

The
Evil
Cry
of your
Family
Idol



Dr. D. K. Olukoya

THE EVIL CRY OF YOUR FAMILY IDOL

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CONTENTS

[Title Page](#)

[Copyright & Permissions](#)

Chapter 1: [Prisoners of Local Idols](#)

[ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!](#)

[CHALLENGE](#)

[GRAVE CONSEQUENCES](#)

[THE BLACKMAN'S DILEMMA](#)

[STRANGE DEDICATIONS](#)

[THE REASONS](#)

[AN ENCOUNTER](#)

[PRAYER POINTS](#)

Chapter 2: [Freedom for Prisoners of Local Idols](#)

[A DEEP SECRET](#)

[THE BANE OF IDOL WORSHIP](#)

[CHARACTERISTICS OF LOCAL IDOLS](#)

[THE EVIL FOUNDATION](#)

[THE MANDATE](#)

[STEPS TO FREEDOM](#)

Chapter 3: [Dealing with Foundational altars](#)

[KING OF ALTARS](#)

[COUNTER ATTACKS](#)

[SOLUTIONS](#)

[PRAYER POINTS](#)

Chapter 4: [The Evil Cry of your Family Idols](#)

[WHAT IS IDOLATRY?](#)

[WAY OUT](#)

[PRAYER POINTS](#)

Chapter 5: [The dedication that speaks Against You](#)

[UNDERSTANDING DEDICATION](#)

[FACTS ABOUT DEDICATION](#)

[SYMPTOMS OF EVIL DEDICATION](#)

[STEPS TO SOLUTION](#)

[PRAYER POINT](#)

Chapter 6: [Deliver your family from evil traders](#)

[STRATEGIES OF EVIL TRADERS](#)

[HOW TO DEAL WITH EVIL TRADERS](#)

[PRAYER POINTS](#)

[Other Publications by Dr. D. K. Olukoya](#)

[BACKCOVER](#)

Chapter One

PRISONERS OF LOCAL IDOLS

This is a very special message to all nations of the earth. Thoughtful people as well as those who are meticulous in examining situation know that something, somewhere is wrong with the human race. A lot of people who grapple with problems, do so in vain until they sit down to think, and make serious efforts at discovering the root of their problems.

Problems of life can be likened to a tree; what you see on the surface are the stem, branches, leaves and fruits. If you do not get to the root, you may labour in vain to get rid of what you see above the ground level. Just as the root of a tree is responsible for the growth of the leaves, stem and fruits, the roots of life's problems are also responsible for what we go through. There is more to what you go through in life than what you see physically.

Having listened to a lot of heart-rending stories, I have discovered that, the problems of many people have lingered simply because they are unaware of the source which remained shrouded in mystery. The devil is extremely wicked, and because he wants to make the victims of his terrible attacks go through life blindfolded, often, you may not even know the steps to take to get out of your predicament.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

I am always sad, each time I see a believer who is supposed to be at the top physically and spiritually, remaining chained down to the bottom. It is disheartening, to see somebody with the brain of a professor wasting away. It is rather strange, for a believer to spend all his resources to build a house, and then invite an enemy who will chase him out of it. Those who are

supposed to give orders to the enemies are being ordered around by elemental.

I have counselled thousands of people from all walks of life, majority of whom narrated woeful stories. You find someone who has been divinely destined to be a shining star wasting away in a mental hospital; someone who is supposed to be an international businessman pining away in a poor hamlet-picking nuts; a woman who is supposed to be a billionaire living in a dilapidated house-grinding pepper on a local millstone and someone who has been destined to make ground-breaking discoveries in science and technology finding it difficult to secure admission into any university, even after several attempts.

Beloved, something is wrong somewhere. These kind of situations are so common that they became a great burden on my heart. That is why I have been challenged to write this book.

CHALLENGE

After intense fasting and prayer, I discovered that, many people are prisoners of local idols. If you are a good student of history, you would have discovered that idolatry was deeply entrenched in the foundation of many lives. Our forefathers worshipped idols and unknown to us, made costly pledges and dedicated generations of unborn children to powerful idols. In their naivety, they donated their children and grandchildren to wicked deities and idols. Through our parents and grandparents careless actions, many of us are prisoners of local idols today.

The truth is that, the history of the world is simply the reflection of the anger of God against idolatry. Nations are elevated or demoted on the basis of attitudes to idols.

The problem of being prisoners of local idols is enormous. Therefore, you must get yourself and those who are on your family line off the hook of terrible local idols. Someone has rightly stated that if war breaks out in a particular place and you cannot save your country, you should try and save your town. If you cannot save your town, try and save your community. If

you cannot save your community, try and save your street. If you cannot save your street see if you can save your house. If you cannot save your house, see if you can save your household. But if you cannot save your household, then try and save yourself.

AN EXAMPLE

To understand what it means to be a prisoner of local idols, let us examine the life of one of such prisoners in the Bible. In Genesis 31, one woman mistakenly made herself a prisoner of a local idol (unfortunately, many Christian sisters are still making that kind of mistake today). Laban, Jacob's father-in-law, questioned Jacob on why he departed secretly and also stole his idols-Genesis 31 :30-35;

"And now though thou wouldest needs be gone, because thou sore longedst after thy father's house, yet wherefore hast thou stolen my gods? And Jacob answered and said to Laban, Because I was afraid: for I said, Peradventure thou wouldest take by force thy daughters from me. With whomsoever thou findest thy gods, let him not live: before our brethren discern thou what is thine with me, and take it to thee. For Jacob . knew not that Rachel had stolen them. And Laban went into Jacob's tent and into Leah's tent, and into the two maidservants' tents; but he found them not. Then went he out of Leah's tent, and entered into Rachel's tent. Now Rachel had taken the images, and put them in the camel's furniture, and sat upon them. And Laban searched all the tent, but found them not. And she said to her father, Let It not displease my lord that I cannot rise up before thee; for the customs of women is upon me. And he searched, but found not the Images."

Unknown to Jacob, Rachel had stolen the idols. He made a costly mistake by making a statement which was a curse, upon the person who stole the idols. There are lots of situations which have resulted in making many people prisoners of idols today. Rachel cleverly hid the idols to prevent her father from detecting them. I wish she had known the implications of stealing those idols and deceiving her father. She made a costly mistake which she paid dearly for later.

GRAVE CONSEQUENCES

Let us examine one of the consequences of Rachel's action. Genesis 35: 17-20; ***"And it came to pass, when she was in hard labour, that the midwife said unto her, Fear not; thou shalt have this son also. And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin. And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem. And Jacob set a pillar upon her grave: that is the pillar of Rachel's grave unto this day."***

Rachel died during childbirth because she attracted a terrible problem to her life by stealing household idols. She made herself a prisoner of her father's idols and paid for her action with her life.

About a quarter of black men in Africa can be found in Nigeria, and one-fifth of black men in the world can be found in Nigeria. It is crystal clear that God has placed Nigeria in a strategic position. If you take a critical look at the map of Africa, you will see that it looks like a gun. If you take a second look at it, you will see that there is a trigger somewhere, and Nigeria happens to be located where that trigger is. Therefore, the physical, spiritual and manpower resources planted in this country are not for a joke. God has graciously endowed Nigeria with rich resources to propagate the gospel and He will severely punish those who are wasting these resources.

THE BLACKMAN'S DILEMMA

Let me make it very clear that the greatest problem of the whole world and the Blackman in particular is idolatry. If God ever has any controversy with the Blackman, it has to do with idolatry and the greatest headache of ministers of the gospel stems from idolatry. The evil foundation of idolatry laid by our forefathers has created problems for ministers who have tried to preach the gospel to Blacks in Africa and in the Diaspora. Ministers of the gospel have laboured tirelessly with little or no result to show for their efforts. In Exodus 20:3-5, we see the peril of idolatry; ***"Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down***

thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;"

God detests any form of idolatry and commands against setting up and worshipping any image that depicts anything on earth or in heaven. Don't make an image of any idol whatsoever. Don't even worship any religious image, including that of Mary, mother of Jesus Christ. Don't carve any image of any marine power. Don't ever worship any idol or image in the name of religion. God is a jealous God.

God is seriously angry at idolatry-Deuteronomy 5:8-9;

"Thou shalt not make thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the waters beneath the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself unto them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me."

THE IMPACT

It is important to know that the passage above forms one of the Ten Commandments. It harps on the fact that the sins of the father: will have grave consequences on the children. We are told specifically that the worship of idols will affect future generations. The impact of what I have stated so far is that the curse arising from idolatry is the source of terrible problems for nations. Rachel made a tragic mistake by stealing the idols of her father's house. Since God had graciously delivered her from that household, she ought not to have touched any of the cursed idols, but she voluntarily placed herself under bondage by stealing the idols. I wouldn't know. whether she is in heaven or in hell now, I don't know if she repented before she died, but I know that the Bible says: ***"Thou shall not steal."*** She didn't only steal, she stole idols. Idolatry has multiple punishments; including visitation of the wrath of God upon future generations.

THE MYSTERY

Let us now examine the mystery of idolatry. Idolatry is a system devised by the devil to control the land, the family and the people. As you read this book, shrines abound in Africa, Asia, Latin America and other parts of the world. Many houses or homesteads have shrines attached to them. It is sad that Africans who live abroad have carried charms and shrines to those places too.

Unfortunately, idolatry has been modernized and people have given idols respectable names. The devil has repackaged idolatry and manipulated men and women to take a new interest in the worship of it. This he has done to take man deeper into bondage and slavery.

Many people who live in the cities still travel home at least during the Christmas period to renew covenants with family idols. Many places in the world still have idols. Almost every tribe in some countries have shrines. It is possible that you reading this book is a born-again Christian who gave his/her life to Christ a long time ago; but you should not forget the fact that, there is a member of your family somewhere, who may still be pouring libation on family altars on behalf of other family members. Who knows what your parents had sacrificed on the altars on behalf of all their children, including you?

STRANGE DEDICATIONS

Somebody close to you might be taking your name to some family shrines in order to seek protection for you. I don't know if you know that many farmers dedicate their harvests to idols, before bringing them to the market. Many of our farm lands have been dedicated to idols by our ancestors and many farmers dedicate their farmlands to idols before commencing planting. So, it is useless to say, "Me!, I don't eat food sacrificed to idols", what of the food stuff you go to buy in the market that are from such farmlands? Even, there are many places in the world where some farmers would not go to the farm on certain days.

There are some rivers in Nigeria where it is forbidden to fish. There are some places in the country where you cannot loiter around at certain hours

of the day. There are some cities where when masquerades come out, women are forced to stay indoors for days. In some villages and cities, what the oracle says is announced by the town crier and compliance is forced on all the inhabitants.

Human sacrifices are still carried out in the modern world. Unfortunately, the lives of many people are still being ruled through communal divinations, and whenever the oracle demands any form of sacrifice or gives any instruction, it is kept to the letter by the entire community. Market women and men still contribute money to offer sacrifices to powerful idols even in this jet age.

Unfortunately, many are calling for the revival of idolatry. Some university professors are even advocating a return to the worship of the idols of our forefathers. In many places, the choicest and the richest lands are dedicated to idols, hence, darkness has completely covered many nations. Members of cult groups and idolatrous associations now meet in the open. Many government houses reserved for political leaders and senior civil servants are filled with charms and shrines and a lot of fetish materials buried inside the houses.

THIS ODD WORLD

I know a wealthy man that employed a witch doctor who lived in his house in order to give him full-time service. I was shocked when I learnt that the witch doctor ate chicken every day, he lived in a dark room in the house and never came out. When there was a military coup in the country, the man who kept the full-time witch doctor in his house was however humiliated and pauperised, his witch doctor could not save him.

Some university lecturers told me how sacrifices were placed at the entrance to the houses of fellow lecturers by those who believed in fetish power. I have received hundreds of letters from those inquiring how to sanctify their houses, after having buried terrible charms in the ground during their times of ignorance. If you are a believer, how do you hope to prosper when you are living in a house where a pregnant woman was buried alive for fetish purposes?

How can you prosper in your business, if twin babies were buried alive in the premises at the inception of the business? How do you intend to complete a building wherein a man was slaughtered and buried when the foundation was being laid? How can you prosper, when your projects lie on the foundation of idolatry? Many of the major buildings in Nigerian and other African countries are erected on foundations of powerful idolatrous charms.

STARK REALITIES

In some places, almost every building erected has one charm or the other buried underneath them. Markets are centres of idolatry. Most communal markets in villages and cities are erected on buried charms. Local chiefs and kings make it mandatory for sacrifices to be made in the markets on regular basis. Individuals who sell in markets also bury their own charms. By so doing, they attract powerful and wicked spirits to market places and by the time human beings finish selling their wares at sunset, evil spirits take over at night.

If you examine the emblems of many academic institutions in Nigeria, you will see that idolatrous symbols dominate what they use to depict them. The symbol of the National Electricity Corporation Authority of Nigeria happens to be *Sango* -the god of lightning. Many of us wonder why the electricity supply has been epileptic. Have you forgotten the story of the local deity called Sango, who according to history committed suicide?

Many of our public Institutions and Corporations actually need deliverance because; they are established on the foundation of idolatry. This explains why many Blacks are struggling to succeed in life and their struggle has yielded little or no results.

You need to thoroughly study your environment so that you can discover the reasons behind your travails in life. You must deal decisively and aggressively with the terribly idolatrous African foundation.

FIRE BRAND CHRISTIANITY

Christianity, especially in Africa, cannot be lying down on a bed of roses-it is a do or die matter! The idols of the Blackman are not gentle in their behaviour at all, they do everything, hold on to their captives. The responsibility of becoming free rests squarely on your shoulders. You must wrest your destiny from the hands of wicked local idols. The idols will not leave you alone of their own volition, you are the one to stand your ground and declare: "Enough is enough, let me go!"

THE BATTLE

It is unfortunate, that many of us do not know that the battle against local idols is the toughest battle we have to fight. The moment you destroy their remote control, your destiny will no longer be controlled by them.

Again, the only language which they understand is the language of violence. You cannot cajole them to let you off their hooks. That is why I pity some of our sisters who threw away their earrings when they heard the messages of holiness some years ago, only to begin to pick them up because of 'modern Christianity'. That habit is one of the easiest ways of going back into bondage. Some ladies tell us that they have to put on earrings to attract suitors. If a man cannot accept you in your natural beauty, then, he is looking for something else and not a wife.

Some women have perforated four or five holes in each of their ear lobes. They do not know that there is a strong link between piercing ears and idolatry, it is embedded in slavery and idolatry. In older days, women were offered as slaves to idols; if they pierced you in one ear, it meant you were a slave to one idol and if they pierced your two ears, it meant you were a slave to two idols.

Many of us do not know the meaning of idolatry. For example, if God wanted man to smoke, He would have created a chimney on the top of his head. In the same way, if God wanted you to have a hole in your ear, He would have created it from your mother's womb.

THE REASONS

Many wonder why we should pray against local idols. Of course, if your parents, grandparents and great grandparents were born again, sanctified, baptized in the Holy Ghost, and Spirit-filled, you don't need to pray against local idols. Just fold your arms if you are sure that there is no trace of idolatry in your family line in the last 200 years. However, if you know that your parents or forefathers served idols, you need a great deal of prayer. If you have examined all the names in your family line and discovered that many of them are attached to idols, you have to pray.

PARALLEL TRUTHS

You have to pray aggressively if you discover that your own name is attached to idols. If your name happens to be attached to a local idol, it simply means that your entire life is under the control of that idol. What do you think makes Christian parents to dedicate their children to God when they are born? It is simply their own way of bringing their children under divine control.

Therefore, when our fore-fathers took their children to idols, they were placing their entire lives under the control of the idols. I am sure you believe that when parents come to the altar and say, "O God, we dedicate this child to You, his name shall be called Samuel", God will surely watch over that child.

Do you know that the same level of commitment is expected from powerful idols to whom children from pagan homes are dedicated? If you happen to be dedicated to an idol and you want to break away, the idol will not leave you. The only way of escape is to give your life to Christ, break every link with family idols, and pray until you are totally free from their power.

FIRE!

The true end-time church must be a church on fire. It is not supposed to make people relax as if there is nothing to worry about. Christianity is a serious business. Church members who clap for their pastors when they have no inkling whatsoever concerning the battle they are fighting are

joking. The church is not a fashion display theatre either, this is no era of picnic-it is war time!

The church can be likened to a military field, where you wage war with the aim to win. You are expected to attack unprofitable foundations and get instant results. Some people have fought hard battles trying to break free from the prison of their fathers' homes. The more some people pray, the more they are attacked; this is due to the wickedness of the idols of their fathers' homes.

Wicked idols won't let go easily. Having enjoyed domination for centuries, they want to keep on milking their victims. This explains why the battle is a do or die affair. You must therefore make up your mind to fight until you are totally free. When your prayers touch the local idols of your father's house, they normally react violently. The devil takes delight in using idolatry to hold on to the reins of power in many families. I know a place, where they love their idols so much that they have installed air-conditioners for them. No matter how enlightened these people are, the devil has handed them over to evil spirits; even if they lived in other parts of the world, they are still prisoners of local idols. Just as it is possible for someone to be imprisoned in Africa or in a foreign country, it is possible to be a prisoner at home or abroad. Your place of domicile does not really matter, a prisoner is a prisoner. My prayer for you is that God will use this book to set you free, in the name of Jesus.

CONFUSING NAMES

Once your name has a bearing with idols, you are a prisoner. Some of us bear names that confuse even angels. How can a child of God be named after a wicked local idol? How can you say that you belong to Christ, and your name things glory to idols that have been worshipped for centuries? I remember praying for a man sometime ago, the more I prayed, the more the prayer seemed to bounce back. Then I asked the Lord to tell me what was happening. The Holy Spirit whispered into my ear; "Son, have you asked him to tell you his name?" I stopped praying and turned to the man, "Can you tell me what your name means in your dialect?"

"Of course I'll tell you, my name means darkness", he blurted out. It then dawned on me that I was praying, "O Lord, arise and bless darkness, in Jesus' name." How could God have answered such a prayer? My counselee did not experience any breakthrough until he renounced that name. Idolatry breeds false worship. It also

AN ENCOUNTER

One of our early Pentecostal fathers came to a particular city and prayed, fasted and preached, yet there was no good result. So, he stopped everything he was doing and sought God's face and. God told him, "My servant, if you want to experience ministerial breakthrough in this community, you must confront the powers that rule the place."

The man of God asked: "But, Lord, are You not the King: of the universe and the ruler of the whole world? Is there any other power beside You?" The Lord answered, "Son, that is not what is happening. The inhabitants of the land have handed over the land to the devil of their own volition and until they take it back, God or you cannot forcefully take it from the hands of evil power."

The man then realised that there was a power behind the people's inability to yield their lives to Christ. They would profess salvation today and go back to drunkenness tomorrow. The power of their local idols was making it impossible for them to be stable after they had given their lives to Christ.

The Lord asked the man of God if he was ready to be used as an instrument of change and the pastor said. "Yes!" The Lord then told him to go to the only river that flows across the town at exactly midnight and pray some strange prayer points (which I shall give you now), that the power in charge of the entire town will come out." The man obeyed and as he was praying by the river, all of a sudden, a creature with seven breasts came out of the river with all the seven breasts touching the ground.

The demon looked disdainfully at the man of God and asked: "Do you want to preach the gospel here? Okay, let us negotiate. From this side of the

river to the marketplace is yours, the other half will be mine. Just stay where you are and I will stay where I am." The man of God declared: "No, that is impossible! The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof." The demon now said, "You are the one looking for trouble, I have been here before you came. Now let me ask you, where were you when the people of this town handed over this place to me, eh, where were you?" The man of God answered, "I do not know where I was, but one thing I know is that, In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ... "As the man of God quoted this Scripture, the demon somersaulted into the river and when the man of God would look, the river was full of blood. From that moment of a decisive power encounter in that land, there was a great change. The gospel was preached with a powerful demonstration of the Spirit of God.

The kind of Christianity that will change the course of history is that which is" characterised by spiritual violence. Gentle prayers will not take us anywhere. Praying against local idols of your family line requires a great deal of spiritual energy. Some of the powers you are going to contend with have been in control for more than 1,000 years. Are you really ready to pull down the powers of the idols of your family? Get ready to pray now!

PRAYER POINTS

1. Thou power of my family idol, die! In the name of Jesus.
2. Every evil power of my family idol, what are you waiting for? die! in the name of Jesus.
3. Every wicked foundation, prepared for me by family idols, die! in the name of Jesus.
4. I release myself from the cage of family idols, in Jesus' name.
5. Blood of Jesus, break every blood connection between me and every family idols.
6. I declare myself free from every evil dedication that is speaking against me, in the name of Jesus.

7. Every yoke and burden of generational idolatry, break! in the name of Jesus.
8. I rise above every power of foundational idolatry, in the name of Jesus.
9. I speak destruction unto every evil altar working against me, in the name of Jesus.

Chapter Two

FREEDOM FOR PRISONERS OF LOCAL IDOLS

If you have been a prisoner of local idols, you need not remain in the prison all your life. Freedom is possible because, it has been paid for by the Lord Jesus through His death. However, it is not automatic that you will experience victory. You must know the steps to freedom and take them. If you are a good Bible reader, you would have discovered that local idols are powerful in a very negative way. Let us now examine some Scriptures: Deuteronomy 29.:16-18;

"(For ye know how we have dwelt in the land of Egypt; and how we came through the nations which ye passed by; And ye have seen their abominations, and their idols, wood and stone, silver and gold, which were among them:) Lest there should be among you man, or woman, or family, or tribe, whose heart turneth away this day from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations; lest there should be among you a root that beareth gall and wormwood."

A DEEP SECRET

From the passage above, we discover a very interesting mystery-It is possible for a man, a woman or a family to be a root of wormwood. As long as there is idolatry in the life of a man, a woman or a family, such a person or family would become roots that bear gall and wormwood. Herein lies a deep secret, every idol worshipper in every family is a root that will bear gall and wormwood. Let us read further: Deuteronomy 29:19-21;

"And it come to pass, when he heareth the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the imagination of mine heart, to add drunkenness to thirst: The LORD will not spare him, but then the anger of the LORD and his jealousy shall smoke against that man, and all the curses that are written in this book shall lie upon him, and the LORD shall blot out his name from under heaven. And the LORD shall separate him unto evil out of all the tribes of Israel, according to all the curses of the covenant, that are written in this book of the law."

CURSES

According to this passage, God is very bitter at every form of idolatry and all the curses written in the word of God have been pronounced upon idolaters. The Bible states that the Lord will not spare anyone who worships idol. In fact, His anger has been unleashed upon idol worshippers. God even promised to blot out their names completely. It is clear therefore, that those who have been involved in the worship of idols are carriers of curses. Let us look at another passage: Revelation 22:15;

"For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and Idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie."

The Bible makes it very clear, that there will not be a single idol worshipper in heaven. Don't ever deceive yourself by saying that there is no idolatry in your background. Even if your parents got born again before you were born, they must have been converted from the foundation of idolatry. Let us assume that your parents are born again, what of your grandparents? Have you ever sat down to consider the fact that your family line was neck deep in idolatry for hundreds of years before the advent of Christianity? If they spent about 200 years worshipping idols, do you think that the evil structure built during that period can just disappear overnight, without any effort on your part? If your ancestors spent years erecting a solid foundation for their idolatrous worship, would such foundation automatically disappear simply because you are now born again?

ANCESTRAL BONDAGE

The truth is that, many people ignore the harm done by their ancestors through their devotion to powerful idols of the land. Many of us have made grievous mistakes by burying our heads inside the sand like the proverbial ostrich.

The devil is very shrewd; he operates a "credit" scheme. Many of our ancestors bought lots of things on credit from idols, and what many people are suffering from today can be likened to a spiritual mortgage system. What was bought or obtained through credit is now being paid for in form of failure at the edge of breakthroughs, a vicious circle of poverty, unexplainable delays, recurrent tragedies, inability to get married, curses, yokes and bondages of all forms.

For many of us, our forefathers obtained loan facilities from the devil through local idols and promised to pay back instalmentally through their children and grand-children. That payment has cost them dearly and it's still costing them dearly.

Through devotion to local idols, many families have reaped madness, premature death, poverty, tragic occurrences, vagabond anointing, demonic failures and the like. It is tragic that many have never succeeded in breaking loose from these powers. Unfortunately, many live their lives on a deficit and go around in cycles simply because they are suffering from the bondage of local idols.

THE EVIL CHAIN

Idolatry, functions like a chain that anchors people to the prison of the past, until you break free from it, you can never move forward. Many believers have never completely broken free from the power of local idols. The power of a charm, can only be understood when you are making efforts to break free from it. Chains become very cruel when you are struggling to be free. The type of bondage which is experienced by those who are captives of local idols can be likened to what happens when a chain is tied round a dog's neck. The more the dog struggles to break free, the more it suffers pain. The more prisoners of local idols struggle to be free, the more

painful the scourge of bondage becomes. The more they struggle to be free, the more their problems increase.

Many who would have been movers, shakers and winners have been reduced to begging for a living because of idolatry. Some years ago, there was a population airline operating in Nigeria with a conspicuous Emblem of an idolatry mask at the tail of its aircrafts. I told those who cared to listen then that the aircrafts would not fly for long. Now the idolatrous emblem of an idolatry mask at the tail of its aircraft. A single chain around the neck of a prisoner can incapacitate his whole body.

Ten year-s ago, a man came to me for counselling and prayer. God so prospered him that he had five Jobs at a time. He was such a specialist that five big companies struggled to retain his services. He was actually swimming in the ocean of wealth until things began to nosedive. Everything so disappeared that he could not even afford a single meal per day-it was a terrible change of fortune.

The situation made him to rush to the church where he mustered all his energy and prayed fervently. God had mercy on him and singled him out at a meeting where there was a word of knowledge that, "There is a man here, God wants to rescue you but nothing can be done until you get rid of the idol in your house." Immediately he heard what I said, he started shivering. He spoke to me with a shaky voice: "Man of God, you are asking me to do the impossible. The idol you are referring to had been in our household for some 600 years and had been worshipped by successive generations. I am not supposed to be the last custodian of the idol, I am expected to pass it on to my children. I cannot even think of bringing it to the church. However, may I ask what you intend to do when the idol is brought?"

He was told that the idol would be destroyed, but still, he expressed fears about being mocked by his extended family. He told us that he hung the ancient idol somewhere behind his door and that every morning, he poured libation of a kind of local gin on the ancient idol. In spite of his faithfulness and dedication to the idol, he was still experiencing hard times.

I tried to help him further by giving him another message from the Lord, "Sir, you have a particular daughter, can you bring her because she has to be

interrogated?" He complied and the young and innocent looking girl walked into my office smiling. She did not in her appearance give away any wicked streak. I looked straight into her eyeballs and said, "Tell me, young girl, where are you keeping your father's money?" "Of course, it is on-top of an Iroko tree", she replied without batting an eyelid.

"Why did you take it there?", I queried her further. "I was instructed to do so by my father's older sister," she said. The man was frightened when he heard the revelation made by his daughter. I turned to the young girl again and asked: "What can we do to get your father back to his former position of wealth?" She stared at me and spoke with the confidence of an experienced adult. "Daddy must take three steps:

1. He must beg his sister,
2. He needs to offer certain sacrifices,
3. You have to pray fervently.
4. I told the father not to think of offering sacrifices.

The daughter confirmed that sacrifices won't work, as idols would find a way to negate any effort made at appeasing them. With this revelation, nobody told him to surrender the idol the next day. The man had an experience which jolted him, he realized that, every dime he made was being siphoned to the top of an Iroko tree. Tragedy befell him because of the idol of his father's house.

THE BANE OF IDOL WORSHIP

No wonder Apostle John told the disciples; "Deer children, keep yourself from idols." The issue of idol worship is a very grave one. There are various levels of idol worship: There is continental idolatry, national idolatry, territorial idolatry, and there is family idolatry. In some urban cities in Nigeria, fetish festivals are celebrated with pomp and pageantry. Some

powerful idols demand human and animal blood, blood is shed just to appease them.

There is also something called the satanic umbilical cord which ties people to their family idols. Again, I want you to know that there are wicked and angry idols of your father's house that are trying to put you in bondage. There are angry idols which are seeking vengeance simply because they were abandoned. Many of them demand worship and the more we refuse to offer sacrifices to them, the more angry they become.

AGGRIEVED IDOLS

In some families, many aggrieved idols are crying for vengeance as a result of neglect. This may not be known to members of the families, but the moment they fail to neutralize the anger of the idols, they stand to suffer serious consequences.

A lady lawyer woke up one day only to be given a rude shock by her husband. The man told her; "Listen, I am going to bring a new woman to this house and I am going to put the woman in that flat over there. If you say anything to the contrary, I will send you packing and if you decide to talk to the Pastor, I will simply stop going to the church."

The husband actually carried out his threat. He kept bringing women of all shapes and sizes into the flat which he prepared for that purpose. At the beginning, the woman did not know what to do. Later; she came to the church and we gave her some prayer points. As soon as she started praying, God gave her a revelation in which she saw herself standing at a river bank. She kept on seeing the same vision until she remembered what happened to her when she was very young. As a young girl, she had experienced difficulty in passing her examinations and her mother decided to consult a fetish priest who prescribed some fetish rituals for her.

The mother carried bags of rice, live cocks and other materials Of sacrifice to the river. The demon inside the river was summoned and he came up and declared: "You are going to pass your examinations from now on, but there is a condition attached to it, once-in every three years, you must come here to offer sacrifices." The woman did pass her examinations

and offered the sacrifices for some time, but with the passage of time, she forgot her pledge. The idol however didn't forget. She grew up and qualified as a lawyer, but as soon as she got married, her battle began.

THE DEVIL'S STRATEGY

Let me make this very clear to you; the devil has no free gift. He operates a primitive trade-by-barter system. If he offers you a gift, he is going to make you pay a greater price later. If you have ever collected anything from a wicked family idol, it will make you pay dearly for it.

CHARACTERISTICS OF LOCAL IDOLS

Let us take a cursory look at these characteristics:

- ✦ **They are fierce and resolute** - Idols are not gentle at all, they are aggressive and inflexible.
- ✦ **They have a sound memory** - They keep records of all their clients. They keep a list of who had ever consulted them since time immemorial. For example, if they ever ordered incision in your body, they know that they ordered it. They are meticulous and work with mathematical precision.
- ✦ **They are very destructive** - They can do all kinds of havoc if they get angry. They are merciless with their victims.
- ✦ **They can put chains around the neck of a person's virtues** - So that the person die and will never realise his virtues while living.
- ✦ **They are joy killers** - They also rob their victims of their freedom. Whenever they come across somebody who is rejoicing because of personal freedom, they will snuff life out of him.
- ✦ **They can make the sweet taste of success turn sour** - They convert success to failure, so that those who are supposed to savour the sweet taste of success are denied such an opportunity.

- **They have the capacity to marry** - There are cases of individuals who give out spouses to idols. Some fathers are known to have offered all their daughters to idols.

A Christian sister once told me that every woman in her community has been spiritually given at, wife to the serpent which is worshipped in her community, where it is a taboo to kill any snake. Snakes crawl to anywhere they like and strange enough, they do not bite.

- **They supervise evil covenants and oaths made by people** - For example, if some people go before an idol and swear falsely, such an idol generally troubles them.
- **They cage children** - There are cases of ladies who were brought up in responsible homes, and they later came home with drug addicts, to say 'This is my husband.' Such ladies are influenced by the power of local idols.
- **They hinder people from serving God** - As a result of their evil influence, they make it impossible for Christians to serve the Lord truly. The more such victims serve the Lord, the more they on counter difficulties.
- **They are blood thirsty** - They demand for blood and consume both human and animal blood.
- **They strengthen witchcraft and familiar spirits** - They make the job of these evil powers easier.
- **They have evil remote controlling power** - Even if you say that you are a child of God, local idols would like to exercise control over your life if you do not break their power. If your ancestors voluntarily handed you over to them, they would ensure that they exercise legal control over you. Unfortunately, many people who roam the streets in our cities are under direct control of local idols.

AN EYE OPENER

When I was doing my doctorate degree in England several years ago, I had an experience which shocked me to the bones. A doctorate degree should last only three years, but I came across someone who had spent eight years and was nowhere near completing his studies. When I came in contact with him, the Lord opened my eyes and I saw that he was being followed by a fierce-looking local masquerade. Of course the masquerade was invisible, so out of serious concern I told him, "My friend, surrender your life to Jesus," He spent time laughing at me saying: "Daniel, you mean you carried your religious fanaticism all the way from Nigeria to England?"

Do you know what happened to him? When he concluded writing his PhD thesis and appeared before a British professor, the first question the professor asked him was the Simplest: "Can you mention the title of your PhD thesis?" This young man suddenly went blank. You may wonder why someone cannot remember what he spent eight years doing!

That is how far local idols can go in destroying destinies. There was a particular problem in the man's family; nobody ever went beyond secondary school. He tried to break the jinx by obtaining a PhD degree. Just as he was about reaching his moment of glory, a spiritual time bomb exploded. The professor waited for three hours expecting an answer to a simple question from a PhD student, but no intelligible answer came and that was how the man failed.

About midnight, he ran to my apartment and asked for assistance. At that point, he came to grips with the fact that some evil powers were trying to subvert his destiny.

These local idols have no respect for geographical location. No matter how far away you go from the presence of the idols, they will still try to influence you. Herein lies the problem of the Black man; even those who decided to travel abroad are still under the evil influence of powerful local idols.

This reminds me of the pathetic case of a particular brother who was frightened by his mother who happened to be a witch. Each morning she would knock on his door to wake him up and as he opens the door, his

mother who would say: "I am just returning from our witchcraft meeting, I am here to check the effect of our meeting on your life."

THE EVIL FOUNDATION

By the time you examine the foundation of such a family, you will discover that there is idolatry there. Idolatry will always lead to bondage and this explains why the Bible forbids it. God specifically instructs us not to mention or call upon the name of any other god. If you check your surname and discover that it is idolatrous, know that members of your entire family have been handed over to an idol. If your name means something like- 'I am protected by a particular idol', you need deliverance. Idols know those whose names are attached to them and they hold on to such people tenaciously.

God has specifically warned us all: "Don't bow down to any idol." To bow before an idol is to surrender your head to it which is the symbol of your destiny. Idols, like demons, are quick to seize opportunities. The Lord has told us not to sacrifice to any other god. Many people have offered sacrifices to idols in the name of religion. Some who attend churches where items like banana, sugar-cane, coconut, oranges etc. are distributed during services are unknowingly involved in the worship of idols. The Bible states that, if you eat food offered to idols, it means you are dining at the table of the devil. The Lord forbids the burning of incense. The Lord also forbids the worship of carved images.

THE MANDATE

If you are a good Bible reader, you would have discovered that the children of Israel were always commanded to burn, demolish or break down altars of idols. Even when God took them to foreign lands, He still commanded them to destroy the idols of those nations. God knows that idolatry has great potentials for leading men and women into bondage. Idol worship, will always attract disastrous penalties. Any man or woman who gets involved in the worship of idols is an evil root which will afflict future generations.

The Lord has placed idol worshippers under a curse. In some places in the Bible, God states that He will shut the heavens against idol worshippers. God even states that whenever idol worshippers need guidance or information which will benefit them, He will allow them to be led astray by false prophets. For God to place such grievous penalties on idolatry, He must have terrible hatred for it.

If you have not addressed the problem of idolatry, you stand a great risk of being affected negatively in many areas of your life. If you fail to address the problems emanating from the idols of your father's land decisively, you will be kept under the curse of the Blackman. The Bible is very clear on the fact that God forbids idolatry. The Bible tells us that the worship of idols or images is forbidden. It states that we should not offer sacrifices to images.

The Bible says that we should not speak in the name of any idol. It tells us that we should not worship any image that represents an idol. Idol worship is capable of bringing lots of problems into the life of the worshipper.

GOOD EXAMPLES

Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were told to bow down before an idol, they refused and stood their ground. Do you know what happened to the kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar? It was pulled down. Daniel was also confronted with the same challenge and he refused to eat from the king's palace. The food offered in the king's palace was first offered or dedicated to idols before it was served to those who wanted to eat.

The Bible warns us against the worship of angels. A lot of misguided worshippers call angels' names in prayer. Such people have forgotten that the Bible forbids the worship of the hosts of heaven. The Bible says that we should not worship demons, but today, some people attend the 'church of satan: There is what is even called, "the Satanic Bible". In it, they read the Lord's prayer upside down, using it to glorify satan.

DIVINE JUDGMENT

The Bible says that we should not worship the dead, therefore, anything offered to the dead in form of sacrifice is idolatry. The Bible I says that we should avoid anything that attempts to change the glory of God to an image. The Bible forbids participation in anything that elevates idols. It prescribes dreadful judgments for all idol worshippers. According to Isaiah 42:17; idol-worshippers will never make any progress:

"They shall be turned back, they shall be greatly ashamed, that trust in, graven images, that say to the molten images, Ye are our gods."

FURTHER CASTIGATION

Idol worshippers and their children will end up making no progress in life. The Bible states clearly that they shall perish. Their punishment will spread across generations. The Bible tells us that their sorrows shall multiply. The punishment which shall be meted to them is indeed horrible: Psalm 106: 19-20;

"They made a calf in Horeb, and worshipped the molten image. Thus they changed their glory into the similitude of an ox that eateth grass."

It is indeed horrible, that human beings decided to change their glory to that of a carved animal.

STRANGE CONFORMITY

In Psalm 115: 4-8, the Bible tells us; "Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands. They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. They that make them are like unto them; so is everyone that trusteth in them."

The Bible presents a very startling fact here, that idol worshippers will acquire the status of the idols which they worship. Just as idols are lifeless, stagnant, empty and cursed, their worshippers will experience these same things. That is, their worshippers will acquire their nature. If you worship

God, you will acquire His nature; if you are worshipping 'ogun', 'sango' or 'amadioha', you will acquire their natures. All the libations which idol worshippers pour are nothing but idolatrous practices.

Many local festivals centre on the worship of idols. The act of nurturing special or sacred trees is nothing but idolatry. Idolatry is so evil that, it has become a cancer in the lives of many people.

STEPS TO FREEDOM

How then can we deal with the problem of idolatry? OR, What steps must we take to fully deal with idolatry?

- ✦ **Repentance** - You must personally repent before the Lord. Again, you must repent on behalf of your immediate and extended families. Additionally, you must repent on behalf of your ancestors. You must also repent on behalf of your environment.

A lot of people have not been able to make progress as a result of environmental pollution emanating from idolatry. Such communities have remained backward. They kill each other and destroy those who are meant to make progress.

- ✦ **Address the covenant made with the idol** - You must not cancel any promise made by your ancestors with idols on your behalf.
- ✦ **Undertake a research into the manners in which idols are worshipped in your family** - Name the idols and deal with each one of them in prayer.
- ✦ **Speak the words of destruction to the idols.**
- ✦ **Make an atonement with the blood of Jesus** - Use the blood of Jesus to break all the evil covenants.
- ✦ **Pray prophetic prayers** - Reverse all the evils that have been done.
- ✦ **Engage in spiritual warfare to set yourself and your environment free from every negative influence of idols** - If you happen to be a

prisoner of local idols, you may notice constant hindrance in your ways.

If you are a prisoner of a local idol, a tree of non-achievement will continue to grow around you. Consequently, you will experience chronic health problems, nagging family distress, acute poverty, inexplicable backsliding, terrible failure, untimely death, incurable diseases, recurrent tragedies and problems that will continue to vex your soul.

PROPHETIC ACTION

If the problem of idolatrous foundation must be solved, we must lay both physical and spiritual hands on the idols and destroy them. Many believers have made the terrible mistake of leaving idols that are not willing to let them go. Sometimes we lose sight of the fact that the man who is in charge of the idol plays a crucial role. The moment the word of God enters the mind of the man, he would personally destroy the idol.

There is a way an idol can be destroyed, no matter where it is located. It is possible to address an idol, deal with the power behind it, and it will cease to have any negative effect on you. We must not lose sight of the fact that, we have a lot of fathers and grandfathers who will not allow anyone to destroy their idols. You can lay hands on any idol spiritually. You must get ready to pray and release yourself from the power of any evil altar. The following prayer points are strategic and fundamental:

1. Every angry altar of my father's/mother's house, crying against my breakthrough, die! in the name of Jesus.
2. Every idol seeking the demotion of my destiny, die! in the name of Jesus.
3. Every family cage, sponsored by idols, break! in the name of Jesus.
4. Every evil chain, linking me to family idol, break! in the name of Jesus.
5. My name, hear the word of the Lord, depart from every evil altar, in the name of Jesus

6. Every evil power of my family idol, hunting for my life, die! in the name of Jesus.

Chapter Three

DEALING WITH FUNDAMENTAL ALTARS

There is a strong link between your destiny and the foundational altars in your father's house. Many parts of the world come from a background of primitive idolatry and animism. Our forefathers worshipped idols and there is no way anyone can worship idols without raising an altar. Idols are possessive and they demand worship. They ensure that those who worship them create or erect altars where libations are poured and materials of sacrifice are offered. Adherents physically demonstrate their allegiance and consecration to the idols.

COSTLY IGNORANCE

Our forefathers who worshipped idols did not really know about the overpowering influence of the altar. As far as they were concerned, the family idol altar is only a place where contact can be made with ancestors and communal spirits. Little did our forefathers know that by erecting altars, they were constructing an evil platform or foundation for the destiny of future generations. Unconsciously, they erected foundations upon which many of us have continued to live our lives.

No matter how glorious your destiny is, if it is built on the platform of evil foundational altars, you cannot go very far in life. Altars are so powerful that a single one can affect the lives and destinies of generations of unborn children.

A FITTING EXAMPLE

To gain special insight into the power of foundational altars, we shall examine a prominent Bible character whose destiny experienced a wonderful turn around from the moment he dealt with the evil foundational altars of his father's house. Incidentally, this is a story which many of us have read without gaining an insight into the dimension which we are going to examine in this chapter.

The powers behind demonic altars are only interested in capturing and destroying destinies. These demonic powers use altars as bridges between their evil intentions and the destinies of their victims. The character which we are going to study must have had a spiritual insight into this fact That is why the first step he took after experiencing a divine encounter was to destroy the altars of his father's house. Here is the story in Judges 6:11-32;

"And there came an angel of the LORD, and sat under an oak which was in Ophrah, that pertained unto Joash the Abiezrite: and his son Gideon threshed wheat by the winepress, to hide it from the Midianites. And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour. And Gideon said unto him, Oh my Lord, if the LORD be with us, why then is all this befallen us? and where be all his miracles which our fathers told us of, saying, Did not the LORD bring us up from Egypt? but now the LORD hath forsaken us, and delivered us into the hands of the Midianites. And the LORD looked upon him, and said, Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee? And he said unto him, Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house. And the LORD said unto him, Surely I will be with thee, and thou shalt smite the Midianites as one man. And he said unto him, If now I have found grace in thy sight, then shew me a sign that thou talkest with me. Depart not hence, I pray thee, until I come unto thee, and bring forth my present, and set it before thee. And he said, I will tarry until thou come again. And Gideon went in, and made ready a kid, and unleavened cakes of an ephah of flour: the flesh he put in a basket, and he put the broth in a pot, and brought it out unto him under the oak, and presented it. And the angel of God said unto him, Take the flesh and the unleavened cakes, and lay them upon this rock, and pour out the broth. And he did so. Then the angel of the LORD

put forth the end of the staff that was in his hand, and touched the flesh and the unleavened cakes; and there rose up fire out of the rock, and consumed the flesh and the unleavened cakes. Then the angel of the LORD departed out of his sight. And when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the LORD, Gideon said, Alas, a Lord God! for because I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face. And the LORD said unto him, Peace be unto thee; fear not: thou shalt not die. Then Gideon built an altar there unto the LORD, and called it Jehovahshalom: unto this day it is yet in Ophrah of the Abiezrites. And it came to pass the same night, that the LORD said unto him, Take thy father's young bullock, even the second bullock of seven years old, and throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath, and cut down the grove that is by it: And build an altar unto the LORD thy God upon the top of this rock, in the ordered place, and take the second bullock, and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the grove which thou shalt cut down. Then Gideon took ten men of his servants, and did as the LORD had said unto him: and so it was, because he feared his father's household, and the men of the city, that he could not do it by day, that he did it by night. And when the men of the city arose early in the morning, behold, the altar of Baal was cast down, and the grove was cut down that was by it, and the second bullock was offered upon the altar that was built. And they said one to another, Who hath done this thing? And when they enquired and asked, they said, Gideon the son of Joash hath done this thing. Then the men of the city said unto Joash, Bring out thy son, that he may die: because he hath cast down the altar of Baal, and because he hath cut down the grove that was by it. And Joash said unto all that stood against him, Will ye plead for Baal? will ye save him? he that will plead for him, let him be put to death whilst it is yet morning: if he be a god, 't'et him plead for himself because one hath cast down his altar. Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, Let Baal plead against him, because he hath thrown down his altar."

THE BEGINNING

Gideon received a mandate from the Lord to deliver, his people from bondage. Initially, he felt that he was incompetent, he started on a good note by having a proper estimation of himself-He took a sincere look into

his foundation and background and declared; *"I'm the least in my father's house."* He knew that his position or background had a lot to do with his destiny. However, his story took a dramatic turn according to verse 25. Though he came from a lowly foundation, God wanted him to achieve a wonderful feat

He had a great task ahead of him, having been divinely appointed to achieve what no one had ever achieved before. He was given a strange mandate-He was instructed to destroy the altar of his father's house. Note the choice of words; *"throw down the altar of Baal that thy father hath."* He was told to destroy his 'foundational altar. Way back in the Old Testament, his father had erected a foundational altar and to worsen the situation, there was an evil tree growing side by side this altar.

THE REPLACEMENT

Today, many lives are being controlled by evil altars and evil trees. Such people should follow the footsteps of Gideon, who knew that he was not going to get anywhere until he destroyed the evil altar. He knew that he couldn't even serve God successfully without destroying the evil altar. He also knew that he wouldn't be able to go far without cutting down the evil tree. That was his first major assignment He was now told to build an altar unto the Lord upon the same place where an altar was built unto baal. In other words, he was to replace baal's altar with an altar of God.

THE MYSTERY OF THE ALTAR

The passage above, highlights the evil effects of evil altars. You may ask: what are altars? Altars are indispensable places of worship. They are places where sacrifices are brought into contact with powers, deities and objects that are worshipped. The item being sacrificed and the agent who takes the sacrifice are linked together.

Originally, the altar was divinely instituted, but unfortunately, it has become polluted by the devil. Altars have a way of bringing a spiritual covering over the territory where they are situated. Altars determine the

spirits that controls the land. Invariably, they determine the kind of people who reside in a particular place.

The altar is a place of sacrifice, it is a place of dedication, it is a place where evil and good covenants are made. It is a place of communion with spiritual entities either good or bad. It can be either positive or negative. It is a place of spiritual exchange. It is a spiritual dinning table where spirits come to feed. It is a place of spiritual traffic of good or bad spirits.

THE SPIRITUAL IMPLICATION

Wherever an altar is in place, there will always be a traffic of spirits. If you are a good Bible reader. You would have discovered that many Bible characters built altars. These included Noah, Abraham, David, Isaac, Jacob, Joshua, Manoah, Samuel, Ahab, Uriah, Manasseh, Zerubabel, etc.

In the celebrated Mount Carmel battle between of Elijah and the prophets of baal, altars played a prominent role. Elijah was standing on one side and there were 450 prophets of baa I and 400 prophets of asherah on the other side. Elijah declared; *"The God that answereth by fire, let him be God."* The prophets of baal cried the whole day, but nothing happened.

Then it came to Elijah's turn to prove that he serves the true God. The first step Elijah took was to repair the altar of the Lord. By repairing the altar of the Lord, he had contact with God that answers by fire. Of course, the prophets of baa I and asherah had their own kind of altar in the groves. Elijah understood the mystery and the ministry of' the altar, so he repaired the altar of the Lord. The prophets of baal also understood the mystery behind altars, so they went ahead to destroy the altar of the Lord. It becomes clear therefore, that the altar is a spiritual thief.

A thief may come against you in several ways. He may decide to come against you openly, or to come against you secretly. Let us look at the comparison between a known thief and the hidden method used by the altar. A thief may take advantage of your absence, but an altar will rob you in your presence. A thief may take advantage of your carelessness, but an altar will rob you whether you are careful or not. A thief may utilize the weapon of deception to rob you, but an altar will both deceive you and steal from

you openly. A thief may take advantage of your ignorance, but an altar will rob you in spite of your knowledge. A thief may take things from you by force secretly. but an altar will steal from you openly and forcefully. Therefore, the terrible nature of wicked altars cannot be evaluated.

THE MANDATE

Every altar has a mandate, an agenda, and a voice. Every altar has some supporting spirits, keep files of its victims, has a domain of operation, has a capturing influence, has a warehouse, has its own armoury, and has a deep memory. Altars operate computerised archives.

Beloved, it is not possible to fulfil your destiny as long as you have a foundational altar in your father's house crying against you day and night. Each time you want to move forward, the foundational altar would declare: "Stop! Nobody in this family has ever crossed that line."

A wicked step-mother once visited an altar and came back with a strange declaration. She faced a sister and said: "You will never get a man to propose marriage to you." Before she made that wicked statement, she had sealed it at the altar. Somehow, the sister came across a man who proposed marriage to her. Both of them agreed and made preparations to wed. When the wedding was at hand, the sister decided to pay her suitor a visit. When she got to his flat, she discovered that the door was open and decided to wait in the living room for a while. After she had waited for an hour, she felt led by the Holy Spirit to knock and peep into the inner room. What she saw was horrible-her fiance was sleeping with his own mother! She fainted and that was the end of the marriage.

Unknown to the sister, the fact that her marriage would fail had been concluded at the altar. That was the reason for her experience.

DEEP PROBLEMS

I remember praying for a man with a strange problem. He was brought into the counselling room looking like a normal human being. When I asked why he came for counselling and prayer, his reaction was embarrassing. He

slapped his head and a live cockroach came out. If he slapped his head ten times, ten cockroaches would come out. Such a strange problem was programmed into his life through an evil altar.

Many of the problems which we come across in our communities are products of the machinations of evil altars. Many stubborn and persistent problems arise because ancient altars were raised by our ancestors. As you read the pages of this book, ritual murder is still going on in many nations of the world. There are people who traffic in human parts. These things thrive as a result of the negative altars which our fathers raised up. Our fathers worshipped wicked idols, which are now angry because the new generations have abandoned their altars.

These altars affect people in several ways-they hinder prayers. We therefore need to deal with them to fulfill our destiny. For example, there is something known as altar of affliction-Many people are suffering terribly as a result of this wicked altar. If you happen to be a victim of this altar, the Lord will deliver you today, in Jesus' name.

When the altar of affliction is raised against a particular person, contact is made with the spiritual world to report on him. By so doing, some evil spirits are activated and made to act against the victim. Wherever the person goes, these spirits will follow him. How do you know if you are suffering from this type of attack? If it appears as if something followed you everywhere you go, you need to pray against altars of affliction.

Evil powers can access your destiny through the altars of affliction. The altars of affliction understand the ability of their victims. It can manipulate, dominate and control its victims. What it does amounts to putting an evil rope around the waist of its victims, each time the fellow attempts to move forward, it pulls the rope back. This explains why some people wake up in the morning and discover physical marks on their bodies. Through the altars, people are intimidated and harassed. These powers introduce terrible sicknesses to the body. They introduce curses into the lives of their victims. They cast spells on people.

If you visit your colleagues at home, you may be shocked to discover that they have altars in their bedrooms. They bury other people's properties

through evil altars. Their intention is to put servants on horses and princes on the around. They bewitch people's organs. When victims visit hospitals, medical experts are confused. If such mysterious problems are happening in your life, the altars shall be destroyed today, in the name of Jesus.

KING OF ALTARS

There are different kinds of altars troubling men and women all over the world. Let us examine some of them:

SHRINE ALTARS

If there is a shrine altar in your family, you have to pray very hard. There are some places in the world where there is practically a shrine an at the back of every house. If you happen to come from such an area, you need to pray aggressively. If you fail to pray, your destiny will remain under the control of some strange shrines. Even if the shrine had been discarded and nobody goes there to offer sacrifices again, the shrine still retains in its memory the fact that it was once worshipped by your ancestors.

IMAGE ALTARS

Someone may have constructed an image to represent a particular person; whenever he wants to harm the person, he puts sharp pins on the body of the image. When this is done, the fellow will feel pain at exactly the same spots on his body.

PICTURE ALTARS

Whenever wicked people want to harm a particular person, they take the fellow's picture to an altar. They can have contact with the wicked powers through the picture.

CAULDRON ALTARS

All kinds of strange objects are summoned to appear in a cauldron and are cooked with the intention of harming the victims.

MARINE ALTARS

Wicked spirits are fond of hiding the destinies of their victims in the water. They might tie a charm around a heavy stone and throw it inside the water with a curse, mentioning the person's name and just as a stone does not float, this destiny will never come to the surface.

FOREST ALTARS

Wicked people hide the destinies of their victims in thick forests.

TREE ALTARS

Charms are hung on trees or tied around the stems to harm people.

CROSSROAD ALTARS

Wicked people erect altars at crossroads. It is a typical sight to see sacrifices at the junctions of cross road in this part of the world.

CLOTHING ALTARS

Agents of the devil cut people's clothes and place them on altars in order to harm their victims.

IRON ALTARS

Cutlasses and other iron instruments are gathered to construct altars which are worshipped by people who are avowed agents of the devil. Therefore, if these altars are angry with you, you might be in for a terrible time. Unfortunately, they are tormenting many people today.

These kind, of powers raged against Gideon and he became a servant of servants. He had to remain in hiding before he could thresh corn. Do you really want to fulfill your destiny? Are you ready to become free from the evil family pattern which you have noticed in your lineage?

COUNTER ATTACKS

When these powers know that you are trying to escape, there will be a violent rage from their quarters. Have you decided that you are going to be

the head and not the tail? Expect the altars of your father's house to fight back with rage. Are you taking steps to move forward? If you want to be different and achieve what other members of your family cannot achieve, the altars of your father's house will come up against you with a terrible rage. Therefore, you must silence the rage of the enemy today, you must also destroy every wicked altar working against you.

It is sad beloved, that the devil stole the divine blueprint and gave it to our ancestors. They in turn turned it upside down and used it to do negative things. If you are living in an environment that is littered with sacrifices, you need to know that such a place is under the domination of wicked altars.

SOLUTIONS

If you want to deal with foundational altars, you must take the following steps:

- **Repent from all your sins** - As long as there is any form of sin in your life, you will strengthen foundational altars in their fight against you.
- **Surrender your life totally to God.**
- **Prayerfully locate the altars of your father's house** - You may say, "I am not from an idolatrous family, I happen to come from a Christian home." You must not lose sight of the fact that not all your forefathers were born again Christians. Perhaps your parents were converted to Christianity. We should not lose sight of the fact that their own parents or grandparents probably were idol worshippers.
- **Pray in the name of the Lord.**
- **Pray against these altars.**
- **Deal with the priests in charge of the altars** - You can send the fire of God against the evil priests.

- ✚ **Withdraw your name or anything representing your name from the file of the altars.**
- ✚ **Rededicate your life to God.**
- ✚ **Barricade your life with the fire of the Holy Ghost**

Perhaps you have discovered that you struggle and sweat profusely, or you discovered that everywhere you go, you are treated with disfavour or you are a subject of irritation; or that you are hated by everybody, then know that the ministry of the evil idols of your father's house is at work.

When you suffer from the problem of foundational altars, you will struggle with the strugglers and wrestle with the wrestlers.

Foundational altars have done enough damage in your life and you must rise now and deal with them. There are 14 powerful prayer points below, if you pray them well, you will be amazed at the result which God will grant you.

PRAYER POINTS

1. I withdraw my name, from every evil altar, in the name of Jesus.
2. Spirit of the living God, overshadow my life, in the name of Jesus.
3. I bind and cast out, every negative altar power, working against my breakthrough, In the name of Jesus.
4. My life, receive deliverance from every cage of idolatry, in the name of Jesus.
5. Every evil priest, ministering against me by any evil altar, receive the fire of God, in the name of Jesus.
6. Holy Ghost fire, burn every foundational altar, working against me, in the name of Jesus.
7. I pull out my destiny, from every evil control, in the name of Jesus.

8. O God arise, and let all my stubborn enemies be scattered, in the name of Jesus.
9. Every yoke of the oppressor, be broken! in the name of Jesus.
10. I pull down every stronghold of negative altars, in Jesus' name.
11. Thou power of God, shatter every agenda of foundational idolatry, designed against my life, in the name of Jesus.
12. Every occult priest, divining against me, I retire you all by fire, in the name of Jesus.
13. I shall not be a victim of destiny vandalization, in Jesus' name.
14. O altar of darkness, hear the word of the Lord, be dismantled by fire! in the name of Jesus.

Chapter Four

THE EVIL CRY OF YOUR FAMILY IDOLS

Sociologists tell us that, man is a product of his environment, there is an element of truth in this assertion. Unknown to many people, the kind of life which they are living and the problems which they encounter, can be traced to their family roots. Every action and misdeed of your ancestors, especially in the areas of idol worship, have great consequences. Idols that were worshipped or are still being worshipped are crying against millions of people today and the cries of these idols are undesirable.

The moment your family history has a taint of idolatry, you become a candidate of the consequences of the evil cry of such idols. Your ancestors died several years ago, but you may still bear the consequences of their devotion to idols, even if you are educated and wealthy.

There is an interesting passage in the Bible which serves as an eye opener in this regard: Mark 15:21;

"And they compel one Simon, a Cyrenion, who passed by, coming out of the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to bear his cross."

Here, two Bible characters are mentioned, simply because of what their father did. The names of Alexander and Rufus are mentioned in the Bible not because of what they did, but because of what their father did. It is on record, that their father, Simon, the Cyrenian, carried the cross of Jesus. Just as we have this record in the Bible, it is also on record that certain people's names will be remembered because their fathers got themselves involved in human rituals. Unknown to some people, there is a spiritual record

somewhere which says that their fathers drank human blood in the name of idol worship.

Let me ask you these questions: For what is your grandfather remembered? Did your grandmother confess to witchcraft before she died? Is it recorded in the history of your village that your family had the notoriety of drinking palm-wine with a human skull? Is it written that your father pounded a one-day-old-baby in the mortar or buried slaves alive? Did your father or grandfather cut off the heads of human beings for sacrifice?

What the father of Alexander and Rufus did was good for them as a memorial. This made his children notable enough to be mentioned in the gospel of Saint Mark, What we are saying is that, the misfortune of many people today can be traced to the unrighteous and demonic services which their parents rendered to satan. **The natural pull, which some people feel towards ungodliness, occultism and false churches may be explained by what their fathers did. Some fathers charted a course for their children which has shut the door of blessings to them.**

There is an evil cry that has turned many nations to beggars and destitutes. There is an evil cry, that has brought many Black men down to their knees. There is an evil cry that has suffocated the destinies of so many people and paralysed many potentials. There is an evil cry that has not spared any nation of the world.

It is the cry of the idols of our fathers' houses, God hates idolatry with perfect hatred. The positions in which we find ourselves as black people are because of the idolatry that our forefathers practised, Unfortunately, some of our parents have not stopped this idolatry which has brought us down to our knees. Unfortunately too, many people are now digging up what the missionaries buried.

Africa, has the greatest number of satanic altars in the universe. Every tribe and kindred has a shrine. There are towns in this nation where air-conditioners are installed to keep the idols cool. In many towns, every family has an elderly man who goes to an idol as a representative of all the members of the family with a list of all their names. While you are busy

trying to sort out your problem in the city, he is busy calling your name before an idol.

Even in the cities, idol worshippers tell women not to come out on certain days because a particular masquerade wants to walk the streets. In many places today, when the oracle speaks, the people tremble. In many localities, the best places are given to idols. A lot of people bear the names of idols and when they start praying, there is confusion in the heaven lies because they do not know where they belong.

Many parcels of land are cursed. Many buildings are erected with human beings buried underneath them. Many markets have human beings buried alive in them and as we trade in the markets on top of buried human beings, blood is crying out against us day by day.

In this country, the emblem of our electricity supply is an idol called 'Sango.' If you go to our wharf, it has the emblem of a mermaid. Our security force also has the emblem of a dragon. This is unfortunate - our forefathers successfully laid the evil foundation of idolatry.

Idolatry is a very serious spiritual problem. Exodus 20:3-4 says, "***Thou shall have no other God before me, thou shall not make unto thee any graven image or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above or that is in earth beneath, or that is in the water underneath the earth.***" I want you to note this verse: "***Thou shall not make unto thee any graven image or any likeness of anything.***" It means you are not expected to make any image of the Cross, or of Jesus or of Mary.

You are not expected to make an image of any saint. It says, "***the likeness of anything,***" whether the thing is in heaven or on the earth below. Verse 5 says: "***Thou shall not bow down thyself to them nor serve them, for I the Lord thy God, I am a jealous God visiting the iniquity of the father upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me.***" So, the punishment for idolatry goes up to the fourth generation. There are many people who are suffering as a result of this.

Exodus 34: 17 says, "**Thou shall make thee no molten gods.**"

Leviticus 26:1 says, ***"Ye shall make no idols or graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your kind, to bow down unto it: for I am the Lord your God."***

To see again how seriously the Lord takes this matter, Deuteronomy 7:25 says, ***"The graven images of their gods shall ye burn with fire: thou shalt not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it unto thee, lest thou be snared therein: for it is an abomination to the Lord thy God."***

Many of our sisters buy and put on jewellery made in idolatrous nations. They are idol worshippers. The Bible says, "Don't take anything from there."

Psalm 16:4 says. ***"Their sorrows shall be multiplied that hasten after another god: their, drink offerings of blood will not offer, nor take up their names into my-lips."*** That is, God will not mention their names, He is not interested in calling them because of their idolatry.

WHAT IS IDOLATRY?

Idolatry is a satanic programme to control the land, family and people. It is an abomination. It is contending with and rebelling against God. It promotes worship of gods and false worship of God. It is spiritual prostitution, it is marriage with demons, it is anything you worship outside the God of Heaven through Jesus Christ. It is anything you place before God or beside God. It is anything you esteem higher than the living God.

CHARACTERISTICS OF IDOLS

Idols are blind and deaf

Deut. 4:28; ***"And there ye shall serve gods, the work of men's hands, wood and stone, which neither see, nor hear, nor eat, nor smell."***

Idols are perishable

Jeremiah 10:11; ***"Thus shall ye say unto them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, even they shall perish from the earth,***

and from under these heavens."

Idols are helpless

Isaiah 45:20; *"Assemble yourselves and come; draw near together, ye that are escaped of the nations: they have no knowledge that set up the wood of their graven image, and pray unto a god that cannot save."*

Idols are unworthy of worship

Acts 17:29; *"Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device."*

Idols are corruptible

Romans 1:22-23; *"Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four footed beasts, and creeping things."*

Idols are works of error

Jeremiah 10:15; *"They are vanity, and the work of errors: in the time of their visitation they shall perish."*

Idols are works of human hands

Psalms 115:4; *"Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men's hands."*

Idols are insensitive

Psalms 115:5-8; *"They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them."*

NAMES OF IDOLS IN THE SCRIPTURE

➤ Asherah or Ashtaroah - Judges 6:24-32

- ✦ Ashtoreth - 1 Samuel 7:3-4
- ✦ Baal - 1 Kings 18:1-46
- ✦ Belzebub - Matthew 12:24
- ✦ Dagon - 1 Samuel 5:1-12
- ✦ Diana or Artemis - Acts 19: 1-41
- ✦ Jupiter - Acts 14:12
- ✦ Mercury - Acts 14: 12
- ✦ Merodach - Jer. 50:2
- ✦ Molech - 1 Kings 11:7
- ✦ Nanna - Joshua 24:2
- ✦ Nebo - Isa. 46:1
- ✦ Nishroch - 2Kings 19:37
- ✦ Rimmon - 2Kings 5:18
- ✦ Tammuz - Ezek. 8:14
- ✦ Rachel father's household gods - Gen.31:19
- ✦ Golden Calf of Sinai - Exod. 32:4-6
- ✦ Two golden images at Dan and Bethel-1 Kings 12:28-29
- ✦ The unknown god on Mars Hill-Acts 17:2:
- ✦ Adrammelech - 2Kings 17:31
- ✦ Anammelech - 2Kings 17:31
- ✦ Ashema - 2Kings 17:30
- ✦ Baal Berith - Judges 8:33
- ✦ Baal Peor - Num. 25
- ✦ Bel - Jer.51:44
- ✦ Castor - Acts 28: 11
- ✦ Chemosh - 1 Kings 11:7
- ✦ Milcom - 1 Kings 11:5
- ✦ Nehushtan - 2Kings 18:4

- ☛ Nergal - 2Kings 17:30
- ☛ Nibhaz - 2Kings 17:31
- ☛ Poli'ux - Acts 28: 11
- ☛ Remphan - Acts 7:43
- ☛ Succoth- Benoth - 2Kings V:30

CONSEQUENCES OF IDOLATRY

- ☛ **Judgment on idolatry is unto the fourth generation.**
- ☛ **It brings a curse** - The Bible says that, you will acquire the nature of what you worship.

Psalm 106:19-20; *"They made a calf in Horeb, and worshipped the molten image. Thus they changed their glory into the similitude of an ox that eateth grass."*

- ☛ **Idolatry is hereditary** - It brings demons to the blood.

Hebrews 7:7-10; *"And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better. And here men that die receive tithes; but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth. And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham. For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him."*

- ☛ **It brings the land and people under serious bondage because of the altars and high places that are raised** - When a land is in bondage, nothing works there.

Leviticus 18:24-30; *"Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you: And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants. Ye shall therefore keep my statutes and my judgments, and shall not commit any of these abominations; neither any of your own nation, nor any stranger that sojourneth among you: (For all these abominations have the men of the land done, which were*

before you, and the land is defiled;) That the land spue not you out also, when ye defile it, as it spued out the nations that were before you. For whosoever shall commit any of these abominations, even the souls that commit them shall be cut off from among their people. Therefore shall ye keep mine ordinance, that ye commit not anyone of these abominable customs, which were committed before you, and that ye defile not yourselves therein: I am the LORD your God."

- **Idolatry blinds men to the truth of the gospel by bringing a covering over the people and the environment.**
- **Idols will make people sacrifice their children and so bring death to the young ones.**
- **God fishes out and hunts idolaters for punishment.**

Jeremiah 16:16-18; "Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the LORD, and they shall fish them; and after will send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks. For mine eyes are upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes. And first I will recompense their iniquity and their sin double; because they have defiled my land, they have filled mine inheritance with the carcasses of their detestable and abominable things."

- **Idolatry rapidly destroys a nation.**

Jeremiah 16: 19-20; "O LORD, my strength, and my fortress, and my refuge in the day of affliction, the Gentiles shall come unto thee from the ends of the earth, and shall say, Surely our fathers have inherited lies, vanity, and things wherein there is no profit. Shall a man make gods unto himself, and they are no gods?"

- **Idolatry cries against one's life and destiny.**

SYMPTOMS OF IDOLATRY

GENERAL BLOCKAGE

There was a family of seven people having six out of the seven as born again Christians. These six were not making it at all because they did not know how to pray against the powers of darkness. The only person that was not born again who was a herbalist was the only one getting on very well, having money and cars. These six brothers did not know that their ways were blocked because they turned their backs on the idols. So if you notice a general blockage in your ways, I want you to pray very hard.

SPIRITUAL BLOCKAGE

The second symptom is spiritual blockage-Perhaps you observe that anytime there is a fellowship with God, you are a spectator. Despite the prayers, Bible study, and the word of God, you are starving spiritually, the word of God sometimes seem meaningless to you; fervent prayer is very strange to you and anytime you want to pray serious prayers, you fall asleep-you should pray hard against your family idols.

IRON-LIKE ATTACKS

Idols fight people really hard, such people need to fight back.

ROUNABOUT LIFE

Such victims go around in circles, you should pray against this today.

STRANGE AND UNTIMELY DEATH

You should pray against any evil voice crying against you today.

PHYSICAL GRIP WHILE YOU ARE SLEEPING

If you have ever felt that somebody was holding you down when you were sleeping and by the time you woke up, you did not see anybody, you need to pray against family idols.

One sister shared the following experience with us: She said immediately she entered her bedroom, somebody began to beat her but she couldn't see who was beating her. She was so beaten up that she was admitted to a hospital. If you have experienced such a physical attack, prepare yourself for battle now.

EVIL NAME SUMMON

If you have ever heard your name being called, but you did not know who called you, your God shall arise today and these powers shall scatter, in the name of Jesus.

DESTINY DEMOTION

If you find that you cannot get to where you are supposed to be. This is a symptom of idolatry.

SCRATCHES ON THE BODY

When you wake up in the morning and find scratches on your body, you need to pray. If you have family members who hate the gospel and they don't want to listen to the word of God, it is the influence of family idols. Perhaps you notice that you are very talented but unprogressive, you should pray against family idols today.

UNEXPLAINABLE LOSS OF PROPERTY

If you are gradually losing your possession mysteriously, you should pray against them.

ROUGH AND TURBULENT MARRIAGES COBWEB COVERING

If you notice spiritual and physical cobweb blocking your way, it is an evidence that you need to pray against your family idols. Perhaps, even as you are reading this book, you have undergone several surgical operations and doctors are still telling you that you need more, it is a sign that you need to pray against these evil family idols. If you notice that people in your family die before their time, or you notice a constant evil pattern, it is a sign that you need to cry against these evil family idols.

WAY OUT

➤ **Repent of all your sins and the sins of your forefathers.**

- **Find out the names of the Idols of your father's house** - If you know their names, mention them specifically, but if you don't know them, you can pray generally against them. It is good to do a research and find out.
- **Use the blood of Jesus to break their evil covenant** - This is because they operate by forming covenants.
- **Carry out spiritual warfare against the evil idols** - Bind and cast out the spirits behind them and deliver yourself.
- **Do prophetic praying to replace whatever they have destroyed.**

The Bible has terrible words for families or lives that practise idolatry. From one generation that is worshipping idols, the punishment goes up to four generations. If before the four generations expire, there is another idol worshipper within them, another four generations are added.

If you are a careful Bible reader, you will find that 90% of the time God got angry in the Scripture was because of idolatry; when people put Him on one side and were doing their own thing.

There is a village in this country, where at a time, each family must donate a woman to the idol and the woman would never be allowed to marry, although she would be allowed to have children, she is regarded as the idol's wife.

One particular year, the idol made a holy mistake and picked somebody who was a born again child of God living in Lagos. The whole village mounted pressure on the family of the sister to bring her back home since it was their family's turn to supply a wife to the idol. They came to Lagos and refused to go back if the sister would not accompany them. When the sister heard what they said, she embarked on three days dry fast, after which she went with them.

They dropped her load beside the shrine, pushed her inside the shrine and said, "O idol, we have brought your wife, let the plant grow, let rain fall, let there be peace ... " The sister stood, looked at the idol and pointed a finger at it and said, "Let the fire of God come down upon you, in the name

of Jesus." She had not finished speaking, when thunder struck and the idol was broken into seven pieces. She now ran back to those who brought her and said, "Come, the person you wanted me to marry has broken into pieces o." They came, saw the broken idol and ran away. The sister pursued them, still they ran and said, "No, no, you are now the idol."

If this sister had not known her right as a child of God, she would have been married to that idol for life. That is why it is said that ignorance is a disaster. Get ready and pray now.

PRAYER POINTS

1. I cover myself with the blood of Jesus.
2. I stand against, any power already assembled against this prayer.
3. Every strange fire, prepared by family idols. diel in the name of Jesus.
4. Let every shrine, containing my name be wasted. in the name of Jesus.
5. Every evil connection, with any dead relative, break! in the name of Jesus.
6. Here I am today, a Lord, You will not pass me by, in the name of Jesus.
7. My life, wake up, arise and shine! in the name of Jesus.
8. The Pharaoh in my family line, I bury you in the Red Sea, in the name of Jesus.
9. Every power of the idols of my father's house, die! in the name of Jesus.
10. Every family idol, that is crying against my destiny, die! in the name of Jesus.
11. Every satanic alarm, revealing my breakthroughs to the enemy, roast! in the name of Jesus.
12. Thunder power of God, arise, fight for me! in the name of Jesus.
13. Serpent and scorpion poison, come out now! in Jesus' name.
14. Every seed of idolatry, in my foundation, diet in Jesus' name.

15. The voice of my family idol, will not prevail over my destiny, in the name of Jesus.
16. Every altar of failure, I tear you down, in the name of Jesus.
17. Every grip of the evil consequences of the ancestral worship of my forefathers' god over my life and ministry, break by fire! in the name of Jesus.
18. Every covenant with water spirits, desert spirits, witchcraft spirits, spirits in evil sacred trees, spirits inside/under sacred rocks/hills, family gods, evil family guardian spirits, family/village serpentine spirits, masquerade spirits, inherited spirit husbands/wives, be broken by the blood of Jesus.
19. Every unconscious evil soul-tie and covenant with the spirits of my dead grandfather, grandmother, occult uncles, aunties, custodians of family gods/oracles/shrines, be broken by the blood of Jesus.
20. Every decision, vow or promise made by my forefathers contrary to my divine destiny, loose your hold by fire! in Jesus' name.
21. Every legal ground, that ancestral/guardian spirits have in my life, be destroyed! by the blood of Jesus.
22. Every generational curse of God, resulting from the sin of idolatry of my forefathers, loose your hold! in the name of Jesus.
23. Every ancestral evil altar, conspiring against me, be dashed against the Rock of Ages, in the name of Jesus.
24. Every evil ancestral placental manipulation of my life, be reversed! In the name of Jesus.
25. Every ancestral life patterns, designed for me through vows, promises and covenants, be reversed! in the name of Jesus.
26. Every hold of any sacrifice, ever offered in my family or on my behalf, I break your power over my life, in the name of Jesus.
27. Any ancestral bloodshed of animals, or human beings affecting me, loose your hold! by the blood of Jesus.
28. Any curse, placed on my ancestral line, by anybody who was cheated, maltreated, or at the point of death, break now! in Jesus' name.

29. Every garment of ancestral infirmity, disease, sickness, untimely death, poverty, disfavour, dishonour, shame and failure at the edge of miracles, passed down to my generation, be roasted by fire, in the name of Jesus.
30. Every evil ancestral river, flowing down to my generation, I cut you off, in the name of Jesus.
31. Every evil ancestral habit and weakness of moral failures) manifesting in my life, loose your grip and release me now! in Jesus' name.
32. Any power, from my family background, seeking to make a shipwreck of my life and ministry, be destroyed by the fire of God, in the name of Jesus.
33. Every rage and rampage of ancestral and family spirits, resulting from my being born again, be quenched by the liquid fire of God, in the name of Jesus.
34. Any ancestral power, frustrating any area of my life in order to discourage me from following Christ, receive multiple destruction, in the name of Jesus.
35. Every ancestral chain of Slavery, binding my people from prospering in life, you are broken in my life by the hammer of God, in the name of Jesus.
36. The height nobody has attained in my generation, I will reach it, in the name of Jesus.
37. I recover, every good thing stolen by ancestral spirits from my forefathers, my immediate family and myself, in Jesus' name.
38. Every ancestral embargo, be lifted; and let good things begin to break forth in my life and in my family, in the name of Jesus.
39. God Almighty, as You broke dagon into pieces, break my family idol into pieces, in the name of Jesus.
40. Bless God for His answers to your prayer.

Chapter Five

THE DEDICATION THAT SPEAKS AGAINST YOU

Idols generally hold on to their devotees. Whenever somebody is dedicated to an idol, it will ensure that as long as the person lives, he will live under its domination. Parents are generally ignorant of the consequences of dedicating a child to an idol, but the idols are well informed on the far-reaching effects of this. Our ignorance notwithstanding, the idol makes sure that the terms of the dedication are kept to the letter.

Let me tell you a true story to support this point. A woman did not know the implications of dedicating her three children to some local idols until she was shocked by a strange event. The woman ran to the church confused and bewildered to tell me the story. She had three children who were studying in three different universities abroad.

Two of the children were deported to Nigeria on the same day, while the third child suddenly felt a strange pull towards home. A voice told him: "Stop whatever you are doing, buy a ticket and travel to Nigeria." The urge was so strong that he boarded an aircraft without knowing the reason behind the sudden trip.

Strangely, he arrived home on the same day as his two deported brothers. The mother felt like committing suicide, in the midst of that condition, she rushed to the church and found her way to the counselling room. It was there she discovered that her three children had been married spiritually to family spirit wives.

Unknown to the three men, the day they came home was the date of their spiritual marriage. They had no idea whatsoever that while they were young, their mother dedicated them for marriage to some local idols. Who would have thought that three men, who were studying abroad were tied to the apron strings of powerful spirit wives that were based in Nigeria?

Events that are similar to the one described above are taking place on regular basis in the lives of people all over the world. This message is of great concern to everyone. What we are considering will serve both preventive and curative purposes.

To understand how dedications speak against people, we need to take a deep look at the subject

UNDERSTANDING DEDICATION

What does the word dedication mean? Simply put, it means to devote something to the worship of a spirit or an idol. To dedicate means setting apart for a definite purpose. It also centres on prescribing or addressing as a complement to a person. It means to perform a ceremony of religious acceptance. It means to consecrate. It also means to ordain, induct or enshrine.

From this broad definition of the word, we learn a few lessons. When you say that someone is dedicated to an idol, it means quite a lot.

Divine principles have been in operation even before the creation of man. There is no place where principles are in operation in the entire universe as in heaven. If you have discovered anything on earth that is successful in every positive sense, you would have discovered that such a thing is procreated. Therefore, the principle of dedication did not originate from the devil or man, God is the originator and like most things which God originated, this particular principle has been hijacked by the devil.

There is an instructive passage in the Bible which tells us a lot about the full import of dedication: 1st Samuel 1:11;

"And she vowed a vow and said, O LORD of hosts, If thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head."

Here, Hannah dedicated Samuel in advance. At this point, Samuel was not yet conceived, yet he had been dedicated to God.

As soon as she made that dedication at the level of a vow, heaven's stamp came upon it. Are you also aware of the fact that parents also go to the house of fetish priests or shrines of powerful local idols to make similar vows? The same way Hannah's dedication of Samuel was binding on him is, exactly the same way dedications at evil altars have remained binding on many lives today. By virtue of the dedication, Samuel was a 'prisoner' of some sort. In fact, he was a prisoner of hope.

If your parents named you Samuel or dedicated you to God in anyway, you can never do whatever you like or go wherever you like the dedication will forever hang over your head. If your parents ever dedicated you to God, there is nothing you can do to run away from Him because it is an official dedication and it is sealed forever. If you call yourself Samuel and smoke cigarette, you are trying to dig your own grave. If you were dedicated like Samuel and you continue to live in fornication and adultery, you are in trouble.

If you are not going to be serious, don't ever take up a biblical name. You will end up courting trouble if you answer a good name and live a bad life.

Do you know what happened later? Samuel's mother fulfilled her vow: 1st Samuel 1:24-28;

"And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bullocks, and one ephah of flour, and a bottle of wine, and brought him unto the house of the LORD in Shiloh: and the child was young. And they slew a bullock, and brought the child to El. And she said, Oh my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD. For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my

petition which I asked of him: Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there."

The woman did not only make the promise, she also kept it. Samuel's dedication to God was a spiritual transaction. Samuel later grew up to become Israel's last judge. The act of dedicating him to the Lord by his mother had a great impact on his life. He became a judge and a priest. His children did not do very well but the fact that he was dedicated to the Lord by his mother made him to stand out from the whole lot.

Beside dedicating human beings unto the Lord, material things can also be dedicated to God or idols - 1st Chronicles 18:11;

"Them also king David dedicated unto the LORD, with the silver and the gold that he brought from all these nations; from Edom, and from Moab, and from the children of Ammon, and from the Philistines, and from Amalek."

David gathered a lot of materials and dedicated them unto the Lord One of the most important principles in the Scriptures is that whenever something is dedicated unto the Lord, He guards it with holy jealousy. An example in the Scripture is found in Daniel Chapter 5, God dealt decisively with someone who tried to mess up with what David had dedicated to Him- Daniel 5:6, 22-30;

"Then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another. And thou his son, O Belshazzar, hast not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this; But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified: Then was the part of the hand sent from him; and this writing was written. And this is the writing that was written, MENE, MENE. TEKEL, UPHARSIN. This is the interpretation of the thing: MENE; God

hath numbered thy kingdom, and finished it. TEKEL; Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. PERES; Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians. Then commanded Belshazzar, and they clothed Daniel with scarlet, and put a chain of gold about his neck, and made a proclamation concerning him, that he should be the third ruler in the kingdom. In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain."

King Belshazzar tried to debase what had been dedicated to God and he paid dearly for it; he died that same night.

Indeed, dedication can be very powerful. No wonder the Bible says in 2nd Timothy 1:12;

"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day"

The devil has mastered the principle of dedication and he continues to apply it against millions of people all over the world and as a result, a lot of people today do not understand what is going on in their lives.

Recently, a woman told me a story that is simply unbelievable. The woman came for counselling and prayer when I was in England on a preaching tour, she was so concerned about the plight of her children that she brought all of them into my counselling/prayer room. They were five beautiful daughters who were doing very well in their professions.

However, a common problem ran through their lives like an evil thread, the fact that they all lived in England did not grant them immunity from trouble. Three of them were medical doctors, one was to be a lawyer, while the fifth was working in a bank. The eldest was 41 years old.

Surprisingly, they were all single when their mother brought them to me. Of course, all of them desired to be married but suitors were not forthcoming. Whenever men surfaced, they did so with the purpose of reaping some material benefits from them and as soon as they got what they wanted, they took to their heels.

Their mother was bothered by this ugly trend and she told me to reverse the evil trend through prayers. After listening to this pathetic story, the Holy Spirit told me to ask her a particular question: "Madam, do you know anything about a waistband?" Without giving a thought to the question she said: "Nothing." When I put the question to her the second time, she gripped her head with her two hands and shouted: "Oh me! yes, I can remember now."

She continued: "I can remember now, there was a particular waist band in my husband's house, every woman who gave birth to a baby girl in that extended family was compelled to tie the waistband around her waist. Now I understand that the same thing has happened to all the wives that used the waistband." The woman remembered that all the daughters that were strapped to their mothers' backs with the waistband suffered the same fate: they were married to a spirit husband-her five daughters were dedicated to some local idols. They remained in that condition until the effect of the evil dedication was broken.

The enemy is sufficiently aware of the power of evil dedication and any negative dedication is closely monitored by him from the cradle to the grave. He leaves no stone unturned and pursues every act of dedication to its logical conclusion.

Many people have wondered why, they have continued to fight tough battles in life. A sister once had a dream wherein she saw herself putting on a crown. She was shocked seeing herself surrounded by a crowd who were bowing to her and so she reacted; "Why are you greeting me in that manner? I am sure you know that I'm just a young girl." However, the crowd's reply shocked her; "We must greet you with respect because you are the queen, there is a crown on your head." The sister was devastated, she did not know that she was dedicated to a local idol, but the fact that she was not aware did not cancel the evil dedication.

Deliverance is not as simple as it seems, sometimes it could be a complex process. For those who come from a background of evil dedication, it could be a very tedious process. Sometimes, deliverance can be likened to peeling off the skin of an onion. When you peel off a

particular layer, you come to the next layer and you keep peeling off layer upon layer until the whole onion is finished. For example, going through a deliverance session might open up another layer of problem. After achieving initial deliverance, evil dreams may surface.

Deliverance may therefore lead to the discovery of other problems that have remained hidden for along time.

FACTS ABOUT DEDICATION

- ✚ **You become the property of whatever you are dedicated to.**
- ✚ **It amounts to an outright sale** - To escape, you have to be bought back.

A song writer once celebrated the glory of redemption in these words. "Redemption oh! wonderful story?" Redemption means to buy back from the market of slavery. If someone has not been sold, you will not talk of buying the person back.

- ✚ **Whether the dedicator is dead or alive, the agreement remains binding.**
- ✚ **Changing a name during the process of dedication must be a spiritual transaction.**

For example, if you happen to bear a name that shows that you are dedicated to an idol or altar, you need to change such a name. Such a change should not be undertaken physically without undertaking a corresponding spiritual change. In our deliverance and other special programmes, we often create an opportunity for those who want to change their names.

- ✚ **A person is married to any power to which he or she is dedicated.**
- ✚ **The spiritual power behind the dedication ensures that the contract remains intact.**

- **A person acquires the nature of what he or she is dedicated to** - If you are dedicated to a particular idol, you will reflect the nature of that idol. For example, if you are named after Sango, the god of thunder, you will soon reflect its temper and anger.
- **Sex with a devotee of evil dedication converts you to a devotee** - When you sleep with a man or a lady dedicated to an idol, you will end up partaking in whatever he or she is dedicated to.
- **All dedications have a voice of authority** - They can speak for or against you.

For example, if a man who has been dedicated to a local idol goes to an embassy to obtain a visa, the authority of the idol will speak against such an effort. The fellow will be denied the visa simply because the powers want all their devotees to remain in the vicinity of the shrine. Many who have experienced failure at the edge of breakthroughs are only suffering as a result of negative voices emanating from evil dedications.

Have you observed that in most cultures in Asia and Africa, naming ceremonies are rooted in idolatry? What do you expect in life when as an infant, a dead rat was put in your mouth as a ritual during your naming ceremony? What do you expect when as an eight-day-old infant, alligator pepper was introduced into your life.

Unknown to you, you have been dedicated to a lot of idols. Have you also considered what happens during conferment of chieftaincy titles and coronations? Most of what is carried out are rooted in dedications to idols. Burial rites and ceremonies are also rooted in dedications to idols.

A woman once narrated her ordeal. As soon as she lost her husband, members of the husband's family came to confront her: "We want to find out if you are responsible for the death of your husband or not." They placed *kolanut* in the mouth of the dead husband, brought it out and asked her to take a bite. Initially she refused, but when members of her family put pressure on her, she succumbed and ate the *kolanut*.

They came up with another ritual test. They brought a cup of water collected from washing the husband's corpse and told her to drink it to prove her innocence. Can you ever imagine the far reaching consequences of such a practice?

Have you also considered the fact that dedications of buildings, offices, markets, etc, are rooted in idolatry? Have you also given any thought to the fact that trade unions and associations are rooted in idolatry? Therefore, if you or your parents have participated in one local ceremony or the other, then you must know that you have been dedicated to some local idols.

The Psalmist made a remarkable point concerning the power of evil dedication-Psalm 106:28;

"They joined themselves also unto Baal-pear, and ate, the sacrifices of the dead."

Terrible things follow evil dedication. Most of what is done in the name of tradition and culture like pouring of libation, making sacrifices to the dead and other forms of rituals are all evil dedications. Those who get involved in these practices go into voluntary bondage. Once you are dedicated to a particular power, a particular pattern of evil will result. Here lies the core of many stubborn African problems. Africa is one of the richest continents in terms of natural endowment, material and human resources as well as potentials.

Unfortunately, the continent has never benefited from these, good resources. We produce all kinds of raw materials, but other nations buy them from us, refine them and return to sell the refined products to us. Research records show that 54 percent of all the world's gold reserve can be found in Africa. Yet the price of gold is determined by developed Western nations. The evil dedication which we are involved in Africa, has resulted in backwardness. Our ancestors sold us out.

SYMPTOMS OF EVIL DEDICATION

When someone is dedicated to some evil powers, he would notice the following problems:

HIS SPIRITUAL GROWTH WILL BE STUNTED

No matter what efforts are made, spiritual growth will be minimal. When a person makes efforts towards spiritual growth, some powerful forces will complain bitterly, so he would remain stagnant spiritually.

HIS LIFE WILL ALWAYS ATTRACT SATANIC ATTACKS

Whenever someone is dedicated to powerful idols, his life would magnetise demonic attacks.

POVERTY

There are some terrible idols whose responsibility is to invoke poverty. The moment you are dedicated to that kind of idol, you become embarrassingly poor no matter what you do.

UNPARDONABLE ERRORS

Victims of evil dedication commit unpardonable errors. The following incident happened outside Nigeria; a 22-year-old man was jailed 45 years for' raping an 80-year-old woman. When I went to minister to this man in prison, I asked what pushed him into the dastardly act, he just said, "I really don't know, but something pushed me to do it." Can you imagine that by the time the young man is out of jail, he would be 67 years old? He would have ended up wasting his life.

SPIRITUAL CRASH

Those who are dedicated to evil altars, crash-land even when they attain great heights.

ACUTE MARITAL PROBLEMS

If someone who is dedicated to an idol gets married without breaking the covenants, such a person would experience marital distress. It is because of this that we have introduced some powerful deliverance prayers into our marriage ceremonies in Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries.

EARLY WIDOWHOOD

Evil dedication leads to disruptive life; products of evil dedication go into all forms of degradation.

UNTIMELY DEATH

When you come across a family that practises evil dedication, you will discover that untimely death is common. Such families bury one person or the other every year. Many who are dedicated to terrible idols have lost their lives prematurely. Several years ago, a woman discovered that her husband always went out of the house between 4a.m. -7a.m. daily.

So one day, she decided to trail him and to her surprise, she discovered that he was walking towards the sea. She hid somewhere in the bush to watch what he was going to do. Surprisingly, a beautiful, light-skinned lady came out of the sea and talked with him and this encounter lasted for some hours. Then she went back home frightened but kept quiet. The man kept on going out at 4a.m. and one day, he did not return home and his corpse was found at the beach. Those who are dedicated to evil idols are generally obedient to evil voices.

For example, someone who is dedicated to an idol and is studying overseas may suddenly hear a voice telling him to come back to his village, and he would not be able to resist such an evil urge.

**HE WOULD ALWAYS HAVE DREAMS THAT BORNER ON
BACKWARDNESS AND LIMITATION; RISING HIGH AND
FALLING DEEP**

OTHER MINOR SIGNS

Beside these 12 major signs, there are other minor signs. Many of us have underestimated the type of evil that is inherent in evil dedication. Many who participate in communal festivals are victims of evil dedication. Also, the annual visit to the village in December is a consequence of demonic bondage. Tribal marks, tattoos and other ritual marks are avenues for evil dedication.

Those who are marked in that manner become properties of evil spirits. The incisions that are made on the head and other parts of the body form part of evil dedication. Many who avoid eating certain foods are victims of evil dedication. If some marks were made on your body when you were very young, some powers will exercise authority over you.

EVERY NAME THAT IS DEDICATED TO LOCAL IDOLS

If your name is dedicated to a particular location, your life will be dominated by the spirit of that location. For example, if your street or community is named after an idol, you will live under the domination of that idol. There are people who consider certain food items as taboos, such people are under the control of idols.

STEPS TO SOLUTION

What steps must you take to experience freedom from the influence of dedication to idols? You need to take three or five steps:

- **Sincere repentance.**
- **Thorough examination of your background** - Undertake a research into the circumstances that led to the death of your ancestors. Have you found an evil pattern in your family line? Are there some particular problems which have remained prevalent in your family? Carry out a thorough investigation.
- **Personally identify any dedication that might be working against your life** - Prayerfully cancel the effects of this evil dedication.
- **Prayerfully rectify your foundation** - If you continue to live under the influence of an evil foundation, your life will remain problematic. If your spouse happens to come from a foundation of evil dedication, your marriage will continue to be turbulent.

PRAYER POINT

1. My Father, I need help. Arise, help me! In the name of Jesus.
2. Thou power of evil dedication, speaking against my destiny, die! in the name of Jesus.
3. Any power, pretending to be my parents in the kingdom of darkness, die! in the name of Jesus.
4. Foundational dedication, in my family line, speaking failure into my destiny, die! in the name of Jesus.
5. Every unconscious evil dedication, die! by the blood of Jesus.
6. Every yoke of evil dedication, break! in the name of Jesus.
7. I dedicate my life and everything that is mine to the King of kings and the Lord of Lords, in the name of Jesus.

Chapter Six

DELIVER YOUR FAMILY FROM EVIL TRADERS

These are perilous times for the family. The enemy has changed his gear to number five to deal with any family with a colourful destiny. More than at any other time in history, Christian families are under the attack of the enemy. As a result, marriages are being destroyed at a rate faster than man could comprehend; divorce is climbing at an alarming rate and to worsen the situation, there is an epidemic of delinquent children all over the place. There is a violent attack from the bottom of hell fire against families.

A man of God entered an aircraft and as he settled down, he found that the fellow sitting close to him was praying hard. Although he couldn't hear what the man was saying, he could see that it was a very serious prayer and he was impressed. The man went on with the prayer for about 30 minutes. The man of God waited for him to finish and then said, "Hello, how are you? You must be a Christian. What were you praying about." To the amazement of the man of God, the fellow shouted at him: "I'm not a Christian! I've only been praying against Christian families."

You and I should therefore know that there is a violent attack against families now, especially Christian families.

Sometime ago, I read an advert about slave trade on the page of a book: "This is John Henry, handsome, strong, able to iron clothes at a fast rate, very obedient, he's on sale for \$1." Likewise today, a lot of families are being advertised for sale by evil traders: "Wonderful families, colourful destiny, on sale." Who are these traders?

In the Book of Nahum 3:4we read;

"Because of the multitude of the whoredoms of the well favoured harlot, the mistress of witch crafts, that selleth nations through her whoredoms, and families through her witchcrafts."

The traders therefore are witchcraft powers. They sell families and nations, but I thank God for what is written in Psalm 68:18;

"Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them."

This means that God has imprisoned the prison warder. I pray that every family captivity shall be broken, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Bible tells us in Isaiah 52:3;

"For thus saith the LORD, Ye have sold yourself for nought; and ye shall be redeemed without money."

The verse above contains the promise of the Lord. This is a very dangerous period for the family. Many families have become victim of witchcraft traders and witchcraft robbers. As a matter of fact, and to be quite honest with you, while many families are being advertised for sale, many have already been sold. There are different kinds of satanic markets for family auction, and this is very sad.

Recently, I met a man whose father committed suicide, his grandfather committed suicide, his mother committed suicide, and his sister too committed suicide. His only surviving sister who was already over 40 years killed her husband and was consequently jailed 60 years. This man was consequently charged with the responsibility of looking after her children. This burden again steadily led the young man to contemplate committing suicide. When his wife was called to say what she could do to prevent the man from committing suicide like the Other members of his family, her statement did not help matters. Obviously, this was a family in bondage.

There are different kinds of markets for family trading. There are selective markets, individual markets, collective markets, there is a poverty market and there is the breadwinners' market; where the brightest star is picked out for elimination. Also, there is the market for the first-born. A lot of first-born children are struggling with what they don't understand. In addition, when you get married without Christ, you become a legal target for the evil spirits around the person you marry.

The time has come to raise a cry against the Pharaohs of family destruction. Unfortunately for Africa, the enemy has also vomited polygamy into our lives and this has given us what is called, polygamous witchcraft. More than any other spirit, this one has destroyed so many potentials in Africa. For instance, a man married seven wives, six of which were witches. All the six witches descended on the only one who was not a witch and were bent on making a mince-meat of her children.

The time has come to harass all the family prison warders. Perhaps you come from a family where all the men committed suicide, or where all the men are poor, or where nobody has been able to complete any building and those who tried to do so died, Or where the men are fed by their wives- you must know that these families are sold already. Evil traders may be on the throne of your marriage now, so you need to cry out to the Lord that your family must be released from their hands. In fact, the first person to issue that kind of cry in the Bible was God himself when He told Pharaoh *"Let my people go!"*

In my counselling sessions, I have seen several terrible things. Sometime ago, a father and his son came for counselling and the son told me that his father needed deliverance and repentance. I asked what his father had done and he said, "He is sleeping with my sister." I felt like taking a big stick and hitting the man on his head, but another shocker was in store for me.

When it was the turn of the father to talk, he too accused the son of sleeping with his sister. Which meant that both father and son were sleeping with the same person. That family had been sold, though they know it not.

The other time, I prayed with somebody whose family lost eleven people within one month. Sometime ago also, somebody brought to me for

counselling, a thirteen year old girl who was impregnated by her father. When I met the man, he was not in any way repentant. In fact, despite our disgust, he looked at us straight in the eyes and said in pidgin English, "Na me born am, na me gif am belle. "So, pastor, wetin be ya problem?" That is, she is my daughter, I impregnated her, so what concerns the Pastor?

The family is the foundation of civilization. The family is a church within a church; it is a republic within a republic, a world within a world. It is the building block of society and civilization. It is the root and foundation of the church and the state. If things go right in the family, they go right everywhere. Conversely, if things go wrong there, they go wrong everywhere. It is like a book-the children are the pages and the parents are the cover.

The family is the school of human virtues. The concept of family didn't come from man; it came from God. Therefore, there are diverse wicked spirits specifically ordered to pull down successful families. Unfortunately, none of us has a choice of the kind of family we would like to have been born into. I am sure that if some of us had a choice, we would have preferred to pick our parents from somewhere else.

I once met a man who expressed such a sentiment. He came for counselling wearing a three-piece suit and I could notice that there was something hidden under his suit. As he stepped into my presence, he said, "Dr. Olukoya, the only question I want you to answer is this: Is my mother a witch? All I need from you is, 'yes' or 'no'."

I asked him if I said yes, what was likely to happen. He said, "Well, I know what to do." At the end, he said, "if I had a choice, I would have preferred to have been born somewhere else."

Certainly you and I have no choice in this matter. All we can do is to pull down the stronghold that is caging our family. Please, pause here and answer these questions: Do you come from a family where when people start getting ahead, things would fall apart? Do you come from a family where you observe that you are falling into the sins of your parents-that is, mistakes made by your parents are being replicated by you, which confer on

you the unwholesome tag of, "like father like son", or "like mother like daughter"?

Have you noticed a trend in your mother's life that seems to be repeating itself in your own life? Or have you been noticing that those evil things your parents said about you are coming true? Do you come from a family where they are all liars or always colouring the truth? Do you come from a family where they don't mind to kill, steal, or destroy in order to get what they want? Do you come from a place where they are always misappropriating other people's sympathy? Or they are always irresponsible, or have stubborn, evil self-will? Do you come from a family where they always have skin disorders and are always crying?

Do you come from a family where there is always marital turbulence or a family that is hardly stable? Do you come from a family where the women usually have children at a very young age? Do you come from a family from which no one is willing to take a wife? Do you come from a polygamous family? Do you come from a family where adultery is prevalent? Do you come from a family where from the father to the son, everyone easily gets angry? Or is there a history of mental disorder or wasted childhood in your family.

Anyone from the above-mentioned families is already sold by witchcraft traders.

Do you come from a family where everyone is confused, or one where there is always bitterness? Have you noticed a trend in your family that people are always abandoned by their friends at their hour of need, or that anybody they do good to always repay them with evil? Or have you noticed a trend of financial failure in your family? Have you noticed hardship and poverty? Or have you noticed that all the male children always wish to belong to an occult society? Or have you noticed a trend of laziness in your family? You need to cry out to heaven now.

Do you come from a family, whose lot is always any or a combination of the following: depression, alcoholism, accident, memory failure, inexplicable health problem and premature death? You need to cry out against family traders.

Do you come from a family. where people always descend from the height of their glory, to the depth of doom? Do you come from a family, where the children are always rebellious; such that at any point in time, somebody from that family is always in prison? Do you come from a family where members engage in sexual perversion and addiction? Do you come from a family where generations keep inheriting poverty and things always fall apart for you. just at the last minute? Do you start projects and never finish them? Is there a particular type of illness killing members of your family from generation to generation?

While I was in England. I read an article about some ladies who when they noticed that their mothers died of breast cancer, went to cut off their own breasts even when they had not been diagnosed as having such an ailment Do you notice any ailment that goes from generation to generation in your family? Do you notice religious blindness in your family? Do you have in your family people with very high educational qualifications but who are still not doing well, or are wearing uniforms of menial jobs? Do you come from a family where all the members are vagabonds? If you come from any of these families, you need to cry out to the Lord.

STRATEGIES OF EVIL TRADERS

Witchcraft traders have strategies and when you are able to understand these strategies, you will know how to pray against their activities.

- ☛ **When they want to sell off a whole family, they lay a bad foundation for the marriage** - It is not only human beings or materials that need deliverance, once any marriage has a bad foundation, it needs deliverance.

For instance, if you engage in sex before marriage, or you married because of accidental pregnancy, or you married as a child when you did not know your right hand from your left hand, or you did blood covenant during your marriage, or you married as a result of a demonic prophecy, you have already laid a bad foundation which family traders are sure to use against you.

So, the first strategy of witchcraft traders is to lay a bad foundation for the marriage.

- **Number two strategy is to introduce a generational curse** - In this case: the enemy makes you to annoy a person who would issue a curse on you that would not be removed easily. Just as the enemy pushed Gehazi to annoy Elisha, who consequently issued a curse that went down Gehazi's generations.
- **The third strategy is evil dedication** - Most children were caged the day they were born. This affects them all through life and even their own children.
- **The fourth strategy the enemy uses is an evil covenant** - When a person names a child, "Orisabunml", meaning "the idol has given me this," the child is already dedicated to idols.
- **Strategy number five is bewitchment.**
- **Strategy number six is "a collective strong man," planted in the family to cage everybody.**

This strong man may be the kindest man around who cooks food for everyone to eat. People who we least suspect hide under the cover of darkness to perpetrate evil against us. Some of these people are very nice to us outwardly, but they may be the most wicked strong men in charge of the greatest problems in our lives.

- **Collective evil marks** -The enemy can put an evil mark on every member of the family. As soon as this mark is there, evil will begin to trail all the members of the family. Any family that has received collective evil marks will continue to experience negative development.
- **Family sins** - Some families are suffering as a result of the sin of their fore-fathers. Ancestral sins are used against many families today; satan keeps a register of all ancestral sins and uses them to lead many families into bondage.

- **Involvement in the occult** -Those who get involved in any type of occult activity and practise demonic rituals will experience marital turbulence. Any foothold of the occult in a family will create a standing place for witchcraft traders. The presence of a single member of the occult in your family is enough to create problems for the entire family. The family members would be grossly ignorant of what is going on and the whole family would be suffering as a result of the activities of wicked demons.
- **Spiritual marriage** -Just as there are physical marriages, there are spiritual marriages as well. Whenever a spouse is involved with a spirit husband/wife, his or her particular family will be experiencing demonic attacks. It is worse when a marriage is under the attack of family spirit husband/wife. Such a spirit will enter into forceful spiritual marriage with every member of the family, and everybody will be under an evil spell.
- **Poverty** - Poverty has thrown many families into disarray whenever it gains entrance; it subjects every member of the family to unhealthy oppression.
- **Placenta manipulation** - The problems of most families can be traced to placenta manipulation. When evil powers locate the placentas of members of a family, they use them to wage war against the entire family. This happens when the placentas are not properly disposed of. The placenta is a very powerful weapon that provides a very strong link with the owners. Once this link is established, there would be evil attacks against the family.
- **Destructive habits** - Some families have been sold into spiritual slavery, simply because some ancestors were involved in the slave trade. The enemy uses this to lead the families into bondage and to engineer all kinds of spiritual attacks against them.
- **The spirit of death and hell** - The devil uses this spirit to cause untimely death of adults and infants. You have to declare against premature death like this: "I will not die before my glory appears, in

Jesus' name," You must refuse any harassment by the spirit of death and hell.

HOW TO DEAL WITH EVIL TRADERS

- **Become a friend of the Almighty** - If there is any rift between you and God, settle it instantly. The Bible says that, "it is wonderful to enter into partnership with God. Peter allowed the Lord Jesus to use his boat and consequently, he experienced deliverance from poverty. Are you willing to hand over the boat of your life to the Lord Jesus?"

The Bible says that those who know their God shall be strong and shall do exploit. Are you willing to surrender the totality of your life to the Lord Jesus? Are you ready to dedicate your life to the service of God? Once you successfully align yourself with God, it will be suicidal for any power to venture attacking you.

- **Recognise that the power of witchcraft has been defeated by Jesus** - Of all the offences in the Bible, the only one for which God has issued a death sentence is witchcraft. My prayer for you is that, every power of witchcraft, working against your family shall die, in the name of Jesus.
- **Challenge all witchcraft traders** - The challenge must be well targeted. If you summon the wrong person to the court of the Almighty, he will not be convicted. It is unfortunate that most of the time, we are unable to track down the culprit and force them to face judgment before the spiritual court. The power that sells families is the power of witchcraft which you must challenge.
- **Bind the activities of witchcraft in your family** - Specifically address them and pray against them.
- **Recover your family through spiritual warfare.**
- **Make sure your household come to the saving knowledge of Christ** - If your children are not born again, if they hate the gospel, evil traders have captured them. Therefore you must pray until they are recovered.

Failure to do so is dangerous as the enemy may use them against you later. Anyone who is not born again in your family is a potential time bomb. Such a fellow is a danger waiting for time to manifest.

- ✦ **Protect your family against further attacks** - You need to pray prayers of immunity for the family. Let your prayer level usher protection into every department of your family.

However, if you are not sure of your salvation, you cannot win the war, against the enemy. You cannot defeat witchcraft traders if you are not thoroughly converted. You must give your life to Christ today. Quit the camp of the devil and come to the camp of the Almighty God.

My prayer for you is that, every root of successful curses upon your family would be uprooted, in the name of Jesus. I also decree that, every generational spirit that is troubling your family must depart today, in the name of Jesus. My final prayer for you is that, all evil spirits trading with your family will fail woefully, in the name of Jesus.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Evil cord of wickedness, sin or iniquity, blocking my communication with heaven and God, be cut off! in Jesus' name.
2. Every power, spirit or personality, listening to my prayers to report them to the demonic world, Father Lord, scatter them asunder! in the name of Jesus.
3. Let every authority of darkness, upon which their wealth and blessing are based, crumble suddenly in one day, in the name of Jesus.
4. Father, expose and destroy the workers of iniquity, in Jesus' name.
5. Father, in the name of Jesus, let the mystery and secret of my fulfilment be revealed.
6. Let the heaven open, and let the anointing speak, let my hidden blessings be revealed and released, in Jesus' name.

7. Forgive me O Lord, where I have judged others out of ignorance and pride, in the name of Jesus.
8. Remove O Lord, the penalty of judgment upon my life and calling, in the name of Jesus.
9. Let the heavens fight for me today, in Jesus' name.
10. Increase me O Lord, so Your name may be glorified, in the name of Jesus.
11. Any power, diverting the will of God out of my life, somersault and die! in Jesus' name.
12. O Lord arise, and let every poison in my life be arrested, in Jesus' name.
13. I declare the obituary; of all the opposition power. attacking my glory and calling, in Jesus' name.
14. Holy Spirit, activate the will of God in my life and calling, in the name of Jesus.
15. I decree that the will of my enemies against me to backfire, in the name of Jesus.
16. Every plot of the enemy, against me, be reversed! in Jesus' name.
17. I command the confidence of my enemies to dash into to pieces. in the name of Jesus.
18. Every spiritual manipulation against my glory and calling shall be a failure, in Jesus' name.
19. All those who live to destroy my personality. O Lord, destroy their personality, in the name of Jesus.
20. O Lord, vindicate my position in this city (school, ministry, company, country, etc), in Jesus' name.
21. O Lord, reveal to me what You have called me to be in life (in this ministry, school, company, city, country, etc), in Jesus' name.
22. Every strange god, assigned to attack my destiny, personality, glory, and calling, attack your sender! in Jesus' name.
23. Thou ark of God, pursue every dragon assigned against me, in Jesus' name.

24. Let the hosts of heave, pursue them that are raging against me, in Jesus' name.
25. Let the ark of God, come into my house today, to locate and fight the power of the opposition against me, in the name of Jesus.
26. Thou ark of God, wherever I have been accepted in the past and they are now refusing me, arise and fight for me, in Jesus' name.
27. Thou Lion of Judah, devour every opposition raging against me now, in Jesus' name.
28. Wherever they have rejected me, let my spirit man be accepted now, in Jesus' name.
29. I resist and refuse, he sale of my glory and calling for a pair of shoe or for silver, in the name of Jesus.
30. Wine of condemnation drunk against me, become poison for my enemies, in Jesus name.
31. O Lord, let the mighty among my enemies flee away from me naked, in Jesus' name.
32. Every power of darkness, that has arrested my ministry and calling, release me now! in the name of Jesus.
33. I am coming out of captivity, whether the devil likes it or not, in the name of the Lord Jesus.
34. Holy Ghost, arise and promote me, in the name of Jesus.
35. Every association of demons, co-operating with workers of iniquity from my father's house, be shattered unto desolation, in Jesus' name.
36. Vehicle of my destiny, be repaired and put back on the road, in the name of Jesus.
37. Holy Ghost arise, and send me divine help, in Jesus' name.
38. O Lord my God, pour blessings upon me now from Your reservoir of blessings and power, in Jesus's name.
39. Holy Ghost arise, and activate my ministry and calling, in Jesus' name.
40. All roadblocks and impediments to the fulfilment of my life and calling, be removed! in the name of Jesus.

41. Thou yoke of frustration, failure and unfulfilment over my life, be destroyed by fire! in the name of Jesus.
42. Thou siege of the wicked over my life, be lifted by the hand of God, in Jesus' name.

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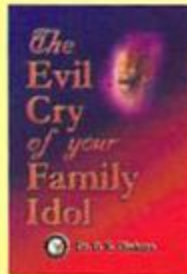
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About the Book



Idolatry is a satanic programme to control the land, family and people. It is an abomination. It is contending with and rebelling against God. It is spiritual prostitution. It is marriage with demons. It is anything you place before or beside God.

The moment your family history has a taint of idolatry, you become a candidate of the consequences of the cry of such idols. The terrible effect of foundational, ancestral and modern idolatry ranges from untimely death to unexplainable failures.

This book explains to you the strategies to defeat the power and consequences of idolatry

About BCCM, MFM Ministries and the Author

Dr. D. K. Olukoya, is the General Overseer of the Mountain of Fire and Miracle Ministries (MFM) and The Battle Cry Christian Ministries (BCCM). The Mountain of Fire and Miracle Ministries' Headquarters is the largest single Christian congregation in Africa with an attendance of over 120,000 at any Church services.

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 a spiritual insecticide and pre-requisite for heaven is openly taught. MFM is do-it-yourself gospel ministries, 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 Ph.D in molecular Genetics, from the University of reading, United Kingdom. As a researcher, he has over seventy scientific publication 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 Toluwal are living proofs that all power belong to God.

The Battle Cry Christian ministries is devoted to:

- (i) Teaching and disseminating information on Christian spiritual warfare.
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