

Dr. D. K. Olukoya

When God is Silent



WHEN GOD IS SILENT

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CONTENTS

[TITLE PAGE](#)

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[CHAPTER ONE: WHEN GOD HIDES HIS FACE](#)

[WHEN DOES GOD HIDE HIS FACE?](#)

[PRAYER POINTS](#)

[CHAPTER TWO: WHEN GOD BECOMES A SPECTATOR](#)

[PRAYER POINT](#)

[CHAPTER THREE: WHEN GOD IS SILENT](#)

[REASONS WHY GOD IS SILENT](#)

[PRAYER POINTS](#)

[CHAPTER FOUR: ENOUGH IS ENOUGH](#)

[WHEN DOES GOD SAY ENOUGH IS ENOUGH?](#)

[PRAYER POINTS](#)

[OTHER PUBLICATION BY DR. D. K. OLUKOYA](#)

[BACKCOVER](#)

ONE

WHEN GOD HIDES HIS FACE

Over the years, people have been limiting God in their lives and when they do, God hides His face from them. See the following Scriptures.

Psalm 78:41:

Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.

Matthew 13:57-58:

And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house. And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

Mark 6:5-6:

And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.

The above Scriptures show how people applied break on God. There are many areas in which a man can shut out God in his life. A man can prevent God from working in his favour. He can prevent Him from working in his business, spiritual life and handwork.

At a crusade, a sister came for prayers. After she had told her story, four men of God prayed in holy anger with her. As they were praying, they noticed that the woman was not saying 'Amen.' One of them opened his eyes and saw that the woman was just looking at them. He then asked, "Madam, are you not the one we are praying for? Why are you not saying Amen?" The woman replied that her problem was above prayer. "Then, why did you come here for prayers knowing full well that prayers cannot solve your problem?" the man queried. "I just wanted you to try", she retorted. This is an example of how to shut out God in

one's affairs. The woman had shut out God in her life and could not expect Him to work for her.

Many years ago, I prayed every week for a sister who had asthma. God touched her and healed her. One day, she was brought back to the fellowship, wrapped up in clothes. I inquired, "What happened again?" She answered, "I don't know, the thing has started again." We prayed and she became okay. It took me some time before I could recognise what her problem was. After her healing, when people asked her, "How are you now?" She said, "I am not well". Even after God had healed her, this remained her answer. By doing this, she shut God out of her life.

God has good Intentions for our lives. He did not create a failure, He created people to fulfill His divine will. But a man can decide now to carry out a spiritual abortion on God's Intention or decide to destroy what God wants to do for his life. In all his missionary journeys, anytime Paul was asked about his call, he would sit down and explain what he experienced. The school of experience is a very expensive one. Anytime he talked about his ministry, he would say, "I had a call and since then, I have not been disobedient to that heavenly call." He could choose to disobey the call. He would have said, "I am not going." But he said, "I have not been disobedient to that heavenly call."

Are you terminating the plan of God for your life? This led to the lamentations of prophet Jeremiah as recorded in Jeremiah 14:8-12 which says,

O the hope of Israel, the saviour thereof in time of trouble, why shouldest thou be as a stranger in the land, and as a wayfaring man that turneth aside to tarry for a night? Why shouldest thou be as a man astonied, as a mighty man that cannot save? yet thou, O LORD, art in the midst of us, and we are called by thy name; leave us not. Thus saith the LORD unto this people, Thus have they loved to wander, they have not refrained their feet, therefore the LORD doth not accept them; he will now remember their iniquity, and visit their sins. Then said the LORD unto me, Pray not for this people for their good. When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and an oblation, I will not accept them: but I will consume them by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence.

These are very serious words of the scripture giving us an example of when God hides His face. A person can decide to terminate the presence of God in his

life. When you have terminated His presence, God, in His own divine wisdom, will hide His face. That is all.

Many people are under spiritual probation now but they don't know that, that is their position. Some have circulated themselves or have been circulated by household wickedness, and they wander from church to church, seeking for salvation.

But hear this. If you don't depart from sin, that sin will depart from you after it has pushed you into hell fire. So, take a decision now. God had a good plan for Adam which was for him to live forever. Adam was more intelligent than all the professors of this world put together. He was stronger than all the strong men in this world put together. He was to live forever. His shorts and his trousers were the glory of God. He didn't need to wear the kind of clothes we are wearing today. He was clothed in God's glory. But Adam aborted the plan. The divine intention for Adam's life was frustrated.

Similarly, Samson was called to destroy the Philistines. That was the divine plan for his life. But one day he woke up and asked his parents to marry Delilah for him not because God said that was his wife, but for the reason that she pleased him well. "get her for me; for she pleaseth me well," Samson said. A bad marriage is next to hell fire. That means a man can start one hell fire here and go to another one.

Samson went ahead and married the unbeliever and that became his undoing. "Tell me the secret of your power so that I can destroy you," Delilah appeared to have said. "Marry her for me." And they did. But what happened? The divine intention was frustrated. The changers of destiny landed on the head of Samson. They messed him up, shaved his hair and plucked out his eyes. He went from being a champion to being a grinder of pepper.

For those who are not married yet, when you say, "Pastor, this is the person I want to marry", he may ask you whether you have prayed enough. If you answer that you have prayed every prayer, he may still tell you to go back and pray more. That "go back and pray more" means there is something wrong.

There is the testimony of a brother who brought a beautiful woman to introduce to a pastor as the one he wanted to marry. The pastor looked at the woman and noticed that she was a fish, but he did not reveal the secret to the man. He simply told him to go and pray very Well. But the brother said, "I

prayed very well." They got married and when they came back from the reception, the man said, "let us pray." Then he began to pray. After sometime, the sister stopped saying Amen. The brother said, "Sister, say Amen now." The woman answered, "I don't want to hear the name of Jesus." It was then that the brother understood what the pastor's question "Have you prayed very well" meant.

Eli's case was another example of when God hid His face. Eli was called to be a priest but two of his children were misbehaving. They were committing immorality Inside the temple. It got so bad that God had to send a message through a small boy to the old prophet. The summary of the message goes like this: "I have decided to make you a priest in Israel, and all your children. But because your children have refused to follow my way, I will do a thing in Israel which the ears of those who hear it will tingle. I will cut off the generation of Eli." God really did. So the divine intention for the life of Eli was frustrated.

Saul was also called to be the first king of Israel. He started the ministry with prophecy. He was prophesying and moving in power. This moved the people to comment: "Is Saul also among the prophets?" But destiny changers landed on the head of Saul and what happened? He translated from being a prophet to a person looking for a witch. Again, the divine intention for his life was frustrated.

Solomon was called to serve God as did his father, but he decided that it was too boring to have one wife. So he married 700 of them and kept about 300 girlfriends, making 1,000. Just Imagine this: somebody who has one wife finds It difficult to maintain her but another person goes to acquire seven, three of whom are Witches, three from water and only one is good. The bad six, will finish the good one and the man. That was exactly what happened to Solomon. By the time the women had finished with him the divine intention for his life was frustrated.

When you terminate God's programme for your life, you end up with trouble. Pray like this: "I will not terminate God's Intention for my life in the name of Jesus."

I know the case of a sister whom God was calling to be a prophetess to Him. The devil knew this plan and started a counter plan. Soon this girl got a handsome man who according to her, had great potentials. She dragged the man to the pastor. "When did this person get born-again?" the pastor asked. She said, "Pastor, it was you who preached to us that it is not the length of time you have

been in a place that decides how strong you are." She went ahead and married the man.

The first night, the man tore all her clothes, the ones in the box and the wedding gown and the ones she was wearing. The woman kept quiet. To whom would she report? The following morning she wore the man's shirt and tied a wrapper that had been torn into two. The man again tore that shirt and the wrapper. It was then the woman realized that she was in trouble and she had to run away from the place. Everybody she told her story could hardly believe her because, outwardly, the man looked so nice and innocent, smiling all the time. Pray like this again: "I will not terminate God's programmes for my life, in the name of Jesus."

That ended the call of that woman. God would have a long query for her on souls that have been lost and people who have gone into danger, whom she could have prevented from entering hell.

God does not accept excuses. Let that ring a bell in your spirit. It is not in His nature. Adam's excuse for disobedience was rejected, just like your excuse, "It is they that made me angry," will be rejected. The excuse that, "It is my baby that disturbs me and prevents me from doing the night vigil," will be rejected, just like "It is because we close late at work that is why I am not able to participate in anything making me a Sunday - Sunday Christian." Eve's excuse for disobedience was rejected.

Moses gave 11 excuses for not wanting to lead his people out of the land of bondage. All of them were rejected. As he was putting up the balloons, God was puncturing them, just like God will puncture every balloon of your excuses, no matter how academic or logical because what is logical to man is illogical to God. The ten spies who went to spy the promised land had excuses for not wanting their people to enter that land. But they were rejected. Israel's excuse for wanting a king like other nations was rejected. Saul's excuse for assuming priestly duties was rejected.

Jeremiah's excuse for shying away from his mission, that he was a small boy, was rejected.

Elijah had excuses for hiding in a cave. He got there and complained: "Lord God, they have thrown down your altar. They have killed your prophets. I am the only one left of all your prophets and they are seeking my life to take it

away. Kill me now for I am not better than my father." If the man had wanted to die he would have waited for Jezebel. God rejected that excuse. He asked him a direct question, "What are you doing here Elijah?"

Those who were invited to that wedding feast, in that wonderful parable of Jesus, their excuses, "I have just gotten married," "I am going to the farm," etc. were rejected. The King said he would throw them into darkness where there would be crying and gnashing of teeth. God will reject every excuse you have for staying put in your dead church and rusting away.

Many people would please their denominations but they wouldn't please God. If you are going to a church where you are not growing spiritually and your bondage is growing stronger, get out because at the end of the day, your pastor will answer his query and you will answer your own.

Maybe before reading this, you have been taking steps to do spiritual abortion, or you have already done it, then you need to fully repent. God will not accept excuses why a husband was unable to do certain things in order to move his matrimonial home forward. When a person terminates God's purpose for his life, the person would do wrong things. He would conceive for the devil.

Household enemies manipulate people so much so that through remote control they send them to the wrong places and give them positions. They are known variously as: Father of the Church, Mother of the Church or what have you, which in itself is a curse. It is a curse because the Father of the Church is in heaven. The Mother of the Church is in heaven. So, why should you allow such a title? Why should you accept it?

Isaiah 6:1-7 says,

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. 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. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. 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. 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: 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.

The prophet did not see God until King Uzziah died, Part of the things we have to command to die in our lives is our individual Uzziah. It is a horrible experience for God to hide His face from us. The Psalmist very often lamented about it.

Psalm 10:1 says,

Why standest thou afar off, O LORD? why hidest thou thyself in times of trouble?

For the simple fact that God is not talking to you and that He is hiding His face does not mean that He approves of what you are doing. In the same vein, that you prayed two or three prayers and God answered them does not mean that you are His friend. There are many people in this shoe.

The psalmist keeps lamenting: In Psalm 89: 46 he says,

How long, LORD? wilt thou hide thyself for ever? shall thy wrath burn like fire?

In Psalm 88: 14, he says,

LORD, why castest thou off my soul? Why hidest thou thy face from me?

And in Psalm 44:24, he says,

Wherefore hidest thou thy face, and forgettest our affliction and our oppression?

Now, let us go to a specific place where God the Father hid His face. Many of us need to tell God to reschedule us because we have been wrongly scheduled.

Matthew 27:45-47 says,

Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Some of them that stood there, when they heard that, said, This man calleth for Elias.

They did not understand. Jesus was suspended between heaven and earth. The Heaven had rejected Him and people of the earth had rejected Him. His Father too turned away. No wonder that song writer says, "It is fit for heaven to shut its light because the Son of God is being rejected,"

If you put on a veil, the barrier that hides the face of God from you, what is the result? The fact that God is abandoning you and He is showing other people revelations about you which you yourself cannot see, shows that some mechanical and surgical work is needed in your life.

No matter how you may pamper yourself, no matter what name you call yourself or what name you bear or which Bible college you attended, a veil could be on your face hiding God from you.

Psalm 104:29 says,

Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust.

When God hides His face, trouble will follow. Let me ask you some questions: Do you see the presence of God in your life during your prayers or your Bible reading or does God look far away? Do you receive a clear picture of what God wants you to do? Or are you the kind of person who wants to apply your life to dreams, you must dream about everything? If you are like that, then your Uzziah must die.

Many people who are coming to the house of God are backsliders. When we say backsliders, many people think we mean people who have gone back to the world, drinking, smoking, running after free women or free men. No. Backsliding is when you are not where God wants you to be.

For instance, when somebody in form two is promoted to form three and he stays there till those in form one catch up with him. That is one form of backsliding. Staying in one place is also backsliding, because if you are not moving forward, those at your back would catch up with you. That means that there are many backsliders amongst us. They need to pray to move from where they are to where God wants them to be, and when they get there nobody needs to tell them. They will know. The best thing that can happen to a man is for him to see Jesus, hear Him, and listen to Him for a few minutes. This is more than what the best preacher in the world can preach to a person.

But why should God go into hiding? Good things are easier to lose than bad things. For example, when people get fire and they are excited, It is so easy to lose the fire; but bad things are so easy to keep. Assuming the people in a congregation are asked one by one to name the 12 disciples of Jesus Christ, many will fail that test. But ask them to tell you something about some advertisement on the radio or TV, some can recite them from the beginning to the end. Some can sing certain juju music from the beginning to the end. They sing after the devil singers, mimicking the guitars and the drums, but to name the disciples of Jesus is a problem. It shows where our priorities are.

A brother was preaching a very interesting message. He said, "When the Holy Spirit was about to depart from the life of Samson, He left quietly. But when the Holy Spirit was going to come on the disciples on the day of Pentecost, He came with a great noise. When He left He did It quietly." This means that a person can still be basking in the euphoria of worldly glory, saying "I am the Mother in Israel, I am the Coordinator; Bishop, General Overseer; the Original member, the Foundational member," still marching around not knowing that the Holy Spirit has left him a long time ago. When the Holy Spirit was packing His luggage, the person was busy doing nothing.

WHEN DOES GOD HIDE HIS FACE?

When you are living in sin

Deuteronomy 31:16-18 says,

And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers; and this people will rise up, and go a whoring after the gods of the strangers of the land, whither they go to be among them, and will forsake me, and break my covenant which I have made with them. Then my anger shall be kindled against them in that day, and I will forsake them, and I will hide my face from them, and they shall be devoured, and many evils and troubles shall befall them; so that they will say in that day, Are not these evils come upon us, because our God is not among us? And I will surely hide my face in that day for all the evils which they shall have wrought, in that they are turned unto other gods.

I feel sorry for some sisters and brothers. When they get to the edge of their breakthroughs, after they have struggled to lift their spiritual height a bit,

somebody turns up, and pulls them down. For the sister it could be her boss in the office, the one that had promoted her. Sometimes, it could be a married woman or man.

Suddenly, one night, a knock at the door and behold it is the boss. She may ask, "What have you come to do here, oga?" He may reply, "I come to greet you." She may ask further: "But it is already late." "I know, I will sleep here and leave tomorrow," says the boss. She goes into sin with him and the spiritual height she has attained collapses. She has to start from the scratch.

Or a sister may say: "This my husband is a crazy man, he is busy running after strange women. Me too, I am going to try my own hands on strange men." It is possible that the first strange man she meets has gonorrhea and problem starts. She would start to cry: "I receive deliverance from every spirit worrying me". But God would say, "shut up" and hide His face from her.

To be honest with you, many pastors will go to hell fire. This is the truth. This is because they have abandoned what they are supposed to do. Their preoccupation is what they are not supposed to do.

Isaiah 1:15 says,

And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

From just a peck on the cheek, people move into sin. With things like this and abortion, one's spiritual life is put under the bushel, and to bring It back will be difficult.

Isaiah 64:7 says,

And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.

Anyone who finds pastime in free women or free men is merely playing with his/her life and is joking with hell fire. A person may be laughing when he is going to hell fire, but when he gets inside, there will be no laughter anymore.

Ezekiel 39: 23 says,

And the heathen shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity: because they trespassed against me, therefore hid I my face from them, and gave them into the hand of their enemies: so fell they all by the sword.

Some people's problem is that they are not paying their tithes. As they are doing so, God's face is hidden. For some people, It is concealed anger. The face is smiling but the Inside is boiling like hot water. When God hides His face, what would He be doing? He would be laughing and mocking the person and this can be terrible.

These are very serious words which I want you to take to heart and pray seriously about. The reason the enemy is sitting on so many people's lives is that there's a seat constructed for him. When you remove the seat, the enemy has no sitting place. There is an anchor in many lives holding the devil in place. When the anchor is destroyed, one's testimony will be a sweet sing-song.

Proverbs 1:24-30 says,

Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

If we call on God and He does not answer, it is our fault. Many blame God unjustly for not answering their calls. I remember something that happened many years back. I was preaching to a girl: "You are a young girl, the only daughter of your parents and by the grace of God you brought your mother to the church. Stop going about with sugar daddies; wait and pray, and God will show you who to marry. The sugar daddy is even a married Muslim. Don't do this type of thing." In reply, she abused me thoroughly and I went my way. The job of the prophet is very simple. He merely says, "Thus says the Lord," and if you say, "I don't want to believe that rubbish," no problem, you can go. The girl and the man started committing immorality and not quite long the girl got pregnant.

They went to a quack doctor. There are so many quack doctors now. They are even multiplying by the day.

The reason being that many students in the medical schools would only be copying notes. They would not go for lectures, instead they go to disco parties, then come to the lecture room the next morning, collect somebody else's notebook, photocopy and memorise the notes. In the examinations, they pass and qualify as doctors to perform abortion as quacks. One of them handled that girl's case. I don't know what happened. Maybe he punctured something and the girl began to roll on the floor.

On getting home, she was Writhing in pain. They rushed her to the church and quickly prayer warriors gathered to pray and began to bind, loose, demolish and pull down. The more they prayed, the greater the pain. So, one of them said, "Excuse me, this girl has done something. Let her confess, If she doesn't want to confess, let's take her to the hospital now."

Unfortunately, she did not talk until she breathed her last in the hospital. That girl is now in hell fire. Why did the prayer warriors bind, loose and demolish but God did not answer them. He was not ready to answer them. Sin covered His eyes.

One day, many years ago, one woman rushed into our house and called my daddy saying, "Come and pray for my son, he has fallen into a coma." My daddy jumped out hurriedly, ran to the place, laid his hand on the boy and prayed. Suddenly, the Lord held a hand before him and he stopped praying. The Lord said, "Don't pray for this one. If you pray and he is revived, one of your own children will replace him!" Then, my daddy said, "May the Lord bless this boy, and let His face shine upon him. Amen." As he was leaving, the woman said, "He is not breathing yet, please continue and bring him back to life." But my father left. The cup of iniquity was full to the brim.

One day, I was alone somewhere and a woman brought her baby girl and reported that the baby girl was funny in her behaviour that I should pray for her. Immediately I said, "Father, in the name of Jesus," the baby that her mother said was sick, started smiling. She brought out one hand and began to rub my face. Immediately, I knew that something had been deposited there against me. That child did not last one week before she died. No prophet could pray successfully for that kind of a child. God was not ready to answer. God hides his face when

we are living in sin.

You may think others do not see you. You may think you are being clever or smart. When calamity comes, He will laugh and mock.

God hides His face from ignorant believers

Hosea 4:6 says,

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge:

One of the greatest enemies of a believer is ignorance. The devil likes ignorant Christians, those praying the wrong prayers but God hides His face. If you are asking God to do what He is expecting you to do, nothing will happen.

Many talk to God like slaves, others beg for what is their own. If you are begging when you should command, nothing happens. The Bible says, "No weapon formed against you shall prosper, every tongue that rises against you in judgement thou shalt condemn." The Bible does not say you should ask God to condemn it for you. There is a difference between commanding, advising, saying things, begging, asking, decreeing and pleading.

The prayer of petition will not work, when you are expected to command. Ignorance is no excuse in the Bible. The Bible says, "The servant who knows the will of his master and does not do it will receive many strokes, but the servant that does not know shall receive fewer stripes." Both the one that knows and the one that does not know. For example, when one is asked: "Why did you go and sleep with a mermaid? "Or why did you use juju (charm) waist band? You may say, "I did not know that time," but you will receive stripes that are fewer than the person who knew and said, "I want the band."

Sometime ago, there was a brother who desperately wanted a visa to travel abroad. Somebody took him to a herbalist who asked him to swallow pins. He said, "I am sorry, I cannot swallow these pins because they will puncture my stomach." But while he was still talking, a girl who was also desperate to travel, she put the pins inside "fufu" (cassava meal) and swallowed them. The man then said, "If a girl can do it, why won't I?" So, he swallowed his own. He eventually got a passport. The Idea was that once he got to the immigration, no one would see him. He would just move across the border unnoticed.

But when he got there, in fact, they did not only see him but also refused him entry and deported him. Then the pins began to work. They were puncturing his intestines gradually and he had stomach pains so much that he could not eat. He ran to the herbalist who said, "Well, when things go wrong like this, there is nothing I can do." He was in pain until he came to a Mountain of Fire and Miracles meeting and a specific word of knowledge came. All the pins then jumped out. If after swallowing those pins, he began to pray at the airport, "God of Mountain of Fire and Miracles, I want to pass through the border unnoticed, in the name of Jesus." God would hide His face. Ignorance destroys because it is another king Uzziah that must die.

God hides His face when you deny Him

Mark 8: 38 says,

Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

Jesus is interceding for us at the right hand of His Father but many are ashamed to be identified with Him. Many are making themselves secret disciples.

Maybe you are reading this and you belong to the group of Christians who move under the cover of the night. Such people wait and smuggle themselves into our meetings because they are afraid that the coordinator or the zonal leaders of a dead church they belong to will see them and report them. There is fear in their minds, the fear of man which the Bible says brings snare. The attitude of "I don't want people to know that I go there" makes one to become a modern-day Nicodemus.

Many people are ashamed to preach in the public. They quickly hide the church sticker on their Bibles so that a preacher will not say, "Brother or sister, I have preached, you now pray." This is the spirit of deception. Two brothers entered a bus. One told the other to stand up and preach but he refused. The bold one stood up and preached. When he finished, his colleague, who had been ashamed, stood up and said the prayers. Jesus says in the Bible that He would be ashamed of such a person.

When some Christians want to marry and they are told to bring ten cartons of

kolanut, wine, alligator pepper, etc., the brother may complain that those things are not scriptural. But the sister may say, "No, don't spoil the show, we must give those things to them:" When those things are given to them, they pour libations, call on the name of the god under the earth, and problems set in. They would then rush back to the church and say, "We need deliverance." This is the problem, beloved, many people are not ready to stand their ground and say, "I am a Christian, I am sorry, I cannot do this."

A couple who wanted to get married went to see the most elderly person in the family and he said, "I heard that you are Jesus people, but let me give you a note of warning, don't come to the engagement without bringing alcohol. If you don't bring it, no marriage will take place." He added that he was ready to bet his life. Then the couple came to me and said, "Dr. Olukoya, our elders have said no marriage would take place if we don't give them alcohol, and we do not want to take a drop of alcohol there." So, I prayed for them and charged them to go. When they got to the place, the man did not say a word. God sent the spirit of malaria to arrest him. The king Uzziah, for denying God, must die.

God hides His face when we apply the traditions of men

Matthew 15:3 says,

But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?

When you follow your own tradition, you nullify the commandment of God. Verse 9 says,

But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

When you practice the tradition of men, the Bible says you are worshiping in vain.

Mark 7:8 says,

For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do.

Verse 13 says,

Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye

have delivered: and many such like things do ye.

When Jesus started His ministry, the first thing He had to battle with among the Jews, was tradition. Traditions are so hard to break and many people are still following tradition today like the baptism of babies. The doctrine of purgatory is the idea that there is one place that is not hell fire and not heaven, that when one dies, one is kept there. This is a man-made idea. There is nothing like that in the Bible.

The Bible says, "It is given unto man to die once and after that judgement." There is no middle place. Because some people think that there is a middle place, they commit sins everyday and go to confess to another sinner on Saturdays. That is the tradition of men. Wearing special uniform at Christian ceremonies are also traditions of men.

On Palm Sunday, people tie palm leaves and put some around their necks, put one innocent boy on a donkey and begin to follow him. Other traditions of men include wearing a cross on the neck, confirmation, the mass, forbidding to marry or celibacy, eating only vegetables when the Bible says that Jesus ate fish and bread. Who are they following? Is it Jesus or their tradition? Heaven have mercy on all these people because as far as one does any of the above things one simply blocks the face of God in one's life.

Unbelief

Jesus could not operate in His town because of their unbelief.

Disobedience

To obey is better than sacrifice and to hearken than the fates of rams. Incomplete obedience is the same thing as disobedience. God prefers outright disobedience to partial obedience because He will spit the partial obedience out. God will prefer that you go out fully with your sin than to be a hypocrite, because you will be blocking the way for others. God asked Abraham to get out and did not tell him to take along with him his father or Lot. As long as Abraham took his father along, he did not make any progress until his father died. Then Abraham began to move. God did not ask him to take Lot. Until Lot was separated from Abraham the voice of God stopped coming to him because of disobedience. If you are disobeying God, I counsel you to quickly obey because the repercussion is that He will hide His face.

God hides His face when we stay out of His will

Everyone has a place in God. God has no useless or unused members. If you do not take your place in the body or the church of Christ, the body is weakened because of it. So, you cannot be coming to church and just be warming the benches. You must be actively doing something. You have to take your rightful place. All of us cannot be mouths, or legs. We can share the functions.

Some people are always critical. The truth is this, in the house of God, the Holy Spirit is the only one qualified to criticize. No one has the right to place himself as a referee on the word of God. Our business is to find our place in the body of Christ and fill it. Until we find that place, where God wants us to operate, we would pay the price for wasting divine time. The price one pays for wasting the time of God may be expensive. It may be sickness, loss of money or discomfort. God cannot protect anyone as long as he is outside His will. So, take your place. Don't allow king Uzziah to block your way. Life will not have any meaning for anyone who is outside the will of God.

The big thing in life is to be in the will of the Father. Jesus turned water into wine, the Bible tells us. If you are not where God wants you to be, you may turn your own wine into water.

God hides His face when we are proud

James 4:6 says,

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

It is therefore clear that God will resist the proud, God takes an active role to resist a proud person and block his way, disgrace or humble him. So, any proud person is playing a dangerous game. Pride was the first sin in the universe. It is the sin the devil committed. Isaiah had not seen the vision of the Lord since the beginning of his ministry, Uzziah was on the throne of his life. He focused his mind and vision on the wealth and riches of king Uzziah, He took counsel from king Uzziah. He had no time for heart-felt prayers.

So, what is your own king Uzziah today? Is it preventing you from having a close relationship with God? Drop that Uzziah. Let it be uprooted and destroyed. Your Uzziah may be your best friend, your best food, your hobby, or your inability to fast. The Uzziah may turn to a Delilah or Jezebel. You may say they

are helping me, but they may soon become a thorn in your flesh. Take the following prayer points and continue praying them because God wants everybody to be a priest unto Him.

God wants everybody to hear from Him and see Him, not depending on somebody else before you know what your Father is saying. It is time for you to adjust.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Oh God, remove from my life anything that scares You away, in the name of Jesus.
2. Every strange fire burning in my life, quench now, in the name of Jesus.

TWO

WHEN GOD BECOMES A SPECTATOR

Beloved, the relevance of this topic to our lives today as Christians is based on the experiences of the children of Israel with the Almighty God, prior to the coming of Jesus Christ.

God becomes a spectator (as He was to the children of Israel in the Old Testament) whenever we do anything contrary to His will, plan and purpose for our lives. The Scriptures point to this fact.

In Jeremiah 14:8-9, there is a terrible lamentation by Prophet Jeremiah,

O the hope of Israel, the saviour thereof in time of trouble, why shouldest thou be as a stranger in the land, and as a wayfaring man that turneth aside to tarry for a night? Why shouldest thou be as a man astonied, as a mighty man that cannot save? yet thou, O LORD, art in the midst of us, and we are called by thy name; leave us not.

In Psalm 28: 1, the Psalmist prayed a very important prayer: **"Unto thee will I cry, O Lord my rock; be not silent to me: lest, if thou be silent to me, I become like them that go down into the pit."**

It is only those that are in hell fire or are on their way to hell fire who don't hear the voice of God again. When God decides to become deaf to a person, the person becomes like someone going into a pit.

To understand when God becomes a spectator, we need to look at when He started relating with His people. All good readers of the Bible will know that the worship of the Lord by man started by building altars and they sacrificed animals. This was how far their knowledge carried them. The erection of altars as a form of worship to God, however started from the book of Genesis up to when Moses pulled the Israelites out from the land of Egypt. By the power of God, he built a tabernacle, in which God was present. They called It the Holy of holies.

At that time, God was designed to be In a place of worship, He was not in their lives, because they messed up their lives. Hence, when you read the Old Testament, not much mention is made about the devil doing terrible things. Those people didn't know anything about God as He was not in their lives. After sometime, David wanted to build a temple, God said, "No, you have killed too many people, you have blood on your hands, so don't build the temple." Solomon built the temple.

But a time came that God was just looking at the children of Israel while Nebuchadnezzar raided the temple and carried away all the things they were using to worship God. God sat down as a spectator. Although, God was the one who asked the children of Israel to build the temple, and having furnished it, they had thought that God would prevent the enemies from raiding the temple. No, he stood as a spectator and was merely watching the scene. When they decided to break down the first temple, God was there, looking at them, and despite all the efforts made In building it He still stood there as a spectator. It is therefore a great prayer point from the Psalmist that "God, be not silent to me, don't act to me like a spectator." God watched all these things, happening without uttering a word.

Therefore, when the children of Israel moved to build the second temple, and destroyed It again, God still stood there to watch It being destroyed. So when Apostle Stephen came and began to talk about God dwelling not in temple made by hand, but in their heart, they killed him. They didn't understand his message. This Is the reason why they suffered so much whenever they did what God did not want them to do. He became a spectator to them and watched when problems arose.

A lot of people complain why many bad things happen nowadays? The truth is that nothing happens without the permission of God. The Bible says God cannot do anything without revealing it to His prophets, and the devil has his limit because God sets the limit.

Many believers will never, In their lives, follow a multitude to do evil. They will stick their ground by refusing to participate. Also, they will not be at the forefront of those who want to do well, preferring to stay somewhere in the middle, not at the front to champion a course nor at the back, they just stand in the middle.

Many believers like to encourage others to keep marching on in the faith, but are themselves 'suckling baby Christians' who have refused to grow up in the faith. It's like a father in the Lord whose first daughter was put in the family way, while she was yet to finish schooling. So, the man of God started crying but a senior member of his church encouraged him to take things easy and never to be discouraged and that the Bible says, in the world, there shall be many tribulations, but if we are of good cheer we shall overcome the world. "They will succumb, all these things i.e. problems will succumb before you, and they won't overcome you. You will triumph," says the old man to the man of God. The pastor was encouraged as this man kept talking.

While they were still chatting, somebody came in and broke another news to the old man, who came to visit the Pastor, that his own daughter too had been put in the family way. Then, the man who was encouraging the man of God broke down and started crying, and cried bitterly. It was the turn of the man of God now to counsel him, that after all, he was the one who had just counseled and encouraged him a while ago. What kind of thing is this? A lot of people are just like that, theoretical Christians.

However, the word of God says in Jude 3 that, **"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."** The Bible is admonishing us to fight and be serious with our Christianity.

Many years ago, when I was in the secondary school, a funny girl came early one morning, accompanied her father, to the houses of seven men, who were her boyfriends, to find out who among them put his daughter in the family way. None of the seven boys (one of them was living in our house) owned up to the pregnancy. The father was so devastated that after visiting the house of the seventh boy, as none of them accepted, he decided it was needless following his daughter to see any other boy, if any. But when the baby was born he was the carbon copy of the man living close to my house and yet, the man denied.

God becomes a spectator when Christ is denied. Denying Christ is a worse sin than the example just described above. Modern legal courts are always an interesting place where all the smooth liars and sweet talkers deny what they have done and are set free. There was a time a man stole a goat, and was taken to the court of law where he lied that he didn't steal any goat but that, he was just

pulling a rope. He got a clever lawyer who got him off of the hook.

Later, the man became a born-again Christian and, when he was making restitution, he pleaded with God the first day, to forgive him as he merely stole a rope. But God said "Shut up, and get away from here."

The next day, he came and said, "Well, O Lord, I admit that there was a goat at the end of the rope". Although this man had received freedom from the court of law, he was not free from the court of God. Yet denying Christ is worse than all these things being described.

Jesus points out clearly that "As many shall confess me before men, them will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven." These are serious words: "If you confess me, I too will confess you, If you deny me, I too will deny you." But many believers do not know the seriousness when they deny their Lord.

Mark 8:38 says,

Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.

Do you hear that statement again?

If you are ashamed of Christ, you don't want to be identified, when the kingdom comes, Jesus too will hide somewhere and say, "I am ashamed, I don't want to be identified with that person."

2 Timothy 2: 12 says,

If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:

Many of us read it and just overlook it. If you want to serve the Lord in secret, you want to be a local Nicodemus; God promises to be a secret God to you. If you hide under the cover of darkness, desirous not to be seen associating with those people who pray aggressively and come only when it is dark, God will also hide in the dark. He too will deny you.

I implore us to meditate on those passages. This is why the denial of Jesus by Peter is as serious as what Judas did. John 18: 17 says, "**Then saith the damsel that kept the door unto Peter, Art thou also one of this man's disciples? He**

saith, I am not." What saved Peter was the prayer that the Lord prayed for him. I pray for you also that your faith fails not.

Perhaps, you are wondering how somebody can deny the Lord. It is very simple. You can deny His power and you can deny His character. The Bible says, some people have the form of godliness but they deny the power. How can somebody deny His name and His words, deny His power, and deny His character? Is it possible to do all these four things?

Failure to publicly own up that you are born again amounts to denying Christ. Your actions or reactions to people and circumstances may indicate that you are trying to hide your identity. Many, like Peter, are afraid of their own safety. Many deserve popularity and approval by others.

A student wants to keep the acquaintance and friendship of other students and therefore denies Christ. Some people do not want to be ridiculed or belittled. That you are silent when you should talk is a denial of the Lord Jesus Christ. You do not want people to think that you are an odd person whereas, the Bible says you are a peculiar person.

Your neighbours are blocking the streets at night with parties, without your permission, they are not even afraid that you are upset. You now come out and declare yourself a Christian, but you are shy, and afraid. When people are praying with holy aggression, you tell them to lower their voices as this is a quiet area with civilized people. You forget the fact that when they want to block their streets they don't come to ask for a permission. They just block it and make the noise throughout the night. Oh beloved, how much we disappoint God.

Some people hide their Bibles inside the big black bags. They don't want the people around to know that they are going to church, thereby see them as fanatics.

Some are even ashamed of carrying the Bible alone without a bag, because they don't want to be seen as fanatics. They make tragic statements like, "Well, I don't carry religion on my head."

Where do you want to carry It? On your leg? Many people are too shy to distribute the tracts in the bus and If by any chance, somebody comes in the bus to distribute his evil wares and says, "If you buy this perfume, you rub it on your body, your boss in the office will die, you take over his seat, and people are

saying give me four but a child of God sits down there saying, "Well, me I won't buy but I won't talk." No, you are denying Christ. You ought to stand up and say this is demonic. But many people will say: "Well, we don't know the kind of power that the man brought inside this bus now. I don't know what will happen If he removes 'juju horsewhip' and begins to beat me now." If you think you are saving your head, it is a serious offence in heaven that you are denying Christ.

When somebody dies, a lot of us would be the first persons to start frying bean-cakes or "puff-puff" while the Bible says that those who do such things are doing it for the queen of heaven. We would not be able to refuse and say we are not doing this because It is against the Bible, even when they ask you and your Bible to get away from here. You say, "I am not going away, I will stay but I am not doing this.

A minister of God went to preach somewhere, and there was one man there who has Ph.D. In Theology. This man of God was not afraid as he preached to everybody at that party. Then, the theology man called him and said, "Well, this Is good, I admire your boldness, but you made a lot of grammatical mistakes." And that minister looked at him and said, "Well, I like my own way of doing it with my grammatical mistakes and getting results, than your own way of sitting down and keeping quiet. If the apostles had kept quiet, nobody will be saved."

Smith Wigglesworth was in a ship traveling somewhere with some other people and they had a variety night where everybody in the ship gathered, and was served all kinds of things. Then, everybody began to say the type of songs blues, pop, etc., they could sing and these were written down. When they were being listed, Wigglesworth too went there to put down his name, for a song. When it was Wigglesworth's turn to sing with the pianist he was invited to come forward. They had been singing terrible songs like you love me, and I love you, all those kinds of things. Wigglesworth came with his hymn book hidden in his coat. He knew that if they saw it from afar, it would probably cause trouble. So, he had his hymn book in his coat. When he got to the front of the pianist, he dropped it at the front of the lady and said, play this. When the lady saw the wordings, she refused to play. So, Wigglesworth then opened his hymn book and began to sing:

He said I could tell him as I know him.

My redeemer who has brightened all my days

If I could tell how precious is His presence,

I am sure you will make him yours today.
Could I tell it, could I tell it?
How the sunshine of His presence lights my way
I will tell it, I will tell it.
And I am sure that you will make him yours today.

He sang the first verse, there was confusion, he sang the second verse, people settled down a little bit. By the third verse, some people were crying, and he was able to save some souls in that place. But if he had looked at their faces, he would have been discouraged by the calibre of people around: Professor of History, Commissioner, Minister, Governor, Head of State, when all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. We all need the Saviour.

The reason many people carry Gideon Bible about is that they are ashamed to carry a bigger one. Some do not wish to be referred to as fanatics. Therefore, they paint their faces like Jezebel, just to look worldly. They believe that if they do so, they cannot win them for Christ. They make a mistake because it is the Holy Spirit that wins them and not men.

You could have the dullest face on earth and win souls for the Lord. At the same time, you could have the brightest face, painted all over and your church will still be empty. So, if it is the Holy Spirit that introduces people then, leave the Holy Spirit to make the connections. Don't try to be like them or prove to them that Christianity has nothing to do with dressing. Zephaniah 1:8 says, **"And it shall come to pass in the day of the Lords sacrifice that, I will punish the princes, and the king's children, and all such as are clothed with strange apparel."**

Many come late in the night, because they do not want anybody to see them.

Sometime ago, somebody came to my house one night and said "Do you know me?" I said, "I don't know you." She said, "Well, thank God, for the past two weeks I have not gone to the toilet. I have not urinated, I have not passed stool." I said, "What do you want me to do now?" She said, "Pray now." I said, "But our fellowship is near your house, why don't you come?" She said, "Ah, if they see me coming there, trouble will happen o."

Then, I said, "Madam, you know what, I am not going to pray, that place you didn't want to go so that people will not see you is where you will go to." Later I

said "I will be merciful to you, come to the night vigil." In fact, we normally start our night vigil in those days at 12 midnight, the woman was there at 8.00 p.m. I told her that if she was to consider what people were saying about her, they would kill her, come to her funeral and eat rice. Jesus was to establish a clear testimony, He came and established it. As a Christian too, you are to establish a clear testimony.

One day, when I was in the university, as I was writing my home work, a girl who sat in front of me said, "Look at this paper." I looked at the paper, and behold, she had composed a love song for me. I said, "What is this?" She said, "Ah read it now." I said, "Sorry o, I am already married to Jesus." she said, "You this small boy, you don't want to enjoy yourself." Do you know the testimony? Recently, I saw the girl in our church here. If I have destroyed my testimony then, it would have been a different story.

When you offend somebody, and refuse to apologise to him, you are denying the words of Christ, you are denying the character of Christ. You may say you will privately ask god for forgiveness because you are older than the person. You may think the person is nothing or people will think that you are a fool and, it will encourage them to abuse you again, you are denying Christ, His words and his character. Refusal to apologise and say you are sorry is an indication that you have rejected the injunction of Christ on humility. These are things that make god to just watch.

Refusal to give testimonies on what the Lord has done for you is a denial, and if it is because you say you are shy Jesus too will be shy of you at the latter day. Of the ten lepers that were healed, only one came back with gratitude and he was the only one that was made whole. Others were just patched up like tyres.

When you deprive God of the glory that His name deserves, the person is denying Christ. So don't be surprised if God becomes a spectator to another thing you are asking. When you fail to confess positive things about your life, when you abandon what God said and you begin to say what the devil is saying, you deny His words and power.

When you murmur against God, you are denying his power. God got really angry with those who murmured in the wilderness and all of them did not get to the Promised Land. Murmuring can take place by words, thoughts or actions. I

will give you examples. "Oh, God is unfair; ah this is not good enough. What have I done? Is it Only me? I don't know the sin that I committed." "Why am I the odd person out?" "My father has ten children, it is only me, God." After sometime, the person who used to come on time for meetings will begin to come late because of discouragement.

Murmuring is a big sin because it denies the power of God. It makes you to take three steps forward, four steps backward. It will seem as if never prayed, because when you keep murmuring, God will just do what is in 1 Corinthians 10:10 which says, **"Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer."**

God will just fold His arms, and watch. Each time you allow unbelief in your heart, you deny the power of God. You know that it is a sin to doubt God, that is why the Bible says some people have the form of godliness but they deny the power of God. What does it mean to have the form of godliness without the corresponding power?

You go to church regularly, you probably have a Christian name and pray when prayers are called. You carry the Bible, you have posters by your door "Angels on Guard" or you could put the sticker of Jesus on your shirt or blouse. If you do all these, then you have the form of godliness, but you deny the power.

Some church goers are now preaching that the age of miracle is gone or that the miracles are no longer happening. They are denying the power of God when the Bible says, Jesus the same, yesterday, today and forever.

Failure to make your restitution is denying Christ. You must return anything you have forcefully acquired, and using them is keeping stolen property. The reason some people don't want to hand over what they have stolen is that they fear the repercussion; they don't want to lose their face or pride. It is a big dent on their wealth.

These are no excuses before God. You must encourage yourself in the Lord and make necessary restitution. When God gives you a revelation and you are expected to speak out but you keep quiet and something horrible happens, and then you woke up and said you saw that thing. God holds you responsible for not telling those that are concerned. When you ought to share the gospel with somebody, but you kept quiet; maybe that person suddenly died and God will hold you responsible.

A brother was preaching in the market place and he asked the Lord, "how many people should I preach to today?" God told him. So he started looking at their faces. When God says this is the person, he would go there and talk to the person. And they will surrender their lives. I think, maybe, he had covered 22 or so that day. Then It remained one, the last person did not come and the market was empty. If he says is it that person, God will say no, is it this person, God will say no and everybody went home. He was the only one standing In the market place.

Then suddenly, somebody was riding past in a car and God said: "This is the person." So he ran to the car. He was so tired that he just asked the man to give his life to the Lord. "I have been waiting here for you since." And the man said "yes, how can I accept Him?" And he gave his life. Two days later, this brother was shocked when he looked at the newspaper and saw the obituary of the man. He died the next day. If this brother had disobeyed God, the blood of the man would have been upon his head.

Keeping silent when you should discipline and mould your children In the way of the Lord or speak out against unrighteousness Is denying Christ because you are His ambassador and His mouth in all these situations. When they look around for somebody to tell the truth, they should be able to point you out as the right person.

When Pentecostalism first started in this country, we heard that they came to the church to look for honest people to work in the banks. But, today, it is the so-called Reverend Doctor or Pastor that will first steal and get locked-up, and church members will be contributing money to bail him. This is very sad. They are denying Christ. You know that something is very wrong, but for some reasons, you refuse to talk or you know who did it but you are keeping quiet, you are not the light in the environment, and that person is denying Christ.

When you fail to evangelise, you fail to preach the gospel; it is the strongest form of denial. If your lifestyle and attitude keep people away from getting born again, then know that your lifestyle is denying Christ. So I will ask you some simple questions. How many people have observed your pattern and say they will follow you to that fellowship of yours? How many new converts are you prayerfully following up? Your inability to witness to others is not welcome by God and it might affect your blessing.

How can you witness to a person when you are already committing immorality with him or her? How can you show Christ to that businessman, when both of you are already doing a crooked business together and selling smuggled items? The blood of many people shall be required from the head of believers. How can your life convert your husband when you are always fighting and biting him?

The Bible says, "Earnestly contend for the faith that was once delivered to the saints." You can see for yourself now that as far as your life keeps denying God, miracles cannot take place. God will just stand there as a spectator. The lamentation of Jeremiah which says, "O the saviour of Israel, why are you standing there as a stranger and as a wayfaring man," will surely come, to pass. So, you must stop being a secret disciple. You must take a bold stand for the Lord.

I was invited tea place, and while I sat down, they wanted to start the ceremony. But the announcer said, "Before we start this ceremony, let Dr. Olukoya lead us in prayers. Thereafter, we shall observe the traditional breaking of the kola." I said, "Okay, no problem." I got the microphone and began to pray that, all those that are planning to eat this kola and the kola too should turn to fire, and that when they eat it, (if they decide to eat it), their lives will never remain the same, in the name of Jesus. They said, "Amen." It caused trouble. But it is better for you to cause trouble or be known that you will cause trouble than for you to hide.

A man of God too was invited somewhere because somebody was planning to go to Mecca. And they made one mistake in inviting this fanatical brother there. When they had cooked meals, they made another mistake again by asking the brother to give the opening prayer. Anyone would have thought this was a difficult task because that was what the troublemaker was praying for. He took the microphone and said "O God, you open your eyes, and you want this woman to go and perish. I command the way to become rough. I command everything to scatter, this journey will not prosper in the name of Jesus." The woman broke down and cried wanting to know who brought the man to curse her.

But, before they could say their own type of prayer, he had left. However, nobody could eat the food that day. Those are the kind of things God expects us to be doing. You want to live a quiet life? Then you don't need the Holy Spirit. Go away because the Holy Spirit is not quiet.

When the apostles got filled they could not be quiet, It was not possible. May God have mercy on all the quiet Holy Spirit-filled people. I was like that before.

The second reason God becomes a spectator is when one denies Him and begin to eat the bread of sorrow. Psalm 127:2 says: **"It is vain for you to rise up early to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep."** What does It mean to eat the bread of sorrow? It means to listen to the devil. Strange as it may sound many people spend their quiet moments listening to the devil. They meditate on topics supplied by the devil, then it leads to lack of sleep, and lack of sleep leads to the consumption of the bread of sorrow. It is time for you believers to permanently tune your radio to the wave length of God. It is time to throwaway the special bread of the enemy and reject the butter of sadness. The Bible calls it vanity. Who are the eaters of sorrowful bread?

- Whatever problem keeps sleep away from the believer is a bread of sorrow.
- Whatever problem keeps the believer worried every time, and makes him to breathe deep breath is a bread of sorrow.
- Whatever problem gets you so worried or unhappy whenever a particular person is around is a bread of sorrow.
- Whatever problem makes married people to stop talking to each other in the home is a bread of sorrow.
- Whatever is causing the believer to be taking sleeping tablet is bread of sorrow.
- Whatever problem is making the believer who is supposed to be doing quiet time, but rather meditates on his problems, is a bread of sorrow.
- Whatever problem is making the believer unable to concentrate is a bread of sorrow.
- Whatever problem is making the Christian to stay at home and forsake fellowship because something too big is holding him down is a bread of sorrow.
- Whatever problem will make a believer run out at 5 a.m., in the morning then come as late as 11.30 p.m. because you don't want to talk to anybody is a bread of sorrow.

The trouble with eating the bread of sorrow is this: it will circulate from your mouth, into your spirit, into your blood and it will begin to speak negative

things. Then, your negative inauguration and confession will further pollute your spirit. This is the price paid when people listen to the devil, eating the bread of sorrow.

As for believers decide to eat the bread of sorrow, God will just fold His arms and say "I am the bread of life but if you don't want that one, here is the bread of sorrow, and so you can have It." And once somebody is consuming the bread of sorrow, his spiritual temperature will go down. He will become a spiritual baby.

It is easy to recognize spiritual babies; they keep falling into the same sin. They have active hands and active mouths but inactive spirit. They bother about criticisms and gossips. Those are the signs of baby Christians. They are talking about me: I am always happy when they are gossiping about me. It shows that I am important.

My father went to be with the Lord last year. Nobody can gossip about him again. It is because I am alive, so, if you don't want people to gossip about you, it means you want to die spiritual babies are people who don't become intimate with the Holy Spirit, they fall in paying their tithes and offerings. Denying Christ, and eating the bread of sorrow will make God to become a spectator.

PRAYER POINT

1. O Lord, do not be a spectator in my life, in the name of Jesus.

THREE

WHEN GOD IS SILENT

There could be worrying occasions in a believer's prayer life when it appears that God is silent. This chapter focuses on the possible reasons this may be so. I therefore would like you to open your heart as you prayerfully read along. As our working tool, let us consider three different texts from the scriptures.

Psalm 28:1 says,

Unto thee will I cry, O LORD my rock; be not silent to me: lest, if thou be silent to me, I become like them that go down into the pit.

Psalm 83: 1 says exactly the same thing,

Keep not thou silence, O God: hold not thy peace, and be not still, O God.

Psalm 50: 16-22 says,

But unto the wicked God saith, What hast thou to do to declare my statutes, or that thou shouldest take my covenant in thy mouth? Seeing thou hatest instruction, and castest my words behind thee. When thou sawest a thief, then thou consentedst with him, and hast been partaker with adulterers. Thou givest thy mouth to evil, and thy tongue frameth deceit. Thou sittest and speakest against thy brother; thou slanderest thine own mother's son. These things hast thou done, and I kept silence; thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself: but I will reprove thee, and set them in order before thine eyes. Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver.

Beloved, I have heard many sermons in my life, but very few were as moving as the one I heard over 20 years ago titled, "God's Lamentation and Failure over His Creatures." The preacher took his text from Genesis 6:5 which says,

And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

The summary of that particular message was God's decision to wipe off man from the surface of the earth as a result of man's refusal to hearken to His voice. So, once the word of God do not change a person and the person stubbornly sticks to his opinions and ways, the end is always destruction.

The word of God did not change Adam and Eve and that is why the whole of humanity is in trouble now. The word of God did not change Cain, hence he became the first murderer. The word of God did not change Lot's daughters though they received angelic visitation. Korah, Dathan and Abiram also refused to be changed by the word of God and became the first people to go to hell fire without dying, they were swallowed by the earth alive. God lamented in so many places in the Scriptures. He also laments when His words do not change men. However, God may even choose not to speak at all.

REASONS WHY GOD IS SILENT

Let us examine some of the possible reasons He may take this line of action:

When He is not happy with you and has forsaken you

It was God that chose Saul, installed him as king over His people and helped him win his battles. He disobeyed and God refused to have any further dialogue with him, either through prophecy, vision or dream. Saul eventually fell and died with his three children the same day.

Eli and Samuel were sleeping in the same environment, but God chose to speak to Samuel because Eli's activities had since evoked the displeasure of God. So, when you are not hearing again from the Lord, you probably have started doing some things which have evoked His displeasure and He has therefore forsaken you. At this juncture, pray to the Lord like this:

"Any sin blocking my ears, any sin staring God away from depart from my life now, in the name of Jesus."

When he is speaking to you but you cannot hear His voice

He is talking but somewhere along the line, your own frequency is different from His own. If God is speaking to you and for some reasons something is in your life and you cannot hear Him, it is as if He is silent but He is speaking. You just cannot pick it up. Most believers are very good at talking but their ability to listen is under- developed.

Most Christians have become experts in using their mouth and have rejected the act of hearing. In the present world, there is so much noise and to be truly silent is very difficult. This is the reason why some people go for a retreat to get out of the crowd and create a conducive atmosphere for hearing from God.

I Samuel 3: 1 says,

And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. And the word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision.

In other words, there were not many people around that were attentive enough to hear what God was saying. To many of us, God's voice, is either indistinct or does not exist. Many people walk according to their minds. Anything their mind tells them, they, will do. Even though the mind, dictating to them is unregenerated, dirty and polluted. Certainly, such a mind cannot produce anything pure.

Isaiah 55: 2 says,

Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

Our blunt refusal to incline our ear to hear may therefore be construed to mean silence from God, for Jesus says, "Behold I stand at the door and knock if any man hears my voice and opens the door I will come in."

When what you are talking to Him about is not His will for your life.

If a person decides to convert personal and selfish ambition to a prayer point, God remains quiet. A fornicator who has just committed sin with a sister and thereafter approaches God to find out if the woman is God's will for his life, will hear nothing from God. Even if you receive any answer in this sinful nature, the answer will be in accordance with the Idol in your heart. Anytime We therefore decide to embark on a course of action that is at variance With His will for us, the reward from God may be silence.

A sister prayed about somebody to marry, but the trouble with this would-be husband was that he smoked marijuana a little bit. But outside the marijuana smoking, he was a perfect gentleman, very nice, sociable, and respectful. The mother of the sister liked the man and wanted him to be her son-in-law.

This sister knew the sin in the life of this brother and had the knowledge of the scripture which forbade believers from being unequally yoked with unbelievers. Yet because of what she wanted, which is not what God wanted for her, she decided to go on three days dry fasting to inquire of the Lord If she should marry that brother. She heard nothing from God!

When He has nothing to say

Maybe you are doing very well and He is pleased with you, then He will be silent. For God is the Almighty and the Sovereign. God is not like the microphone you tap and you say hello! hello !! testing ! testing !! testing !!! Neither is He a toy. Our God is not a talkative. Neither does He speak for fun. The President of a nation only addresses his subjects on matters of national importance. In the same vein, our Sovereign Father will only speak to us when there is the real need.

Psalm 62: 11 says,

God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God.

God speaks once but if He decides to repeat a thing, the implication is that it is a serious issue. The recurring dream that some of us are having may be as a result of our refusal to hearken to His voice for He will continue to bring such to our notice till it is addressed. Thereafter, He keeps quiet. It is doubtful If most of these so-called "Thus says the Lord" from the same person every prayer meeting day is truly from God. He does not waste His words.

When you are living in any known sin

The Bible says the time of ignorance God winked at. But when you are committing the sin willfully, then He will remain silent.

Isaiah 59: 1-2 says,

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

Iniquity drives God far away. If God the Father can abandon Jesus Christ on

the cross when He was bearing the iniquities of the world, then He would not hesitate to distance Himself from any one living in sin. Grace cannot abound, the scripture is very clear about this. It is no use saying I will repent after this particular one. God cannot be mocked as your thoughts are known to Him.

Beloved, if there is a request you have been making to God and it appears He is not talking to you about it, you may need to seriously search through your own life to see if you are living in any known sin. Deal with that first. The result would surely amaze you.

When you exercise incomplete obedience

God does not want people on the fence. You are either for Him or you are for satan. God prefers you to be absolutely disobedient than to be partially obedient. In Genesis 12 : 1, God gave an instruction to Abraham:

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:

But Abraham obeyed partially and took both his father and Lot along. Let us read further what happened to him in Acts 7: 3-4 which says,

And said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee. Then came he out of the land of the Chaldaeans, and dwelt in Charran: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell.

Abraham did not make much progress until his father that, he carried along died. And he started hearing from God again only after Lot was separated from him. Perhaps there is a Lot in your life right now that you are carrying about as a luggage. God will not speak when that extra luggage is there because as far as God is concerned, that is a partial obedience.

When your obedience is complete, God speaks to you clearly. God will speak today as clearly as it was in the Bible days. He has not, and will not change. The problem has always been with the hearers.

When He has spoken to you and you thought that it was an ordinary man that spoke to you

A clean case of this situation was what happened in Acts 27. Paul was in a ship en-route Rome. As they were about to set sail, Paul said, "Brethren, I perceive that this journey will be dangerous not only for our luggage but our lives as well."

They refused to listen to him being a prisoner. But that landed them in trouble. The Bible says for almost two weeks they could not even see the sun. There was confusion. They could not eat again because they refused to listen. God spoke through Paul, they thought it was Paul speaking.

Many times, we discountenance the fact that the Lord can use anybody to speak to us. In most cases, this is due to pride, stubbornness, rebellion or familiarity. Jesus Christ was held with the same contempt, rebellion or familiarity. "Is this not Joseph's son?" It is very dangerous to neglect the voice of God because of the kind of vessel being used. A command from God, if mistaken, can cost you your life.

Remember the story of the young prophet in the Bible. God sent him to Bethel with a clear message to Jeroboam. He was not to eat or drink and not to return by the way he went. And the prophet went there as God instructed. He met the king at the altar and just pointed to the altar saying, "Altar, altar, hear the word of the Lord, by this time next year, instead of the bones of animals that are here, it is the bones of these priests that will be on you," The man prayed and left after a successful outing for the Lord. But on his way back, he met an older prophet who made him to disobey the clear command from God. He had a devastating end. Mistakes like that could cost a person his life.

A girl was told by a servant of God not to travel, but she disobeyed the word of God and went ahead. As she was getting to the airport, the plane she was about to take was departing. So she missed that one, but still went to board a train. Sadly, the plane crashed while the train she took also crashed. So she ended up dying, all because of the contempt with which she held the voice of the Lord.

When the voice of your own life is,. TOO loud for him

Many lives are conditioned to noise. In this noise-dominated world, it is sometimes difficult to live in silence. Noise seems to be the characteristic of our time. If you go to a campus, you would find students claiming to be reading their books with disco music or noisy programmes on TV and radio. So when you are

too loud like this, when will God talk? This is why the only free time God has to speak to many of us is in our sleep. This is why many of us are dreamers. Because you are not quiet enough for Him to talk and the only quiet moment is when you are sleeping.

Sometimes God speaks in a still small voice. If you are too busy, or you are too noisy you would not hear Him. Sometimes the voice of God in a meeting may be coming from the most inferior and insignificant person, but that person may be the one the Lord wants to use.

One good thing about Namman was his listening to good advice. A small girl told him to go to Israel for healing, and he listened and got his healing. Saul, on his way to Damascus, was going to destroy Christians. In that furious state, it was impossible for God to speak to him. He was thereafter knocked down with blindness to silence the voice of his own life. Then it was possible for him to hear from God. I want you to close your eyes and pray aggressively like this: "Let every distraction preventing me from hearing God clearly be destroyed, in the name of Jesus."

This is the reason Why God sometimes allow sickness to hit people. That is the only state He can talk to them.

When He has set an appointed time to answer you

He has decided that this is the time answer will come for your prayers. Aggressive fire prayers may not help in this situation because He has set an appointed time; the time He knows the answers will benefit you.

Let me share with you the testimony of this sister. Before she got born again, she used to pray, "Oh Lord, I want to marry a pilot." And so she got one. But the problem with the pilot was that he beats up people. He used to give this sister serious beatings that sometimes she jumps the fence to escape. Later, the sister became serious with Jesus and went into three days dry fast and prayed, "Oh Lord, this man is beating me up and preventing me from serving you. Please do something about it."

On the third day of the fast, Jesus Himself appeared and said, "My daughter, before I address what you are praying about, let me first of all show you something that I have done for you during your fasting programme." She saw a little boy in her hand and a boy of twenty standing close to the little boy.

The Lord said, "That is your boy when he would be twenty, something has been planted in his life now which will not manifest until he is twenty. But because of the prayers you are doing now I have removed that one. But for your husband, do not talk to me about that man again because he will change at the appointed time. But if you find that the beating is terrible, pack your things and leave." And as a matter of fact, the beating got worse, and the sister left.

Then somewhere along the line, God met this man and he wanted to go into full time ministry. The first question they asked him was the where about of his wife. He couldn't answer and they told him to go and fetch her. He went to his wife and apologised. They reunited and not only did the beating stop, the sister also had the freedom to worship her God with her husband. Her appointed time had come. I pray that your own appointed time will come, in Jesus' name.

When He wants to multiply the punishment of the enemy

A sister came to me saying, "I am disappointed with God. I mean this is unfair." Our discussions revealed that she had lost three of her elder sisters to a witch in their family who had confessed to be responsible for their death. She was therefore wondering why God had not done anything about it.

I was able to convince her that the silence of God did not mean inaction. He was just keeping quiet to multiply the affliction of this witch. God said to Abraham, "Say to the son of the Ammorites that in the fourth generation they are coming back here because their cup of iniquity is not filled yet." That means in two hundred years time they would come back to suffer for what they have done but for now their cup is not filled yet.

When He is reserving His anger for the enemy

Nahum 1:2 says,

God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies.

When He has given a person a period of probation to change

God is not slack concerning His promise according to 11 Peter 3: 9 which says,

The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

God does not want anybody to perish. So the fact that a sinner is "enjoying" himself and God seems to be doing nothing about it does not mean God is weak. No. He is watching because He has given a period of probation.

When He has done all you want Him to do

If this is the situation, all you need to do is to wait for the manifestation. All further requests beyond this will be met with the Almighty's silence.

When He wants the testimony to be complete

Peter was in prison and people prayed that the Lord should release him. The absence of Peter drove the Apostles into night vigils and prayers. God waited until it remained a day for Peter to be killed before He brought him out to make the testimony complete. The prison doors opened of their own accord and Peter got out. His glory He will never share with anyone.

When He is waiting for a crucial period to do a thing

It is only when a thing is needed most that God acts, just like He did for Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. When Nebuchadnezzar was making a noise and threatening these three men, God could possibly have slapped him then. He waited until the crucial time. It was when they were thrown into the fiery furnace that the fourth man appeared in the fire. The king had no other option than to decree immediately that everyone must serve the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego.

When He wants an audience of unbelievers to demonstrate His power

The Bible says, "Thou prepareth a table before me, in the presence of mine enemies...".

When you give room to discouragement

When you are discouraged, you cannot hear anything. Discouraged people do not hear from God. A discouraged and a distracted heart will not hear God, so ensure that you do not enrol in the school of cold water ministry.

When He has something better to offer you than what you are asking

He knows your needs more than you do. When you are asking for something inferior to what He has in stock for you, He will be silent.

When He wants to test your loyalty

The lord allowed the devil to toss Job up and down; testing him. Thank God, the man passed. So, what do you now do to prevent a confusion? The Bible says, "Be still and know that I am God," We must learn to be silent before God. We must have the quiet mind, the quiet heart and the quiet tongue. We must rearrange our lives, we must discipline ourselves. If you are a believer and do not observe quiet time, you better start now. We must learn to be quiet before the lord. It can be tragic when God comes to you and cannot find a quiet place to stay. You must be willing to change your character, your direction and your values, so that God will start talking to you.

Remember that Pharisee and the tax collector. Both of them went to seek God. One was humble while the other was proud. And the Bible says that the humble man went home justified than the other. We need to pray very well because the way to spiritual growth is the ability to hear what God is saying. Anything preventing us from hearing God is our greatest enemy.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Every seed of spiritual deafness, fall down and die, in the name of Jesus.
2. Oh Lord, do not be silent unto me, in the name of Jesus.
3. Oh Lord, open my ears so that I can hear from You, in the name of Jesus.
4. Oh Lord, do something in my life that will change me, in the name of Jesus.
5. Lay your right hand on your head and pray like this: Any symbol representing me in the dark world, be destroyed, in the name of Jesus.

FOUR

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

There are some situations under which God will stand up and declare that "It is okay, enough is enough." What many people are doing with their lives today, unfortunately, can be described as what we call: having dinner with the devil. God might have been protecting you for a long time. God might have put you on His scholarship and you have been studying free of charge for a long time. One day, God will say enough is enough, you have to stand now and do something by yourself as I have empowered you.

When God is protecting a person and the person is not taking adequate precautions, one day, God will say enough is enough.

WHEN DOES GOD SAY ENOUGH IS ENOUGH?

God says enough is enough when His patience has been exhausted

When His divine patience has expired. Proverbs 29: 1 says,

He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

These are very strange words in the Bible because the Bible does not normally talk like this. But there it is. When somebody is stiff-necked, hears correction but stubbornly refuses to respond, the Bible says the person shall be destroyed without remedy.

When a person continually and deliberately makes rebellious choices and God warns the person to stop and the person continues, what happens later is sudden destruction without remedy.

When a person stubbornly goes ahead with what is wrong, destruction will come upon the person suddenly and it would be final. For example, when God got to Sodom and Gomorrah and could not find ten righteous men there, what happened? He rained fire and brimstone on them until nothing was left.

After Herod claimed the glory of God, what happened? God struck him dead with worms. This phrase "without remedy" is a rare one in the Scriptures. There is an end to God's patience. And no one knows when it will come. Once it comes, nothing can help the situation. Prayers will not help, confession will not help, eloquent grammar will not help. That your father was an archbishop will not help. Even herbalists will be useless, prophecies will be useless once you get yourself to that stage. An end will come, beloved, for all those who reject God's warnings.

So, ignoring God's voice is very dangerous. Let me give you some examples.

There used to be a man in the street where I lived when I was a little boy. This man used to go about with married women. One day, we heard a big scream along the street. Everybody rushed out to the source of the scream. To our greatest shock, this man was lying on the street, dead. They brought him out dead from a woman's house. This woman was another man's wife. He was brought out in a wheel barrow, dead. What happened? The "juju" (charm) had caught him.

However, I took notice of one thing. There was a small cross on his neck. But that small cross did not save him that day. It was too late. Divine patience had expired that day and God said, "Enough." Once you stubbornly go ahead in spite of warning, trouble happens. Sometimes, the warning may come from unbelievers. They may come from the messages, prophecies or other kind of things. But If you refuse to yield, you will put yourself in trouble.

There was a girl in the university. Her problem was that she thought it was sickness to have a flat breast. So, she started to talk to her friends for solution. They said, "Well, the reason your own breast is like that is because you are not committing fornication. It is because you are still a virgin. If you decide to start now, it will grow." So, she started. But the first time she tried it, she found herself in a cemetery with the man that enticed her. The man committed immorality with her inside the cemetery and she never recovered. So, once the patience of God has expired, that is it.

Beloved, never you abuse the mercy and patience of God. If you are doing that, you better repent. If you think that you can do something wrong all the time, and you can endlessly get away with anything, you are courting trouble. Probably, somebody is still interceding for you somewhere that is why you are

still going scot free. A time will come when His patience will expire and when it does, there is nothing anyone can do.

Beloved, you have to change today before His voice rings out, "Enough is enough!" And once He says that to you, that settles it. You go directly to the kingdom of the goats which is hell fire.

Ecclesiastes 8: 11 says,

Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

The Bible says the Lord is not slack concerning His promise. He is patient to us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

Foolish comparison will not help. It is wrong when you say, "After all, I am not as bad as so, so and so, after all, I did not do this or that, after all, I have never done this before, etc." When you compare yourself to others, you are only distracting yourself from the truth that God is pointing out in your life.

When God takes His pen and circles something in your life and says, "Address this one." If you fail to do that, and instead, you are saying, "Well, after all, I have tried. I cheat people but I pay my tithe. I take bribe but I pay the tithe. Some people take it but they don't pay anything to God, so God will overlook it. No! Evil comparison will make you to deceive yourself until the patience of God expires.

Another sharp tool the enemy uses to make God's patience expire is procrastination. All the "I will do it later, later, I will try," is very dangerous. Procrastination will only allow your neck to get stiffer and stiffer and your ears will become duller and duller rather than solving any problem.

So, what are you sowing with your life? If it is something you will not like to reap, then, stop it and turn to God. The Bible says, "Whatsoever a man soweth, that he shall reap." If not, a time will come when God will say enough is enough and that is it.

This cry is already going out to some people. The patience of the Almighty is about to expire. They are into shady and terrible things. Their hearts are filled with sinful thoughts and God is cycling them. He is saying, do this, or change that. Don't allow His patience and mercy to expire. Don't abuse His patience and

mercy. The patience and mercy of God does not mean that God is weak. Sometimes, judgement is not executed speedily so, the hearts of many are set to do evil.

Please take the following prayer points at this juncture:

1. Lord, any area where I am about to expire Your patience, forgive me, in the name of Jesus.

Begin to examine the kind of friends you have. Examine the kind of discussions you hold with people. Examine what God has been pin-pointing to you in your life in the past years to which you refused to respond. What will you say if His patience expires?

2. I break every circle of backwardness, In the name of Jesus.

The circle of backwardness may be in your thought life.

3. I pull down every stronghold of evil thoughts, in the name of Jesus.
4. Let my enemies make mistakes that will advance my course, in the name of Jesus.

The second situation when God says enough is enough is when the enemies have overstepped their boundaries

When the people at the Tower of Babel overstepped their boundaries, God confused their tongues. So shall It be to all those who are building Towers of Babel against your life. They shall receive confusion, in the name of Jesus.

Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord?" He overstepped his bounds and he ended up in the Red Sea. Goliath too overstepped his bounds. Sennacherib overstepped his bounds when he decided to eliminate God's covenant people. He did not remember or he did not know that God had told Abraham that He will curse those that curse him and will bless those who bless him.

This is why we sometimes pray here at Mountain of Fire and Miracles: "Let my enemies make mistakes that will advance my course, in the name of Jesus." So, when they start making their mistakes and get into the hands of the Almighty, then trouble will begin to happen. Once the enemies are pushed to overstep divine bounds, the anger of God is ignited against them.

When do the enemies overstep their bounds?

1. When they continuously oppress God's people.
2. When they blaspheme against His holy name.
3. When they call the name of the Lord in vain.
4. When they defy His power and authority.

When somebody is challenging you and is telling you, "I shall see what that your God will do." By that statement, the person has overstepped his bounds. We know what happened to those who overstepped their bounds in the Bible. Nebuchadnezzar said, "Who is that God that will deliver you out of my hands." And when that God did it, he was shocked.

5. When they claim the glory that belongs to God.
6. When they become stubborn and unrepentant.
7. When they challenge God's people with impunity.
8. When they are mocking God's people.

The third reason God says enough is enough is when your appointed time has come

Then, there is nothing anyone can do about it, When your appointed time has come from the Lord, it is just like a season or the weather.

When the weather changes, all kinds of strange things happen and everybody has to adjust and conform to it whether they like it or not.

When it is your appointed, time, those who do not like you at all will become your friends, or they will work for you. When it is your appointed time, everything standing against you will start working for you. They will cooperate with you because your time has come.

When it was time to leave Egypt, the enemy fought and struggled to hinder the children of Israel, but they still got out. The Bible says there is a time and season for everything underneath the sun. When the weather changes, there is nothing you can do about it. That weather has no respect for your opinion.

It changes without your invitation, and it does not care about what you think. If the rain begins to fall now, you cannot stand there and say, "Well, I am the

topmost person, so don't fall." No, it does not have to give you any reason for failing.

When your appointed time comes, the enemies may argue, rage, debate, do all kinds of things but the time has come and God has declared enough is enough. If you just say: well, I do not like the weather and I don't want to cooperate with it, it will kill you. It is as simple as that. If a person says, "I don't like the rain, so I won't put on my clothes." The person will be in trouble.

When Joseph was in the prison, one would have expected that the chief butler would remember him and bail him out but he forgot Joseph. Why? God caused him to forget because getting Joseph out at that time was not God's plan for Joseph. Immediately God said, "Enough is enough." Joseph got out, and that was it.

When Jesus was on this earth, He used to say, "My hour has not come." Then, suddenly one day, He said, "Father, the hour has come," and off He went. When you cannot get your information from the Lord, you do not wait on God to say enough is enough, and you are taking short cuts, the short cuts will land you in trouble, and complications and confusion will set in.

PRAYER POINTS

1. All those whose journey into bondage has been prolonged by the enemy, receive deliverance now, in the name of Jesus.
2. Every evil diversion, be canceled now, in the name of Jesus.
3. Let my glory become untouchable fire, in the name of Jesus.
4. O Lord, take me from where I am now, to where you want me to be, in the name of Jesus.
5. I pull down every evil kingdom working against me, in the name of Jesus.
6. I dismantle every stronghold of witchcraft in my family, in the name of Jesus.
7. Every power, crossing evil legs and hands against me, be disgraced, in the name of Jesus.

Other Publications by Dr. D. K. Olukoya

1. 20 Marching Orders To Fulfill Your Destiny
2. 30 things The Anointing can Do For You
3. A-Z of Complete Deliverance
4. Abraham's Children in Bondage
5. Be Prepared
6. Bewitchment must die
7. Biblical Principles of Dream Interpretation
8. Born Great, But Tied Down
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10. Breakthrough Prayers For Business Professionals
11. Brokenness
12. Bringing Down The Power of God
13. Can God?
14. Can God Trust You?
15. Command The Morning
16. Consecration Commitment & Loyalty
17. Contending For The Kingdom
18. Connecting to The God of Breakthroughs
19. Criminals In The House Of God
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22. Dealing With Local satanic Technology
23. Dealing With satanic Exchange
24. Dealing With The Evil Powers Of Your Father's House
25. Dealing With Tropical Demons
26. Dealing With Unprofitable Roots
27. Dealing With Witchcraft Barbers
28. Deliverance By Are
29. Deliverance From Spirit Husband And Spirit Wife
30. Deliverance From The Limiting Powers

31. Deliverance of The Brain
32. Deliverance Of The Conscience
33. Deliverance Of The Head
34. Deliverance of The Tongue
35. Deliverance: God's Medicine Bottle
36. Destiny clinic
37. Destroying satanic Masks
38. Disgracing Soul Hunters
39. Divine Military Training
40. Divine Yellow card
41. Dominion Prosperity
42. Drawers Of Power From The Heavenlies
43. Evil Appetite
44. Evil Umbrella
45. Facing Both Ways
46. Failure In The School Of Prayer
47. Fire For Life's Journey
48. For We Wrestle ...
49. Freedom Indeed
50. God's Key To A Happy Life
51. Holiness Unto The Lord
52. Holy Cry
53. Holy Fever
54. Hour Of Decision
55. How To Obtain Personal Deliverance
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About the Book

Over the years, people have been limiting God in their lives. When they do, God hides his face from them. A man can prevent God from working in his favour, business, spiritual lives and handwork. In this all revealing book, you will learn what those things are that can make God become a spectacle in a person's life, what the consequence of God's silence are, and the secrets of how to stay in tune with God.

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 in Lagos, Nigeria is the Largest single Christian congregation in Africa with attendance of over 120,000 in single meetings.

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