



Idols OF THE Heart



DR. D. K. OLUKOYA

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P.O. Box 2990, Saba, Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria.
website: www.mountain-of-fire.com
email: mfmhqworldwide@mountainoffire.org

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INTRODUCTION

One morning, Smith Wigglesworth woke up and found that something was trying to confuse him and in a loud voice he cried out: "Clear out of my way, in the name of Jesus!" The thing did not wait for him to repeat the prayer before it cleared away.

There are many things that should clear out of the way for the children of God. That is why Jesus Went on the cross to die for us. He was nailed to the cross, His side was pierced, all these, because He wanted to rescue man. It shows how far man had been held in bondage. He died a painful death, after He had prayed fervently in the Garden of Gethsemane and sweat gushed out of His body like drops of blood. He suffered terribly on the cross. It got to a particular level where He said: "My Father, My Father, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" Later, He said: "It is finished!" After that statement whatever the enemy puts in my way, must clear out.

I do not know if you are ready to tell those things to clear away today.

Today is a day of spiritual retaliation against evil.

Psalm 149:5-8: Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds. *Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand; To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people: To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron;*

You will cry out to those unpleasant situations in your life and they will clear away in the name of Jesus.

Pray these prayer points with holy aggression:

Every blockage of the enemy before me, physical or spiritual, clear out,, in the name of Jesus.

All those who are preparing evil load for me to carry, carry your evil load; in the name of Jesus.

All evil swords pointing at me, be roasted, in Jesus' name.

The Bible says: "The Lord is a consuming fire." Every other fire must be quenched. Elijah locked up the heavens for three and a half years. When he unlocked them rains came. Today, you will lock up the rain of the enemy against your life.

I lock up every rain of the enemy against my life, in the name of Jesus.

Every human spirit and evil spirit warring against my life, I render your activities useless, in the name of Jesus.

Lord, let my obedience to You be perfect, in the name of Jesus.

THE SNARES OF DESTRUCTION

Job 22:10: Therefore snares are round about thee and sudden fear troubleth thee:

There is a common English word used by the police. It is 'arrest' The Bible has about four fearful words to describe the way the enemy arrests people. By looking at these words, one would agree that it is not a good thing to fall into the hands of the enemy. The words are: trap, pit, net, snare.

These are the satanic techniques by which the enemy arrests people. This is a serious matter. and I would like you to take this book serious.

Psalms 91:3: Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler. and from the noisome pestilence.

If the Holy Spirit helps you to tear the mask off the face of the enemy, you would see that he has a wicked grin on his face as the believer is entering into the snare. For it to be effective. the snare has to be hidden or concealed. It is not set for the victim to suspect or see it.

The fisherman uses a net to catch fish: he could use bait on which he attaches a worm. It is the worm that the fish would see and in a bid to catch it. it would put its mouth in the hook and get caught.

SNARES SET FOR THE BELIEVER

COMPROMISE

The temptation to compromise our faith today is very high. Israel became guilty of compromise. Beloved. take a decision today that you will not show mercy to sin in your life. Let God utterly destroy those things in your life that are sinful or devilish. Do not have any secret sympathy for

anything that you know that God hates. Do not compromise with God's enemies.

How does a Christian compromise? By surrendering Christian principles for the sake of gain, fear or favour; not wanting to be different from others. Compromise is the beginning of backsliding. If you see a believer describing things that should be utterly avoided as being not too bad, he is compromising and is gradually backsliding.

A Christian does not backslide suddenly. It starts from one small compromise and is gradually followed by another one, then a bigger one is tolerated; it goes on and transforms into very big ones. Immediately a person compromises his thoughts with the enemy's proposals, he is already going if care is not taken.

Any compromise that you are making today will lead to further actions tomorrow, and these actions will eventually determine your future. You have to uproot the roots of compromise right now. Christians are meant to be different. That means, different, strange, difficult to understand, not fashionable, not like other people.

In the early days of Christianity, Christians were seen as were mad. They were almost always poor, but they would always wear a large smile on their faces. Whenever it was time for a church service, they would abandon every other thing and attend. They never attended idol-worship ceremonies, or parties. They were not 'socialising'; 'they' were strange people. They would gather in a place, pray; read the Bible, listen to a sermon, sing songs, and disperse with smiles on their faces.

These days, it is difficult to differentiate between the people going to a disco hall, those ones going for a church service. Many people claim to be born again but nothing changes in their lives. They still behave like the people of the world, dress like them, comport themselves the same way as unbelievers.

When you compromise, say by adding small lies here and there to your dealings, gradually, you will lose the miracles meant for you and at the end of the day, you will lose your salvation.

Think about it, beloved. Compromise would always tolerate evil. Sometimes, the road leading to compromise is very smooth, attractive and appealing. If you are not careful, you would have gone for, before you realise it. Compromise often comes during the time of blessings and, prosperity.

Question - When God blesses you, will you forget Him?

Some people go to church and take God as a powerful fetish, but God is not a fool. David committed sin at the time he was at the peak of his career, when he had defeated kingdoms. From a shepherd boy he became a king. He was loved by his people, he never lost any battle, and he expanded the kingdom of Israel to unbelievable heights.

All those Eastern, oil-producing countries of today, were under the control of David at that time. Then, at the peak of his grandeur and prosperity, David plunged into sin. At the very time that he Should have been at the war-front, he was relaxing on his balcony and he saw what made him to sin against God and that brought a curse upon his descendants.

Saul compromised with the Amalekites: he disobeyed God's injunction to destroy everything and everyone, in Amalek. Later, he went into necromancy and the kingdom of Israel was taken away from him and his descendants.

All the business lies that you tell, calling them 'diplomatic' lies, and failure to take a firm stand and declaring it, sitting on the fence, all the worldly desires, parties, drinking, deception, cover-up, involvement in one worldly club or the other, one society or association or the other, they will not take you anywhere.

You are a sheep; you are supposed to be different and separate from goats. You cannot settle the quarrel between two goats; it is a snare that the enemy is using to catch Sheep.

When we were small, there was an epidemic of kidnaping. People would call small boys and girls and ask for how to get to one place or the other, and would hypnotize them and take them away. Then. our parents and teachers warned us never to stop and talk to strangers. When the kidnappers

found that they had been cornered, they too changed their mode of operation. They started using a candy called 'Goody, Goody', to entice children. It was a delicacy that children could not resist and before parents knew it, many children had fallen into snares. Our parents had to warn us again that we should not take sweets or anything from strangers. In fact, they told us to run when we saw them.

PRIDE

1Tim. 3:6-7: Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil. Moreover he must have a good report of them which are without; lest he fall into reproach and the snare of the devil.

The Bible says that pride precedes destruction. Do you know that God did not create the devil? The devil is the outcome of the fall of Lucifer, an angel of God that became proud. Pride changed the name and character of Lucifer. Pride is the loss of humility and the real root of evil. Some people are proud of their race, educational qualifications, social status, possessions and so on.

You have to kick pride out of your life, so that your miracles can locate you and stand.

WEALTH

1Tim. 6:9: But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

Here, Paul is warning us about the snare of wealth, he also reminds us that the love of money is the root of evil.

This is why God finds it difficult to trust some people with abundant possessions. It is because it is very easy to get into the trap of the demon called mammon. The Bible says: "Lay not up for yourselves wealth here on earth where moth will destroy it, but lay it put in heaven, where moth can never reach it".

Unfortunately, people strive to accumulate wealth at the detriment of their relationship with God. It is true that God is not against His children having money; but He does not want the money to have us. If you do not control money, it will control you. It can eventually kill a person and send him to hell. You have to rule money and not allow it to rule you.

INDIFFERENCE

2 Tim. 2:2: And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also:

Indifference is when a person does not show concern. It is an "I don't care" attitude. It is an effective tool of the devil and you must pray for spiritual alertness and agility to be able to resist it. There is a lot of danger in being spiritually non-challant. When you look at your spiritual life and you see that you are not really at the level where God expects you to be, and you are not bothered, you do not do anything about it, you are stepping into the snare of the enemy and it is a dangerous thing.

FEAR

Proverbs 29:25: The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.

Fear can prevent a person from attaining spiritual height. People do not witness to others because of the fear of their reaction. Many people are agitated and troubled by the things that are going on around them, and this can paralyse their spiritual life. Fear intimidates it causes trouble. David was able to kill Goliath because he was not afraid of Goliath.

Psalms 27:1-3: The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life: of whom shall I be afraid? When the wicked, even mine enemies and my foes. came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though an host should encamp against me, my heart shall not fear: though war should rise against me, in this will I be confident.

Once you have prayed on an issue and you know that God has heard you, believe Him and stick to His promises. Fear is the opposite of faith. Jesus is

always telling people: "Fear not, have faith."

WRONG COMPANY

Psalm 106:35-36: But were mingled among the heathen, and learned their works. And they served their idols: which were a snare unto them.

The company you keep is an index of your character; bad friends are serious snares and have made many people to lose their miracles. Many believers fail to make progress because of the kind of friends they keep.

Beloved, if you have an unbeliever as friend, and he does not want to hear the name of Jesus and has never followed you to a Christian meeting, you have no business keeping him as your friend. Even if the person was your friend from your childhood, he could serve as ladder for the enemy to climb into your life and steal good things from your life.

If you have given your life to the Lord Jesus Christ, you are in a different camp and darkness and light do not play together. They have no connection. Immediately you get born again you are in the light and the unbeliever is still in darkness. For you to be compatible, that unbeliever too, has to come into the light of the word of God. No matter how nice and disciplined an unbeliever is, he is controlled by the spirits and powers of the air.

The Bible says: "Evil communication corrupts good manners". As far as you keep wrong companies, you will remain a spiritual Lilliputian. Many Christians see themselves as having connections because they know people in high and low places. These are friends whose spiritual standing the Christians are not sure of; they do not even know what they do at night and where they go. Christian, watch it!

IDOLATRY

Judges 8:27: And Gideon made an ephod thereof, and put it in his city, even in Ophrah: and all Israel went thither a whoring after it: which thing became a snare unto Gideon, and to his house.

For this action, Gideon and his descendants suffered dearly. It was a tragedy. It is possible for dress or dressing, a habit, a friend or pleasure to

become a substitute for God in the life of a Christian.

An idol is anything you place before or above God. Do not allow anything to take the position of God in your life. These days people do not go to shrines to worship a statue or stone, but in their hearts they have something which has taken the place of God. It could be fame, popularity, power, wealth, pleasure, sex, and so on.

Beloved, the Lord wants me to warn you about the things that can ensnare a believer. You should trust God that as you continue in this Christian race, He will start a new thing in your life. However, if you feel that you are already ensnared, there is a way out.

WHAT TO DO

SEE IT

You must acknowledge the possibility of a snare or the reality of its existence in your life. You cannot get out of a snare until you know that you are in it. You must See your sins as God sees them. You must hate sin as God hates it.

SURRENDER TO THE LORD

You must be ready to let go anything that can ensnare and surrender your totality to God. You must be ready to forsake every ungodly companion no matter how nice they may be. This means as soon as you get born again, the relationship between you and your boy or girl friend must break. It must end and you must not allow sentiments to draw you back.

AVOID IT

The Bible says: "Flee all appearance of evil". Do not toy with sin, do not manage or patch up with anything that can pull you down.

STARVE IT

Do not make yourself a bait for the enemy. Do not behave like the person that puts a monkey on his back. Starve the entire evil desires; do not fuel the fire of evil desires and wants.

Having gone this far, you would have seen that the enemy is not your friend. You would also have seen that the Lord wants you to be His sheep, and He does not want you to stray away from the green pastures where He has put you. Make up your mind that you will not behave like that hunter's dog that refused to listen to the hunter's whistle and was eaten up by wolves in the valley.

I would like you to take the following prayer points with vigour. Say each of them as if it was the last prayer point that you will ever pray. If you know that you are friendly with the devil, you cannot pray these prayers, but you can decamp and come to the Lord today.

If you know that the devil is not good to anyone and that there is need to fire missiles at him, then pray these prayers very well, with determination in your heart:

1. Arrows, thunder, lightning and brimstone, fall upon my enemies, in the name of Jesus.
2. All those that are constructing coffins for me, enter into your coffins, in the name of Jesus.
3. Every snare of the fowler, go against the fowler, in the name of Jesus.
4. I release myself from the hands of fake fathers and fake mothers, in the name of Jesus.
5. I release my miracles from the bondage of the enemy, in the name of Jesus.
6. I paralyse every power determining my goodness, in the name of Jesus.
7. I vomit every satanic consumption, in the name of Jesus.
8. I command my name to be removed from the register of the idol in charge of my place of birth and I command the idol to release my

blessing, in the name of Jesus.

9. I command my name to be removed from the register of the idol in charge of my place of birth, in the name of Jesus.
10. Household wickedness, release my blessing in your possession, in the name of Jesus.
11. Evil powers of my father's house, release my blessing, in the name of Jesus.
12. You witchcraft forces, release my blessing in your possession, in the name of Jesus.
13. Every evil hand pointing at my blessing, release it, in I the name of Jesus.
14. Every evil hand stirring my blessing, wither, in the name of Jesus
15. Any evil leg that has walked into my life, walk out, in the name of Jesus.
16. O Lord, give me new body. parts if it is necessary, in the name of Jesus.

MIND-CONTROLLING SPIRITS

Proverbs 23:7: For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

Proverbs 18:21: Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

Man is a product of two things: his thoughts and his words. When put them together, they determine what a his life would be. What you are today is a product of what you have been thinking and saying in the past.

James 3:2: For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.

The ability to control your tongue is a mark of perfection. If you read further in James chapter 3, you will realise how powerful the tongue is. If you are able to control it, you will be able to control the other parts of your body.

Matthew 12:34-37: O generation of vipers. how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and on evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

Here, Jesus is saying that the words of a person's mouth depict the state of his heart. Before a person operates in a bad way, his heart must first have been dirty; the proud heart would speak proudly; the unbelieving heart would speak unbelief. Wrong speaking courses right out of the mind.

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

Mark 5:15: And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind': and they were afraid.

The reason this man was getting violent and cutting himself with stones was that he was not in his right mind.

Romans 8:6: For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Galatians 1:21-24: Afterwards I come into the regions of Syria and Cilicia: And was unknown by face unto the churches of Judaea which were in Christ: But they had heard only. That he which persecuted us in times past now preacheth the faith which once he destroyed. And they glorified God in me.

The conversion of Paul made him to become a new man, his mind was changed and his testimony made people to glorify God.

2 Tim. 1:7: For God hath not given Us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

2 Cor. 11:3: But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

James 1:8: A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.

These verses show that a person's mind could be unsound, corrupted or become double. Anything that can control the mind of a person can control his words, thus controlling his actions and his life.

Victory and defeat start from the mind. When a person surrenders his life to the Lord Jesus Christ a renewal of the mind is the first step to allowing God's presence. If bad spirits want to take over a person's life, they start from the mind.

Mind-controlling spirits are of a powerful evil family. They are often the hidden strength behind other evil spirits, that operate. They are very powerful weapon in the hands of the Enemy.

A lot of minds are under the control of these powerful spirits and if not checked on time, the minds would go under demonic oppression, possession, domination or what is generally known as bewitchment.

Mind-controlling spirits give satanic agents the ability to operate freely and easily in the lives of people. They prevent people from thinking clearly. When they are operating in a life, the person would hear strange voices which give them strange instructions, like urging them to jump into a river from a bridge, or from a storey building, or to run into a highway in front of a trailer.

They are responsible for absent-mindedness, lack of concentration, insanity and mental illnesses. They make people believe that if they stop going to their dead church they would become poor or die.

They are responsible for unreasonable intellectualism, when a person is said to be misbehaving because he is "over-educated". That is what happened to a professor of mathematics. Instead of taking him for deliverance, people thought his problem was too much knowledge, until he started running after his housemaid at night. When that happened, the police forgot mathematics and charged him to court.

These spirits operate in the minds of some people and make them behave as if their brain was under their feet. They would fall headlong in love with odd people and would refuse to heed even parental advice. That is when you would see a young beautiful girl saying she must marry a man who is a drug addict, who goes in and out of jail, or has many other girl-friends, who beats her mercilessly and violates her. She would insist that she loves him and could elope with him if the pressure that she should have the man is very much. This makes people say that 'love is blind'.

The truth is that those spirits are *closing* her eyes to the reality of things. They also operate through charms and love potions, and the victim would be seeing the person while walking or sleeping and would be restless until he or she is with the user of the charm, thinking that it is love. Women are captured that way fall so much that they would give all they have to the man. Even if he wasted it or gave it to other women, they are not bothered.

Some people would not wish to commit fornication or adultery but all their resistance would break down in the presence of a particular person. It means these spirits are in operation.

One night a woman was woken up by a strange voice which condemned her to have a thorough look at herself, that she was good for nothing, that she had had three husbands and they had all left her. The voice said she should swallow all the Valium capsules in the bottle on the table.

As she was heading for the bottle, the voice said she should take a look at her six-month-old baby, that it would be unfair to leave it motherless; so she should kill it first, so that it would not suffer after she would have died. As she headed for the baby, she heard a different voice, which said, "no". The first voice came again and this continued till dawn. The following day, the thoughts continued and she was so confused that she just sat there all day. It continued into the night and eventually about 11:00 p.m. she decided to come to our house. Thank God that the mind-controlling spirit was cast out of her life.

Many people have been destroyed that way. The evil people, who use these spirits, have different methods of operation. Sometimes they take the hair, nail or a piece of cloth or a photograph of the victim's to make charms for the evil manipulation. Through these materials, they have stolen from the victim they could give the person migraine or insanity.

Some of the rituals include the burning of coloured candles. Burning red candles, for example, is for transferring lust into the life of the person, so that the person would just give in to their sexual advances. They use black candles for programming death into the lives of people and if such people are not prayerful, they would die. They could call out the spirit of a person from his or her photograph and command it to do strange things.

If you have ever lost your clothing or photograph in a strange way, or you actually submitted it to a false prophet or herbalist, you have to pray hard to remove it from any evil altar and command it to catch fire wherever it is.

If your photograph or clothing is still with your former boy or girl friend, and you cannot retrieve it physically, you have to; really pray hard to withdraw your spirit from any evil manipulation.

Sometimes false prophets tie the photographs of a man and a woman, together and light candles and chant incantations on them. They use this kind of thing to frustrate people's efforts. Some use it to form a relationship between the two of them. If it happens that a relationship starts, it will be characterised by heaviness of heart or unfaithfulness instead of love. God did not create human beings to be robots to be manipulated by other people.

Those who take rings, as gifts from boyfriends or girlfriends, have to be very careful.

One day, as we were praying for a sister who was finding it difficult to get a husband, the ring on her finger became very hot that she had to quickly pull it out.

Later, we discovered her the boy friend, who gave her the ring, had married her spiritually and when they parted ways physically, she still belonged to him and so could not get a husband. Thank God she was delivered.

Many things that people use just kill them slowly and gradually. When such people pray, there will be a blockage that they cannot understand, except the Spirit of God reveals the source to them.

Many things people see as decoration, ornaments or make-ups are actually tools in the hands of the devil. That is why we advise people not to use or put on anything that they are not sure is not spiritually polluted. If your spiritual level is not high enough to discern whether something is demonically possessed or not, it is better not to use it, especially if it is not essential to your dressing or to your life. Such things could be a hindrance to deliverance prayers and could aggravate bad situations.

One thing many women take very lightly is ear-piercing. They do not know that it has an idolatrous origin and enslaves.

Exodus 21:6: Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door, or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an aul; and he shall serve him for ever.

It is bad enough to have one hole in the ear; people worsen it by piercing more and putting more rings. This is why some ladies have problems with lust or have irregular and painful menses. It also makes them stubborn. If you find that your life seems to be caged, check what you put on. It could be that your life is being remotely controlled and you are encouraging the enemies to do so.

If you are in need of a house-help and you cannot discern a person who is possessed, it is better for you to do your household chores yourself, rather than bringing in a satanic agent.

A couple had a house-help who had witchcraft powers and unknown to them she initiated their three children. They suddenly noticed that their son would refuse to pray, or be prayed for. He would say that his father's hand was hot and that he should not touch him. It was at that point that they realised that something wrong was going on and they sought deliverance.

Some time ago, someone noticed that there were strange meetings taking place in a particular place at odd times. The police was alerted and investigation was carried out. They discovered, among other things, some jars that had the names of people on them and most of them were leaders of the country.

The Christians there knew that the spirits of those leaders had been caged so that they could manipulate them. That is why it is good to pray for our leaders. It is actually an injunction in the Bible. It happens every day; they take control of the people's minds and emotions. Eventually they trap the people's spirits.

All these things happen in our environment. We had to burn some demonic materials that some people were using to cause havoc in the lives of other people before they gave their lives to Christ. They used statues to represent people and when they wanted to afflict a person, they would use pins to prick a part of the statue's body or head, and the person represented, would feel pains, wherever he was. It could come in the form of migraine, if it was on the head. If they used it on the tummy and the statue represented a pregnant woman, she could have a miscarriage.

These mind-controlling spirits, work hand in hand with other bad spirits. They are terrible, hidden spirits. They are responsible for masturbation. They excite people and this could result in low sperm count in men and other problems in women.

As we were growing up in the Christian faith, we did not have the opportunity of having teachings like this. Some people entered into soul-ties as a result of childish plays in which they played the roles of husband or wife. The girl would strap a baby doll on her back and pretend to be the mother. These are unconscious covenants, which have to be broken.

Many people would have to think back and recollect whom they were calling husband or wife then, and break every covenant or soul-tie linking them to anyone. Many would have to undergo deliverance and pray hard to be able to get a husband or wife now.

If the mind of a person is under the influence of these mind-controlling spirits, it will look as if there were two personalities living in the body and both of them would be talking and the person would not know which one to listen to.

If you go to a meeting that is supposed to be a Christian one and the preacher comes out and says his message is one something that is not biblical, and does not read or refer to the Bible, you must get out of the place fast. There are some fake prophets who put people in seclusion for days.

These are mind-controlling powers at work. Many years ago there was a man who called himself 'Jesus of Oyingbo', another one called himself 'Jesus of Agege'. They told people that they were their god and that they would not die. Unfortunately, they had followers who were brain washed under the influence of these mind-controlling spirits. Some of them are still struggling to get delivered.

Around 1989, the so-called 'Jesus of Agege' said he became born again. What happens to the people that he had misled? Many of the people that these fake prophets misled are still subjected to the spirits of the dead.

This is why we pray hard in MFM and people wonder. How could you, a Christian, allow, a witch to take hold of your foot and use it as chewing stick? If you allow any witch to kill you, it means you die untimely, without fulfilling your purpose and that would land you in hell.

Do you know that if a witch repents and comes to the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, God will forgive him or her? Once the person has surrendered his life to the Lord Jesus Christ, he is qualified for heaven while a careless Christian would have gone to hell. Even if you saw the person in heaven and protested that he was the one that killed you, it would not change anything, because it would be too late then.

Believers must be very careful of what they use as decoration. Some of the carvings that you see, that have the images of birds, serpents, reptiles or other animals on them, are actually idols. They could have strange powers and their presence in a house can cause a lot of havoc. Some people come under the influence of mind-controlling spirits by listening to worldly music or going to worldly parties.

We always advise that if people want to travel, they should inform their pastors, so that they can pray with them and counsel them. This is because some journeys are not worth it. They are just avenues through which the devil diverts people away from the place of power, so that he can deal with them. Some come under the influence of these powers, through the reading of strange books, watching strange films, or magic.

Drugs and alcohol, too, can encourage these spirits. Anything that anyone uses that alters the state of the mind, including things like snuff, can lead to the domination of these spirits. It is possible for a person to inherit these spirits from parents. They can be acquired through going to fake churches or the distribution and eating of food prepared for sacrifice. By agreeing to go to bed with a fake prophet or prophetess or pastor, a person is exposing himself or herself to these spirits.

Parents should warn their children of wearing the underwear or clothing of their schoolmates. Through the sharing of these things or through food, these spirits can be transferred. Those who drink concoctions like alcoholic drinks with barks of trees in them are inviting trouble into their lives, because they do not know the composition of what they are drinking. They

claim that they warm them up, or cure one thing or the other, but they can actually be a tool in the hands of the devil and these spirits. The effect can last for years.

Beloved, you must know that the Lord wants you to have total control of your mind, so you have to renounce and deal with all the mind-controlling spirits that are warring against you.

When you find that clear thoughts are foreign to you, or you cannot really settle down and think deeply before taking a step, it means that these spirits have taken over. If you lose the battle of the mind, you lose all other battles. The mind spirits work in collaboration with other bad things. This is why some people find it difficult to trust God; they find it difficult to concentrate. They do not understand what they are doing, and they are always susceptible to errors.

These spirits make some people attain a certain level and then there will be no more progress.

Pray these prayer points with determination in your heart:

I break every curse of automatic failure in any area of my life, in the name of Jesus.

I destroy all secret power sources that are against me, in the name of Jesus.

Any material (my clothing, hair, nails, etc) taken from my life to perform evil, I render you useless to mind-controlling spirits, in the name of Jesus.

I release myself from every evil influence, in the name of Jesus.

Mind-controlling spirits, release my mind, in the name of Jesus.

Material blessings, physical and spiritual blessings, locate my life, in the name of Jesus.

Every mind-controlling spirit and spirit of confusion, go, in the name of Jesus.

THE IDOLS OF THE HEART

Ezekiel 14:1-10:: Then came certain of the elders of Israel unto me. and sat before me. And the word of the, Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, these men have set up. their idols in their heart. and put the stumbling block of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them? Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Every man of the house Of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the Lord will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols; That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart. because they are all estranged from me through their idols. Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord God; Repent, and turn yourselves from your Idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations. For every one of the house of Israel, or of the stranger that sojourneth in. Israel, which separateth himself from me, and setteth up his idols in his heart and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to a prophet to enquire of him concerning me: I the Lord will answer him by myself: And I will set my face against that man, and will make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off' from the midst of my people and ye shall know that I am the Lord. And if the prophet be deceived when he hath spoken a thing, I the Lord have deceived that prophet, and I will stretch out my hand upon him, and will destroy him from the midst of my people Israel. And they shall bear the punishment of their, iniquity: the punishment of the prophet shall be even as the punishment of him that seeketh unto him;

The elders of' Israel had gone to the man of God to enquire of him what the Lord had for them: they wanted information from the Lord.

One would have thought that meant well by going to see the prophet, bat they had a mind set already and the text calls it "an idol of the heart". God then said He would answer them accordingly to the idols of their heart, that He would make the prophet to answer them according to their mind-set.

Many people have secret idols hidden in the chambers of their hearts, which are hidden from even but open to God.

Hebrews 4:13: Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.

All the things that some people say or think they are doing in secret or are hiding, are open before the Lord. God sees them clearly. It is painful to admit this, beloved, but many people have idols that determine what they get when they attend prayer meetings, or when they go to a man of God for counsel, or when they go to a place where God is pouring down his blessings.

The trouble with many Christians is. that it is more difficult to identify the idol in their own heart' than the outward idols of the world.

When I was in the Sunday School as a little boy, we used to sing a song which says, "Break down every idol in my heart". I never could understand how an idol could be in a person's heart. To me an idol was a carving or statue that people worship.

As I grew up and became mature, I began to understand what it meant. The Bible says, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." It is when the heart is filled up that the mouth speaks and, pours everything out. Some people have verbal diarrhea that they cannot control the out-pouring of words from their heart through the mouth. What you have in your heart eventually comes out.

One day a couple came to me for counseling. The woman said the man did something which she disputed and in anger he uttered a curse that the god of iron should break the head of her father. I was shocked and I shouted: "Christian!" It was then that he realised what he said and apologised.

The truth is that those kinds of words had first filled his heart before they came out of his mouth. You might try to hide or bottle them up but a time will come when they will explode. The Bible says that everything is naked

before God. God sees all the fornicators and adulterers. They are naked before Him.

There was a man who thought he was enjoying life. He was not going to church, even, though his father was a catechist.

One day as he was relaxing on a rocking chair on his veranda a man grabbed him and told him that he had an appointment. The man was surprised and this stranger pulled out his sprit as if he pulled out a dress. The man saw that he was following the stranger whom he found out was an angel. They walked some distance and he asked where they were going to. The angel told him to be patient. He asked several times and he was told to be patient.

Eventually he landed before the throne of God. He could not behold the glory. His eyes could not look at the light and he bowed, God called his name and told him that he was 25 years behind schedule. The man was surprised and wondered what God meant.

Then he began to see a video film the day he was born and while he was growing up. He saw all love letters he wrote, all the fornication he committed all the ways he encouraged and paid for abortion, how his girlfriends aborted unwanted babies. He saw the doctors, who carried the operations. As the film continued he begged for mercy and asked God to stop showing it to him, that he would make amends; that God should give him another chance to live.

Eventually, God had mercy on him and he woke up to real life again. As from that day he became serious with the Lord. He was always the first to get to the church. He turned from his sinful ways and began to preach the gospel.

This man was fortunate to have been shown his spiritual state before he died. He was able to repent and turn to the Lord. Many people do not have that opportunity; the devil would make sure that he terminates their lives before they can think of repenting. Are you like that?

Today may be your own opportunity of turning to the Lord. Repent now! Tomorrow might be too late.

Anything, any person, any concept, doctrine, endeavour, attitude or object that can replace God in your life, has become an idol. Anything you place before God, or side by side with Him, is an idol.

The moment the affection that is due to God is given to any substitute, that substitute becomes an idol. Many Christians today have secret idols in their hearts and these put them in serious trouble.

I would like you to examine your life, especially if you are determined to have your breakthrough. Pray this prayer point: *O Lord, show me the hidden idols in my heart, in the name of Jesus.*

Some people while going to see a pastor for counseling or prayers hide their sins. They pretend before the man of God thinking he would not know. After recounting their tales of woe, they would just find that the pastor dismisses them without being carried away by their tales.

This is because such a pastor has the Spirit of God in him and God tells him when a counselee is a liar.

A man and woman came to see me one day for prayer. As I started praying I found that, the prayer was bouncing back at me. I asked her to excuse us. She left and I asked the man who she was. He said, "She is a concerned friend that wants her problem solved." I liked if that was all, and he said yes. I asked him to go.

He left and later came back and said: "There is no point telling a lie to a man of God. In actual fact the woman is my girlfriend and I am planning to marry her as my fourth wife." These were people living in sin, but they wanted help from God. They did not disclose their identity but God exposed them. The Bible says that God will answer such people according to the idols of their hearts.

Sometimes a sister would be praying to get a husband, but she would have settled in her mind that the man should be of a certain race or tribe, of a certain height, profession and complexion, would have certain qualifications and so on. This person has formed a husband in her heart. When eventually God brings her one, will she accept him?

Eventually the devil will bring a husband that fits her desire and she would fall prey and most of the time she would be in trouble. This is an answer to the idol in her heart.

Pray this prayer point: *O Lord, deliver me from secret idols, in the name of Jesus.*

Jeroboam was a wicked king, an epitome of iniquity. Whenever the Bible wants to describe the wickedness and iniquity of a person it would say: "And he committed iniquity like Jeroboam. the son of Nabat." Or "he committed more iniquity than Jeroboam." He was used as a yardstick for measuring iniquity.

What did he do? He set up an idol in Dan, another in Bethel, and then called the Israelites together and said: "You house of Israel, behold the gods that delivered you from Egypt." God did not take this lightly at all. Before Jeroboam constructed the physical idols, he already had them in his heart.

Later, his son became sick and he asked his wife to go and see prophet Ahijah, to enquire if the son would survive or not. He told his wife to disguise herself, so that the prophet would not recognise her as his wife. Ahijah had already gone blind, but as soon as she got to his doorsteps he called her by her name, and asked why she was feigning to be someone else.

Before she could open her mouth to say anything, the prophet told her that he knew why she had come and that God said that the baby would die. The baby, actually died because of the idols of his father's house and it all started from the heart.

Many people who go to church do not feel at home in any group. They give one excuse or the other, either they say that the leaders are too strict about dressing and makeup or they complain about fasting and 'too much' prayer. This idol in their heart keeps pushing them here and there; and they waste a lot of time and energy in the process. When God gives you some work to do you should not allow an idol in your heart to stop you from doing it.

I counseled a woman to go for deliverance and she said she did not need it. She refused to join any group in MFM because she did not want to do away with her attachment, false nails and makeup. Many people are like that; they do not want to do what God Wants them to do just because they do not want to lose those things that they love so much, which will eventually perish. Think about it, beloved.

Samuel told Saul that God prefers obedience to sacrifice, that stubbornness is as iniquity as idolatry and that rebellion is the same thing as witchcraft. This means that a stubborn person and an idolater are twin brothers, a rebellious person and a witch are twins, and all of them will go to hellfire.

MODERN DAY IDOLS

There are modern day idols that people worship, with or . without knowing it.

They are:

WEALTH

Many people hassle after money, they do over-time, and they have no time for rest or for God. They do not know that it is only God that can make ends meet. The Bible says: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all other things shall be added unto you." Seeking other things without the kingdom of God means that there, is an idol in your heart.

David said all through his life he never saw the righteous being forsaken. or his children begging bread. There is no one, that seeks the kingdom of God. to the extent of funding it, that will ever remain poor.

Lazarus was a poor man; but he made heaven. The rich man, landed in hell. What is the use of the money that a person is gathering that will eventually land him or her in hell fire?

What is the use of the money that a person makes and people will fight over after the person dies and goes to hell? Some fellowships preach prosperity and ask people to donate money, not caring where the people got the money from. All they say is that people should give and that they will get more in return.

FAME

Many people want to be known by everybody. They forget that it is useless. If the whole world knows you and God does not know you.

PLEASURE

People want to enjoy themselves and while away their time on things that are not profitable.

POWER

People want to dominate others; they want to rule and be bowed to.

KNOWLEDGE.

Many people have turned their certificates into idols. They keep acquiring more and more.

God hates idolatry with perfect hatred. That is why the first commandment is: "I am the Lord thy God; thou shalt have no other god besides me."

Once you ascribe what is due to God to an object, special demons move in and turn that thing to something that has power.

Internal idols will invite wicked ones from outside. Until these internal idols are destroyed and thrown out, many evil things will remain in place in the lives of many Christians. You have to look into your life today and be sure that there is no idol there.

It may be the very thing that the enemy is using against you and harassing you whereas you think it is witches or wizards that are harassing you. What

is there is a hidden idol in your heart which God wants to destroy. If there is no idol in your heart and you come before the Lord's prophet and you believe what he says, you will prosper. If you approach God's prophet with an idol in your heart, God himself will instruct him to answer you according to the idol in your heart.

SECRET IDOLS

UNFORGIVENESS

It is an act that would make God not to listen to a person. If you keep malice and do not pardon those who offend you, you have an idol in your heart.

If you are living in a house where you are not in agreement with anybody or some people, you have an idol in your heart. The only reason that a Christian could live in a place and would not bother being in agreement with the inhabitants is when they oppose his relationship with God. If it is inter-personal relationships that is causing problem between you and your neighbors, then you have an idol; you can paint it any colour but is still an idol.

In a house where the rooms faced each other the tenants were not in agreement at all. They had a common passage but each of them would sweep just the front of his or her own room. They were able to behave like that because they had idols in their hearts. Some Christians have some people they have marked out that they will never forgive. It could be their lecturer, pastor, neighbours, (ex) - husband, and so on.

As for as this kind of thing is in your heart, the accuser of the brethren will not allow your prayers to be answered, he will bring forth a case before God against you and the unforgiving demon operating in your heart will testify to the accusations. Since God is a just God, He will withhold His blessings, or answer you according to the idol in your heart. There is no hiding place.

A woman came to me for counsel. Things had gone upside down for her. All her three-cars were grounded. She had been traveling abroad for business but the Embassy refused her visa at that time.

As I closed my eyes to pray for her, the Lord told me that she had someone she had vowed never to forgive. I opened my eyes and asked her who she did not want to forgive. She said it was her husband; that at the time he was poor, she worked hard and was with him. Gradually; things became better and normal.

At this time, there was peace and love in the home and she was esteemed as his wife. Suddenly, his business started to boom and he became very rich and built a mansion.

One day, he came home with a 16-year old girl, the same age as their last daughter, and said she was his new wife, that madam should move to the boys' quarters. I told her that the Bible says she must forgive him. She wept and told me that she would never forgive him, and I said I would not pray with her.

She left in anger weeping. The following day, she was the first person to arrive at the fellowship. She said she had thought over it and was ready to forgive her husband. We prayed and she left.

Beloved, from the following day and throughout that week everything fell in place. The miracles she had been expecting for the past five years came. It means God had been looking at the idol in her heart.

BITTERNESS

Some people feel cheated. maltreated. and therefore, embittered.

JEALOUSY

It starts from the lack of contentment which develops into envy.

Once these three idols enter into the heart of a person, they would give birth to hatred. Any believer who has hatred ,for anybody is going to hell. It

is a statement of fact and, it is listed amongst the sins that will land people in hell.

DISCOURAGEMENT

People recount the number of programmes they have attended, how fervent they have prayed and how they have attended church services, yet nothing has happened. As they are proclaiming that nothing has happened it remains as such.

One sister cried herself to sleep one night and saw a vision where she found out that discouragement was a tool in the hands of the devil. He makes people get discouraged and then depression sets in and the two will give birth to hopelessness. This sister had just been jilted by her fiancé who had already paid her bride price. After that vision she made up her mind that she would no longer give in to discouragement.

In those days, in the G. C. E. London examination, the last grade was 'H'. It was after grade 'F' meaning that it was worse than fail and that the person should not re-attempt the examination.

When some people fail their examination, they say it is the invigilator or examiner that made them fail, because he does not like them.

These are little idols. Sometimes, when a person is heading towards a miracle the devil would look out to find what he could use against the person, so that he will not receive that miracle.

That is why a sister who has been praying and trusting God for a life partner will suddenly get fed up with praying and conclude that God is not responding. She could stop, praying and backslide and the devil will now prove a case against her, why God should not allow the miracle to get to her.

WORRY

Many people look older than their age because they worry about everything. Eventually they get depressed and give up.

CONFUSION

A confused person will not know what to *do*, which choice to make, who to turn to, and eventually fear sets in.

IMPATIENCE

There is an adage that says that a patient person can cook stone until it is done. Patience is one of the greatest virtues that God has given to man. The patient person always, laughs last, but the impatient one will overturn the table that God set for him.

There is a saying that the perfect man or woman is, the one who agrees that he or she is married to someone who is not perfect. That way, he or she will be able to overlook mistakes and forgive easily.

SELFISHNESS

Some people do not have time to pray for their neighbours. They are concerned about their own needs only.

TEMPER

When all the other vices converge they turn to temper and give birth to violence.

FILTHY THOUGHTS / EVIL IMAGINATIONS

Some Christians still entertain thoughts of seduction and immorality in their hearts. These things debar people from getting their miracles and they are not obvious.

A, person could be in the church and whilst the sermon is going on, he is lusting after one sister he knows. How would he gain from the service of that day? The devil, who is the accuser of brethren, would quickly take advantage of this and the person would not have time to repent before he strikes.

These idols are termed hidden because they are not obvious. No Christian would go to a shrine and bow to an idol. Some believers watch some

movies that do not edify. It is because they have a hidden idol in their hearts.

DOUBT

Marry believers are clever doubters, like Thomas who wanted to see holes in the hands and side of Jesus. When Jesus eventually appeared, he believed and Jesus told him that those who did not see Him and believed are blessed. He broke down and repented and that revolutionised his life.

He preached the gospel until his death. In fact, he died preaching the gospel; he was dragged on the ground, until his body was torn into pieces.

A sister came for prayers and in the spirit I saw a woman who came with her but she did not know. The Lord told me that the woman I saw was her mother, but I did not tell her, because as an immature counselor I had told a sister about her mother and it landed me in trouble.

Anyway, I told this sister that the person in charge of her case was a close person for whom she was buying gifts. She said she used to buy gifts for many people and was close to many people.

I then gave her these three prayer points:

O Lord, expose all my hidden enemies. in the name of Jesus.

O Lord, expose the doors through which they are entering into my life, in the name of Jesus.

O Lord, expose the harm they have done to me so far, in the name of Jesus.

I wrote them on a paper and gave it to her. She was so furious that she asked if that was why she struggled and waited for so long to see me. She hissed and threw the paper on the floor and walked out.

The next time I would hear of her, she was on admission in the psychiatric ward of LUTH. It was there that she remembered the pray points and sent a message to me. It was in that ward that she started to pray

and the Lord made her to see her mother eating live-snakes. It was then that she understood what I was trying to tell her.

The following day, her mother paid her a visit and she took her disposition wisely. She knew what the visit meant, so she did not say anything but continued praying and she overcame.

If you are being caged by a person in the spirit, and you go there everyday to eat, it means you are renewing the contract everyday.

Doubt is a demon, an idol. The Bible says that a doubting man is like the waves of the sea tossed here and there; that such a person should not think that he could receive anything from the Lord. Some people have high-level doubt. They go to the extent of asking if God exists. Some say there is nothing like witches or wizards. It is when they feel their touch that they would realise that witches and wizards exist.

INDECISION

This is inability to point out what a person should or wants, to do.

PRIDE

This leads to self-exaltation and, unteachable spirit.

When things are like this. it means there are strangers in the life of a person and they are traders buying and selling in the Person's life. These traders must be chased out because they shut God's hand away from reaching out to people. It makes God not see the person. God wants you to clear away every idol in your heart, so that, you can receive your miracles.

A man died and was being taken to hell. At first. he thought the creatures were taking him to heaven. When he started to feel the heat he remembered the Bible; he knew he was heading for hell. He protested, saying that he was born again, They got close and he saw people being thrown into hell, like sand from a tipper.

Suddenly a voice said: "Level him" and they left him. Then Satan came and protested that God had no right to take him to heaven because he had

adultery in his heart. God said he was not taking him to heaven, but he was not going to hell too, because of his praying wife. Her wife had seen praying and, refused to take his corpse to the mortuary.

Eventually, God released him to come back to life.

This man was a Sunday School teacher, so he could not have openly committed sin but he was nursing thoughts of adultery in his heart. Thank God for his wife who prayed fervently and insisted that he would not die but live; he is now going about preaching holiness.

If that kind of idol remains in the life of a Christian and he dies, the demons will witness against him and he will be taken to hell. The demons will contact one another and affirm that he gave them room to stay.

Many people are doing this through their way of life, through their dressing, painting, actions and thoughts.

Do you want these idols to deal with you or you want to deal with them?

That simple song I mentioned above folks about breaking the idols in our hearts, and should be our prayer point today. However, if you are reading this message and you have not yet surrendered, your life to the Lord Jesus Christ, you cannot break any idol because they will claim their legal ground. They will tell you that you belong to the same camp with them.

You have the opportunity of crying to the Lord today. Right there where you are, go to Him in repentance. Confess your sins to Him; name them one by one and, ask Him to forgive you. Ask Him to cleanse you from all your sins. Claim the redemptive power in His blood that was shed on the cross at Calvary for the remission of your sins. Renounce the devil and the world of sin. Invite the Lord Jesus Christ into your life. Ask Him to become your personal Lord and Saviour. Enthroned Him over your life and ask Him to take over all the affairs of your life. Make sure that as from today you will live a life that is sinless and worthy of Him.

I congratulate you on this decision that you have just taken. It is the most important decision in life. I pray that it shall be permanent in your life, in the name of Jesus. I pray that the Lord will uphold you and keep you from

falling. I pray that as your name will be written in the Book of Life, you will not rub it off in the name of Jesus. Go and sin no more.

Three million people left the land of Egypt for the Promised Land. Only two of them entered. As for asked is concerned, He wants quality and not quantity. If it is only one person that wants to break the idols in his heart and then proceed to breaking the ones in his family, village, or country, God is ready to assist the person.

The secret behind the problems of some people is that they have internal idols, which are co-operating with external ones and they do not know what to do. Gideon broke the idols of his father's house. Some people after renouncing and forsaking these idols still find their way back to them. Like Gideon, they rebuild the altars that they destroyed before.

Pray these prayer points with determination in your spirit:

O Lord, break down every idol in my heart, in the name of Jesus.

I cast out every idol from my heart, in the name of Jesus.

Every inherited idol of the heart, be broken, be cast out in the name of Jesus.

Pick the following also and pray against them:

Every family idol

Every stubborn stronghold

Every magnet of marriage destruction.

Every magnet of confusion.

Let the fire of God, boil all rivers harbouring my enemies.

Let the Blood of Jesus wipe off all my evil dreams, in the name of Jesus.

I command all my good dreams to come to pass, in the name of Jesus.

I destroy every satanic accident organised for my sake, in the name of Jesus.

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About the Book

Idols Of The Heart is a book filled with wonderful challenges; it unveils the hidden idols in the heart of men and women. It is well researched, totally scriptural, fully illustrated and offered in a readable form.

This book will locate and dislodge every idol rearing its ugly head and competing with God in your life. Now is the time to deal with personal and ancestral idols.

This book will change your life and uproot every stubborn tree in your life.

About the Author

Dr. D. K. Olukoya is the General Overseer of the Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries and The Battle Cry Christian Ministries.

The Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries' 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 prerequisite 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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