



Dr. D. K. Olukoya

The **LORD**
is a
MAN of **WAR**

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CHAPTER ONE

THE LORD IS A MAN OF WAR

One of the most challenging attributes of the divine personality of God, can be found in the book of Exodus, chapter 15 verse 3.

The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is his name.

These brief words, highlight a divine attribute which has encouraged many saints, enliven many weary pilgrims, granted victory to many soldiers of Christ, strengthened the weak and made many people who were cringing in fear, to begin to raise their shoulders high as gallant and triumphant war generals.

The reason, why many people have lived as spineless weaklings, who always run away whenever there is little threat from the camp of the enemy, could be traced to their ignorance of God's power. Nobody, can truly know God as a man of war and fail to experience victory in life's battles. Christians, who are fighting against their enemies under the leadership of the Lord, who is a man of war, will always remain victorious. To enlist in a battle under the leadership of the Lord, who has never lost a battle, is to be sure of victory, even before going to the battlefield.

The Bible says:

As for our Redeemer, the Lord of hosts is his name. the Holy One of Israel. (Isaiah 47:4).

This passage shows us that, the Lord is our war commander. He is the one who leads us into battle. He is called the Lord of hosts. The word 'host' is synonymous with the army of the Lord. This is an eye opener. It shows

that the battle is not actually ours, but the Lord's. As the Lord of hosts, He leads us as the Captain of our salvation and the Leader of the army.

It becomes clear, therefore, that no matter what we may be going through, we are on the winning side. Storms may rage and enemies may set the battle in array against us, we are sure of victory. Our victory in battle, is determined by the status of our Commander-in-Chief. The one who leads us into battle is called "I AM THAT I AM, THE LORD OF HOSTS." That is why, we cannot experience defeat in the battle of life.

Bible students often discover that the Bible is a very violent book! It is a warfare manual! You cannot go too far in personal Bible studies without discovering that God is interesting in warfare. God does not just fight a war, He is a man of war. Nobody can go through the Scriptures without imbibing the spirit of a fighter. What you read will surely affect you.

There is a man in the Scriptures who refused to be intimidated by the enemy. His story is recorded in 1st Samuel 17:45.

Then said David to the Philistine. Thou comes to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied.

Here the Bible clearly states that God is involved in His people's warfare. He is not only at the centre of it, He is leading us against the foe.

Just-in case anyone is in doubt as regards the fact that God is a man of war, we are further given more insights in Psalm 24:7.

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

In this Messianic psalm, we come across a prophetic insight into the exaltation of the Lord. It is wonderful, when the Lord gives us glorious prophecies concerning what He intends to do among His people. It is interesting to go beyond the level of reading historical prophecies, and entering the realm of a practical prophecy which you can lay claim to.

I was quite encouraged recently, when the Lord gave us wonderful promises for members of the church who make up their mind to follow the Lord faithfully. The Lord told us specifically, that He is going to raise up, among us, men and women into positions of great authority. He specifically told us that He is going to make us one of the richest and the most powerful Christians on the face of the earth. The Lord has also promised to lift up many middle level people.

However, we have a lot of preparation to make, in order to make all these promises to become realities. If we are able to lay the necessary spiritual foundation, we shall experience the fulfillment of everything which God has promised. God does not make empty promises, He is capable of doing whatever He has said.

Our Lord is a righteous warrior. He is a man of war. He is skilful and expert warrior. He understands all the strategies and the policies of the enemy. Some enemies may harass a child of God for a very long time, but the moment God decides to arise on behalf of a child of God, the believer will end up being the person pleading with God to reduce the punishment which is being given to the enemy. When God decides to get involved with the battles of His children, it will spell disaster for the enemy.

God is a mighty and terrible warrior. God can use inanimate objects as weapons for terrifying and destroying the enemies. There is no limit, to what God can do in order to destroy the enemies who are attacking His people.

If need be, God can send heavenly creatures to fight against all stubborn enemies that are fighting against your life. I want you to close your eyes and handle this prayer point with aggression. Let every creation of God turn against every unrepentant adversary, in the name of Jesus.

Our Lord is a victorious and a prevailing warrior. The Bible says:

And he will lift up an ensign to the nations from far, and will hiss unto them from the end of the earth; and, behold, they shall come with speed swiftly; (Isa 5:26).

Here, we see a picture of a spiritual war general who is giving orders which must be obeyed.

Let us look at another passage in the Bible which reiterates the fact of the ability of God to issue out a command which must be obeyed by all.

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall hiss for the fly that is in the uttermost part of the rivers of Egypt, and for the bee that is in the land of Assyria (Isa.7:18).

What does this passage mean? It simply means that, when our war Commander gives a summon, all are ready to obey. Angels, dragons, animals, the sky, the depth of the sea, hailstones, snow, frogs, house flies, locusts, mosquitoes and other creatures, will rush to execute the divine command immediately God decides to fight. If a hiss from God make creatures from all parts of the world to rise up to obey God, how much more will take place should God decide to call for a full scale war? It also means that, if God should beckon with one finger, all celestial and terrestrial hosts are ready to fight. That is how great the power of God is.

I want you to close your eyes and take this prayer point: O Lord, let all celestial and terrestrial powers fight for me today, in the name of Jesus.

Our Lord is an incomparable warrior. The Bible says:

He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength: who hath hardened himself against him, and hath prospered? (Job. 9:4)

Nobody can harden his heart against the Lord and His people and prosper.

Our Lord is a warrior with influence and authority. Nobody can withstand Him whenever He sets Himself against something or someone. That person or object is in trouble. Riches, will not profit anyone in the day of God's anger. Money, cannot bribe God. He can strike a person dead within a split second. Many have been overcome by the Lord of hosts, but nobody has ever overcome Him.

He is the only One who can make one person to chase a thousand. He is also the One who can make two people to chase ten thousand. He is an experienced warrior who knows what to do at the right time. He knows the counsel of the ungodly even when they take counsel in their bedroom. He would always catch them in their craftiness. He laughs them to scorn. The Lord God is a man of war.

If the Lord decides to fire His arrow against the enemy, no one can escape. That is why the Bible says: "Behold, I give you power over serpents and scorpions and over all powers of the enemy and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

God can choose to make use of any weapon to fight His enemies. For example, in the Bible, He made use of only one angel to kill one hundred and eighty-five thousand people. That shows you how powerful the forces of the Lord of hosts are.

If God decides to embarrass the enemy. He would ask them to start fighting against themselves.

Indeed, the Lord is a man of war: He can decide to daze your enemies or He can simply decide to inject them with a strong "anaesthetic" just to clear them off the way. He can also decide to treat "them like Nebuchadnezzar by sending them on a compulsory exile into the forest, until they decide to acknowledge the supremacy of God. God can decide to keep them in some forests for seven years. God will only release them from the prison of experience, if they decide to repent.

God can decided to release His people by using any method. Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego came out of the fiery furnace, when God decided to rise up on their behalf. God may also decide to fight by using thunder or earthquake, by fire, by sending spiritual war or by sending confusion, darkness. God can use any method to defeat his enemies.

God can decide to fight His enemies by attacking them with the spirit of confusion. That was what He did when men tried to build the tower of Babel. They became so confused that one person asked for a brick, his colleague brought him water. Another asked for help and he got a slap. One

spoke words of kindness while his partner replied with a quarrel. One spoke one language while the other replied in a language which was not known to anybody. There was a total breakdown in communication.

What followed? Surprise, frustration, perplexity and confusion enveloped all of them. Their unity and accord broke done completely. They started as friends but ended as enemies. They started with unity and ended with disunity. They were excited at the beginning but they became disenchanted at the end. They had dreams of success at the beginning but they had ended with failure, permeating across their entire efforts. God was really against them. He used confusion as a weapon to destroy them. Their plan was totally defeated.

None of us should joke with our prayer. One prayer point, can cause confusion in the camp of the enemy. For example, if we pray demanding that the language of the enemy or their gathering should be scattered, we are sending a great arrow against them. If witches and wizards are holding a meeting against your life and you take up such a very powerful prayer point against them, all their plans will be scattered. They may even begin to fight against themselves.

What started as a conference against your life may end up becoming a great quarrel among the witches and the wizards. The devil may even become so angry with them that he will decide to punish them by demoting every one of them. That is why Elisha said those that be with us are more than those that be with them. Elisha was not worried at all but his assistant was somewhat worried. Elisha prayed that God should open the eyes of his servant. God opened his eyes and he also discovered that they were being protected by a powerful heavenly host.

When the people who were looking for him came, Elisha arrested all of them at the beginning. It appeared as if Elisha was alone without any ministering support. At the end, it became clear, that the invisible host of heaven, which was with them, was more than his enemy's army.

You must not under-rate the importance of any prayer points. For example, if you are told to take up any prayer point against the spirit of

stagnation, it means that you have already decided to move forward. However, if you decide to sleep when others are taking that prayer point aggressively, then, you have a serious problem.

If you allow worry and anxiety to take the spirit of prayer away from your heart, you will invite doubt and fear to come into your heart, you will not be able to pray. Similarly, if you are instructed to pray against tortoise and snail anointing and you decide to handle it lackadaisically, that shows that you really want to hold on to such a sluggish spirit.

The more aggressive you are in your prayer, the more you will experience God as a man of war, The Bible says: "They that know their God shall be strong and do exploits." This shows that doing exploits in warfare depends on how much of God, being a Man of war, you know in practically all terms.

That God is a man of war, is more than theory! When you go into the practical nitty-gritty of warfare, you will discover that the more aggressive and active you are on the battle field, the more you will see God, as a man of war, who fights all your battles without ever losing anyone. As long as you have God on your side, you will always be victorious in battle.

The Lord, who is a Man of war, will fight for you and grant you victory in all your battles, in Jesus' name.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Any power, that is fasting over my life, for me to remain where I am, receive open disgrace in the name of Jesus.
2. I press forward, by the power of the Holy Ghost in the name of Jesus.
3. Every pronouncement, to make me to take a back seat in life, fall down and die, in the name of Jesus,
4. No controversy, I am riding higher and higher, in the name of Jesus.
5. You demon of stagnation, come under my feet, in the name of Jesus
6. You spirit of delay of miracles, be destroyed by the blood of Jesus.

7. You spirit of failure of miracles operating in my life, be destroyed, by the blood of Jesus.
8. Let the resurrection power of my Lord Jesus, bring my miracles alive now, in the name of Jesus.
9. Blood of Jesus, activate my miracle, in the name of Jesus
10. I decree that, my miracles should become too hot for the enemy to handle right now, in the name of Jesus.
11. Every arrow of defeat against my success, go back to the sender, in the name of Jesus.
12. My success, be attached to my name permanently, in the name of Jesus.
13. Let the anointing of resurrection, fall upon my success, in the name of Jesus.
14. Let the vehicle of my success, be directed by the Holy Ghost, in the name of Jesus.
15. Let the cloud of failure, around my success, disappear, in the name of Jesus.
16. Everything, magnetizing bad helpers to my life, be destroyed by fire, in the name of Jesus.
17. Holy Spirit, expose and disgrace all unprofitable friends, assigned against my life, in the name of Jesus.
18. You my divine helpers, from the four corners of the earth, locate me now, in the name of Jesus.
19. Lord Jesus, assign angelic assistance to my life.
20. Anywhere the sole of my feet shall tread, I possess them in the name of Jesus.
21. Today, Oh Lord, deliver me from fruitless efforts in the name of Jesus.

22. Anti-prosperity arrows, rush out of my life, in the name of Jesus.
23. Today, Oh Lord, I reject all forms of abnormal and sub standard living and claim normal level of living, in the name of Jesus.
24. Today, Oh Lord, I bury my failure, in the name of Jesus.
25. Anointing to prosper physically, spiritually, financially, fall on me, in the name of Jesus.
26. I cut off, every spirit of double left leg in my life, in the name of Jesus.
27. Every foreign king, reigning on the throne of my life, be dethroned, in the name of Jesus.
28. Oh Lord, set fire upon the satanic garbage packed into my life, in the name of Jesus.
29. Put your name here.... go back to your normal position, in the name of Jesus.
30. Oh Lord, command a change to take place in my life in the name of Jesus.

As a prelude to the next five prayer points, I want you to make this positive confession of your faith. God is my strength and my power. He makes my way perfect. He sets me on my high places. He enlarges my path under me. He has lifted me up above nations. He has also lifted me up above those who rose up against me. For I must be above only and not beneath.

31. Every institutional strongman, sitting on my promotion, be unseated by fire, in the name of Jesus.
32. Let every human agent, delaying my promotion be removed and replaced, in the name of Jesus.
33. Every curse or prophecy of impossibility, issued against my promotion, be nullified by the blood of Jesus.

34. For every promotion which I have been denied, I receive double, in the name of Jesus.
35. Spiritual and physical promotion, hear the word of God, pursue me and overtake me in every area of my life, in the name of Jesus.
36. Let every power of household wickedness, sitting on my money, fall down and die, in the name of Jesus.
37. Let the resurrection power of the Lord Jesus, fall upon my account, in the name of Jesus.
38. Father Lord, let this programme be converted to testimonies in my life, in the name of Jesus.
39. Holy Spirit, take control of my money, in the name of Jesus.
40. Blood of Jesus, speak life unto my account now, in the name of Jesus.
41. Every evil angel, directing my life for evil, fall down and die, in the name of Jesus
42. You destiny manipulators, manipulating my destiny away from my glory, receive double frustration, in the name of Jesus.
43. Every evil designer, redesigning my life for failure, fall down and die, in the name of Jesus.
44. Whatsoever will remove my focus from Jesus and heaven, die, in the name of Jesus.
45. I refuse, to be what people think and say I am, I am what You want me to be, O Lord, in the name of Jesus.
46. Make this confession; I shall not be a stranger to dollars and pounds sterling, in Jesus' name.
47. Let every closed door of foreign benefits, open on their own accord, in the name of Jesus.
48. Father Lord, catapult me to where You have kept foreign benefits for me, in the name of Jesus.

49. I command, every evil embargo on my benefits to be lifted by the blood of Jesus.
50. Lord, bring back, every lost opportunity to travel abroad, in the name of Jesus.
51. I command the four corners of the earth to release my foreign benefits, in the name of Jesus.
52. I refuse, to come to the world in vain, in the name of Jesus.
53. Spirit of Methuselah, die in my life, in the name of Jesus.
54. I shall not be forgotten forever, in the name of Jesus.
55. The Lord will not regret creating me, in the name of Jesus.
56. Special announcement, *I shall make it*, in the name of Jesus.
57. Any man or woman, wickedly praying against my destiny, die wickedly, in the name of Jesus.
58. My life, you are not a candidate of satanic prophecy, in the name of Jesus.
59. Every curse of vagabond anointing, in my life, be broken by the blood of Jesus.
60. You altar of vagabond anointing, fashioned against my marriage, be destroyed by fire, in the name of Jesus.
61. Holy Ghost, anoint my feet for prosperity, in the name of Jesus.
62. Every demonic manipulation, of my God-given potential, be destroyed by fire, in the name of Jesus.
63. Every curse of unrest on my life, be nullified by the blood of Jesus.
64. I shall not build for another to inhabit. I shall not plant for another to eat. As the days of a tree, shall my days be and I shall enjoy my labour. I shall not labour in vain, in the name of Jesus.

65. Let every Laban, oppressing my life, fall down and die, in the name of Jesus.
66. I reject, every spirit of profitless handwork, in the name of Jesus.
67. Every cankerworm eating my profit, be destroyed by fire, in the name of Jesus.
68. I reject, every position of the tail, in the name of Jesus.
69. Let the anointing to prosper, envelope my life, in the name of Jesus.
70. Every power, behind unstable progress in my life, be exposed and disgraced, in the name of Jesus.
71. Every anchor of tortoise and snail anointing in my life, be broken into pieces, in the name of Jesus.
72. Every demonic stabilizer, regulating my progress, be roasted by fire, in the name of Jesus.
73. Let the wheel of my progress, be too hot for any demonic arrest, in the name of Jesus.
74. I shall arise, in the name of Jesus. I am unchallengeable, in the name of Jesus. I am incomparable, in the name of Jesus.

CHAPTER TWO

OUR GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE

God is an economist. His use of language and choice of words are apt, pungent and weighty. Whenever God speaks, He goes straight to the point. In fact, his words are not only well selected, but well thought out and powerful. They are words of truth and soberness.

There are many words in the Bible that act like a hammer on the human heart.. When you examine such words, you find that most of them are brief. Surprisingly, many of those words have continued to transform the lives of millions of people all through the ages. One of those verses forms our subject of consideration in this chapter.

The shortest verse in the book of Hebrews and incidentally one of the shortest verses in the scriptures reads.

For our God is a consuming fire (Heb. 12:29)

This verse introduce a subject which has been avoided by many religious people. A lot of people prefer to listen to sugar-coated messages. They prefer the sugar and the milk of the word of God. Such people are all ears, whenever they hear messages that pamper them. They are like little babies, who cannot sleep unless they are rocked to sleep with lullabies each night. They are also quick, to block their ears to subjects that are of eternal consequences. However, God cannot change His words. He says what He means and He means what He says.

God has a message for the end time church. The Bibles says: "***He that hath ears let him hear what the spirit is saying to the churches.***"

The last days, are a peculiar moment in church history. It is an era, when God will not tolerate any form of disobedience to His word.

We are living in an age when God has decided to distinguish between those who are sold out to Him and those who are joking with their Christian lives. The last revival, the outpouring of the anointing of the Holy Spirit, the unprecedented manifestation of the power and the glory of God, as well as the raw demonstration of God's miraculous power, will only be experienced by the true believer.

Hypocrites, liars, those who compromise, wolves in sheep's clothing and all those who constitute the mixed multitude have no place in God's kingdom.

One of the most important characteristic of the last days is the fact that God is going to visit this era and draw a clear line of demarcation between those who truly belong to him and those who do not belong to him. And that separation has already started.

No preacher, has any right to continue preaching, praying or leading any congregation once the divine presence of the Holy Spirit has departed from that congregation. The most important thing in the life of any church is the presence and the full manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

It is unfortunately, that a lot of congregations which have good organisation, popularity, money, beautiful structures, well-trained workers and staff and a network of branches at home and abroad are missing out on the most important thing as far as Christian worship is concerned: the presence of the Holy Spirit. Unknown to such churches, once the Holy Spirit has departed, the only record they have in heaven is: "Ichabod." The glory has departed.

Just as it is with the congregation, so it is with the individual believer who has lost the presence of the Holy Spirit, living an empty life. Such a believer may be popular, respected, highly esteemed and comfortable yet, in the eyes of the Almighty, he or she is filthy rag.

There are many scriptures in the Bible that describe the terrible nature of the anger of the Almighty. However, none can be more terrible than these terse and fearful words, "***For our God is a consuming fire***". In other words, God is a devouring, a consuming fire.

Therefore, if someone decides to be an enemy of the Almighty he is courting trouble. When the consuming fire of God comes upon a person, it destroys both the leaves, the branches, and the root of the tree of the person's life. Those who have attempted to dare God, have tasted what it means to experience God as a consuming fire.

Something happened in Lagos, Nigeria, many years ago, which made people to experience, in practical terms, what it means to see God as a consuming fire.

A man of God organised a crusade which was attended by a huge crowd. As the crusade progressed, the power of God came down mightily. God's presence was so palpable that participants could almost handle it in a tangible form. Somehow, a demonic agent was staying somewhere in his house and firing some demonic arrows against the crusade.

All of a sudden, a terrible thunderstorm struck. It was visible towards the direction of the preacher. In fact, it turned into literal fire and roasted the microphone which the man of God was using. The service was disrupted for a few minutes.

The man of God knew immediately, that the crusade was under an attack. He spoke out with anger in his voice "I want to tell everyone here that this crusade has been attacked by an agent of darkness. They are the ones who sent the thunder in order to disrupt this crusade. I want you to know that I am terribly angry and I want all of you to join me in attacking the satanic agents. I want all of you to rise up and stand on your feet. You shall join your voices with mine and send the thunder back to the sender".

A few minutes later, everything came back to normal. But that is not the end of the story. Towards the end of the crusade that night, some people rushed in a man, who was at the point of death, to the crusade ground. It was such a horrible sight, that I couldn't look at it twice. It is like putting a

human being inside hot oil. The whole of his skin peeled off. Words soon spread that the man who was brought to the crusade ground was the same man who had attempted to disrupt the programme.

It did not take him more than one minute, to start confessing what he had done to the man of God. He went ahead to decide for Christ as they ministered salvation to him. He gave his life to Christ. That was how he escaped God's consuming fire.

The Bible Says: "***For the Lord thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God***" (Deut. 4;24). This passage shows that God is not ready to compromise with evil. He will never tolerate anything that runs contrary to His glory in your life. God is quick, to manifest His attribute as a consuming fire whenever anything or anybody rises up to challenge the glory of God.

God is not prepared to share your life with anger, adultery, fornication, lying and hypocrisy. Whenever these things attempt to take the place of God in your life, God will come against you as a consuming fire.

God wants quality not quantity. If you have ever seen the gold dust, (gold in its original form) you would not want to touch it at all. But the same gold dust becomes beautiful to behold after it has passed through fire. The gold becomes pure after coming in contact with the refiner's fire. God will always take you through fire, because he wants quality not quantity.

Thirty-two thousand people signed up for Gideon's battle but only three hundred people were qualified. Jesus preached to multitudes during his earthly ministry, but only one hundred and twenty people were in the upper room. No matter what human beings try to do, God will never lower His standard for anyone.

Many of us will be shocked when we get to heaven. We might discover that, majority of the people who we give pass marks here on earth will fall woefully when God run them through His divine examination.

Most of the people who appear religious outwardly, are really not what they profess to be. It is saddening that, most people who had wonderful

encounters with God's words have ended up living a life that is below the divine standard.

A lot of people are familiar with the truth, but there is not single trace of the practical manifestation of the word of God in their lives. No doubt, the truth has been presented to them, but they have refused to retain it in their lives.

Nature abhors a vacuum. Once the truth is not found in your life, error will abound in it. A life that is not fully surrendered to God, will surely be surrendered to the devil. To refuse to serve God is to choose to serve the devil. You cannot be neutral.

Let us take a look at another passage in the scriptures.

Understand therefore this day, that the LORD thy God is he which goeth over before thee; as a consuming fire he shall destroy them, and he shall bring them down before thy face: so shalt thou drive them out, and destroy them quickly, as the LORD hath said unto thee (Deut.9:3).

This passage teaches us that, God operates in form of a consuming fire against His enemies and the enemies of His people. There are two camps: The camp of God and the camp of the devil. Nobody sits on the fence. No one is neutral. You are either on God's side or you are with the devil.

There is a spiritual law which all mankind are subject to. No one is exempted from it. Those who are on the side of God, enjoy God's favour, while those who are with the devil court His anger. That is why the Bible states, time and again, that everyone should make a choice.

If you are on the right side of the Almighty, the consuming fire works for you. On the other hand, if you are on the left hand side of the Almighty the consuming fire works against you. The Bible bears eloquent testimony to this fact in Deut. 32:22.

For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the

foundations of the mountains.

The consuming fire of God, must not be viewed with disdain by anyone. God's consuming fire burns terribly when His anger is kindled against any person or group of persons. This fact is further reiterated in Isaiah 10: 17-18.

And the light of Israel shall be for a fire, and his Holy One for a flame: and it shall burn and devour his thorns and his briers in one day; And shall consume the glory of his forest, and of his fruitful field, both soul and body: and they shall be as when a standard bearer fainteth.

The fact that God is patient, kind and merciful does not mean that God is not a consuming fire. Yes, God can show mercy, yet He can also manifest His nature as a consuming fire.

The Bible says: **"God is angry with the wicked everyday."** Anyone who wages war against believers is therefore, waging war against a consuming fire.

Once you are on the opposing camp, you stand to experience God's fiery judgement. If you are on the right hand side of God by virtue of the fact that you are part of his sheep, you will enjoy divine protection.

Anyone who fights against you, will experience the consuming fire of God.

Anyone who makes himself an enemy to you, will also become the enemy of the Almighty. God cannot stand any of his beloved children being attacked by members of the Satanic camp.

Saul was busy persecuting the believers. He went every where punishing the Christians. He felt that -nothing was going to happen as he buried himself with the persecution of the disciples on earth. Suddenly, God, the consuming fire, responded from heaven.

Saul was still busy arresting and killing Christians when he was suddenly dazed by a strange light from heaven. Then, he had a voice "**Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?**" That was, indeed, a strange question. It became clear to him that what he was doing against the Christians on earth was done against the Almighty. That is why the Bible says: "**If God be for who can be against us.**" Hence we discover that our enemies are God's enemies.

CHARACTERISTICS OF CONSUMING FIRE

If God is a consuming fire, we must seek to understand what the consuming fire is all about.

What then are the characteristics of the consuming fire?

- **It is a very fearful thing**

Men tremble whenever there is an outbreak of fire. Children scream and animals and birds of the air are troubled. Bright faces turn pale. Human beings run helter-skelter in confusion and the entire community is thrown into an uproar. Fire introduces fear into the entire environment.

In the same vein, when the consuming fire of the Almighty is released upon disobedient men and women it causes horror and panic. God's consuming fire introduces horror into the lives of its victims.

- **It sometimes break out suddenly**

An outbreak of fire, generally comes without a moment's notice. It erupts suddenly. Then everybody begins to run for their dear lives.

Although God is patient, yet He is not going to give anyone a notice before He comes up in His fiery anger. In the meantime, God has remained long suffering, not willing that anyone should perish. However, one of these days, He will arise suddenly and unleash His consuming fire upon the disobedient.

The consuming fire can come when none is thinking about it. God can come like a dreadful unexpected fire. Belshazzar was having a good time.

He was not expecting God's judgement. In fact, he had declared a week of expensive parties. He woke up one morning to discover that the 'hand of the Almighty had written a serious verdict against his life. **"Weighed and found wanting."** The consuming fire had been kindled against him.

He discovered that God's case has no appeal. When the wicked think that they are safe and secure, then fire comes from the Almighty to consume them. Where do you stand today? Are you in a situation where you are treading the edge of God's consuming fire?

Can you afford to continue to live a careless life? What will you do if God's hands of fire suddenly come to pass God's final verdict against your life?

It is possible that you have always escaped each time you sin against God. Maybe you have now concluded that you can do anything and get away with it. I pity you. One of these days the consuming fire will be released against your life. It will be so sudden, that you will not be able to escape. Friend, you cannot outsmart the Almighty. If you refuse to repent today, you may wake up tomorrow morning and find yourself in the depth of God's consuming fire.

- **It sometimes breaks out at night when men are asleep.**

The consuming fire of the Almighty generally comes up upon people when they think that all is well. People come face to face with the consuming fire when they are asleep. God strikes during their moment of ignorance and unbelief. Fire is poured upon them during their night of ease and complacency.

Most people who have been deceived by carnal security, have been jolted into action by the fire of God's judgement. A lot of people are laughing at children of God saying that, its only those who have problems that go to church. They even believe that they don't have any problem at all, when the devil is only deceiving them. The devil has given them some breathing space because he is incubating them, waiting for a time when their problems will be full blown. They believe that there is no danger and they fear no evil. All of a sudden fire comes upon them.

The inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah were asleep spiritually, and Lot warned them but they spurned him.

God's consuming fire came upon them and they were consumed. Noah warned his fellow companions but they decided to turn deaf ears to what he was saying. God came upon them in His fiery anger and they perished.

- **It destroys exceedingly**

It overthrows cities, burns down houses, destroys properties and reduces valuable goods to ashes. God's consuming fire is indeed very destructive. When God breaks forth in anger, it can result in terrible desolation. One of the worst scenes which I saw when I was a small child was the judgement of God on a false prophet.

What happened was that, the false prophet decided to commit sin with another man's wife not knowing that he was putting his hand into a fire that would destroy him. God's judgement came upon him and it became impossible to separate the prophet and the woman even after they had finished having an affair. The false prophet died along the line.

- **It spares nothing**

Fire consumes completely. Nothing can stand in its way. Fire will not spare the palace of a prince neither will it spare the hut of the poor peasant. It turns the glorious as well as the inglorious into dust and ashes. Once God's consuming fire is released upon anyone, the person would be burnt whether he hides in an exotic palace or in a dilapidated hut. It would burn cars, houses, human beings....everything.

- **It turns joy into sorrow**

Fire does not respect human beings or properties which constitutes a sort of joy to men and women. Once there is an outbreak of fire, the certificates that make people joyful, their cherished property, their loved ones and other things that make them joyful will become objects of sorrow.

I pity those who are rejoicing now. Their joy will soon be turned to sorrow when God's consuming fire comes upon their lives. Don't worry. God's

consuming fire will soon begin to operate upon all those who are ungodly. Once the consuming fire begins to contend with the ungodly, it turns their joy into mourning.

- **It lays waste and desolate within a very short time**

When fire descends upon a piece of wood, the wood becomes an agent of self destruction. But God's fire is much more destructive. It consumes both the material and the immaterial. It does not need any fuel to operate. God's consuming fire can take hold of a person, torment him and remove life out of him, within a very short time.

Physical fire, can be seen with the human eye but God's consuming fire is invisible. Fire fighters can attempt to quench physical fire but the divine fire is unquenchable. None can put a stop to it. All physical methods are ineffective. No human power can extinguish the fire of the Almighty. If God is a consuming fire, you will do yourself a world of good if you begin to find out how to escape His judgement.

If you fail to make amends now, the fire of God will come against you and there will be no stopping it. You must therefore find out if there is anything you are doing, that will invite the consuming fire of God into your life. Once the consuming fire of God is ignited against your life, there is no remedy.

THE SEVEN CLASSES OF PEOPLE FOR GOD'S CONSUMING FIRE

There are seven classes of people who will experiences God's consuming fire whether they like it or not. There are attitudes, actions, thoughts and behaviour that will invite the wrath of God upon their lives. The consuming fire of God is not meant for anyone who has anything to do with the Almighty. It is for none of God's children. To be precise, it is for God's enemies as well as your own enemies.

My prayer for you is that, you will never find yourself among the camp of the candidates for God's consuming fire. Here are the seven groups.

- **The fallen angels**

The fallen angels are awaiting God's judgement. One of these days He will be a consuming fire to them. There are lots of dark angels moving around the surface of the earth, causing all kinds of confusion, drinking blood, confusing nations and individuals and destroying lives of men and women. These dark angels cannot escape the consuming fire of the Almighty.

- **Evil Spirits**

Evil spirits are going to experience God as a consuming fire. God will release unquenchable fire upon them. They shall receive eternal destruction.

- **Ungodly men**

The Lord shall be a consuming fire to ungodly men and women. Those who have no interest in the glory of God and all those who are only interested in satisfying their carnal desires, will be thrown into the centre of God's consuming fire. All those whose preoccupation in life is to wallow in the lust of their uncleanness will also experience God as a consuming fire. Those who spend their lifetime drinking, smoking and living an ungodly life without giving any thought to repentance, will experience God's consuming fire.

Something terrible happened to a man recently, He stole a large sum of money thinking that he was going to spend the rest of his life spending the money, God's consuming fire caught up with him. He had stroke. His right hand first got paralyzed. That made it impossible for him to sign any cheque. The bank refused to release the money. The man died after a few days. He lost the entire money.

A lady is sent to school by her parents, but she decides to fool around with men. She contracts an incurable disease as a result of her ungodly life style. She comes to the church saying, "I believe that the Lord has healed me. The man of God gave a word of knowledge concerning someone who is suffering from an incurable disease. I believe that I am now healed. The AIDS virus must have disappeared from my body." Unknown to her, she is

only deceiving herself. Why can't she listen to the word of knowledge which tells her not to commit sin at all. That is a better word of knowledge to claim. That lady should repent. She should view AIDS as God's consuming fire.

- **Those who persecute Christians**

God will be a consuming fire to those who persecute Christians. You can fly an airplane and use it as a weapon for persecuting Christians. The moment God's consuming fire comes upon you, that plane will no longer work.

- **All hypocritical believers**

God shall be a consuming fire to all hypocrites. It is better not to come to the church at all than to come to church and decide to be a hypocrites. The Bible says: "The hope of the hypocrites shall perish." All hypocrites who place one leg in the world and another in the church shall experienced the consuming fire of God.

Unbelievers who decide not to repent

The Lord will be a consuming fire to all unrepentant unbelievers. This is also a serious warning to you. If you are a Christian and there are sins in your life which you have failed to repent of, you will also experience God as a consuming fire.

- **All backsliders**

Those who decide to backslide, will experience God as consuming fire. If you are not at the spot where God wants you to be, you are playing with fire. If you fail to do what God wants you to do, you stand the risk of experiencing God as a consuming fire.

One of the things that will make many pastors to cry on the last days, is to get to heaven and fail to find members of their churches there. If a pastor gets to the pearly gates of heaven expecting to see over one thousand people whom he has ministered to enter into heaven, but discovers that only three people are admitted into heaven, such a pastor will cry bitterly. He will

discover that he has wasted his life. How can a pastor minister to one thousand people only to find three of them in heaven? It shows that the majority of the people to whom he ministered were sinners and hypocrites.

One thing I know is that, if anyone, who attends the Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries, finds himself in hell at last, it will not be for lack of exposure to the truth. Such a person will get to hell as a result of personal choice or decision to go to hell in spite of what he or she has heard.

Beloved, time is running out. God has waited for long. He has given everyone of us a long rope, and by this an opportunity to change for the better. Unfortunately, men and women have taken God for granted, for too long. Some people are even wondering whether God is a consuming fire or not. I pity such people.

The time is short. Life is a one way street. There is no reverse. Your life on earth can be likened to the ink. The more you write with it the more it depletes. One of these days, the ink will soon finish. It can also be likened to a mechanical watch.

It works only when it is whined. The more it works the more the power given to it will soon expire. Perhaps, you started reading this book for quite sometime.

The time you have spent can never be recalled again. How will it be said that the gate of heaven is closed against thousands of people who come to church regularly.

No one can bribe God, neither will anyone bribe death. You must settle your account with God today. Don't be among the people with whom God is angry everyday.

How does God look at you? Are you one of the people God is preparing for his consuming fire?

It is very easy to resist the devil, but nobody can resist God's judgement. You can surely quench any fire which the enemy is igniting against your life but you can never quench God's consuming fire. It is quite easy to bind the

devil, but nobody can bind God when he-stands up to release His unquenchable fire upon ungodly men and women.

You must decide to take your Christian life seriously. You must arise out of your complacent posture. You must make up your mind never to toy with the judgement of the Almighty. Remember, God's consuming fire knows no favorite. If you do things that are worthy of fire, God will have no other option than to bring his consuming fire against you. God is a consuming fire. He is poised and prepared to release his fire upon all backsliders and sinners. And that can happen right now.

PRAYER POINT

O Lord, anoint me with fresh fire, in the name of Jesus.

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About BCCM, MFM Ministries and the Author

Dr. Daniel Kolawole Olukoya, is the General Overseer of the Battle Cry Christian Ministries, and Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries (MFM). The Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries' Headquarters in Lagos, Nigeria is the largest single Christian congregation in Africa with an attendance of over 120,000 in any single meeting.

MFM, is a full gospel ministry, devoted to the revival of Apostolic signs, Holy Ghost fireworks, miracles and the unlimited demonstration of the power of God, to deliver to the uttermost. Absolute holiness within and without, as the greatest spiritual insecticide, and a pre-requisite for heaven, is openly taught. MFM is a do it yourself gospel ministry, where your hands, are trained to wage war, and your fingers to do battle.

Dr. Olukoya, holds a first class honours degree in Microbiology, from the University of Lagos, Nigeria and a PhD in Molecular Genetics from the University of Reading, United Kingdom. As a researcher, he has over seventy scientific publications to his credit.

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

The Battle Cry Christian Ministries is devoted to:

- (a) Teaching and disseminating information on Christian spiritual warfare,
- (b) Making available, life-changing Christian articles and books, at affordable prices and (c) Preparing an army of aggressive prayer warriors and intercessors in this end-time.

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