



# THE WAY OF DIVINE ENCOUNTER

Power Principles  
to connect you to  
Spiritual Power

**DR. D. K. OLUKOYA**



# **The Way of Divine Encounter**

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BACKCOVER

# AN APPOINTMENT WITH GOD

An encounter with God produces a radical change that separates the past from the present and sets a new future ahead of man. If you want to experience God like people of old, there is a divine appointment you must keep. Isaiah saw the Lord and his ministry got a positive twist. When he saw God; he saw himself, he saw the people and he saw the mission ahead of him. You must see God.

**Isaiah 6:1-8:** In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. <sup>3</sup>And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. <sup>4</sup>And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. <sup>6</sup>Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: <sup>7</sup>And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. <sup>8</sup>Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.

If you see God once in your life, you will never remain the same again. You will never lack the opportunity to directly ask Him questions. You will hear direct answers from Him. At

that point, you won't bother yourself about the intermediary ministry of any prophet. You will hear what God would not pass across to you through any prophet. You see the visions God would not reveal to anybody, but you. You will know the secrets in exclusive reservations of God for you. You will see your true self in the light of His glory and the world in the mirror of His purity. You will see eternity in the hollow of his Hand. You must see God.

**Amos 4:11-12:** I have overthrown some of you, as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the burning: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD. <sup>12</sup>Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel.

God gives appointment to people. It is an awesome experience to keep appointment with God. In the text above, God fixed appointment for the children of Israel. He frankly told them to prepare to meet Him. The Almighty was contending with His people at this point in time. He had dealt with the first phase of judgements upon them according to verse twelve. He had overthrown and plucked them, but unfortunately for Israel, they were yet to return to their God.

## **PREPARE!**

If the judgement of God has hedged you in because of your transgressions. Your iniquities have offended the purity of the most Holy. If He has laid upon you only a few stripes of judgement and you refuse to repent and return to Him, I declare to you now that you should "prepare to meet thy God." If God fixes appointment for you in anger as He did for the children of Israel, you are in big trouble.

Men have met God under different conditions of appointment. I will give you some instances in the Bible of

men and women who had appointments with God. You can learn from their examples the kind of appointment you want God to fix for you. Sometimes, God fixes appointment in His sovereign will. At other times, men do things that deserve the kind of appointment He fixes. Look at examples below:

## **ZACCHAEUS**

Zacchaeus was a very short man. His ears were however opened to the ovation of Jesus, the good man, passing by. His past was a social stigma, being a chief among the publicans. However, he wanted to see Jesus. He forgot his past and set his heart to see Jesus. The surging crowd around the master was too much to make the execution of his mission easy. Such circumstances would not deter Zacchaeus. He quickly found an option in a tree he climbed. Taking advantage of the tree, he saw Jesus and the Lord saw him too. There and then, Jesus gave him an appointment and the meeting place was his house.

**Luke 19:1-6:** And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho. <sup>2</sup>And, behold, there was a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. <sup>3</sup>And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. <sup>4</sup>And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way. <sup>5</sup>And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house. <sup>6</sup>And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully.

## **A LIFE CHANGING ENCOUNTER**

Zacchaeus' encounter with Jesus was a kind of appointment that was provoked through his efforts and zeal



to see the Lord. Set your heart to see the Lord. Try to see the Lord. He knows those that are diligently seeking His face. Some fainthearted people give up services because ushers have not allowed them to see the pastor, prophet, counsellor or general overseer. You can see all the men of God in the world and your world of problems still remains. The day you see the Lord, the story changes. Through your dedication, zeal, efforts, set your heart to see the Lord and He will fix an appointment for you that you must keep.

The result of the divine appointment Zacchaeus was given was that salvation entered his house. You can seek the Lord and find Him. You must see God. Enough of trying to see men of God. Just try half the efforts to see God, your testimonies would be too much for you to share. Prepare to meet your God.

## **ELIJAH**

Elijah was a man whose emergence on the pages of the Bible genealogical history did not precede. The Bible just presents "Elijah the Tishbite" from the blues. This strange prophet ran one of the most outstanding ministries in the whole of the Bible. He confronted the king with the boldness of a lion. He delivered his messages with the gravity of a heaven-sent herald. He stood for God like a faithful bride. Miracles, signs and wonders were natural occurrences in his ministry. But there came a time this great hero of faith was discouraged and he opted for death as the most alternative. In the valley of despondency of this great warrior prophet, God moved towards him and fixed an appointment for Elijah to meet Him.

**1Kings 19:1-8:** And Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and withal how he had slain all the prophets with the sword. <sup>2</sup>Then Jezebel sent a messenger unto Elijah, saying, So let the gods do to me, and more also, if I make not thy life as the life of one of them by to morrow about this time.

<sup>3</sup>And when he saw that he arose, and went for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongeth to Judah, and left his servant there. <sup>4</sup>But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a juniper tree: and he requested for himself that he might die; and said, It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life; for I am not better than my fathers. <sup>5</sup>And as he lay and slept under a juniper tree, behold, then an angel touched him, and said unto him, Arise and eat. <sup>6</sup>And he looked, and, behold, there was a cake baken on the coals, and a cruse of water at his head. And he did eat and drink, and laid him down again. <sup>7</sup>And the angel of the LORD came again the second time, and touched him, and said, Arise and eat; because the journey is too great for thee. <sup>8</sup>And he arose, and did eat and drink, and went in the strength of that meat forty days and forty nights unto Horeb the mount of God.

## **A REFRESHING EXPERIENCE**

You can't keep at the work of God forever. You need to meet God again. I agree you must have met Him before accepting His work. Having gone this far with miracles, signs and wonders in your ministry, volumes of messages you have preached, great records of conquests you have made for God, don't ever feel there is no need for you to meet your God anymore. Jezebel stood against Elijah where over four hundred false prophets, kings and other authorities shivered and fainted. Against the back drop of Jezebel's threat in your ministry, God is saying to you, prepare to meet Me, thy God.

## **CHILDREN OF ISRAEL**

The children of Israel knew God through the intermediary role of Moses, the man of God. But God wanted something

more and deeper than that. God wanted a people that would serve Him in absolute godliness and total obedience in the days when there would be no Moses. He looked ahead and decided to fix an appointment for them. This time, Israel was to experience God in a raw manner. They needed to see beyond Moses to the God who sent him. In earthquakes, thunders, lightening and rushing clouds of thick darkness, God came down upon mount Sinai. His horror filled the world and fire erupted through the ignition of His holiness.

Every creature knew that the Creator was hosted on Mount Sinai. The green leaves slumped and animals were kept under strict prohibition. Any soul, if man or animal that went beyond a certain boundary would die at once. For the first time in the lives of the children of Israel, they heard God speak to them directly from heaven. They fell backward as the horror of that voice and the majesty of His presence became too much for mortals to stand.

At that point, God established their conviction in an invisible God who does not have the form or likeness of anything the mind could imagine. That appointment was to fix their obedience steady and their loyalty undivided.

**Exodus 19:10-20:** And the LORD said unto Moses, Go unto the people, and sanctify them to day and to morrow, and let them wash their clothes, <sup>11</sup>And be ready against the third day: for the third day the LORD will come down in the sight of all the people upon mount Sinai. <sup>12</sup>And thou shalt set bounds unto the people round about, saying. Take heed to yourselves, that ye go not up into the mount, or touch the border of it whosoever toucheth the mount shall be surely put to death: <sup>13</sup>There shall not an hand touch it, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether it be beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount. <sup>14</sup>And Moses went down from the mount unto the people, and sanctified the people;

and they washed their clothes. <sup>15</sup>And he said unto the people, Be ready against the third day: come not at your wives. <sup>16</sup>And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled. <sup>17</sup>And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. <sup>18</sup>And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly. <sup>19</sup>And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder. Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice. <sup>20</sup>And the LORD came down upon mount Sinai, on the top of the mount: and the LORD called Moses up to the top of the mount; and Moses went up.

Until you see God beyond the person, calling, grace and ministry of your pastor, you haven't seen anything yet! If the size of your God is determined by the size of your pastor, you are the most miserable person. There are encounters you have with God and the dread and holy awe of God that envelopes you would permanently forbid you from sinning. Prepare to meet thy God. There is an appointment with God you must keep.

## **SEVENTY ELDERS**

The seventy elders were in a sphere much closer to the parlour of God than the rest children of Israel. Moses had all the experiences of always meeting God. In a short while, he would walk up to a place of God's appointment and disappear into a cloud upon which God rode down to the earth to meet him.

There came a time, God made up His mind to let the seventy elders see Him. Moses came to them with the words of encouragement. Above all, he read before them a letter of appointment God sent to them all. As usual, God chose a place for the appointment. They began to prepare to meet their God. After the preparation which went in the purification of the Jews according to the provisions of the ceremonial laws, the next moment at the place of the appointment, they saw God!

**Exodus 24:1,5,8-11:** And he said unto Moses, Come up unto the LORD, thou, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel; and worship ye afar off. . . . And he sent young men of the children of Israel, which offered burnt offerings, and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen unto the LORD. . . . And Moses took the blood, and sprinkled it on the people, and said, Behold the blood of the covenant, which the LORD hath made with you concerning all these words. <sup>9</sup>Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel: <sup>10</sup>And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness. <sup>11</sup>And upon the nobles of the children of Israel he laid not his hand: also they saw God, and did eat and drink.

You have served God too long without ever seeing Him. Prepare to meet your God. You have kept His word, done His will, lived in obedience and faithfully carried out your assignment. I challenge you to prepare to meet your God. There is a divine appointment waiting for you. It is enough of hearing Him with the ears. Like Job, you should be able to now say "my eyes behold thee."

**Job 42:5:** I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.

## **KORAH, DATHAN & ABIRAM**

This is a kind of meeting any wise soul should try to avoid. God fixed the appointment through, but it is not the type to be desired to keep. The men that kept that appointment went down into the ground alive, along with all the members of their families.

**Numbers 16:1-3,5,20,26-33:** Now Korah, the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On, the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men: <sup>2</sup>And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown: <sup>3</sup>And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD? . . . And he spake unto Korah and unto all his company, saying, Even to morrow the LORD will shew who are his, and who is holy; and will cause him to come near unto him: even him whom he hath chosen will he cause to come near unto him. . . And the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Aaron, saying, . . . And he spake unto the congregation, saying, Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins. <sup>27</sup>So they gat up from the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, on every side: and Dathan and Abiram came out, and stood in the door of their tents, and their wives, and their sons, and their little children. <sup>28</sup>And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind. <sup>29</sup>If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be visited after the visitation of all men; then the LORD hath

not sent me. <sup>30</sup>But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD. <sup>31</sup>And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them: <sup>32</sup>And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods. <sup>33</sup>They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.

These men contended with Moses. They challenged his authority and laid claim of equality with Moses in God's resources. God saw their hearts that the challenge erupted from a jealous and carnal heart. He fixed appointment for these men. Unknown to them, it was an appointment to die the kind of death never recorded in human history. They came, stood and the earth swallowed them whole. Prepare to meet your God, but flee from the kind of appointment God gave to Korah, Dathan and Abiram.

Repent and retribute your ways before God and men. God will change the appointment to kill to an appointment to save. Prepare to meet your God.

## **CORNELIUS**

Cornelius had a record of righteousness to the best of his knowledge. He was steadfast in giving and doing good. God saw his heart and sent an angel to tell him to send for Peter. A day of appointment was fixed. The place God chose to meet this man was his house. Peter came, not knowing the details of the appointment with heaven, he began his long sermon. But the God of the appointments was already there.

Peter was just a moderator. He was already infringing on the time and schedule of God. While he still spoke, something happened.

**Acts 10:1-5:** There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, <sup>2</sup>A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God always, <sup>3</sup>He saw in a vision evidently about the ninth hour of the day an angel of God coming in to him, and saying unto him, Cornelius. <sup>4</sup>And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him. Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God. <sup>5</sup>And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter:....Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: <sup>35</sup>But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him. <sup>36</sup>The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:) <sup>37</sup>That word, I say, ye know, which was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached; <sup>38</sup>How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>And we are witnesses of all things which he did both in the land of the Jews, and in Jerusalem; whom they slew and hanged on a tree: <sup>40</sup>Him God raised up the third day, and shewed him openly: <sup>41</sup>Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of



quick and dead. <sup>43</sup>To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. <sup>44</sup>While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

Cornelius never heard about the Holy Ghost. Peter Began with some primary subjects on Christ, his death and resurrection. He might not have thought to cover Holy Ghost baptism that day. But when God fixes appointment, no man can predict what happens. The Holy Ghost fell upon them all. That appointment became another major entry phase of God into the world of the Gentiles. Prepare to meet your God. He will noise your name and glory abroad through only one encounter.

## **PAUL**

Paul's appointment with God was the type he never planned for. He did not expect it either. And to make it all the more amazing, God did not send any earlier invitation or notification to Saul, who became Paul. That day just came upon him unawares, yet it was a divine appointment. He met the Lord on that day and the whole of his world changed.

**Acts 9:1-8:** And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, <sup>2</sup>And desired of him letters to Damascus to the synagogues, that if he found any of this way, whether they were men or women, he might bring them bound unto Jerusalem. <sup>3</sup>And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: <sup>4</sup>And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? <sup>5</sup>And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against

the pricks. <sup>6</sup>And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do? <sup>7</sup>And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. <sup>8</sup>And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus.

His name changed from Saul to Paul. His mission changed from being a persecutor to becoming a preacher. He stopped being a killer to becoming the major propagator of the gospel that saves. He ceased binding men and women who knew God before him to becoming a man binding demons and powers of darkness. If you ever desire any appointment with God, this is one type you must seek to keep. Prepare to meet your God.

## **DISCIPLES OF JESUS**

After the resurrection of the Lord, the disciples had an appointment to keep. They were to prepare to meet their resurrected Lord. The Lord chose a place where they would meet Him. Mary Magdalene was the world's first evangelist to noise the resurrection of the Lord to the world. There is a difference between the master during his earthly mission and the master after resurrection. This type of encounter will make you to see another aspect of Christ. Prepare to meet your God.

**Matthew 28:1-10:** In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre. <sup>2</sup>And, behold, there was a great earthquake: for the angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat upon it. <sup>3</sup>His countenance was

like lightning, and his raiment white as snow: <sup>4</sup>And for fear of him the keepers did shake, and became as dead men. <sup>5</sup>And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. <sup>6</sup>He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. <sup>7</sup>And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. <sup>8</sup>And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy; and did run to bring his disciples word. <sup>9</sup>And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him. <sup>10</sup>Then said Jesus unto them. Be not afraid: go tell my brethren that they go into Galilee, and there shall they see me.

## **MOSES**

Moses was not just learning how to hear from God. From the date of the first encounter at the burning bush, he started hearing God. He had series of divine encounters that opened new chapters in his relationship with God. But he was yet to keep an appointment with God where he could see God and has his face transformed once and forever. He set his heart towards this and he began to negotiate with God about it. After the bargain, God fixed a day and a place for him. Moses saw the back part of God and no soul could look on his face anymore.

Prepare to meet your God in an encounter that will transform even your physical appearance.

**Exodus 34:2:** And be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning unto mount Sinai, and present thyself there to me in the top of the mount. And the LORD descended in

the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. <sup>6</sup>And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed. The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, <sup>7</sup>Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth generation. <sup>8</sup>And Moses made haste, and bowed his head toward the earth, and worshipped.

## **THE PREPARATION**

There are lots more examples in the Bible. The few I have given you above have something in common. Preparation preceded most of the encounters men had with God. You must prepare to meet God. To prepare means to get ready, foresee problems, rehearse adequately ahead of time, vain for specific task and set a grand work of foundation. To prepare means to make suitable, equip and arm with necessary weapons. God Himself is a God of preparations. For this reason, you must prepare to meet the Lord your God.

You must prepare to let your Uzziah die so that you can see the Lord. Prepare to meet your God. Nature explains the great importance of preparation. Animals provide their foods against the raining season. A farmer prepares the soil for the season of planting. There is preparation to make before marriage takes place.

There is a time suitable for everything under heaven. But when it comes to the preparation to meet God, the Bible says " Now is the time." Tomorrow may be too late. You can't have a better time than this. You also need to know how to prepare to meet God. Not everything involved in some preparations to meet God is necessary. God would look at

some people who must have prepared in their own way to appear before him and repeat His words below:

**Isaiah 1:12:** When ye come to appear before me, who hath required this at your hand, to tread my courts?

## **PREPARED FOR HEAVEN?**

You need to know what the preparation to meet God entails. It is sad to note that over ninety percent of those that throng churches on Sundays are not prepared to meet God in heaven. They are just not prepared for heaven. Many pastors are not prepared for heaven. From the way you live your life, you can tell whether you are preparing for heaven or hell.

There was a slave who watched his master die. The first mourner arrived and in his tears, he began to say that the man has gone to heaven. But the slave said that he wasn't sure if he's gone to heaven. The amazed mourner asked why he said so. The slave answered and said that his master never made any journey for which he didn't prepare except the journey to the great beyond on the day he died. The mourner queried "did you see his heart?" "Hold on", the slave replied and hurried to bring out a bottle of alcohol from under the bed of the deceased. With a life just concluded with alcohol, the slave insisted that his master never could have gone to heaven.

## **IMMINENT PURGING**

Many things are wrong with the household of faith today. Many preach on the pulpit every Sunday who should rather be involved in anything but preaching. The pulpit has been compromised, and the pew stinks. I trust God that in a few years to come, there shall be serious purging in the church such that some so-called preachers will just drop dead, right on the pulpit. The fire of God is set to visit the pulpits.

A couple came to me sometime ago. The man was a pastor under the leadership of a senior pastor somewhere. He beckoned to his wife to tell me why they came and she startled my ears. She said each time she was alone with the senior pastor of her husband, he would want to abuse her sexually. Whenever that happened, she would resist the man only to leave with the threat that if she ever told her husband, his appointment would be terminated. The woman didn't have a job and the husband did no other thing but pastoring. They therefore wanted to know if probably they should leave the church or not. Cases like this are very common all over the places nowadays. It's quite pathetic.

Many are cheating others because of money. Many prophets are emerging whose callings have become means of making money. You need to look beyond man to see God. You need to make personal preparation to meet God. Nothing can substitute God's position in your life. Prepare to meet your God. Your ability to sing very well does not replace meeting your God. That your father is a pastor does not replace the need to meet your God personally. Prepare to meet your God.

## **THE POWER OF PREPARATION**

There was a time, about three hundred Israeli's were held hostage in Uganda. The Israel army flew over great distances to arrive Ugandan airport on a rescue mission. It was one of the most remarkable moves of an army in modern times. The success recorded on that mission aroused global interest. Israel was asked how it successfully embarked on that kind of a mission. Somebody wrote a book on the operation called "90 minutes at Entebel."

Israel had hands in the building of the Ugandan airport. What they did was to build a model somewhere in the desert that was used for much practice for the operation. Through much preparations and practice, they were more

than ready to embark on the mission at the Ugandan airport, Israel was just like still practising way back at home. The operation was an "easy" success because they had adequately prepared. This story again illustrates the importance of preparation.

You need to dig a well before you are thirsty, not when you strongly feel like drinking water that you start looking for a well in desperation. You must prepare to meet your God. Appointment with God is something you cannot escape. You must prepare to succeed and prevent failure. I remember the old saying in those school days that when you fail to prepare, you are preparing to fail. Every heaven-bound soul must be an open-ended period. It begins without an end.

## **INEVITABLE!**

The most important preparation you can ever make is to meet your God. In various ways and forms, God has warned that man ought to prepare before meeting Him in His judgement hall. You can't escape facing God in eternity. That there will come a time of judgement where God Himself will be the judge (is very clear in the Bible.) It is stated so clearly that nobody can make any mistake about it. Prepare to meet your God. You can't bribe your way through before the Judge of all judges. You either prepare to meet Him or be ready to suffer the consequences, life here on earth is very short. The longest you possibly can live is probably a hundred and twenty years. You still will leave here to meet God. Prepare to meet your God.

## **CHARACTERISTICS TO MEET GOD**

Those that met God could tell of three things that characterize keeping appointment with God. These three characteristics are true whether it is man that meets God or God that meets man.

## **THE TIME**

There is always a specific time set aside to meet God. In most cases, God sets apart the time man must meet Him. He does that because He is the giver of the appointment. This tells you that you don't have any power over your life as far as keeping appointment with God is concerned. Once He fixes the time, it's all over. The day you will leave this world is a mystery in God's hand. Yet, it is a kind of appointment you can't miss when the time comes.

Elijah met God at a time he was to enter the concluding phase of his ministry. Moses kept appointment with God at the time the last phase of his assignment dawned. The seventy elders met God at a time never expected or dreamt of. Paul met God at a time he never thought of such divine interruption in his life. Korah, Dathan and Abiram met God at a time they felt they deserved some recognition and publicity. Cornelius met God at a time he might have wondered if God was ever keeping the record of his almsgiving and devotion.

The disciples met the Master at a time sorrow and confusion filled their hearts.

Zachaeus met the Lord at a most unusual time when it was unlikely for him to have been seen at all. Prepare to meet your God.

## **THE PLACE**

Read the account of those that kept appointment with God again. There was a specific place set apart for the meeting to hold. For Elijah, it was the mountain of God. on Horeb, where he heard a still small voice. It took him a journey of forty days to arrive this venue. Prepare to meet your God. It may not be an experience of a day journey. Just prepare to meet your God.



Paul met God on the way to Damascus while on an evil mission to persecute the people of God. Prepare to meet your God. Don't allow God to fix appointment for you on the road to wickedness, persecution, hatred and all manners of evil. Not everybody survives that kind of appointment. The angel told Balaam that it was because the animal turned aside that he didn't strike him dead at once. He too met God on a road to a wicked mission. Prepare to meet your God.

Cornelius and Zaccheaus enjoyed a special privilege. God chose their houses respectively as meeting points for these men. Oh! behold the wonder and blessedness of having your house as a place of divine appointment! The disciples met their master in Galilee. Although God is not limited by distance and location, there are cities, locations, places where God would deliberately choose as a meeting point for some people. Many who are converted today met God in locations, sometimes outside their immediate environment,

Elijah, the children of Israel, the seventy elders and Moses were privileged to meet God on or around a particular mountain. Prepare to meet your God.

## **THE TURNING POINT**

Each case of the men that met God recorded a turning point in their lives, histories, experiences, destinies, ambitions, future and eternal focus. Paul became a preacher. Elijah was renewed to complete his mission. Moses was transformed. Zaccheaus was saved. Cornelius received the Pentecostal experience. The children of Israel vowed to obey God. The disciples believed the scriptures more rigidly than before. Korah, Dathan and Abiram met untimely death and eternal loss of their souls. The seventy elders lived in the fear of God they had never known all their lives. When you meet God, you can't but experience a turning point.

You must prepare to meet your God because life is short and judgement is certain.

**Hebrews 9:27:** And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:

Everything you do has a result. It may be good or bad. Anything can happen at anytime. Recently, there was an unexpected bomb blast here in Lagos, Nigeria. Most of the souls that were killed in the blast did not know that the end was that near. Only those that are adequately prepared among them would go to heaven. In divine statistics, the ratio of people like that is always very small.

## **COSTLY MISTAKES**

Many are running the race God did not ask them to run. Others are delivering the speeches God did not ask them to deliver. The wisest thing to do is to prepare to meet God. It is wonderful to obtain answers to prayer. It is blessed experience to go through deliverance and be set free. It is comely to behold people come together in the worship of God. But, there is a time coming that this world will wind up. The only thing that will be important at that time is the preparation you have made to meet your God.

It is very paramount for you to discover the Uzziah preventing you from seeing the Lord. You need to identify your personal Uzziah. You need to eliminate that Uzziah through an angry voice of fervent prayers. Except your Uzziah dies, you can never see the Lord. If you can't find God while you live, you will live to lose your soul in hell.

The world is sinking deeper in delusions. Many people are confused. Many churches are not helping the situation any better. They compromise the holy standard of God. They try to make the narrow way wide for influx of way fearers. They tolerate all manners of worldliness, carnality and corruption

of the flesh. They could encourage a woman to come to church only in her underwear skirts. Lowering of God's standard has taken over many churches because they seek multitudes to boost their worldly records.

## **THE LAST DAYS**

A lot of people have either forgotten the truth or don't ever know it at all. Look at the kind of congregation and preachers the Bible predicted would be common in the last days.

**1 Tim. 3:1:** This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.

**2 Tim. 3:1-5:** This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. <sup>2</sup>For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, <sup>3</sup>Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, <sup>4</sup>Traitors. heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; <sup>5</sup>Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

**2 Tim. 4:3-4:** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; <sup>4</sup>And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Many people love their pastors because they don't tell them the truth. The only pastors they hate are those who don't compromise with anybody.

The kind of people God has called us to raise in MFM are people who want to make heaven. They are those that

desire healing as well as the healer. They crave for salvation, as well as the saviour. They need redemption, as well as the redeemer. They need the gifts as well as the giver and want charismatic experience as well as the Christ behind the charisma.

## **AWESOME GOD**

God is a jealous God. The hand that touched the blind eyes and they received their sight also touched Miriam and she became leprous. The voice that spoke through Elisha and miracles of blessings followed, also spoke and leprosy came upon Gehazi. The God that raised Lazarus from the dead was the same God that rained fire and brimstone upon Sodom and Gomorrah. The God that showed so much love and mercy towards Lot and his family also made mercy his wife to become a pillar of salt for looking back. The Lord is speaking to you, ringing the voice in your heart everyday that you should prepare to meet your God.

**Luke 13:1-5:** There were present at that season some that told him of the Galilaeans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? <sup>3</sup>I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup>Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup>I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

## **THE END IS NEAR**

These people thought Jesus was going to excuse their sinfulness. They were confronted with the hardest truth that ever came their way. The Lord taught that victims of

disasters and slaughters are no worse sinners than those alive. Prepare to meet your God. You have lost yesterday. The only gift you have is today. Tomorrow is a promise. Your life may be required of you in the twinkling of an eye. Prepare to meet your God. Not minding age as a factor, you must prepare to meet your God.

Somebody called me on the phone all the way from England, crying bitterly. She lost her grandmother. She wanted to come home for the burial of the old woman, but was forbidden through the spirit. The lady worships with MFM in England. Her younger sister, a preacher of the gospel and two others came home. As they drew near Benin, they had a fatal accident and the preacher lady was the first to die. The second was confined to a wheelchair and the third went into a coma. She probably would have been a victim if she had not been told to stay back. The point I am making is that if that preacher lady didn't prepare herself, that sudden death meant sudden hell fire. Prepare to meet your God.

## **THE HARVEST**

Remember your past and go back to your history. I thank God that He has healed you. I praise God that He has blessed and prospered you. I am grateful to God for every aspect of His blessings upon you. But remember how you arrived where you are now. Prepare to meet your God.

A sister was brought to our headquarters church on a Wednesday. The doctors found no solution to her problem in the hospital. On that day, the word of knowledge pinpointed her and God healed her instantly. She started gaining height. She that was as thin as a stick of broom and almost naked when she was brought to the church suddenly realized that she was good looking. She forgot how she came and self-consciousness possessed her. In a short while, she went worldly. She fixed her hair with attachment,

bought and wore earrings and chains. She scoffed at the word of God on Christian moderation in dressing. Not too long, she even stopped coming to the church. She became sick again.

This time, the doctors diagnosed tuberculosis. She then wrote me a letter and said if I didn't pray for her, I should prepare a pastor to bury her. She forgot how she once came to the church. Non-challant attitude about spiritual things is a manifestation of lack of preparations to meet God. The law of sowing and reaping is unchangeable. Whether you like it or not, you will reap what you sow. Even satan himself will reap what he has sown.

## **THE AVENGER**

You cannot fool God. He is omniscient and omnipresent. He has all the details of your past, present and future. God sees you in the mid-day sun the same way He sees you in the thickest of darkness. God is a merciless avenger of those who offend him. You can change the way you live today. Prepare to meet your God.

Men and women who turned your country Nigeria upside down for the course of God's kingdom were people who met God at a point in time in their lives. The great question is "are you really prepared to meet God?" As you are reading this book now, if suddenly the heaven blows open and Jesus appears, where will you spend eternity? If Jesus has to start searching your pockets, bags and the secret places of your dwelling, what will He find? Are you really prepared to meet God? The lack of preparation will put you in trouble. The more you prepare to meet God, the holier you become. Prepare to meet the God you will face on the last day.

I was in a Youth meeting here at the headquarters. I shared with them about when the gospel started in this country, how life was a lot difficult and darkness pervaded

everywhere. Wickedness was reigning supreme. A family would have twenty children and bury all of them one after the other because of mysterious death. If anybody wore too good a cloth, he would sleep never to see the next day.

The jealousy of wickedness would snuffle life out of him. Some people just disappeared without trace. The spirits of the gods would sometimes walk into a market and warn people to bring sacrifices or face dire consequences for their refusal.

People lived in great fear. Superstition held the minds of men in bondage. You couldn't whistle at night. Nobody dared to call a witch a witch. They called them "mothers". Anybody who called them witches would not wake up the next day. That was the kind of darkness that loomed over this nation in the past. And when some men met God, darkness began to retreat in surrender to the power of the Almighty.

## **THE EVIL FOREST**

There was one of the heroes of faith that got to a seriously demonic town in the South-Western part of the country, and wanted to build a church there. The kings, in those days, manifested a kind of demonic intelligence. They would give the terribly-demon infested areas, forbidden jungles and arenas of shrines to gospelers who wanted to build church. Those forbidden jungles were no jokes at all. Nobody dared to enter them. Pregnant women who died with their babies were thrown into these jungles as feast for the power that resided in them.

This hero of faith met the king and requested a portion of land to build church. The king offered him to enter the forbidden jungle and take as much junk of land as he wanted. The jungle had only one inhabitant called Mr. Yellow. He was very light-complexioned and very handsome. He

was neither growing older nor younger. He lived in the jungle. His only food was dog meat. Any erring dog that mistakenly went into that jungle would automatically become meat for Mr. Yellow. Everybody feared him. Nobody knew where he came from. Every morning, he came out of the bush, fresh. It was this same horrible portion of land that was given to the hero of faith and his team.

They got there, prayed a simple prayer that, 'let God arise and let all His enemies on the land scatter.' Witnesses of that event who are still alive told us the story. They said it wasn't a dream at all, but they heard footsteps of people running and they physically saw the impact as grass bowed to the stampede of the fleeing feet. It wasn't a dream at all. After that, they started clearing the bush. As they went on, Mr. Yellow came and challenged them saying "do you want your wives to suddenly become widows? Or you want your mothers to become childless? Don't you know who owns where you are?" The hero of faith and his team replied "the king gave it to us."

Mr. Yellow went straight to the king. His Highness was also afraid of him. He challenged the king that some people claimed to have been permitted by his majesty to be clearing the forbidden jungle. The king denied it. He said he didn't know them or how they got there. He finally said to Yellow to go and deal with them in the best way possible. He went back to them and announced. "I give you all seven days and none of you shall be seen again". These men just looked at him briefly and said, "back to the sender in Jesus' name." They kept on clearing the bush.

Seven days after, Mr. Yellow came out of the bush with a very big sore in his leg. That was the last they saw of him. Nobody knew his where about ever since. Nigeria was a country where principalities were strolling on the streets, until some men met God. Prepare to meet your God. You will become a different person, another man, when you meet



Him. Forget about envy. Just meet God. Get on fire for Him and watch out for what He will do. Prepare to meet the Lord your God.

## **THE MIXED MULTITUDE**

Multitudes are flocking worship centres and crusade grounds. Numbers are estimated by acres of land they occupy. But I tell you something, this crowd is nothing compared to what Daniel saw. They are insignificant compared to what John saw. Adolph Hitler had no time to attend religious meetings. But he was sure he will have time to be in the crowd talked about. Those who don't have time for Jesus would bow their knees in the crowd foreseen.

**Romans 14:11-12:** For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. <sup>12</sup>So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Willingly or unwillingly, every knee shall bow to Christ and every tongue shall confess to God. The time is fast approaching when the pride of all men shall evaporate and humility shall be forced upon mankind. At that time, it will be too late to repent. Prepare to meet your God.

## **THE VISION**

After my night prayers one day, I saw a vision. I entered a place and the door slammed on two people. They fell on their faces. I looked at them and recognized them. It was a brother and a sister. Later on, I called the brother and asked him what was between him and the sister. He said there was nothing at all. Not too long, that sister became pregnant and what was hidden became manifest. There is no hiding place from the face of the God of creation. Prepare to meet your God.

Somebody was pestering my life sometime ago, demanding money from me. Meanwhile, two weeks before he came to me, I had been told that he had been given so much money by somebody else. Yet when he met me, he never said so. He wore a cloak of hypocrisy. Judgment day is coming. Where I was worshipping before, a brother had a problem and at the end of the services that day, another brother suggested to take him somewhere.

Right from the presence of God, after the heat of much praying, this friend took him to a herbalist house. It was dark room with hundreds of birds flying about in the dark. A voice called his name and described all his problems. He was also given a prescription of what to do for his problems to be solved. But the brother died eventually. Form the presence of God in a Pentecostal church, somebody could walk a friend to the house of a herbalist to purposely solve his problems. Everything hidden will become manifest. Prepare to meet your God.

When I was in school, something happened in Kingsway Stores, Lagos. A white man stole something. He didn't know that there were cameras fitted around to monitor the activities in the stores. He had been allowed to step out when he was asked for the receipt. Unable to provide it, he was apprehended. If men could manufacture detective devices, how much more God?

Prepare to meet your God!

Prepare today.

Tomorrow may be too late.

# The Way of Divine Encounter

There was a man who set himself to achieve what God has spoken about him. He was still in the womb when the Lord revealed his mind concerning him. He was to be born a great man. His children and children's children would become a nation. The promises of God concerning him were all about a desirable future. These promises positioned him at great advantage against his brother and contemporaries. He is so important to world history and divine agenda that careful attention was paid to the details of his life.

When he was a child, he was very fond of his mother. The care and nurture of a passionate mother enveloped his years of growth from infant-hood. His mother did not hide the fact that she loved him. The privilege of having a godly father, with whom God had made an everlasting covenant was an added advantage to this man's life. He started growing and his inquisitive mind would want everything explained to him. Somehow, he got to know what the plan and promises of God for his life were. Fascinated and enthusiastic, he set himself to pursue that plan. His skills, time and everything around him were employed to be sure those promises were fulfilled. He didn't want any alternative to the promises, his only choice was to labour to ensure the fulfilment of divine promises for his life.

The simple life of this growing young man became adventurous because of a family problem he initiated. In his haste and method to reap the fruit of what had been foretold about him before his birth, he became dishonest, fraudulent, deceitful and hard-hearted. His method immediately boomeranged against him. Contrary to his least expectation, he had to escape from home to avoid

being murdered by the victim of his fraud. Things began to run against his plans. Meanwhile, his life became seriously endangered and he chose to save it as a priority. At that point, the adventure of his life began. He had series of good and bad experiences. Sometimes, he would be seen so near the God of his father. At other times, he only remembered Him when all else failed. This man was sent on achieving his plan.

God did not really have anything against his plan, but everything against his method. So, the plan of God for him was intact, but the method of God ran contrary to his method. God on one hand, this man on the other, the two began to work towards a common goal of fulfilling a plan, drawn and revealed by God. The first time it was recorded that he prayed, the content of his prayer betrayed his carnal mind and base appetites. All his concerns were God's protection and blessings. He did not bother himself about spirituality or a closer walk with God. If God gave him favour, protection, shelter over his head and blessings upon the work of his hands, he would be satisfied.

When God saw the way of this man, He decided to work in two ways still in this direction of His plan for the man. On one hand, God began to work on the man and on the other hand, he began to work for the man, the two prepositions here mean a lot. They make all the difference in the history of the man. The two-fold workings of God in the life of this man became climaxed when the Almighty decided to pay him a courtesy call. He was face to face with Whom he used to call upon in heaven. God just took a stroll down the earth and decided to meet the man in a manner to change the rest of his history. The man's name is Jacob, the younger brother of Esau and the experience he had with God is called a divine encounter. Check out the text below.

**Genesis 31:24-28:** And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.

<sup>25</sup>And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. <sup>26</sup>And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. <sup>27</sup>And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. <sup>28</sup>And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

The life of Jacob may be the only true explanation of your experiences. You need something more. You need a divine encounter as it was with Jacob. I am going to dwell on the text above to bring forth lessons for you to learn. Continue to examine your life as you read on. Until you have a divine encounter, there are promises of God you cannot enjoy, transformations you will never know and fulfilment you will never experience. You should be ready for a divine encounter.

## **ALONE WITH GOD**

**Genesis 32:24:** And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.

The divine encounter Jacob had was preceded by a period of solitude. Jacob was left alone. Before this time, the man Jacob had been very busy. This busy life had a long list of activities. Before his hands and legs got busy, his mind was first busy with different methods to survive and actualize God's plan for his life.

Let me sum up his busy life on the list below so that you can digest them very easily.

1. He was busy, trying to work out the plan of God for his life. He was busy dreaming.

2. He was busy changing methods to actualize the plan.
3. He was busy, trying to redeem the time the promises and the plan would be fulfilled.
4. He was busy exploring home advantages and opportunities with his parents.
5. He was busy preparing the meal with which to steal his brother's blessings from his father.
6. He was busy rehearsing how to appear before his father, impersonating Esau.
7. He was busy, thinking about the consequences of his action should he fail in the attempt.
8. He was busy robbing blessings from the anointed lips of his father.
9. He was busy, thinking of the country to run away to when his plot was known.
10. He was busy in his escape from his brother's wrath, fleeing the greatest danger of his life.
11. He was busy looking for accommodation with Laban, in a foreign land.
12. He was busy showing kindness to Rachel at first meeting, making love advances to the damsel.
13. He was busy, serving Laban for first seven years of his sojourn to pay the bride price of the woman of his choice.
14. He was busy sorting out things on the disappointment he suffered from Laban, about the change of his choice woman.

15. He was busy, serving Laban for another seven years as he insisted to marry Rachel against Leah.
16. He was busy marrying the handmaids of his two wives
17. He was busy having children, coping with the rivalry of his wives, being sisters.
18. He was busy negotiating with Laban, his host, on the need for his independence as a family man.
19. He was busy "cloning" Laban's livestock's to his own advantage.
20. He was busy reacting to the jealousy of Laban over his prosperity.
21. He was busy, moving his family away from Laban's house.
22. He was busy trying to make peace with Esau whose anger had not abated for years.
23. He was busy scheming on how to meet Esau on the appeal of compassion.

Such was the busy life of Jacob. In all these, the man prayed only on few occasions as recorded in the Bible. His busy lifestyle tells you where his interest was. Examine your life and see, if you are anything different from this man. To have that divine encounter, he needed some privacy where he would be alone with God and God alone.

Jacob was left alone. You need to come apart from your busy schedule. There are divine encounters that break in suddenly, interrupting the busy schedule of men. But there are some that you must consciously create the room for. Jacob was left alone. The supplanter, who was also a fraud

and a cheat was left alone. There must come a time in your life that you have to be alone with God. You have to abandon all your life behind you and wait on God alone. You must close your eyes on your business, children and all endeavours to be alone enough as to prepare you for a divine encounter.

The power and benefits of a private life cannot be estimated. Those whoever took time to be alone with God had experiences they couldn't forget.

## **JESUS**

Jesus often resorted to solitary places to engage the Father in conversations where a third party would be a nuisance. On one of such occasions, he returned from solitude with God and chose the twelve men who became apostles. There are choices you can only make correctly after you must have been alone with God.

## **PAUL**

After his conversion, Paul was alone in three days compulsory fasting and prayers. In his solitude with God, he saw visions of what was to happen to him next and his hope to regain his sight was renewed. I tell you, there are visions you will never see if you are always busy or always in the midst of multitudes. There must be a time you ought to be left alone with God.

## **T. L. OSBORNE**

This man ran a great ministry. His book "Healing the sick" remains a world classic on the provision of divine healing. His first missionary experience was a disaster. He came back home and chose to be alone with God. In his resolute loneliness with God, he had a heavenly visitation that changed his ministry permanently.



## **CHARLES WESLEY**

He was known and highly revered for his strange inspiration in the writing and singing of songs. A certain accountant of his solitude. Most of the songs he wrote and sang were received directly from heaven while alone with God. Majority of songs in Methodist hymn-book were written by Charles Wesley.

## **PETER**

The apostle just came back from gospel work. Ordinarily, he would have loved to eat and probably go to bed. He didn't wait to stay with too many people in the house. He went straight upstairs where he was alone. While alone, "he fell into a trance" which was the beginning of the gospel spread to the Gentile world.

## **MOSES**

His example in the whole Bible has not been equalled by any man, apart from the Lord Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. He got so used to being alone with God that through this, he got the law from heaven and saw the back part of God. If you want an experience with God, that generations unborn will continue to celebrate, be left alone with God. Jacob was left alone.

## **THE MAN JACOB**

I have said a few things to introduce this man. But the man Jacob is more than that. He was a master schemer. He cheated his elder brother, deceived his father and outwitted Laban, his host in another land. Even during his wrestling with the angel, he too asked the angel his name, because the angel first asked him. He might have assumed that the latest method in trickery is to return questing with the same

questions to the one asking. I am sure, if not for divine presence, he would be scheming to cheat the personality from heaven.

Jacob was very crooked and dishonest. His cleverness could run down the economy of a whole nation to his personal advantage. The losses of Laban were his own gains through his cleverness. You can now imagine how terrible a personality he was. This man was left alone with God. The outcome of that encounter shows that no man can be written off. No matter how terrible a cheat, murderer, fornicator, robber, liar, a sinner may be, there can be the most wonderful transformation of his life, if he will be left alone with God. You are not too sinful for God to change and save. Be left alone with Him.

## **THE WRESTLING**

**Genesis 32:24:** And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.

When Jacob was left alone, he was drafted into a wrestling he did not bargain for. He must have expected to have some rest in quietness, but God summoned him for a wrestling. He must have loved to have a gentle visitation of God, considering his burdens, but instead of peace from above God descended for war.

This is where people make mistakes in the things of God. When they seek the Lord, they think the Lord must condition His operation, visitations to their expectations. God knows what you need. Jacob had been fighting with the plan and promises of God. He fought the battle of wits with everybody that came his way. That method would not win God's blessings. Since he was strong enough to fight. God presented Himself as an opponent to try. Try was the worst fight of his life. Of course, it was also the last.

The kind of wrestling Jacob had was a very strange one. There was a referee and the opponent was an unidentified personality. All he was called was "a man." How strange even to define or identify. Yet the fight was to help bring that man to the fulfilment of the same plan and promises of God for his life.

The reason God must "fight" with you is because there is something inside you that wants to do things in it's own way. There is a will, a drive, and propulsion inside of you, making you to race in the wrong direction purportedly in the pursuit of God's agenda. There is a nature in you that is naturally a enemy of God, There is a will power in you that will not naturally yield to God's will. There is a way you are likely to always follow to achieve your goals and the way runs across God's way.

My dear friend, be ready for wrestle. God must overcome you. People often pray that God should overcome all their enemies so that they can have peace. True peace comes when you are overcome by God. Before God subdues your enemies, He wants to subdue you, your will, desires, dreams, imagination, etc. Anything and everything about you not subdued to God is an enemy, no matter how much you cherish the thing. Get ready for a wrestling match. God is ever ready.

## **DURATION OF DIVINE CONFLICT**

**Genesis 32:24:** And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day.

When God brings you into holy crises to remould and reshape you, you cannot be the timekeeper to blow the whistle. How long you go through an experience is in God's wisdom to determine. The personality wrestled with Jacob until the breaking of the day. Notice the word "until". It means duration. The fight began somewhere and continued

till another specific time. Between the start and the finish, the word "until" covers that period.

You may remain in your holy crises until you learn to surrender in the absolute. You may continue to miss God's blessings until you accept God's method. God will continue to hit you hard until you yield and bow to His will. The period between the start and the finish of any experience in your life is in the determination of God. God is the one to fix your own "until" in life.

One hour into the wrestling, the man would not let Jacob go. Time flew upon the hands of the clock, yet, the match continued. It started yesterday and went into the dawn of another day. Your experiences yesterday, in the yester-years may lead you into the dawn of another day or year. God is to determine that. Those who think time is going for the programmes of their lives have not known who it is that is fighting with them. The only way to reduce the time of your divine conflict is to surrender early. The earlier your yield to God the better for your life and destiny. If you don't, it will span into the breaking of another day, week, month or year.

## **THE HOLLOW OF THE THIGH**

**Genesis 32:25:** And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.

Although the wrestling lasted that long, Jacob would not give up. His strength was still intact. This strange personality reached for the hollow of his thigh because he knew that was an area of concentrated strength. At the touch, there was dislocation. A permanent change was wrought in Jacob's life. Where is the hollow of your own thigh? I mean the area you are strongest where you are most unlikely to yield to God. The Almighty knows it and He

will touch it right away. When the conflict is between men and God, no one is a strong man. You are only as strong as God decides to leave the hollow of your thigh. Your best experience is to lose your strength. In your resulting weakness, His strength will be your strength to lean on.

## **EXCEPT YOU BLESS ME**

**Genesis 32:26:** And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.

Immediately Jacob's thigh was dislocated, he knew he has lost the strength to run after blessings, business, enterprises and all other activities. His only means of ever getting blessings is for that personality to bless him, that is exactly what God wants. He wants to bring you to a point, position and time where and when you cannot achieve anything apart from Him. Jacob lost his strength. He needed another to enrich and bless him. Until God beats you to that point where you cannot achieve anything of your own anymore, but such as He achieves for you, your crises will not go. His life was useless to him if the man didn't bless him. When God overcomes you completely, you will naturally depend on Him. You will hang on to Him as the one and only source of your living and blessings. Those who can still do a lot of things for themselves whether God helps them or not are very far from God's demand. You must be weak to become strong. You must become helpless to receive help. You must depend solely on God for God to help you solely.

## **DIVINE RESPONSE**

**Genesis 32:27:** And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob.

In the entire text, the man with whom Jacob wrestled spoke only three times. When he first spoke in verse 26, he

said "let me go ..." he did not speak at the beginning of the fight. He spoke after touching the hollow of Jacobs's thigh. When God has His way in your life, He finds conversation with you a pleasant thing. The Lord resents stubbornness. He won't be conversing with the man or woman that has not allowed Him to touch him or her to a point of yielding.

The second time the man spoke he asked a question. His first speech was a request. The second was a question Jacob must answer. There was question God won't ask you now because you cannot answer them. Since you are not prepared for some questions, the Lord won't bother to ask you at all. For example, what will your answer be to the Lord's question about your name, when your present certificate, age, credentials, documents, affidavits, etc are either forged or falsifies? Jacob have earlier told his father he was Esau. God wanted to know whom to bless. Are you ready to tell the Lord all the truth about yourself? Get ready for Him.

## **THE GREAT CHANGE**

**Genesis 32:28:** And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed.

The pronouncement of the man who wrestled with Jacob brought a permanent change upon his life. This pronouncement followed the testimony that Jacob had prevailed. He succeeded with God. In his weakness and dislocation, he succeeded with God in humble pleas. It is this success with God that the angel commanded upon which he pronounced the blessings. From that day, what Jacob had been looking for started looking for him. The divine pronouncement endorsed the divine plan and promises upon his life.

A divine encounter is spiritual experience with God, which brings transformation fulfillment and empowers you to fulfill your destiny. True revival starts when men experience a divine encounter. When you have a divine encounter, you will know it. Those who had it never remained the same again all their lives. God cannot meet with you in a way that you won't know. The encounter will leave a permanent touch upon your spirit, soul and body. Jacob never walked straight for the rest of his life.

**Genesis 32:31:** And as he passed over Peniel the sun rose upon him, and he halted upon his thigh.

I remember very vividly when I had my own divine encounter. I can still describe the day. I can visualize it, with my eyes closed. Job tells us the difference there is in encountering God. He said a certain level of encounter is like hearing about God and another level of it is like seeing Him with the eyes. Every believer must have a divine encounter to fulfill his destiny.

When Isaiah saw God, he pronounced woe unto himself. When Ezekiel had his own encounter, he fell flat upon his face. When Daniel had his own experience, he said he was like a dead man. Moses' encounter was at the burning bush at the age of eighty. The encounter of John the beloved led to the documentation of the whole book of revelation. Paul surrendered quickly unto the Lord when he had his own encounter and he gave up his agenda to kill Christians. An encounter with the living God is something you must pursue, thirst after and run after.

The divine encounter Paul had changed him from a hard to a soft man. He became a different entirely. A divine encounter will leave a permanent change in your life. Modern days' Christians claim to be saved, sanctified and spirit-filled; but there is no evidence of ever meeting the Lord in their lives. Contrary to the Bible experiences and

testimonies of those who met God, modern days' Christians claim to be apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, bishops, deacons and deaconess, mother in Israel and ail such titles, but there is no evidence they ever met God.

The supernatural is becoming very rare in many lives. The names and titles you adopt or call yourself does not mater. He has the proper record about you. It is only when a soul has never truly met the Lord that he can contemplate backsliding. The root of worldliness is in the fact that many people have not met the Lord. Stubbornness and pride among professing Christian have their roots in the fact that many professors of faith have not encountered the Lord of the faith. You can never have encounter with God and remain the same.

The children of Israel during the days of the apostles did not have any encounter with the Lord. Their relationship with God was only important to the extent the Lord gave them miracle food, raised the dead, healed the sicknesses and diseases and ministered deliverance to the oppressed. They professed to stand in defense of the Lord, but went about persecuting His messengers. They claimed to defend the truth of the word of God but went about condemning those living by the same truth. They heard, they did not believe. They listened they did not obey. They heard the law they did not keep them. The modern Christian is a true resemblance of these children of Israel. There is no substitute, you cannot pretend about it.

**Romans 10:1-3:** Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. <sup>2</sup>For I bear them record that have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. <sup>3</sup>For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.



Paul wrote concerning them and lamented their state. The same way a truly spiritual man or woman can look thoroughly at the modern day Christians and lament their spiritual state. These children of Israel had zeal for God. They were ready to die for God's sake, even when they did not know that God. They did not have, even salvation experience of all works of redemption, yet they were full of zeal for God. Verse three says they were ignorant of God's own righteousness. They didn't know what God requires on the subject of righteousness. They did not realize that Christ is everything about God's righteousness. They missed the point that accepting Christ is the equivalent of accepting God's righteousness, yet they went about religiously, propagating and establishing their own righteousness.

Many believers of today are like that. They reject the truth on Christian living and make their own living the truth others must follow. They despise the Lord's demands on righteousness and establish their own standard as a norm. The way they live, dress, talk, do everything as a Christian, in their own opinion, is the standard God has set for every Christian to follow. The point is this, such Christians lack a divine encounter. What position are you today, my brother, my sister? Examine your life! Can you refer to any permanent holy wound you received through a divine encounter!

There must be something to show for your encounter. Paul lost his vision before he later regained them. Jacob lost the strength of his thigh and had to support himself with a staff throughout his life. Even Paul had another evidence of more and deeper encounters with the Lord. He bore the thorn in his flesh throughout his ministry to check him against pride because of abundance of visions and revelations of the Lord. Elisha lost his business at once. He used the tools to have his last feast with friends. Peter came to the end of his fishing career, at the prime time he had the biggest cash in

his life. He forsook all and followed the master. What is the evidence of your divine encounter with the Lord?

One of the hardest prayer you can ever pray in your life is to cry out with all your heart to God that you want to see Him. When you see God, your life will change permanently. All throughout the ministry of Peter, he never stopped talking about another round of a divine encounter he had along with two other disciples on the mount of transfiguration. Paul could never be disobedient to the heavenly vision. The apostles could not but speak the things they had seen and heard. What have you seen? What have you heard? Peter said "this voice we heard" referring to the voice of the living God on the mount of transfiguration.

When you see the Lord, like Isaiah, you will know your true position. The Lord will show you crude analysis of your life.

When you see the Lord, like Peter, you will discover your sins for what they are.

When you see the Lord, like Zacchaeus, you will be willing to do restitution before you even hear about it.

When your see the Lord you will experience His presence and receive the information that will move your life forward.

Those who have divine encounter are considered strange by other humans. They smile and rejoice when others are crying. They move forward when the Red sea is right in front. They see victory ahead when the size of the giant enemies reaches to the sky. They talk about God in so much that they are wrongly accused of pride.

When you see the Lord, you will receive spiritual vision and promotion.

When you see the Lord, you will receive the anointing to excel.

When you see the Lord, your destiny moves forward.

When you see the Lord, demons will see you and quake.

When you see the Lord, your dream world becomes completely controlled by the heaven.

When you see the Lord, heaven will be your goal. Everything of the world fades always in your sight because of the sight of heaven you have seen. You will lose interest in the vain positions of the world and the rat race among men.

When you see the Lord, you will see backsliding as a disgrace.

There was a sister who was loved by everybody because of her fervency. She used to come to church early, sweep and clean everywhere. She would sing along during praise worship, beside being in the meetings of prayer warriors. She was loved and admired by everybody. Suddenly we didn't see her again in the church. We made efforts and personally sought her. She came up with excuses to veil her backsliding.

Unknown to anyone among us, she had gone back to the old relationship with her sugar daddy. In that brief journey into the world, she had epilepsy that got so bad that, sometimes, she was picked up from the gutter. She came back to the Lord though, but had been given epilepsy as a mark of her ever returning to the world.

When you see the Lord, you can never imagine going back to the world.

When you see the Lord, your priority in life will change. You will discover that some things are more important than fashionable dresses.

When you see the Lord, you will receive fresh fire to move on.

When you see the Lord, your spiritual life will pick up a fresh mandate.

When you see the Lord, deep, deep secrets will be revealed to you.

When you see the Lord, fresh direction for your life will be revealed.

When you see the Lord, you will experience unspeakable joy.

When you see the Lord, you will be completely glued to a life of holiness.

What you see determines your attitude. What you see determines how far you will go. Except you have a divine encounter, your university degree is a waste of time. Holding a position in the church without a divine encounter is like speak in the eyes of the blind. If you are holding a position or title in the church without knowing the Lord of the church, you are like a taut inviting passenger to come on boards a vehicle without himself going anywhere.

I want to assure you by the word of the Lord that if you are ready to meet the Lord and you prepare your heart the Lord will find you out. There are seven keys that make up the way to a divine encounter.

## **SPEND TIME ALONE WITH GOD**

Those who had divine encounter spent time alone with God. Read your Bible and pray in your quietness. You will hear what others don't hear and see what you have never imagined to see in your life. Eagles don't fly in flock. Men and women that have gone the farthest distance with God

are lone-rangers that have learnt the secret of being alone with God. I am sure nobody could have known when Enoch was translate. He must have been a very strange man, walking with the invisible God. Noah was another man who was practically lovely. People that should befriend him found him too "insane" to cultivate. God never spoke a single word to Abraham in the company of men. Create time to be alone with God.

## **DEAL WITH FALSEHOOD**

Every form of falsehood in your life must die.

**John 4:24:** God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

If you attempt to build on the foundation of lies, it will not stand. You will take the wrong steps and get greater loss for every lie you tell. There is no time that lies can stand, before the truth. Every liar is a child of satan, "the father of all liars." God cannot do much with you because of your lies. Truth, sincerity and honesty are basic requirements for a divine encounter. Liars don't encounter God.

## **PERSEVERANCE**

You will have to sustain your resolution to have divine encounter through perseverance. No matter how long it takes you to find God and encounter Him, you must persevere. Those that persevere don't quit. They don't ever give up praying. Perseverance will make you endure until you penetrate the heavens. Through perseverance, you will groan until you prevail. Jacob held on to the man who wrestled with him because he was persevering. Without a word of blessing from that man. Jacob would never let him go. He lost his thighbone; he still would not let go. The time was long enough for him to give up, Jacob still held on to the

strange wrestler and insisted that "except you bless me, I will not you go." That's perseverance.

I read about a brother who was desperate to see God. He prayed fervently with fasting for 21 days. The second day into his prayer, he heard a knock on his door. He had expected to receive a heavenly visitor because nobody knew where he was. To his surprise, it was an old school friend who came to apologise for offending him many years ago. This brother was very angry because that fellow was responsible for his undoing on campus. Something happened that made a lecturer to tear the brother's answer script in an exam. That his friend was instrumental to that event. As a result, this brother failed that course.

Bitter memories filled his mind as this friend kept begging for pardon and assurance of forgiveness. Still very angry with him, the brother batted him out of the door, and slammed it. But just before he slammed the door, the same person was closely behind him. He looked back in surprise and as he looked more closely, transformation had taken place. The man he thought was his friend was a heavenly visitor who appeared in that form. This visitor then said to him you have been asking for my presence all these days. I came here, but you pushed me out. Bye. And he left. That was the end of the story. The days of fasting and praying became vain.

## **SURRENDER**

You must give up whatever God wants you to give up. The reason God will engage in a wrestling with you is because there are things He wants you to give up. Jacob needed to give up his cleverness. Paul had to surrender his religious ignorance to be divinely illuminated. Peter had to give up his Jewish opinion of the Gentiles when he saw the vision preceding his visit to the most High, he surrendered. Abraham laid down his only child. There are things very dear

and precious to your heart and mind that you need to surrender to the Lord.

## **PURPOSEFUL FASTING AND PRAYER**

This is not the kind of prayer and fasting you do to solve any particular problem of your life. You are chastening your soul just to seek the Lord. Prayer for a divine encounter is more important than any other prayer you may ever offer in your entire life.

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

Never joke with the word of God, if you ever want to experience a divine encounter. It was the key God directly gave to Joshua.

**Joshua 1:8:** This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

Read your Bible. Make it your friend. Drink it like water. Eat it like bread. Memorize it like a poem. Lick it like honey. Jealously keep it in your heart like a jewel. Recite it all the time like an anthem. You will never remain the same again.

## **HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER GOD**

Food and water are not the only thing to crave for to sustain life. "Man shall not live by bread alone." If you are really craving for divine encounter, you need to hunger and thirst after God's. Until you let God realize that nothing can quench your thirst but His presence and that nothing can take your hunger away, but His person, you will never know the reality of divine encounter.

**Matthew 5:6:** Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Get yourself ready for a divine encounter. God is speeding terrifically to reach and touch you.

## **PRAYER POINTS**

1. Thou mountain of frustration, hear me and hear me well, separate from my destiny, in the name of Jesus.
2. My life, hear the word of the Lord, reject the dark voices, in the name of Jesus
3. Every snare of the fowler of my father's house, scatter, in the name of Jesus.
4. Oh Lord, search my life and remove everything hindering my encounter with you, in the name of Jesus.
5. Oh Lord, search and purge my heart with Your blood and fire, in the name of Jesus.
6. My Father, I want to see You, in the name of Jesus.
7. Every darkness surrounding my destiny, scatter, in the name of Jesus
8. My Father, in my dream tonight, appear, in the name of Jesus.
9. Holy Ghost fire, come down and possess me, in the name of Jesus.



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Throughout the scriptures, we have discovered some outstanding characters who remain symbols of excellence till date. These characters attained great feats and broke new grounds after experiencing a life changing encounter with God. The author, with the pen of a ready writer skillfully draws powerful principles from their experiences. These principles are laid bare for the modern day Christian to apply in their personal walk with God. This book will help you experience the divine presence which will move your life forward. You would receive spiritual vision. The way of Divine Encounter will take you to a realm where demons will see you and tremble and evil powers will be frightened stiff when they discover the transforming power of an encounter with God. The book will flag off a new passion for God in your life.

### About the Author

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

The Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries' Headquarters is the largest single Christian congregation in Africa with attendance of over 120,000 in single meetings.

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

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

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