tell me, I pray thee, thy name". And he said: "Wherefore is it that thou dost ask after my name?" And he blessed him there. And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face and my life is preserved. And as he passed over Penuel the sun rose upon him, and he halted upon his thigh. Therefore the children of Israel eat not of the sinew which shrank, which is upon the hollow of the thigh, unto this day: because he touched the hollow of Jacob's thigh in the sinew that shrank".

THE LESSONS

Lessons to learn from the experience of Jacob:

1. He laid his head on a stone to sleep; it was not a comfortable pillow. Many Christians today are seeking ease.

For you to receive the revelation of heaven, you have to place your head upon the Rock.

- **2.** The life of Jacob was full of ups and downs until one day, when he had a divine encounter. Until you come in contact with the Lord there are some things that will not change. When you experience a divine visitation, your life undergoes a dramatic incision. By the time the angel finished dealing with Jacob, he became a broken man. All the desire to cheat and deceive was gone.
- **3. He had to struggle with the angel of God, to be blessed.** The Christian life is a battle and we have to fight the devil to repossess our possessions.
- **4. He got his thigh broken.** God Himself puts a finger on our pressure points; those areas that we are trying to cover up. At such times, when a limb is broken, you will have no choice than to lean on the Lord, for sustenance.
- **5. He got his name changed.** The name of Jacob constituted a great problem to his life; many Christians today are suffering under the yoke of the names that they were given by their parents. Some names depict dedication to idols and automatically, a demon is assigned to the person to take charge of his or her life. God pointed straight at that problem by changing his name to Israel.
- 6. Even though Jacob settled with his brother, the effect of his past life was felt on him. His daughter Dana was sexually assaulted' his wife Rachel died, his son committed incest. At a point in time, all his children ganged up to tell him a lie at his old age, that Joseph their brother was dead.

"The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge".

Why is God called the God of Jacob and not of Esau? At least, they came out of the same womb.

WHO IS THE GOD OF JACOB?

1. He is the one who answers when called upon. He takes all those who come to Him in repentance and faith

"All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out"

No matter how horrible your sins are, no matter how imperfect you have been in the past, the God, of Jacob is ready to accept you, if you come to Him in repentance and you have faith in Him. The God of Jacob is not like an orderly policeman, who is, seeking to arrest offenders. He saw Jacob in his imperfections and He took him as he was. God wants you to come the way that you are. He will not cast you out, provided you have faith in Him. That is why I said earlier on, that if God is the God of Jacob, then, there is hope for everyone.

- 2. He shows divine, life-changing revelations, if you get close to Him. Jacob was left alone with God, before he saw the vision of heaven.
- 3. The way of the transgressor is hard. Every transgressor will receive a punishment; he will vomit what ever he has swallowed.

Proverbs 1121:

"Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered".

- 4. The God of Jacob blesses abundantly. He is not a God that is poor. Take this prayer point:
- God of Jacob, fight my battles for me today, in the Name of Jesus.
- 5. He changes evil names to good ones.
- 6. He grants miracles by violence.
- 7. He welcomes wrestlers and strugglers. There is a saying that the song: "Pass me not, O gentle Saviour", is not to be sung whilst kneeling and closing your eyes. Blind Barthemeus did not take it easy at all. He cried out until he drew the attention of Jesus to himself. Jacob was not strong enough to have held back the angel; it was his aggressive prayers that arrested the angel.

Hosea 12:4

"Yea, he had power over the angel, and prevailed: he wept, and made supplication unto him: he found him in Bethel, and there he spake with us".

SALIENT QUESTION

Have you ever seen an angel that could not really break away from a human being? If he wanted, the angel would have over-powered Jacob. That is why we have this account of the incidence in this verse in Hosea.

I am certain that the angel too would have been wishing that he did not give up easily. The God of Jacob will grant miracles by violence. In just one night, power changed hands in the life of Jacob. He became really violent and God changed his name. Jacob was not ready to give up. I hope you are ready to get violent and pray violently today.

Many years ago, I read a story about a battle scheduled to take place between the Romans and the British. The British had planned to invade the Romans right from the sea shores, before they had time to work out their strategies. The Romans too had their own plan, which gave them an upper hand. As soon as they disembarked from the ship that transported them to Britain, they set the ship on fire. It meant there was no room for turning back; it meant 'Onward ever, backward never'. This shocked and amazed the British soldiers and it made them to know that they meant business. This strategy gave the Romans victory over them.

AN EXPERIENCE

When I was a small boy in the Primary School, the teacher used to give the cane to those who answered questions correctly, to beat those who got them wrong. I used to get the answers correctly so I always had to beat the others. If anyone was beating and was gentle about it, the teacher would give the person a bitter sample. I used to suffer for it because, after school hours, the pupils that received strokes of the cane from me, would gang up against me and beat me up. I then decided to stop answering questions in the class; but I discovered that the teacher would beat everybody and when it was my turn, he would give me more strokes of the cane, saying that I was supposed to know better. I had to start answering questions correctly, because it was safer for me, but I mapped out a strategy of attack on my oppressors. I got a hot balm in a small tin and when they attacked me again, I applied the balm

on my palm and rubbed it on their eyes, one by one. As from that day, they stopped beating me up, because they knew that I had a dangerous weapon in my hand.

NO MERCY

Beloved, let this be clear to you: the devil has no mercy and does not understand any other language than violence.

Matthew 11:12

"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force".

Here, Jesus is telling us that we should fight for the kingdom; that we should not sit and grumble. The word 'violence' is mentioned twice in that verse. Jacob was violent and he got God's blessing. By the time his name became Israel, he had changed and that is why God is not being referred to as the God of Israel, but of Jacob: - he was violent and he took his possession by force. Today beloved, I want you to examine you life. See what you have and what you are supposed to have. Get violent and divinely dissatisfied.

One day, some Christians were at a meeting and some masqueraders were parading and threatening the Christians. One of the Reverend gentlemen said that they should just leave them to do what they wanted to do, so that there would be no trouble. One violent Christian said they were not going to allow them to carry out any ritual there.

The brother prayed and called on the God of Jacob; he rain the Fire of the Holy Ghost upon the environment. Suddenly, the demons in the masquerades started to shout, that there was fire all over the place that they should leave immediately. The priest who was to carry out the sacrifice, shouted, saying that the sacrifice was not getting through; that the demons were complaining. He acknowledged the fact that the Christians had a power that was more powerful than his. He surrendered his life to the Lord Jesus Christ. This happened because some people got violent against the devil.

THE WRESTLER

Abraham was a serious wrestler; he argued and pleaded on behalf of Sodom and Gomorrah; so that God would not destroy them. Moses too pleaded on behalf of the Israelites and it got to a stage where God told him not to make mention of the matter again. Today, I want you to call on the God of Jacob; call Him the way Jacob did; do not leave room for any alternative or negative response; do not let go on God, except He blesses you. That night, the strong man in charge of Jacob's case was paralysed. Make sure that you do not allow the angel of your blessing to pass you by. Pray with all the strength that you have. Pray with holy aggression.

A PERSONAL ENCOUNTER

If hitherto, you have not surrendered your life to the Lord Jesus Christ, you cannot lay claims to the God of Jacob. You have got to have a personal encounter with the Lord; you must be born again. All you need do is acknowledge the fact that you are a sinner, and that you cannot approach God in your sinful state.

Confess your sins to Him and ask Him to forgive you and cleanse you from all unrighteousness. Name them one by one; renounce and forsake them and make up your mind that you will never go back to them any more. Renounce the world and the devil. Invite the Lord Jesus into your life; ask Him to become your personal Lord and Saviour claim the redemptive power in the Blood of Jesus that was shed on the cross at Calvary, for the remission of our sins. Personalise it and ask Him to take control of your life and all that concerns you.

I congratulate you for this decision that you have just taken. I pray that it shall be permanent in your life, in the Name of Jesus. I pray that the Lord will uphold you with His right hand of righteousness, and will not let you fall. I pray that your name will be written in the Book of Life and that you will not rub it off; in the name of Jesus.

Take these prayers with determination in your heart and be sure that something happens.

PRAYER POINTS

- 1. Every Spiritual Pharaoh, Herod and Goliath, I command you to fall down and die, in the Name of Jesus
- 2. Let the Fire of the God of Elijah; destroy all my spiritual Baals, in the Name of Jesus.
- 3. Let every challenge singing against me by satanic prophets, fall down and die, in the Name of Jesus
- 4. You fountain of problems in my life, dry up in the Name of Jesus.
- 5. You fountain of poverty in my life, dry up in the Name of Jesus.
- 6. I refuse to allow the angel of my blessing to depart, in the Name of Jesus.
- 7. Let my rod swallow up the rods of the enemy. After the order of Moses in the Name of Jesus.
- 8. Lord, Jesus, I will not leave you, until you bless me, in the Name of Jesus.
- 9. I refuse to reap any evil harvest in the Name of Jesus.
- 10. Let my foundation be adjusted to carry divine prosperity
- 11. Every oppression by night mares, vanish in the Name of Jesus.
 - Fear
 - Tension and stress
 - Consequence of evil consumption
 - Anti-promotion spirit
 - Death and hell
 - Disaster
 - Restlessness and confusion
 - Inherited poverty
 - Sickness in the blood, bones, eyes, intestines, bladder, kidney, respiratory system, paralysis, unprofitable tree.
- 12. O Lord, multiply my joy, my peace and my blessings in the Name of Jesus.
- 13. You devil, take your legs off my finances, in the Name of Jesus.
 - Marriage
 - Childbearing
 - Finances
 - Promotion

- 14. Father Lord, advertise Your signs and wonders in my life, in the Name of Jesus
- 15. O God of Jacob. Change my name to the best, in the Name of Jesus.
- 16. O God that answereth by fire, answer me by fire, today in the Name of Jesus.
- 17. Lord Jesus, speak miracles unto my request in the Name of Jesus.

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When about one hundred candidates go for an interview for employment in which only five are to be absorbed, any one among this five must have been captured in the radar of divine favour and mercy.

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The Author

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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.

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