

WAR

AT THE EDGE OF

Breakthroughs



Dr. D. K. Olukoya

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DR. D. K. OLUKOYA

WAR AT THE EDGE OF BREAKTHROUGHS

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email: sales@battlecryng.com
Phone: 2348033044239, 01-8044415

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BACKCOVER

CHAPTER ONE

War At The Edge of Breakthroughs

Spiritual warfare is very deep and broad. It occurs in stages. The spirit of God has not left the church in a state of ignorance. That is why, He is leading us in this book to a different front in the invisible war. If you have found yourself at the edge of breakthroughs and somehow, the enemy stole your miracles, this message is definitely for you. The Spirit of the Lord will enlighten you through this book and you will discover new strategies to win the invisible war. As you allow the message to sink deep into your spirit, you will suddenly find yourself growing in holy aggression to fight and recover all your lost blessings.

If in your own case you are seeing your breakthroughs ahead and in no distant time you expect to experience them, the Spirit of God is about to equip you with divine truths in this book, so that you simply move from the edge of your blessings into them.

Eccl. 6:1-2: There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, and it is common among men: A man to whom God hath given riches, wealth, and honour, so that he wanted nothing for his soul of all that he desireth, yet God giveth him not power to eat thereof, but a stranger eateth it: this is vanity, and it is an evil disease.

The text above says it is an evil disease to have wealth, riches and things at your disposal, yet unable to eat from them. This is abnormal, ridiculous and mysterious. It gives the impression that something is wrong somewhere: if a man has enough food in his store-house, yet, he starves and still begs for bread. This calls for serious attention! In that case, the powers that work at the edge of breakthroughs are in operation. It is an evil disease, to possess blessings from which you are hindered from benefiting.

Failure at the edge of breakthroughs, failure at the edge of success, failure at the edge of miracles is a serious problem. I saw a vision where many people were praying, as they prayed on, the Lord was placing things in their hands. They received these things with joy. But as they were about to move some steps forward, somebody grabbed their hands and those things fell. Ignorant of what happened in the realm of the spirit, they just kept on praying. Then I asked the Lord what the vision meant. And He said to me that what I saw is called failure at the edge of breakthroughs.

There are powers that do not bother people from starting a journey towards their breakthroughs. There are others that will not bother such people in the middle of their journeys to their breakthroughs. Such powers have one point where they position themselves with all the arsenals of wickedness. They wait at the edge of people's breakthroughs. Their only mission is to waste all the time and labour spent to arrive at that point. They seek to turn the joy of the people they have pursued for a long time into sorrow, just at the edge of breakthroughs.

The powers that operate at the edge of breakthroughs do not hinder people from attending church services and praying. But when the long expected breakthrough is in sight, they let loose their wickednesses and malicious powers. They fight vehemently to hinder the breakthroughs just when they are so near. When such things happen, people only see good opportunities near to them, but they cannot benefit from them. They see joy so near them, yet they cannot possess it. They see, feel, smell and may even touch the blessings, but ultimately, they cannot possess them because of the operations of these wicked powers hindering people at the edge of their breakthroughs.

Sometimes, people go to powerful services and are blessed. They move so close to the edge of their miracles, but all of a sudden something goes wrong. Powers of wickedness in operation are responsible for such experiences at the edge of breakthroughs. The Lord is enlightening you through this book, so that you can battle them and win the contest.

Failure at the edge of success is a terrible thing, why? He who is almost there is not there. A man or woman, who is almost saved but is not, will still go to hell fire.

A landlord who almost bolted his door in the night but did not, shall lose his belongings to robbers when they come in.

A prisoner who is condemned to death but almost got a pardon but did not get it, will still get hanged.

A man who was almost rescued from drowning but was not will still drown.

A ship that was almost saved from sinking but was not, will still sink.

A fire was almost extinguished, but was not, it still destroyed the house.

A person, was almost filled with the Holy Ghost but was not, still remains empty.

Almost is not there. Almost getting the answer, is still wrong.

Almost scoring goals but not, will not win any match. The spirit of almost there in pursuit of good things must die in the name of Jesus. Assure yourself of victory by saying it loud and clear that, the spirit of almost there in possessing good things but not, must die in your life.

Almost means the breakthrough is so near that you can see it.

It means it is so close that you can touch it.

Almost is like reaching the final destination in a journey.

Almost means nearly getting there.

It is something slightly short of the answer.

Almost means the possibility of getting a particular thing is very high. The chance of possessing a breakthrough is very wide. The probability of experiencing a breakthrough is very near certainty. That is what almost means. But the sad thing about it is that there it is always an inch short of the destination, a narrow margin short of the victory, a step away from the promised land when "almost" is the case.

Many people are so close to many good things, but they are hindered by the powers of wickedness. Such people sit down lamenting their experiences how they almost made it, but failed; almost passed the test but failed; almost won a victory but was defeated; almost succeeded, but failed.

One thing is common and quite pitiable in the testimonies of such people. They tell you how they almost did this or that but could not get a successful end. Evidently, they have made some attempts at success. They have reached out for breakthroughs. They have believed and expected a miracle. They have laboured in prayers. They have gone more than half of the journey to their goals. Somehow, somewhere through the last minute of the journey they are hindered and their previous efforts, labour, perseverance becomes a colossal waste. It is a very terrible experience.

The pain in such experiences is the fact that efforts have been made to save the situation. Efforts have been made to possess the blessings. Fervency of spirit has been thrown into it. Diligence of labour has gone into the venture. Carefulness and discipline have been exercised. Everything to be done has been done yet almost got it but never did. This is the revelation the spirit of the Lord is bringing to you here and I once again encourage you to go through it with a rapt attention.

You will begin to discover that, it is no longer enough to have successfully started a journey but to complete it. It is no more sufficient to start a project, maybe building a house, starting off a business, etc., the important thing is accomplishment. It is the accomplishment that will justify the efforts.

Fulfilment will justify the pursuit of your dreams. Completion will justify the labour of your services (Eccl. 7:8). The intention of God is to help you start a project and finish it. The powers operating at the edge of breakthroughs want you to rather start a project but never to finish it.

These powers attack individuals. Moses was an individual who almost got to the promised land but did not. The powers attack a group of individuals as well. The children of Israel that began the journey to Canaan were not the generation that got there. Even in this modern time, the powers are still operating. Churches have a lot of unaccomplished tasks. Families have a lot of unfulfilled dreams. Government has a lot of abandoned projects.

One thing is common in all these experiences, they must have started somewhere but never got to their desired destinations. They almost got there but never did. The Lord is opening your eyes to see that such experiences are not ordinary. They should not be looked upon as common things in life neither should you admit those failures as events authored by God. You need to rise and stop the enemy from further advancement against you. Return to all your abandoned projects in the might of the Lord and accomplish them.

I Cor. 16:9: For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries.

Paul said a great door was opened to him. It was effectual. The door of outreaches in his ministry. The door of another dimension of a ministry and anointing. A door of fruitfulness and accomplishment of his mission to the

Gentiles. But, there were many adversaries. At the opened door and just about to walk in and walk through, there were enemies. What is the function of the adversaries here? They have determined that Paul must not enter. The adversaries were determined to frustrate his entrance into the opened doors of promises. He knew there were adversaries waiting to frustrate him. I pray that every spirit of frustration in your life will die, in Jesus' name.

If you have read your Bible very well, you will discover that the greatest battle that Jesus faced was always at the border of eventual breakthroughs. When he was about to start His ministry, the devil came to tempt Him in the wilderness. Glory be to God that, that battle at the edge of His breakthrough into fulfilling His earthly ministry was won. On His way to the Cross, opposition rose against him even from so intimate a disciple like Peter. Again, at the garden of Gethsemane. He was faced with another battle at the edge of breakthroughs. In the life of Jesus therefore. His greatest battles confronted him at the edge of eventful breakthroughs.

What the Lord is telling you here is that, your greatest battle is at the border of your miracles. This is the time and point the enemy fights his fiercest and most desperate, last battles against your life. If your enemy is desperate, you cannot be less than desperate. Desperation will add extra energy to your spirit. With the desperation of a conqueror that must not faint or fail, you will overcome all your desperate enemies. I pray all your desperate enemies shall be disgraced in Jesus' name. Tell yourself that your desperate enemies shall be disgraced in the name of Jesus.

When everything is just about to be alright and suddenly, things start going contrary, the Bible calls the experience a disease. A blockage at the edge of breakthroughs is a disease. 'Almost-there' anointing is a disease. Near success syndrome is a disease. Failure at the edge of success is a disease. Problems on the eve of your miracles are diseases. Problems in the night preceding the morning of your joy is a disease. Although the Bible says "weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning." The weeping on the eve of your joy is a disease. Seeing but not obtaining is a disease.

Many people have seen breakthroughs in their dreams; but in life, there are no breakthroughs. Whatever makes you to go to war without bringing the captives, is a disease. When the powers of the emptier is at work, it is a disease. When the

diabolical duty of the emptiers to eat up valuable virtues. Powers at the edge of breakthroughs are terrible and destructive spirits.

A man was about to win a huge contract. The day the man was asked to come for it, the Managing Director (MD) of the company had an accident and died. There was therefore nobody to sign the contract papers. Nobody could even talk about contract papers as a result of the incident. When a new MD ascended the position, he seriously warned the winner of the contract that he would not like to see him around the company anymore. That's failure at the edge of breakthroughs.

A student needed to pass just one more subject to have a complete result. It was mathematics. He prepared very well for this examination. On the day he was to sit for the paper, he fell off a commercial motorcycle (*okada*) and broke his legs in the accident. That was the end of his efforts to sit for that exam and pass it. It happened just on his way to writing it. He almost made it, but never got there. That's the spirit that works at the edge of breakthroughs.

When I was much younger, I belonged to a football team. I was the captain of the team then. There was a team mate who was playing number nine. His name was Lawon. He was a skilful dribbler that would dribble everybody and everything. Whenever he started dribbling, fans would be chanting his name Lawon, Lawon, Lawon, to cheer him. After successfully and skilfully taking the ball past everybody to face the net alone, he would kick the ball over the bar. That's the spirit of poor finishing.

Many Bible characters fell into this cage. They unfortunately experienced failure at the edge of breakthroughs. Paul was witnessing to an unbelieving king, to a point, his majesty nearly became converted. The king even confessed to Paul that "almost, thou persuadeth me to become a Christian," but he never became a Christian. One of the greatest tragedies of "almost there" spirit is that almost is not enough. Almost converted but lost.

The children of Israel wandered in an area called Kadesh-Barnea for thirty-eight years. Kadesh-Barnea was a short distance away from the promised land. They turned back from the journey to the promised land at this point because of the activities of the spirit that attacks at the edge of breakthroughs. I have made the spirit of Kadesh-Barnea a separate subject in this book which will help you to fully understand its operations.

The same spirit dealt with Adam. He would have been in the garden of Eden forever. The same spirit dealt with Lot and his wife. Tragically enough, the same spirit dealt with Moses. The Lord told him to climb up the Mount of Pisgah to behold the promised land. He only saw but never got there. It is a disease.

The same spirit worked against Saul, the first king of Israel. The Lord told him in the end that if he had been obedient, he would have kept the posterity of his kingdom forever in Israel. But at the edge of breakthrough, Saul fell.

The same spirit can be discerned in the parable of the ten virgins. Five were wise, the other five were foolish. Both groups were prepared to meet the bridegroom. The two groups had lamps. They both heard the voice of the bridegroom: "behold the bridegroom cometh!" One of the two groups successfully got in to meet the bridegroom. The other group almost got in, but a small omission kept them out. The final voice that permanently sealed their fate was that: "I know you not", coming from the same bridegroom whom they had long awaited.

A young man came to Jesus and desired to know the cost of entering the kingdom of God. From his responses to Jesus' questions, the Lord told him that he was not far from the kingdom, but he never entered.

The rich man had the opportunity to listen to Lazarus and partake in his faith. He never did. He died, almost making it to the bosom of Abraham, to the point he could exchange conversation with the patriarch, but he never got there.

Many people are like that today. They sing in the choir and heaven hears their voices. They sing on earth and the melodies of their music ascend straight to heaven. They pray on earth and their voices penetrate the heavenlies. They call upon God from the domain of men and angels in heaven respond. But, like the foolish rich man, only their voices enter heaven, their souls may never get there. The rich man could talk with Father Abraham in glory, but he was never a partaker of that glory.

Once a decision has been taken about your life in the heavenlies and it is yet to manifest: then you must start praying to release it. And when at the edge of the expected breakthrough you suddenly begin to experience the fierce attacks of wickedness to make your blessings elude you, understand that the spirits working against people at the edge of their breakthroughs are at work. Begin to

war against them.

SYMPTOMS OF VICTIMS

There are indications in your life to show you that the battle at the edge of your miracles is on. When you begin to experience the following, then realise that there are battles at the edge of your breakthroughs.

☛ Strange Dreams

When your miracle is so near that you can even testify of it in advance and suddenly, you begin to have strange dreams, it is an indication that the wicked powers are at work at the edge of your expected breakthroughs. Suddenly in your dreams, you begin to see masquerades. You find yourself wandering in your dreams. You are back to your junior school in your dreams. You begin to see dead relations or you start picking coins in the dream. It may be an animal pursuing you or something oppressing you. It may be that you are shown human faces in your dreams. Or that you see yourself naked in your dreams. You may see snails and tortoises in your dreams. These dreams are indications of battles at the edge of your breakthroughs. You must declare war.

☛ Unusual Sexual Urge

Just when your breakthrough is about to reach you, an unusual, almost uncontrollable, sexual urge sets into your life, it is the sign of battles at the edge of your breakthrough.

☛ Prayerlessness

One of the signs of battles at the edge of breakthroughs is prayerlessness. You suddenly discover that the fervency of your spirit is drastically reducing, almost to a zero point. Prayer becomes a very difficult and uninteresting exercise for you. It is a sign of battles at the edge of your miracles.

☛ Worry

Another signal to indicate battles at the edge of blessings is worry. You just find out that your rest and hope in the Lord are rapidly being replaced with fretting, worries and anxiety. The things you have resigned into the hands of the Lord become your concern to the point that you are worried about them. It is an indication that, there is a battle at the edge of the blessings so near to you.

☛ Doubt

If in the past, you used to be firm in believing God and accepting His words, but now, you are full of doubt, there is a problem at the border of your blessings. You begin to doubt God, His power and promises. His words and messages. His abilities and the efficacy of His grace; it is a sign that fierce battles are on at the edge of your miracles.

☛ Fear

Fear is a strategy of the enemy to shake you. Through the lens of fear, a small problem becomes so magnified that you no longer can see any solution in sight. When the enemy magnifies your problems to make them seem beyond or above God, it is to create fear in you. When fear is entertained, faith gives way. This is an indication of battles at the edge of your breakthroughs.

☛ Unclean thoughts and imagination

Battles at the edge of breakthroughs do manifest in form of unclean thoughts and filthy imagination. The purity of your mind and the sanctity of your imagination are suddenly replaced with dirty pictures and images. They are indications of battle at the edge of your miracles.

☛ Withdrawn Helpers

When people who are supposed to help you start behaving funny. They make promises and fail to keep them. Sometimes, they may even start avoiding you cleverly or completely. The experience is only pointing to the fact that there is a battle to fight.

When you start experiencing any of the above and other terrible things the Lord is showing you it is time to declare war. The purpose of God through this book is to provoke you to pray and aggressively rise in His might against the foes. You are already close to breakthroughs. You need to pray to push yourself into them.

SPIRITS THAT WAGE WAR AT THE EDGE OF BREAKTHROUGHS

The spirits that wage war at the edge of one's breakthroughs are called by different names, depending on its operations or from the experiences of its

victims. These include:

- ☛ **An Evil Monitor** - It monitors its target everywhere with evil eyes.
- ☛ **Another of these spirits is Satanic Aide-De-Camp (ADC)**. He follows the person around to always hinder him, from anything good.
- ☛ **Inherited stagnancy** is one of the spirits that war against people at the edge of breakthroughs, Attempts made by an individual to go beyond the limit of his family or background are frustrated.
- ☛ **Another one is the Spirit of Bitterness and Unforgiveness**, It pollutes the mind and the spirit against another, It does not allow people to let go of the hurts from others and to forgive, You must forgive and forget.
- ☛ **Secret sin and disobedience** is mother spirit that battles people at the edge of breakthroughs.
- ☛ **Spiritual husband and wife** are also part of the wicked spirits that operate at the edge of people's miracles. When a man or woman is about to have a breakthrough to marry after serious prayers, they attack the person to frustrate him or her. They do also manifest in the form of a sexual intercourse in the dream. You must fight and part with them.

The spirit of anger is another of such spirits. If anger is in your life, your problem is more than all the witches and wizards in your country put together. You must repent of anger, fight the spirit and break loose from it.

Let me make it clear to you at this point that, there is no wicked spirit that cannot be overcome. There is no ancient problem, that cannot be solved. There is no height of principalities and powers, that cannot be thrown down. There is no strong man, that cannot be bound and his store house plundered. No matter how strange your experience is, no matter how strong your enemy is, no matter how many they are that are after you, no matter the name your problem is called, there is a solution in Christ and victory through His cross.

SOLUTIONS

That is why if you want to fight, and win the battles at the edge of your breakthroughs, you must do the following:

- ☛ **Repent**

You need to surrender your life to Jesus Christ if you have not done so. In Him are all the victories you need and that you will ever need. The starting point in winning the invisible war at the edge of your miracles is therefore to repent and surrender all to Jesus as your Lord and personal Saviour.

☛ Remember

Sit down and cast your mind back to all the failures you have ever had. Remember them specifically, because it will aid your aggression in the spirit and also show you the areas of your life where the enemies have struck.

☛ Rampage

Go on a rampage against the spirits. Declare war against them. Be very violent and aggressive about it. Be determined and absolutely destructive in dealing with them. It is a call for a total showdown. Where they have struck, strike back in a vehement vengeance. Where they are about to strike, fight and resist them with verity and all spiritual militance.

PRAYER POINTS

1. O Lord, today, let me experience your raw power, in the name of Jesus.
2. Every battle, at the edge of my breakthrough, die, in the name of Jesus.
3. Every breakthrough, that I have received in my dreams, manifest by fire, in the name of Jesus.
4. Every witchcraft battle, at the edge of my breakthrough, die, in the name of Jesus.
5. Every dragon of back wardness, die, in the name of Jesus.
6. Every familiar spirit, operating at the edge of my breakthrough. I bury you today, in the name of Jesus.
7. I fire back, every arrow of failure, in the name of Jesus.
8. Every spirit of bondage, loose your hold, in Jesus' name.
9. Every satanic plan for my life, die, in the name of Jesus.
10. I use the token of the blood of Jesus, to wipe out all the hand-writings of ordinances of bad luck working against my life, in the name of Jesus.
11. Every crocodile power, in my dreams, die, in Jesus' name.
12. I violently uproot, the tree of bad luck, planted in my life by the enemy, in the name of Jesus.

13. I break, every soul-tie with dead parents, in Jesus' name.
14. Let the fire of God, destroy the roots of bad luck in my life and family, in the name of Jesus.
15. I bind, every spirit of Balaam, working against my destiny, in the name of Jesus.
16. I bind and cast out of my life, every foul spirit of bad luck, in the name of Jesus.
17. I crush all demonic mirrors monitoring my life, in the name of Jesus.
18. Every strongman of bad luck, attached to my life, fall down and die, in Jesus' name.
19. I shall not die young. I shall reach my full age, in the name of Jesus.
20. Let the blood of Jesus, destroy the roots of bad luck in my life now, in Jesus' name.
21. I reject, every demonic nickname, in the name of Jesus.
22. I renounce and reject, all inherited or acquired spirits of bad luck, in Jesus' name
23. My blood, be anointed with the power of the Holy Spirit, in the name of Jesus.
24. I receive a total purification by the blood of Jesus from all the evil perfumes of bad luck, in the name of Jesus.
25. Every instrument of bewitchment, be roasted, in the name of Jesus.
26. You the spirit of misfortune around me, receive the arrows of fire, in Jesus' name.
27. Every evil plant in my life, be uprooted, in Jesus' name.
28. Father Lord, let the power of any entrenched bad luck be broken in my life today, in the name of Jesus.
29. I line up my life with my divine destiny, in Jesus' name.

CHAPTER TWO

The Spirit Of Almost There

Let me start from a familiar Bible passage to explain the subject in this chapter.

2 King 5:1-2: Now Naaman, captain of the host of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master, and honourable, because by him the Lord had given deliverance unto Syria: he was also a mighty man in valour, but he was a leper. And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife.

Here, the Bible introduces the captain of a great host by name, Naaman. In the modern world, he would rank as a General in the army. This man has testimonies of many victorious battles he has led his army to fight. Known to him or not, he was an instrument the Lord of hosts has used to give salvation to his country, Syria. He was very great and honourable. On the profile of Naaman however, there was a 'but' that tainted his glory. He was a leper. The Bible does not mince words to acknowledge him as a mighty man of valour, but he was completely defiled: a leper.

There was a court case many years ago in a particular country. A Chinese was to stand as a witness in the courtroom. Immediately it was known that he had leprosy, the jury thinned away and the court was empty. Within a short time. The knowledge of the man's leprosy drove them away at once. The disease is as terrible as that. The contemporary example shows the terrible shame, isolation and mockery Naaman must have suffered. Read his story further.

2 King 5:2-3: And the Syrians had gone out by companies, and had brought away captive out of the land of Israel a little maid; and she waited on Naaman's wife. And she said unto her mistress, Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! For he would recover him of his leprosy.

The journey of Naaman to recovery from his leprosy began with an Israelite captive maid who waited on his wife. It was this insignificant instrument the Lord used to bring significant information to the captain of the Syrian army. The book in your hand may not be as voluminous as other books, but the Lord is using it to work out your deliverance. The prayer points at the end of each chapter may sound simple and familiar to you, but as you pray them with a simple faith, you will experience the great power of God in your life and

situation.

I pity those that despise insignificant instruments in the hands of the Lord. God can achieve anything with anybody or anything. You may have been told that you need deliverance prayers by an insignificant person. You may have been advised to read this book by somebody not as important as you think. In fact, you may have been told about Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries by somebody you probably did not feel like taking seriously. Listen, it is God's arrangement to have brought you into the fold and I make this book available to you in particular. Read again the story of Naaman.

2 King 5:4-5: And one went in, and told his lord, saying. Thus and thus said the maid that is of the land of Israel. And the king of Syria said, Go to, to, and I will send a letter unto the king of Israel. And he departed, and took with him ten talents of silver, and six thousand pieces of gold, and ten changes of raiment.

When the king of Israel heard about the possible solution to Naaman's social problem, he took it up personally and committed his royal resource, into it. In today's value what he put together to sponsor Naaman's recovery would run into millions of naira. The king must have felt for him. Naaman was a captain whose problem was a great concern to the highest authority in the land. It is one thing to be concerned about somebody else's problems with all the resources to help, it is another thing to know the appropriate place or person to solicit for the help. That was the error in the zeal and concern of the king of Syria. Look at the next thing he did in the text below.

2 King 5:6-9: And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, saying. Now when this letter is come unto thee, behold. I have therewith sent Naaman my servant to thee, that thou mayest recover him of his leprosy. And it came to pass, when the king of Israel had read the letter, that he rent his clothes, and said, Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man doth send unto me to recover a man of his leprosy. Wherefore consider. I pray you, and see how he seeketh a quarrel against me. And it was so, when Elisha the man of God had heard that the King of Israel had rent his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying. Wherefore hast thou rent thy clothes? Let him come now to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel. So Naaman came with his horses and with his chariot, and stood at the door of the house of Israel.

The letter from the king of Syria was addressed to the king of Israel. Solutions

to problems do not always come by dealing exclusively with the people of your class. The people in the same social, business, spiritual, academic, etc class with you may not have the solution to your problems. Sometimes, it takes somebody out of that class to solve the problem.

The king of Syria must have felt that though there are prophets in a kingdom, but the king has the supreme authority. Supreme authority is not always a Solution to a problem. There is a royal authority and a prophetic authority. There is a political power and a spiritual power. There is a difference between a high ranking army officer and a spiritual warrior. The king had the throne, but Elisha the prophet stood the ground to exercise the authority of the throne of God.

This king of Israel did not even know what to do with the situation. A common practice those days was to tear ones garment in sorrow, disappointment, defeat. just anytime anything negative takes place. The king tore up his royal robe, but that did not solve the problem. He seemed to humble himself and reacted in seeming pretence of meekness, but his action did not take him to the right person. Some influential people in the Society today appear to be humble by stooping to look for solution to problems beyond their powers and resources; but their humility sometimes still does not take them to the right places or persons.

Elisha heard what happened to his royal majesty and accepted the challenge with the confidence of a conqueror, calmness of one in charge and decisiveness of a man of power with the heaven of heavens. Continue the story from verse ten.

2 King 5:10-12: And Elisha sent a messenger unto him, saying. Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean. But Naaman was wroth, and went away, and said. Behold. I thought, He will surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and strike his hand over the place, and recover the leper. Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? May I not wash in them, and be clean? So he turned and went away in a rage.

The approach of Elisha to Naaman was annoying to him, To compound what Naaman might have considered rudeness and pride of the prophet, he was told to go and wash in the river Jordan to be clean. Naaman couldn't hide his anger and disappointment. "I thought he would come out, he did not. I thought he would take this or that action preceding my healing, he did not, I thought he would give

me a reasonable prescription or at least prophesy to me, he did not. To make a ridicule of my situation, he said I should go and wash in river Jordan, Who told him we don't have better rivers in Syria? These people that think or claim to have spiritual power can be funny and inhuman sometimes," Naaman might have thought or said.

Like Naaman, you need spiritual assistance, yet you are angry with the instrument God wants to use for you. You are told to pray some particular prayer points, you are angry. You wonder why you must follow the instructions you are given, looking at the background or denomination you have come from. My friend, that is not the issue here. Naaman was a few moments from his miracle and the spirit of almost there set in on the scene. All the journey from Syria to Israel has terminated at the door step of Elisha where the solution to his problem was, yet that spirit of almost there nearly robbed him of his blessing. Almost there but never there, there is a spirit behind it.

One of my friends got the surprise of his life one day as he read the parable of the king who made a great feast and invited dignitaries that would not come. Since they were not ready to come, the king told his servants to leave them alone and rather go for the lame, maimed, blind and all such categories of people. He took the challenge and invited the poor, lame, maimed, blind, etc to a banquet hall at a high brow hotel. He fed them to a point some could not hold back their tears because they never tasted such foods in their lives. The greatest surprise this friend got was when he took the microphone to preach. The first person to wobble out of the hall was a lame man who was so furious at the message of His healer. They left one after the other.

You would have thought that their handicaps against the unmerited goodness would have softened their hearts to the gospel. That was the problem with Naaman. His pride was wounded and he could not hide his furious disappointment. He would have missed his miracle but for his servant's advice. There are servants who add problems to the problems of their masters. Though lower in social rank and younger, the wisdom of Namman's servants redeemed him from their folly of his thoughts. Old age and wisdom do not always correspond.

2 King 5:13-14: And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said. My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great things, wouldst thou not

have done if? How much rather then, when he saith to thee. Wash, and be clean? Then went he down, and dipped himself seven times in Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God: and his flesh came again like unto the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

His servants counselled him unto wisdom and he humbled himself to the obedience of faith. He did as Elisha had told him and was made whole. Notice that after giving his word. Elisha was no longer arguing with Naaman. The problem was between him and what Elisha, the man of God, said. Are there not people like that today? They are very angry because of what the man of God has said that they consider not convenient to their pride and expectation. Like the servant of Naaman, may God give you wise counsellors in the name of Jesus. From this story of Naaman, you now can see how the spirit of almost there operates.

There are other examples in the Bible who had the spirit of "almost there but not there" working against them. Remember again the experience of the children of Israel, Their journey was to take them a few weeks, but it, took them forty years. They saw the good of the land, but they never got it.

Saul also had the spirit of almost there, where he was meant to reach, he never did. God had earlier indicated His intention to establish his kingdom forever, But through self will and disobedience God changed His mind and became his enemy instead of a friend. I pray that God will not become your enemy, in Jesus name. The rich young ruler who came to Jesus to find out the pre-requisite for making the kingdom of God also suffered the attack of the spirit of almost there, but never got there. Jesus told him all a would cost him to make the kingdom, but he considered the price too high to pay. Though, almost there in the kingdom. he went away sad and was never there.

There was a scribe that answered Jesus' questions impressively. The Lord told him he was not far from the kingdom but was not in the kingdom yet. As explained more fully in one of the chapters of this book, the five foolish virgins were also doomed by the spirit of almost there but they never got there. They got as far as the door, but could not enter. The case of the rich man and Lazarus too was not different, the spirit of almost there but not was responsible for the loss of his soul. It is the same spirit I have talked about in the other chapters of this book. Though different names and descriptions are given to it, yet its operations

arc the same.

The rich man was so close to Lazarus, but was not humble enough to learn of the salvation of the Lord from him. Almost there in heaven because of Lazarus' nearness to him, but he was never there. Felix who told Paul he would like to hear him again on his sermon on divine judgement, temperance and other tenets of the kingdom never had the opportunity again. His story ended with his procrastination. This terrible spit it can also be called the *spirit of Pisgah*. You need to pray aggressively against it. Moses on mount Pisgah saw the land of his forty years of labour, prayers and ministry, but he never entered therein. He was almost there as he was told by the Lord to look at the land from the mountain, but he was never there. Almost there, but he never entered the land.

Back again to the story of Naaman, there arc many truths the Lord is willing to still reveal to us about the spirit of almost there, but not. Naaman expected to purchase his healing with money and other gifts or at least enter into a barter with Elisha: to give money and gifts in exchange for healing. You cannot buy cleansing and salvation with your money. They are the works of grace. They are completely free. You will therefore not be excusable before God if you refuse to give your life to Jesus. Salvation is full and free.

The second lesson from Naaman's experience is that pride and unbelief must give way to humility if indeed you want to receive the gifts of God. Talents are different from the spiritual gifts received. The third thing to pick is the simplicity of salvation. Naaman was simply to wash and be clean. No more, no less. One of the greatest headaches of the Jews with Jesus was that He, was too simple for them to be taken seriously or believe. For example, the Master's response: "believe that I am the son of God and be saved" was too simple for them to grasp.

The fourth lesson is that no matter how great riches can be, they cannot, on their own compensate, for being a leper. Leprosy is sin. Sin is capable of destroying a life. Sin is incurable as long as unbelief continues in man. It does not matter whether or not you were born in a church, or that your parents hold titles as ministers of God. Understand that some pastors, ministers are in hell fire already. The great question is whether or not you have been washed in the blood of the Lamb. Whether or not you are free from sin is the pertinent issue here.

The sixth lesson derivable from the text is that God can use a humble

instrument. The maid was an unpopular Israelite, yet God used her. She held on to what she knew as a Jewess and God laid hands on her and used her. God can use any humble instrument. Forget about your pride, self-esteem and arrogance that will only reserve you unto the fiery judgements to come. The many mistakes of Naaman also serve as a lesson to learn from; just like many make a lot of mistakes nowadays. His first mistake was that he thought God respects people, whereas the Bible says "God is no respecter of persons."

Naaman sought the help of the king because he thought God respects persons. But God has no respect for anybody's money, certificates, qualification, etc. A professor who does not know God is just a professor for the devil. His second mistake was that he thought that money could buy grace. He came with so much money but Elisha did not even see his face let alone touching his money. The salvation of God is free. His grace is free. Every gift from God is free. As Elisha did not touch his money, the pride of his heart was wounded greatly, Some people think they can buy and influence their ways with God through the power of money.

His mistake number three was that he thought Elisha would do some great things for God to answer, his prayers. It was too unrealistic, he thought, for the man of God to just give him instruction on what to do. Salvation, healing, deliverance, miracles and all the other blessings from above is not by works but the gracious gifts of God. He also wanted his influential position to be respected which became his mistake number four. He did not know that all are equal before God. He expected to be healed by his own recommendation.

The sixth mistake he made was that he expected to be healed in a respectable manner. He wanted the grace of God in a respectable manner. A lot of people don't come to some churches because rugs are not laid on the floor. They move from one complaint to another. To be saved, they need fan, air conditioner, rug, etc to give them all they feel they deserve of human respect and comfort. It's a big mistake. God told him through Elisha to go and wash in Jordan. He suggested what he considered better alternatives in Arbanah and Pharpar rivers of Damascus, but the salvation of God was to be found in His recommendation.

I am sure God is using this medium to talk to you. You don't respond to an altar call because you feel you are too much to be numbered among sinners, yet you are chief among transgressors. You don't want to line up with those that need

healing, deliverance, counselling because you consider yourself above such things. I pity you. If you don't change your mind, you will end up considering yourself too high and proud for God to bless. Well, if your leprosy, shame, problems, etc, do not matter to you, you can go with them for yet a while. But if you humble yourself to God's ways, methods, recommendations, no matter how unreasonable they may be to you, your miracle will reach you immediately.

The seventh mistake of Naaman, could be linked with the simplicity of the situation. "Wash and be clean" seemed too simple for him to get what he came for. He stumbled through the simplicity of the method recommended for him. It is so simple to receive the blessings of God. The Bible says "believe and you will be saved", what else do you expect to be done? Moses was told "stretch forth your rod over the red sea," he did and it was divided. At the time the enemies pressed so near against God's people, Jehoshaphat told the army of Israel to go on praising God, and that earned them victory in a battle in which they did not even have to fight at all.

Peter had toiled all night, without catching the smallest fish. Jesus did not even tell him to row to some undiscovered parts of the river to catch fish. Right there where he was, very close to the bank, where it was most unlikely to find fish, he was told to "let down his net for a draught", he did and his net began to tear. The method of God is always very simple. Jesus told the ten lepers "go and show yourself to the priest", as they were going, the leprosy left their bodies. Why do you think God cannot solve your problems by simple methods?

God had to humble Naaman in several ways. He saved him through the counsel of the captive maid. His wisdom and expectations were completely set aside by God. He used his servant to knock sense into his head. The prophet refusing to come out, was part of the humbling process. Even the shameful method of a cure to have left "better" rivers in Damascus to publicly wash in River Jordan was part of the humbling and breaking process God graciously arranged for him. God is an expert at reducing the pride of the proud. The spirit working against Naaman was the 'almost-there' spirit. It is working against many today.

Naaman could have been spared of some of his pride if he had been told to wash only once in Jordan. He could have quickly done that and put on his clothes without anybody noticing. To strike his pride harder, he was told to dip

himself seven times. That was enough for anybody to catch him red handed, washing in such a despicable river. It is like the supreme head of a nation's army to go and wash, in a dirty river, in another country. God knows how to expose and remove your pride. The spirit of almost there has robbed many people of their blessings in the past, I pray for you that as you read this book and pray, it will not continue to operate in your life in Jesus' name. (Amen).

Prayer Points

1. I release myself, from the grips of the spirit of almost there, in the name of Jesus.
2. I will not be a second-hand person, in the name of Jesus.
3. I refuse, to repeat the mistakes of the previous years, in the name of Jesus.
4. I will not miss my miracles this year, in the name of Jesus.
5. Sing, at least, three praises to God.
6. I nullify, every spiritual poison working against me, in the name of Jesus.

CHAPTER THREE

Principles of Profitless Hardwork

Diligence is a good thing that the Bible itself commands. God reveals Himself to those that diligently seek him. He is also a rewarder of such people. In very many places on the pages of the scriptures, diligence is encouraged by the Lord. Where men's attitudes are found to be lazy and idle, the recommendation of God is diligence.

The uniform testimonies of the scriptures confirm the fact that diligence is profitable. Experiences of life have however shown that diligence does not always amount to accomplishment. Diligence does not always produce the expected or desired profits on some occasions.

When Esau sold his birthright to his brother Jacob, the Bible says he diligently sought repentance to regain his lost position and destiny, but could not avail. A diligent person is said to be hard working. The truth the Spirit of God is revealing here is that diligence can be rendered profitless by the forces of wickedness.

The average black man is not lazy. Many people would want to redeem the dishonour of begging for bread by working diligently with their hands, yet they don't have anything to show for their hard work. Something is very wrong in such cases, because their experiences contradict the principles of reward following hard work. There are forces, that cause troubles in people's lives to render their hard work profitless.

The principles of profitless hard work do not have to do with business or money making alone. It also addresses spiritual exercises in hard labour that yet do not produce any profit. Profitless hard work can be experienced in a career or academic pursuits. It can occur as well in any good thing one lays his hands upon. Look again at Peter's experience in Luke chapter five from verses one to eleven

Luke 5:1-11: And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret, and saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets. And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's, and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon,

launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto him, Master, we have toiled, all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and fill both the ships so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying. Depart from me: for I am a sinful man. O Lord. For he was astonished, and all that with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken: and so was James, and John, the sons of Zebedee, which were partners with Simon. And Jesus said unto Simon. Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men. And when they had brought their ships to land, they forsook all, and followed him.

Notice in the text above that the fishermen were washing their nets when Jesus met them. In other words, they were calling it quits after a fruitless venture, strenuous but profitless. They were rounding off after a hard day's work. Jesus then entered one of the boats of the fishermen who had toiled all night without catching any fish. The Master entered Simon Peter's boat. I pray that Jesus will enter the boat of your life. I pray He will single you out for a divine intervention.

Divine intervention puts an abrupt end to a trend of experience and causes a new one to begin. Divine intervention breaks the chains of negative experiences and causes a positive one to set in. The man who was coming home empty, suddenly had two boats full of fishes. Hope was restored to the hopeless through divine intervention. Loss became gain, profitless hard work became rewarded in a moment of time, the water that appeared empty of fishes suddenly became full of them, the action of launching that brought forth nothing was made to bring forth more abundantly than expected. By a stroke of divine intervention, the story and experience of these men changed.

You need divine intervention in your life. It does not matter what the past has been. A divine intervention, will open a new chapter for your life that will wipe away the sorrows of the past. The divine intervention Peter experienced, brought conviction upon him. He immediately recognised his state as a sinner. He saw how unworthy he was before the Lord. That divine intervention was unmerited. It just came from the Lord's abundance of goodness. Have you realised you don't merit any of God's blessings coming upon you? When the Lord surprised you with a blow of his goodness, did you realise you were unworthy? Every divine

intervention is to produce a change in you. If you are a sinner, it is to lead you to repentance. If you are a believer, it is to make you more humble, faithful, consecrated, etc, unto the Lord.

There is a beautiful aspect of Peter's experience. Immediately after that dose of miracle, he forsook all and followed the Lord. As God blesses you very abundantly, are you ready to give up all to Him and just follow on in meekness of spirit? The Lord changed the career of Peter as soon as he confessed his sinfulness. He was henceforth to be catching men. When the Lord sees your attitude to the divine intervention He gives you. He will reveal His mind to you on the next thing He has for you. Peter left all and followed Him. Which one is taking the first place in your heart? The blessings of God or the Lord Himself who commands all the blessings?

John 21:3-7: Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing. But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore: but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus. Then Jesus saith unto them, Children, have ye any meat? They answered him. No. And he said unto them. Cast the net on the right side of the ship, and ye shall find. They cast therefore, and now they were not able to draw it for the multitude of fishes. Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved saith unto Peter. It is the Lord. Now when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he girt [his] fisher's coat [unto him], (for he was naked.) and did cast himself into the sea.

Later, in the life of Peter as he followed the Lord, there was a change of course. After the death of the Lord, he went back to what he forsook long ago. Forgetting the experience he had at first before the Lord met him, he went a fishing all night long again and caught nothing. Again, it took the Lord's miracle to turn his situation around. The miracle of the Lord here was to restore him from backsliding. The first was to get him saved. Don't take God's interventions in your life for granted.

The story of brother Peter highlights the following:

1. There was failure where it shouldn't have been experienced
2. The fishermen were skilful at their job
3. They were fishing in a river they were much familiar with

4. They were using the right materials for fishing
5. They have been working all night at the right time
6. They have worked hard
7. They have been successful in the past

The above will show you the kind of men Jesus met and their experiences. That is why they might have been surprised at the commandment of Jesus when He told them to launch out for a draught. Anybody among them could have said that Jesus should keep His words because His father was a carpenter, therefore He did not know about fishing. They simply did as He commanded. Profitless hard work is as old as man, Look at the text below.

Isa. 55:2: 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.

In the days of Isaiah, there were people who got engaged in profitless hard work. They spent money for that which was not bread and their labour for that which did not profit. Profitless hard work can otherwise be called fruitless labour, or the spirit of fishing and catching nothing in the ocean of life. Profitless labour is a very rampant disease among men. It can further interpret fighting as though beating the air, It can also be called running with an uncertainty or slippery breakthrough. It is like a common proverb that says, "working like an elephant and feeding like an ant".

A number of people are working very hard, but they are getting nowhere. When I studied in England. I knew Nigerians are not lazy people. Somebody would wake up at four o'clock in the morning to sweep a supermarket before the customers arrived. At eight the same morning, he would prepare to go to school. He closed from school at about five in the evening to resume another job at six the same evening, in a restaurant. At about nine o'clock in the night, he still would go somewhere to wash toilets. He slept about one o'clock in the morning to wake up to his routine life the next day. He would continue that life day in day out. For this reason. Nigerians are not lazy people.

The hard work of some people has nothing to show for it. Some people have spiritual holes in their hands. When they receive blessings, the blessing leak away. Some would accumulate blessings to enjoy in life, only to have a son from

an extra-marital affair who would grow to dismantle their labour of many years by witchcraft powers or some other methods.

Many are fishing in the ocean of life but catching nothing. The dreams of some people show them that they are very rich, but in reality, they are still in their poverty. To worsen the case, many people, are progressing in their poverty. I remember one of my teachers who knew how to pray the kind of prayer you too should pray as you read this book. One day, he was being sought for and a pupil said he knew where to get him. He took them to a church and through the sandals he found at the entrance of church somewhere, he convinced his followers that the teacher must be in that church praying.

The man was found there. He too was surprised to how the pupil knew he was there. The pupil told him he could identify his presence or trace his tracks through his worn out sandals. They were so bad that the pupil couldn't mistake them for another person's even in his dreams. The teacher was steaming in his spirit and cried out hard to the Lord to deliver him from every inherited poverty. The Lord heard him.

STRATEGIES OF OPERATION

This spirit of profitless hard work has many strategies of operations which manifest as follow:

☛ Debt

Some people are so indebted that any money that comes their way does not profit them at all, because it either settles or services the debt owed. As the man works very hard, he only does so to earn no profit at all.

☛ Wrong Investment

Putting your money in the wrong place or investing it on the wrong thing can cause it to disappear. Some people only discover that their labour is profitless, after they have invested their money on wrong ventures or in wrong places.

☛ Prolonging failure at the edge of breakthroughs

Another strategy of the spirit of profitless hard work is prolonging failure at the edge of success, breakthroughs or blessings. The Managing Director (MD) of a company becomes sick the day he is to sign the contract papers for the victim

of this spirit. Anytime something is to turn his situation around for good, a contrary thing happens to prolong his failure at the sight of his breakthroughs.

☞ Poor patronage

You may open up a business and discover that poor patronage is making it to go down. You labour to sell and work very hard to pay your shop rent. But poor patronage forfeits all the efforts you have tried to put into the business. It is the spirit of profitless hard work.

☞ Profit Starvation

It is not only in hunger that people can suffer starvation. Starvation can be experienced in profit making. It is still part of the operations of the same spirit of profitless hard work. A situation where someone without even a primary school education sells and makes profit from pure water business, whereas another person with a degree in Business Administration cannot make ends meet in the same business, shows something is wrong somewhere.

☞ Witchcraft hanging

Perhaps you have heard me share this. There was a man who was keeping five jobs. His condition changed, negatively, and he became somebody begging for bread. He began to pray and the Lord revealed that he should produce his daughter. He brought this girl to me. She was about ten years of age. When they came to me the gill asked me if I am the General Overseer (G. O.), I said yes. She said but you are looking so young. I quietened her that, that was not our topic for the day.

I interrogated her on where she had kept her father's money. She replied and said. "O, we are hanging it on top of an Iroko tree. He cannot make it". When I asked her why she did that, she said her Aunt gave her the instructions. "Are you happy as daddy cannot pay your school fees now?" I asked her. She answered: "it doesn't matter whether it is paid or not."

To restore the man's prosperity, the young girl recommended prayers. Hanging a man's prosperity by witches and wizards is another strategy of the spirit of profitless hard work.

☞ Satanic business partners

When your partner in business is an agent of satan, you cannot bless who God

has cursed. The Bible says: "say ye to the wicked, It shall be ill with him." If God is saying that to your partner everyday, that business is in trouble.

☛ Tithes evasion

If you are not paying your tithes, your labour will amount to profitless hard work. When you break the law of tithing, devourers are given room to attack your labour.

☛ Pocket with holes

It is a very terrible experience to have a pocket with holes. Money is made but lost with ease.

☛ Sponsoring abortion

Another strategy of profitless hard work is when you spend your money to aid or commit abortion. The blood shall cry against the blessings of the individual.

☛ Sleep and Slumber

If you are a lover of sleep and slumber, you cannot make either spiritual or physical progress.

☛ Bribery

Taking or giving bribes amounts to creating holes in your blessings.

☛ Laziness

Laziness is a waster of time, talents and opportunities. The spirit of profitless hard work employs this to attack people.

☛ Strange money

A sister was going to buy some items at a popular Nigerian market. She took a taxi which later picked up three other passengers. She kept her bag of money between her legs and placed her hand on it. One of the men sitting with her at the back opened up a conversation with her. The man asked her: "Are you born again?" She answered no, that she's just a Christian. Then the man suddenly laid his hands on her bag and the woman was quick to yank it off. That piece of drama meant a lot. When she got to where to buy goods and opened the bag, she only found pieces of papers inside: the money has been transferred by the powers of darkness. It was at that point she understood why she was asked

whether or not she was born again. Thus, she lost that which she had worked for.

☛ Examination failure

It is part of the operations of the spirit of profitless hard work to write an exam and fail again and again. It is the work of the spirit causing the wastage of money and time, rendering all the efforts profitless.

We are all like fishermen in the ocean of life. Some fish and catch fishes. Others fish and don't have, anything to show for it. The reason these points are itemised, is to enable you to pray as you ought to. The challenge of life is to be remembered for something significant after you must have left this world.

There was a professor who had a maid. He kept her in the boys-quarters of his house. She was not looking attractive. She was unkempt. The professor started lusting after her. One day, as this man was sleeping, something woke him up and urged him to go to the boys-quarters. He slipped out of his bed, left his wife behind and got there to find the maid sleeping in a strange way. She slept, sprawling out her legs. Then the voice commanded the professor to have an immoral affair with her and he did.

The devil that manipulated the man went and woke his wife. The woman started looking for her husband. She got to the boys-quarters and found the two in an act of immorality at 2.00am. The same devil suggested to the woman to scream. She did. People gathered and felt very sorry for the man. That was the end of his brilliant career.

I want you to know that, there are enough blessings in every nation of the world to make the Christians there prosper. You need to pray through. What are the causes of profitless hard work? I give you some of them below.

☛ Polluted hands

The head is the symbol of destiny and the hands are symbols of labour. The hands can be manipulated by the enemies. Once this happens, it becomes hard to profit in whatever it touches.

☛ Wrong profession

Peter was ordained by God to become a fisher of men, but he started out fishing for consumable fishes. He was so attached to his professional fishing that

after following the Lord for some time, he still went back to it at the slightest opportunity. He toiled and caught nothing.

☛ Life without a purpose

If you don't know what you are born for, you won't know what to pursuing or you even start pursuing the wrong things. You will be using your life as an experiment. You try this, you try that, life is too short for all that experimentation. Find out what the Lord wants you to do and do it.

☛ Zeal without knowledge

Zeal without knowledge will make you to work and labour on fruitlessly in life.

☛ Planting the wrong seed

Planting the wrong seed will give a wrong harvest. Sowing is reaping. Foundation is the most important aspect of man's efforts and pursuits in the world. Whether in marriage, career, ministry, etc. foundation determines the outcome of the future. The foundation you lay is like a seed planted. You will reap according to that foundation. If your foundation is deceit, lying, and all such vices, you cannot make progress. If you are using a fake certificate, you are building on a wrong foundation.

The foundation is very important. There is a problem in Nigeria in the results of the students taking ordinary level school certificate examination. A glance at the results shows a general poor performance in English and Mathematics. It's always a massive failure in these two subjects. The problem is with the foundation of the students in these subjects.

The poor foundation some had while they were pupils in primary school eventually made Mathematics a highly dreaded subject for them at the secondary level. Mathematics teachers enter the class and some students either leave or do something else as the lessons go on.

If you are complaining that you don't know why your wife or husband beats you up every now and then, you should also be asked where you found him or her. Where and how did you meet? You know you planted a wrong seed and laid a wrong foundation, instead of you to correct it, you are engaged in profitless hard work to get the impossible out of it. It's like something wrong with the

foundation of a building, yet the builder is seeking to raise it to a ten storey.

☛ Spiritual blindness

Blindness in the spirit makes people to walk in a direction they don't know. If you are blind spiritually, you will be going in the wrong direction and your labour will become profitless.

I remember the story of two drunkards. They wanted to go home in a night after a binge of alcohol. To go home, they needed a boat to take them across the river. They both got into a boat and started rowing. They rowed all the night but did not get home. At daybreak, they were still rowing. Then somebody who saw their efforts now asked them if indeed they wanted the boat to move forward. They said yes: that's the reason they have been rowing all through the night. He then showed them the rope with which the boat was anchored at the bank of the river and told them to loose it if they wanted to go. They have been spending their energies in vain because they couldn't see.

☛ The curse of non-achievement

The trees of non-achievement have been planted in many families. They must be uprooted if hard work in such families must become rewarding.

☛ Anti-harvest forces

These forces allow a person to work hard. At harvest time, they waste away the efforts. I have seen a man who was a millionaire in two days and the third day, every thing he had was auctioned. Profitless labour.

SOLUTIONS

We thank God that there is always a solution to problems. In Christ Jesus, God has provided solutions to all problems of humanity. Consider the-following solutions to apply to your situation.

☛ Give your life to Jesus if you have not done so

He is the way and the only one who can show you the way. Surrender to him completely.

☛ Accept the fact that your human knowledge and abilities are limited

Every human being has limitations. Let your limitations be the reasons you

look out for help from the unlimited God.

☛ Trust the word of God

What Jesus told Peter did not make sense to him, but when he acted accordingly, he got the miracle. Trust God's words and promises, even if they don't seem to make sense to you.

☛ Be willing to take holy risks

Faith will see you through. As God leads on, keep following. Fear will make you sink. You cannot do exploits except you are ready to take risks, remember that God can give you more than you imagine.

☛ War against the spirit of profitless hard work

You must declare warfare on the spirit to regain your freedom from its attacks.

The book you are holding is an opportunity to explore the resources in Christ to war against this spirit. An end must be put to your profitless hard work.

PRAYER POINTS

1. Every Pharaoh, pursuing my destiny, sink, in the name of Jesus.
2. Every inherited poverty, die, in the name of Jesus.
3. Any power, hanging my prosperity on a tree, loose your hold, in the name of Jesus.
4. Every power of profitless hard work, die, in the name of Jesus.
5. (Cross your hand one upon the other) Command every evil chains upon your hands to break, in the name of Jesus.
6. My hands, catapult me to greatness, in the name of Jesus.
7. Anointing to prosper, fall upon my hands, in the name of Jesus.
8. Begin to prophesy upon your hands now.
9. O kingdom of the Almighty, pursue my pursuers, in the name of Jesus.
10. My heaven of prosperity, open by lire, in the name of Jesus.
11. Every door, the enemy has closed against me. I command you to open, in the name of Jesus.

CHAPTER FOUR

Fishless Fishermen

The blessings of the Lord, are inexhaustible. He wants to bless you again in this chapter. Get yourself ready for more of His blessings as you read on.

If you think very deeply, about your experiences in life, you will soon discover the need for a holy provocation. When you look at what the devil has done to many destinies, you will become more aggressive in your prayers. Too much ground have been lost that must be recovered. Too much time has been wasted that must be redeemed. Too much projects have been delayed from completion that must be completed urgently.

As you are reading this book, you may begin to discover your situation better, especially as the Lord reveals the secrets behind it to you. In your case, life may have become a boxing ring where you have been boxed into a corner. For many people, they are afflicted by evil competitors in all the areas of their lives: marriage, business, career, etc. Your case may be that the enemy has been showing you a contrary dream of your life. He wants you to believe it, so it can come to pass accordingly. Many people are always fond of taking the wrong decision in life. They are never able to take the right decision. There are people, who are still carrying the load of the spiritual husband or wife deposited into their lives, even though the spirits have left them.

As you read on, the Lord will enlighten your eyes to behold deep and secret things that are responsible for your negative experiences, you must pray like a wounded lion, ready to devour a flesh. The aim of every fisherman is to have a good catch. The reason why a fisherman has to mend his nets, and set sail is to catch fish. But not every fisherman has fish to show for his labour. This is the reason why this chapter is very important. You will discover what is wrong, why efforts are made without results to show for them. Let's begin with two texts from the bible.

Jer. 40:4a: And now, behold. I loose thee this day from the chains which [were] upon thine hand.

Luke 5:1-9: And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the word of God, he stood by the lake of Gennesaret, And saw two ships standing by the lake: but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing [their] nets. And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simon's,

and prayed him that he would thrust out a little from the land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship. Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon. Launch out into the deep, and let down your nets for a draught. And Simon answering said unto him. Master, we have toiled all the night, and have taken nothing: nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net. And when they had this done, they in closed a great multitude of fishes: and their net brake. And they beckoned unto (their) partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came, and filled both the ships, so that they began to sink. When Simon Peter saw [it], he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, Depart from me; for I am a sinful man, O Lord. For he was astonished, and all that were with him, at the draught of the fishes which they had taken:

Peter and his fellow fishermen had just returned from the deep after a night of fruitlessness. Their problem was not that they did not know how to fish or where to go fishing. They had tried all they knew but to no avail. Methods had failed. The patience that spanned a whole night was of no benefit. The energy expended in rowing the ship all night was a waste. The endurance of cold, mosquito bites and all the odds throughout the night did not amount to any benefit. They came back to the shore empty. They went on the voyage empty, they came back empty. They were a disappointment to themselves, their families, customers who wanted a supply of fishes and even to the economy of their land because they could not help put money into circulation through supplying and selling of fishes.

They were fishing but catching nothing. They were called fish less fishermen. They were fishermen by title, but in efforts they were fishless. Life is like that with many people. They have no result to show for their labour, efforts and attempts they have made in business, career, etc. Some people have travelled from their villages to cities, others have even travelled abroad in search of greener pastures, but they only returned empty the way they went. Peter exhausted his expertise in fishing, yet nothing happened until there was a divine intervention. Your efforts alone in life will not pay off. You need a divine intervention. When the Lord intervened un behalf of Peter, he was blessed with a confounding blessing. The Lord stepped into his plight and his poverty became prosperity, his scarcity became surplus and his sweat became wealth. You must ask God to bless you with a confounding blessing. The kind that when it comes, you had words to speak, others cannot quantify and it turns around the economy of a whole land.

MODERN DAYS FISHLESS FISHERMEN

How does Peter's experience relate to the modern man? Who are the fishless fishermen of nowadays?

☛ **Those who fish in the ocean of life and catch nothing**

These people have nothing to show for their existence. They engage in profitless hard work. I remember when I was asked to invigilate students writing the General Certificate Examination (GCE) some years ago. In the exam hall, I spotted a man whom I suspected to be too old for an ordinary level examination. I asked him his age and his answer confirmed my impression. He was fifty-five years of age. I wondered and asked him the essence of that exam at that age. He closed the chapter by telling me it was none of my business. That reminds me of a Yoruba proverb that when a man spends twenty years laying the foundation for insanity, how long will it take him to actually manifest the madness?

Some people are like that. They pass through life just like that. If you don't stop, think and pray, you will find yourself just passing through life without anything to show for your existence. To look at the sand of time without seeing your footprint is a tragic existence. I remember an experience I had at a cemetery. An influential woman was about to be committed to mother earth. The pastor ministering at her grave appraised the life she lived as a fulfilment. She was said to have been married to eight men with children. The presiding pastor saw that as an achievement in life. And the people present there agreed with him that, indeed, it was a fulfilled life.

You had better look at your history. If your grandfather died worthlessly and your father died the same way, you need to arise militantly to break yourself loose from that trend. You must arise and fight because your ancestors fished in the ocean of life and caught nothing.

☛ **The second class of fishless fishermen are those who catch the wrong fish and are consequently killed by the fish**

It still amount to not having a fish. A brother wanted to marry. Since he was a boy, he has been saying he would like to marry a beauty queen (Miss Nigeria). He had only Ordinary National Diploma (OND). He was educated by someone who told him that it might be difficult for him, since paragons of beauty are not many, especially in the class of his target. Realising that his academic

qualification might work against his proposal to a Miss Nigeria, he decided to trim down the qualification he set out for.

He later chose to get a lady where the winner emerges from contestants of who has the best long, straight legs. He got one eventually. The lady took the second position in the contest. With her long, straight legs, she moved into his apartment. She later felt she was not loved enough by her husband, she then decided to visit a prophet to get some love portion. The prophet was also interested in her, unknown to the lady. He therefore gave her something to put into her husband's food. She did and the next day, the young man was a dead man. He caught a fishless fish, because the fish killed him.

☛ The third category of fishless fishermen are those who catch fish, but the fish got destroyed in their hands

Everything they ever spent their money to gather began to fizzle out in their presence. Friends become enemies. Many are on this path today.

There was a brilliant professor. He was a very smart, intelligent chap. He was considered to be made a Vice Chancellor (VC) in a university overseas. One day, he visited a prostitute, not knowing his assailants were ready with cameras. They got in upon him and the prostitute suddenly, caught them naked, took photos and sent the photographs to the university contemplating making him a VC. That was the end of his journey to becoming a Vice Chancellor. His brilliant career was spoilt by his kind of fish: the prostitute. He's an example of fishless fishermen.

☛ There are those whose rash are stolen

They make up another category of fishless fishermen. These people are robbed by physical and spiritual thieves. When it happens, they can't understand what is going on.

A brother once found himself in a terrible mess. He lost his cars, house, bank and many businesses. He became fed up at a stage. He invited a prayer warrior to his apartment one day for prayers. As he was praying, prophecies broke forth. Through the prophecies, it was revealed that his maid wanted to destroy him. She had kept the cars under water. The bank too had been banked under water. The wicked maid started screaming, apologising that she did all that on the instruction of the man's mother. There was spiritual conspiracy against him that

led to the loss of his all.

He caught fish in the waters of life, but he lost it, A lot of people are in this situation.

☛ There are also fishermen who are fishing in the wrong places

They go fishing in fishless rivers like in the dead sea. No matter your expertise as a fisherman, if you are fishing in a dead sea where there is no life, you will only sweat and waste your time. You won't have any fish to catch.

Those who live an aimless life are in this category. They live a life without a purpose. A life that has not discovered the reason and purpose for its existence. They lack direction. They dwell in confusion. They are struggling to figure out what to really do in life. They are groping in the dark like a drunkard trying to find his way home with his eyes closed. Their lives have unclear destinations. If you aim for nothing, you catch nothing. That is the simple truth about life.

I always tell people, that if their church cannot change them they should endeavour to change their churches. It is a piece of advice to be taken seriously. You are in a church, where you suffer affliction from witches and wizards, your prayer life is going down, you are growing cold spiritually, you are unhappy there, nothing seems to work out for you. Wisdom demands that, you leave the church that cannot change you.

You can waste your tithes without any reward. If for example you know your pastor has live wives and you keep giving your tithes and offering in his ministry ill the name of sowing, you are only wasting your seed in the desert. It will never grow let alone multiply fruits.

☛ Some people's problem is that they fish at the wrong time

Many are in this group. They do the right thing at the wrong time. They always miss their time in life. That's why I believe that, one of the greatest prayers to pray on earth is to tell the Lord to position one's life at the right place at the right time. It is a very wonderful prayer point. You won't miss out on your opportunities in life as the prayer begins to work fur you. Some people are bound to wrong timing in their lives. They need a serious prayer.

☛ There are those fishing without baits

They have nothing to lure the fish to catch them. They are baitless fishermen. Of course, they are fishless too because no fish comes near a hook not hidden in a bait.

The bait that would have attracted prosperity to many lives have been stolen by the enemies. I remember a female graduate who was in her service year. She observed that her colleagues were wearing better dresses than she, inspite of the meagre amount they were all being paid. The National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) members were paid three hundred naira (₦300.00) or there about at that time. Her friends were wearing dresses worth a thousand or two thousand naira. (₦1,000.00 or ₦2,000.00).

She pleaded with her colleagues to tell her the secret behind their affluent lives. They then invited her to join them in the night, Somewhere, they stood by the road, waving down vehicles. Household wickedness are always looking for opportunities they can capitalise upon to attack their long hunted targets. When the opportunity opens up through omission or commission, they shoot all their arrows at their victims. That was what happened to the lady.

For the first time in her life, she stood by the road waiving down vehicles. For the first time in her life, she stopped a stranger for a free ride. The man stopped, picked her up, drove to his house and they bargained for five thousand naira (₦5,000.00) for the pleasure of a night. The lady was lying on the bed naked while the man was trying to get undressed too. As the door of the room where the man has purportedly gone in to undress opened, instead of the man, a very big python emerged. The lady was completely paralysed on the bed. Helpless and unmovable, the python crawled upon her and rested conveniently on her body for between one and two hours.

The python later crawled back and the man emerged. He handed five thousand naira over to the lady. Up till now, the sad thing I am unhappy to tell you about her is that, she is yet to get out of the problem. What should attract prosperity to her life through her discipline has been taken away by the python. She read microbiology. If she is asked what microbiology means now, she could say it is the study of lagoon and oceans. Which man would want to marry a lady who can't even remember her name? That's the state the lady is now. Or if she attends service at a particular church this Sunday, the next Sunday, she goes to another because she can't remember the last, place she worshipped.

☛ Those who are fishing with wrong bait will not catch anything

They attempt to use God, the Holy Spirit and heaven's resources on their own terms. They approach God on wrong conditions. They prove their assumed worthiness before God by their allegiance to their parent's services to God or on denominational grounds. God does not listen to you because your parents are a pastor and a deaconess.

☛ There are fishless fishermen who don't even bother to fish at all

They don't have any initiative. They lack motivation. They are fishless fishermen as well.

☛ There is yet another class of fishermen called the half way fishermen

They are arms that do not finish the jobs. They are fishless fishermen. Look at Zechariah, four verse nine.

Zech. 4:9: The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also finish it; and thou shalt know that the LORD of hosts hath sent me unto you.

The Bible makes it clear from the above verse that it is possible for a hand to start and not finish a thing, just like the hands that start also has the capacity or possibility to finish up a project. There are people like that. They start, they don't finish. They are half-way fishermen.

In the human body, the hands, the arms and the fingers are very significant because of what they can be used to achieve. They also have spiritual counterparts. For example, if a man's legs are tied in the spirit, he may be unable to move physically or he may be paralysed. Some people's problems are not cases of outright demonic possessions. Demons only take some parts of some people and tie them up. The importance of the hands, arms and fingers is very clear now.

Consider what is done with the arms physically. They can be extended in blessing. Hands of men of God are laid upon people to bless them. The same hands can be extended in hostility: to fight and to kill. Boxers, armed robbers, etc. use their hands. I remember the story of Thomas Crammer. He was a righteous preacher who stood for the right things when Christians were roasted in persecutions. He was apprehended and was told he was going to die because

of the messages he preached. He was going to be roasted in fire or renounce his faith in Christ to be set free. He chose to die. When the authorities that held him hostage saw his uncompromising stand, they decided to cajole him to still change his mind and conviction.

He was advised to publicly reverse all the statements of his convictions, renounce faith in Christ and go home to secretly repent. He was to be burnt publicly at a market square. Somehow, the persuasions began to affect his mind. He was given a paper to sign against everything he ever said and declared. Right in the prison, he signed the paper and immediately, he saw Jesus. He started crying, regretting ever signing those papers.

The final day of his trial came. At the market square, people gathered including the church authorities who did not know God. His only option to freedom was to renounce his faith publicly and denounce all he ever said. He was put to the stake. And a herald raised his voice to discourage other Christians who gathered at the scene. He announced to them that a hero among them was about to publicly renounce his faith.

Suddenly, there was a twist of events; Crammer made up his mind never to deny Christ. He raised his valiant voice and heroically declared that he could never renounce his faith in Christ after all the Lord had done for him. Driven by a mad anger, his captors made haste to set him ablaze. And as the fire broke up in wild flames, he stretched forth his right hand to the fire and said: "you my right hand, you were the one that signed those documents. You must be burn first." The fire caught the fingers, the hands until it was burnt up completely. He called his right hand "the unworthy hand" for the error of signing the papers of compromise.

The arms can be raised in supplication. They can also be waved in joy. They can be used in self-defence. They can also be paralysed by fear. The hands may be lazy or slack. They can also be industrious and productive. They can be used to manipulate others. They can be used to curse or abuse people. They can be used to mend what is broken. The hands are used to write. Those that seal their weddings with rings do so on their fingers. With the hands, you lock the door, open it, cook, wash, drive etc.

The importance of the hands is sometimes not fully appreciated until they are lost. Jesus took up little children in his arms and blessed them. He touched the

blind, lame and lepers. On the cross, the same miracle working hands were nailed. Look at what the psalmist said about his own hands.

Ps. 18:34: He teacheth my hands to war, so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms.

He said God taught his hands to war and a bow of steel could be broken by his arms. The hands are used to war. God can teach your hands to fight. He can teach your hands to prosper. The devil, on the contrary, can teach your hand to fail.

Ps. 144:1: Blessed be the Lord my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight.

Heb. 12:12: Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and die feeble knees;

The hands can fight and win battles. Hands also can be paralysed and made feeble. The bible however admonishes that the hands should not be allowed to hang down. Who then are the fishless fishermen? Those whose hands have been paralysed in the spirit. They are those whose hands are obeying strange commands, their hands bound, cursed, have failure mechanism. Anything they touch must fail. The failure is automatic. Once a hand is bound or covered by cobweb in the spirit, the person becomes a fishless fisherman. The brain may be sharp, logical, sound, producing fantastic ideas, if the hands are bound in the spirit, the ideas from the brain become useless.

When the hands have spiritual problems, light becomes darkness, reality, becomes delusion, truth becomes error, submission from subordinates and others will be turned to rebellion, friendliness will become enmity. Instead of praise, you will be criticised. You will begin to experience suspicion in place of trust. Instead of people who have been generous to others to help you, they become Stingy. Revenge from enemies in place of blessings will become the portion of a man or woman whose hands have spiritual problems. People will be complaining about the person instead of commending him. Instead of unity, strife, argument in place of agreement; agitation instead of rest; sadness in place of joy, because the hands at work are polluted.

When the hands have spiritual problems, grumbling will replace thankfulness

from people. Doubt will take over faith, defeat replaces victory because something is wrong with the hands. Instead of freedom, there is bondage, laziness replaces zeal when the hands are in a spiritual trouble.

Having said all these, the next thing to do now is to pray. The experiences of many people in the world are not far from the instances above. You have spent your time to read this book to this extent, you cannot just close it and drop it. You must pray with fury and agony in your spirit. Your hands must be redeemed from their spiritual bondage so that whatever you set them upon from today will begin to prosper. Pray the under listed prayer points with fervour and zeal that will never relent. The black man is in trouble because his hands have been cursed.

PRAYER POINTS

1. I refuse, to be converted to a satanic slave, in the name of Jesus.
2. (Stretch forth your hands) let every evil chain upon my hands be dashed to pieces, in the name of Jesus.
3. My hands, become an agent of comfort, in the name of Jesus.
4. I release my hands from the spirit of failure, in the name of Jesus.
5. My hands always obey the Holy Spirit, in the name of Jesus.
6. I refuse to cling to vanity, in the name of Jesus.
7. Holy Spirit, take Ishmaels away from my hands and give me my Isaac, in the name of Jesus.
8. Let my hands, destroy the citadel of the enemy, in the name of Jesus.
9. Let every strange fire, prepared against my hands, be quenched, in the name of Jesus.
10. Let my hands, be plunged into hot coals of fire of the Holy Ghost, in the name of Jesus.
11. Let the effect from every unclean thing I have touched, be wiped off from my hands by the blood of Jesus, in the name of Jesus.
12. I release my hands, from every anti-prosperity curse, in the name of Jesus.
13. I prophesy breakthroughs, upon the works of my hands, in the name of Jesus.
14. Let my hands, catapult me to greatness, in the name of Jesus.

15. I refuse to fish in useless rivers, in the name of Jesus.
16. I soak my hands, in the blood of Jesus and the lire of the Holy Ghost, in the name of Jesus.
17. Let my hands, cooperate with the hands of the Almighty, in the name of Jesus.
18. I paralyse, every anti-promotion agent in my hands, in the name of Jesus.
19. Let every bondage, upon the works of my hands be dashed into pieces, in the name of Jesus.
20. Let the anointing for prosperity fall upon my hands, in the name of Jesus.
21. The gates of hell, shall not prevail against my handwork, in the name of Jesus.
22. I pull off, every satanic glove upon my hands, in the name of Jesus.

CHAPTER FIVE

The Spirit of Kadesh Barnea

The journey of the children of Israel from Egypt to Canaan is laced with historical significance. Besides this, it also has myriads of spiritual lessons to teach the church today. Every stage and point in the journey has its relevance in the individual life of a Christian and the church as a whole.

Biblical names of things, persons and places have meanings that teach deep spiritual lessons. Forces of darkness, have been found operating against persons, places and things because of the names they bear. Egypt for example is a symbol of bondage, slavery, oppression and affliction. The spirit of Egypt is therefore the power behind these experiences in the life of a man.

In this chapter, the Spirit of the Lord is teaching a spiritual lesson on a place called Kadesh Barnea. It was a transit point in the pilgrimage of the children of Israel to the promised land. Kadesh Barnea is very significant and symbolic in the history of the Israelite. It was a point of retreat at the edge of the promised land. Kadesh Barnea is symbolic of a negative turning point.

Geographically, from Horeb, the mount of God, to Kadesh Barnea was eleven days journey. The presence of God experienced at Horeb was to strengthen the faith of the children of Israel to enter the promised land. At Kadesh Barnea, the awesome encounter with the Almighty and his mighty manifestation at Horeb was an experience, just eleven days ago. Canaan itself was only two days journey away from Kadesh Barnea. Between the promised land, and Horeb was this place where the powers of failure at the edge of success attacked the children of Israel, forcing them from so near a possession. The end of that story was that the Israelites wasted away just at the brink of a land they already had in view.

Deut. 1:1-2: These [be] the words which Moses spake unto all Israel on this side Jordan in the wilderness, in the plain over against the Red [sea], between Paran, and Tophel, and Laban, and Hazeroth, and Dizahab. ([There are] eleven days' [journey] from Horeb by the way of mount Seir unto Kadeshbarnea.)

Eleven days journey behind and two days journey ahead; which was longer? Yet, after all the efforts, the rigour of the journey so far from Egypt, just two days to enter their rest, they faltered, failed and fell to their own doom. That's the spirit of Kadesh Barnea It work.

You have gone far on a project. You have pursued your career to graduation level. You have prayed fervently almost to getting results. You have waited patiently just about, to obtain a desired blessing. Something strange just happened and you forfeited the completion of the project, the career, obtaining answers to the prayers and the patience that have cost you so much. It's the work of the spirit of Kadesh Barnea. It makes people to miss their blessings just when they are about getting them.

Look at the preceding experiences of the children of Israel.

Deut. 1:19-22: And when we departed from Horeb, we went through all that great and terrible wilderness, which ye saw by the way of the mountain of the Amorites, as the LORD our God commanded us: and we came to Kadeshbarnea. And I said unto you, Ye are come unto the mountain of the Amorites, which the LORD our God doth give unto us. Behold, the LORD thy God hath set the land before thee: go up [and] possess [it], as the LORD God of thy fathers hath said unto thee; fear not, neither be discouraged. And ye came near unto me every one of you, and said. We will send men before us, and they shall search us out the land, and bring us word again by what way we must go up, and into what cities we shall come.

These people went through all manners of "great and terrible wilderness" before arriving Kadesh Barnea, the land of retreat to ruin. Moses even encouraged them to "go up and possess" the promised land and from the vantage position of Kadesh Barnea. Suddenly, they became reluctant to further advance. They became supernaturally weary to make further progress. What they had laboured for this long seemed not to matter to them any longer.

Instead of completing what they started, they told Moses they preferred spies to go up to the land and bring them reports again. Thus, they resigned their fate and future into the hands of spies whose testimonies would make or mar their destiny. That was the spirit of Kadesh Barnea at work. You started a prayer series and just when you should have completed it with one or two days more, you told someone else "be praying for me o" and you gave up. You have yielded to the spell of the spirit of Kadesh Barnea.

You were preparing for an entrance examination and one or two days to write it, you just told a friend "is admission to that school really on merit? Well, if you write the exam and you are offered admission, tell me, so I can write it next time.

I don't want to waste my time". That's the spirit of Kadesh Barnea. What you began, you couldn't complete.

Even when the children of Israel saw "the fruits" brought from Canaan, they still would not go up. Continue their story in the text below.

Deut. 1:23-38: And the saying pleased me well: and I took twelve men of you, one of a tribe: And they turned and went up into the mountain, and came unto the valley of Eshcol, and searched it out. And they look of the fruit of the land in their hands, and brought [it] down unto us, and brought us word again, and said, [It is] a good land which the LORD our God doth give us. Notwithstanding ye would not go up, but rebelled against the commandment of the LORD your God: And ye murmured in your tents, and said, Because the LORD hated us, he hath brought us forth out of the land of Egypt, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us. Whither shall we go up? our brethren have discouraged our heart, saying. The people (is) greater and taller than we; the cities [are] great and walled up to heaven; and moreover we have seen the sons of the Anakims there. Then I said unto you, Dread not, neither be afraid of them. The LORD your God which goeth before you, he shall fight for you, according to all that he did for you in Egypt before your eyes; And in the wilderness, where thou hast seen how that the LORD thy God bare thee, as a man doth bear his son, in all the way that ye went, until ye came into this place. Yet in this thing ye did not believe the LORD your God, Who went in the way before you, to search you out a place to pitch your tents [in], in fire by night, to shew you by what way ye should go, and in a cloud by day. And the LORD heard the voice of your words, and was wroth, and sware, saying, Surely there shall not one of these men of this evil generation see that good land, which I sware to give unto your fathers. Save Caleb the son of Jephunneh; he shall see it, and to him will I give the land that he hath trodden upon, and to his children, because he hath wholly followed the LORD. Also the LORD was angry with me for your sakes, saying. Thou also shalt not go in thither. [But] Joshua the son of Nun, which standeth before thee, he shall go in thither: encourage him: for he shall cause Israel to inherit it.

This spirit worked so much against the children of Israel that the anointed exhortations from the fire brand lips of Moses, a mighty servant of God, were to no avail. They were hardened to their own hurt. Some people are like that under the attacks of the same spirit. There is nothing anybody or servant of God can say to help them carry on. They just want to quit their career, quit their jobs, quit

their projects at the edge of their breakthroughs. Their attitude angered God and the Mighty one of Israel sealed their fate to doom. Even Moses was terribly implicated in the resultant effect of the operations of this spirit against them.

Deut 1:40.45-46: But [as for] you, turn you, and take your journey into the wilderness by the way of the Red sea. And ye returned and wept before the LORD; but the LORD would not hearken to your voice, nor give ear unto you. So ye abode in Kadesh many days, according unto the days that ye abode [there].

This was a very fearful and tragic experience that befell a people to whom God had shown much of His mighty powers, in miracles signs and wonders. In two days, they would have been in Canaan and possessed their possession. The course of the journey changed immediately and they were once again returned into the wilderness where the whole of that generation wasted away except Joshua and Caleb. Their wastage, actually began in the same terrible place Kadesh Barnea, because there they "abode...many days."

This Story of the children of Israel was a terrible and tragic experience that should not be allowed to repeat itself in the life of any Christian. Let's look more closely at the words Kadesh Barnea. Kadesh means white and Barnea means desert of wandering. It means a holy desert of wandering. It was a camp in the journey of the Israelites, but unfortunately, they were there for thirty-eight years. It became their satanic headquarters. They remained there instead of moving on.

Many events characterised the lives of the children of Israel in Kadesh Barnea. It was there, the people chose to rather believe the evil reports of the ten spies against that of Joshua and Caleb. It was in this place. Miriam the sister of Moses died and was buried. It was there they massively rebelled against God and Moses too erred in his stand before the Lord. He struck the rock twice instead of speaking to it to bring forth water.

There was a man a long time ago. He was a poor among the poor such that the poor were calling him poor. He used to sell firewood to earn a living. He had just a pair of trousers and a shirt. He had no shoes or sandals. Anytime his clothes became dirty, he had to remove them for washing and dry them in the sun, so he could wear them again before going. He had no bed in his house. All he had was a tattered mat to sleep on. His poverty was as serious and strange as that.

This poor man was a master complainer. He was always complaining.

Whenever asked by an intending buyer how much a bunch of his firewood cost, he would say three kobo (3k). If the buyer bargained for one kobo (1k), this man would say "well it's not your fault, it's the fault of Adam." If he accidentally fell and was hurt by his firewood, he would repeat "well, this firewood, it's not your fault, it's the fault of Adam." He kept on blaming Adam for everything that went wrong with him.

One day, he decided to take a rest somewhere after selling his firewood. There, he became hot and pulled his clothes for some fresh air. He sat beside a tree and suddenly found himself in another country. He was still naked, but did not know how he got there. He was very surprised; A crowd gathered around him shouting "our king has arrived", they gave him an honourable welcome. This prosperous town had lost its king. And the people had been told that the next king would walk into the town naked. So when they saw this man, they did not hesitate to welcome him with a shout of "our king has come, our king has come."

He was ushered into the palace, and was crowned the king. He began a new life and forgot his past poverty. He was rising to his breakfast with many servants to attend to his command. On the day of his coronation, he had been told that there were two hundred and one rooms in the palace. He was forewarned that he could enter all the two hundred rooms but one. He was furthered warned never to attempt going into the forbidden room because his predecessors that went in there never returned. Remembering his poor background, he promised he would never go near the door of the room. He therefore kept enjoying himself, keeping away from the room he was told never to enter. He had good clothes, grew fat and fresh and had many women as wives.

One day, this king was tilled with wine and became excessive with pleasure. His curiosity rose in the flame of his wine. He called one of the chiefs and asked why he shouldn't open the forbidden room, wanting to know what was there. The chief replied and advised him in love that he should not even think of it, let alone attempting it. The king bluffed, despising all warnings and pieces of advice, he dismissed every counsel forbidding him from opening the room.

On the advice and strong persuasion of the chief, the king went to bed to think over his decision very well. The next day, he woke up with renewed determination to enter the forbidden room. In order not to be further bothered by his chiefs and subjects, he let everyone leave the premises and walked straight to

the door of the room. He opened the door and like a flash, he found himself back beside the tree he was in the grievous days of his poverty. All over again, he became poor and his tattered clothes were available for him once again, only that termites had fed on them to an extent. His firewood also was there. So, he resumed a more critical round of poverty than before. His usual transfer of blame on Adam ended. This is an example of the operations of the spirit of Kadesh Barnea. It makes people to go back to their beginnings.

The plan of God was for Israel to possess the promised land. The conflict between Israel and Palestine over land ownership, which has caused the loss of many lives, started from Kadesh Barnea. Israel failed to take possession of the land and the terrible spirit of wastage entered into their midst causing them to waste away. As the journeys of Abraham was traceable in bible geography through the monument of his altars, so the graves and carcasses of the children of Israel could be used to trace the tracks of their many wanderings. They were wasted in spite of the pillar of fire by night and the cloud by day.

Exod. 13:21-22: And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night. [from] before the people.

The experience of the children of Israel was a tragedy of bible history, the special privilege of divine guide and manifestation they experienced, not withstanding. This is where prayer is necessary. Their entrance into the land of Canaan would have been preceded by the pillar of fire and the covering cloud. They fell back because of the powers of wasters that entered their midst.

It is time to cry with the agony of your heart to the Lord that you should not perish under His umbrella. It is time to cry out to Him that He should not lead you forth with the workers of iniquity. It is time for you to cry out to God that you may not listen to the sirens of the wasters. It is time you must cry out that you may not listen to the siren of destiny diverters. It is time for you to cry out to God that you may not arrive where His blood will not avail for you.

A fourteen-day journey was prolonged by the wasters. And the wasters wasted the people. Look back at your family, to remember how many people the devil has wasted and diverted their destiny. Look back very critically and look at yourself too. Calculate your age now. See how far you have gone. Look at what

the journey of life has cost you. Look back into the Bible again, remember it is possible to be wasted right under the umbrella of God. You need to cry out to God with all entreaty and fervency. If the powers of the wasters contended with the children of Israel and wasted them right under the divine cloud by day and before the divine fire by night, where do you stand?

The children of Israel were at the edge of Canaan land, but they did not enter. I was a member of the panel conducting interviews for applicants where I was working. My experiences there sometimes made me feel like crying. There was the case of a lady about whom I couldn't hide my feelings. She was an applicant that came for an interview. She did very exceedingly brilliantly at the interview. She did not only answer the questions very well, she threw more light of explanations into them than the questions intended. When she finished answering any question, any member of the panel would not hesitate to award her a hundred percent mark or even more.

In the end when she was asked what position she wanted, her response was ridiculous. She opened up and told us that she had three degrees higher than the status of the job and the certificate of her application. She explained that she did that because she couldn't get a job in the full status of her degrees. She therefore decided to reduce herself by three degrees to take up a job a school certificate holder would have qualified to take up. That was the spirit of Kadesh Barnea.

Another person on one of the several occasions of conducting interviews answered the question as though he already held PhD in two fields. When we looked at his academic qualifications, he only had a school certificate he did not even pass. Something had definitely gone wrong. His level of competence at answering the questions like a professor showed where he was actually supposed to be, academic wise. But his school certificate has reduced him. He was carrying the anointing of a professor with the certificate of secondary school failed.

Something is definitely wrong, with a fish seller who speaks so much vocabularies that you the buyer must consult your dictionary to understand. The children of Israel reversed at the edge of Canaan. With a population of three million, they wandered around Kadesh Barnea for thirty-eight years.

The spirit of Cain in the Bible means a household enemy. The spirit of Lot means satanic extra load. The spirit of Balaam refers to the powers hired to curse

you. The spirit of Haman is an ethnic killer, ready to wipe out a whole ethnicity, tribe or race. The spirit of Gehazi signifies prophetic covetousness. The spirit of Pisgah means seeing and not attaining. The spirit of Goliath is about boasting strongman. The killer of good things at infancy is the spirit of Herod. The spirit of stubbornness and rebellion is the spirit of Saul. Absalom means the spirit of disloyalty and rebellion. The spirit of Ahitophel is the spirit of evil counsellors. The spirit of Demas is worldliness and backsliding. The spirit of Judas is disloyalty, conspiracy and treachery.

The spirit of Kadesh Barnea means the dog chasing its tail; pursuing the impossible to catch. The spirit of Kadesh Barnea is like a man rowing a boat tied to the bank of a river. Energy is only expended in vain. The man playing on a rocking chair is the spirit of Kadesh Barnea. The chair is only swinging forward, backward and sideways, but it does not really move from a spot. Going about in circles is the spirit of Kadesh Barnea. The spirit of Kadesh Barnea is behind repeated progress failures. As you are reading this book, if you have been rich but now poor you need to pray until you lose your voice. It is the spirit of Kadesh Barnea that has returned you to square one. That is what the spirit does. It makes people go back to their basics in life.

There was a sister who was married to a white man. She had four children for him. One day, the family had an accident. The husband died. Her four children also died. She was the only survivor. The consequence of that accident was that she was returned to a spinster all over again. She was back again to her basics in life. This is the reason why you must pray until you lose your voice. You must pray so violently, that every structure of the wicked spirit in every area of your life should be demolished. Pray aggressively. Pray very, very violently with fire and thunder in your voice. Redeem yourself with force and fire from the further plundering of the wicked spirit.

When you operate at the tail region of life, the spirit of Kadesh Barnea is at work. When you are roaming around your breakthrough, the experience is caused by the spirit of Kadesh Barnea. Beating about the bush of life without a focus or direction is caused by the spirit of Kadesh Barnea. Roaming around the market square of life without buying anything is caused by the spirit of Kadesh Barnea. The power of merry-go-round is operated by the spirit of Kadesh Barnea. Profession vagabond: you try this or that profession, with out a visible or justifiable progress, it is the spirit of Kadesh Barnea.

Several years ago, I met one of my primary school teachers in a bus. By that time, I had left the school about seven years earlier. I paid his fare. We both greeted each other. The shirt and trousers he wore were some of those he used to wear when he was my teacher. When I alighted from the bus, I thought very deeply about the condition in which I met him. That was the spirit of Kadesh Barnea responsible for that stagnation of life.

WHAT IS THE SPIRIT OF KADESH BARNEA?

- ☛ It is when you cannot point to anything tangible you have achieved in your life.
- ☛ It is when everybody sees you moving, but you know you are not really progressing.
- ☛ It is when you stand at satanic cross-roads, not knowing what to do.
- ☛ It is staying at satanic bus-stop. Drifting in the ocean of life is the spirit of Kadesh Barnea.
- ☛ It is becoming *shepherd less*, even when you have a shepherd.

It is a tragedy when you see someone who started off petty trading; moved on to having a kiosk and finally owned a supermarket; but when something terrible went wrong, you found the person back to petty trading again. It is the spirit of Kadesh Barnea.

Gen. 15:16: But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorites [is] not yet full.

The word of God says the Amorites would come back irrespective of their geographical location or dispersions on the face of the earth. For the Amorites, it means there could be a generational transfer of the terrible spirit I have been talking about. The tragedy of many lives today is that many are in the boats of their fore-fathers. And except something happens, they will end up like them.

Gird up the loins of your heart to pray. With a sincere heart before the Lord, you will discover the secrets you ought to know about your life. If you have found yourself in a wrong place of worship, though sincerely looking for Jesus Christ, one way or the other. God will bring you out because of your sincerity. Only those who have skeletons in their cupboards will remain in that situation. With sincerity of seeking God. He easily reveals secrets to you. In your dreams,

He will show you the operation of the spirit of Kadesh Barnea against your life.

When you begin to dream, seeing dead relations, going back to your kindergarten school, going back to the old house you once lived in several years ago, wearing old clothes you used to wear in the past, going back to your birthplace though you don't go there physically, or you see yourself playing with your kindergarten playmates, it means there is something that wants to return you to the beginning of the journey of life all over again.

If you dream seeing yourself climbing a mountain and yet not going anywhere, or you find yourself in a vehicle without a driver or steering wheel, it may be that you are lost in the wilderness and your wandering only returns you to the same spot, or that in a particular place or building you really don't know in the physical world, or that whenever something good is coming your way, you always have a particular dream and it forfeits the good coming your way or some over-powering forces always press you down, you may be taking some exams you had already passed years ago, after learning it trade, you still see yourself in your apprenticeship school, you see yourself in your former primary and secondary schools as well as your former university with your colleagues with which you studied together in those days; these are evidences of the spirit of Kadesh Barnea in your life that you have to deal with. Your dream life is an indicator of the activities in the spirit world.

If you pray as you ought to, you will be surprised at the results. I remember a medical student who always failed in a particular exam. In that country, such a failure demands re-writing all the professional examinations. She saw the need to pray very violently against the cause of that set-back; the kind of prayer you need to pray too. Another of her exam came. Professors in medical science gathered around and put a patient in, the centre. One after the other, the students were asked what they could do with the patient and they were failing the practical examination one after the other. The professors got disappointed and pissed off. When it was the turn of this lady to take the exam, she was very nervous seeing the angry faces of the old professors.

In her confusion, she just held the patient with one hand, looked at her wrist watch just to see how much time she had left, suddenly the professors began to applaud her, affirming that, that was the right thing, they had been expecting somebody to do! The students were expected to check the pulse of the patient.

She too failed to do so, but because she had prayed, her glance at her watch was interpreted to mean checking the pulse of the patient.

If you have been observing a trend in your life of missing your timing, it is the spirit of Kadesh-Barnea. You are always wrongly positioned. You always arrive late on the scene of goodness. It either happens before you arrive or just after you left. Ninety percent of success stories are attributed to correct positioning. If you ride a dead horse, it does not go anywhere. As a pastor, if you park your vehicle behind a stationary man of God, you will remain there.

When you discover disappointments, at your turn of goodness, something is wrong. When tragedy befalls those that want to help you, something is wrong. When your helpers become uncooperative and your high hopes become shattered, something is wrong somewhere. Your absence on the day of favour and miscarriage of punishment always locating you show something is terribly wrong somewhere. She is the ugliest lady in her office though, yet all the men want to sleep with her and if she refuses, she stands the danger of being sacked. It is the spirit of Kadesh Barnea. If you find out that your contemporaries and juniors in life, career and business are now far ahead of you, it is the spirit of Kadesh Barnea. If you are prone to unpardonable errors and always experience last minute disappointments, the spirit of Kadesh Barnea is at work.

Despite your gifts and talents, you are always by-passed and ignored, the progress you make is not commensurate with your efforts, all what could have moved you forward in life are either lost or destroyed, you are experiencing an automatic mechanism of disappointment, you must pray serious prayers. How do you get out of these? You must deal with sin, rebellion and unbelief as a first step in your life. The next thing to do, is to pray anti-witchcraft prayers. You also need to pray a placenta deliverance prayer. To have spent nine months in the womb of your witch-mother makes the risk of your contamination very high. The evil names that you bear must be changed, if you want to successfully deal with the spirit of Kadesh Barnea. I once met a white man whose name means 'behind'. Another person's name interprets 'uncertain'.

Once speaking with a sister from a part of this country, she surprised me by her name which means kola-nut from God. I imagined how somebody can be kola-nut and succeed. The destiny of kola-nut is to be eaten. That's the reason you have to change your name if it means something against you. Pray like never

before. Take up the prayer points below with fire and it will surprise you what the Lord will do. If you are not born again, surrender your life to Jesus first before attempting the prayers. (Amen).

PRAYER POINTS

1. Every power, prolonging stagnancy in my life, die, in the name of Jesus.
2. Every power, prolonging poverty in my life, die, in the name of Jesus.
3. Every power, that wants to waste my destiny, be wasted, in the name of Jesus.
4. Every arrow, fired into my head, to return me to square one, back fire, in the name of Jesus.
5. You yoke of Kadesh-Barnea, in my life, break, in the name of Jesus.
6. Every vehicle of stagnancy in my life. I kill you today, in the name of Jesus.
7. Every stronghold, binding me to Kadesh Barnea, die, in the name of Jesus.
8. Thou power of failure, frustration and backwardness, die, in the name of Jesus.
9. Power to find my bearing in the journey of life, come upon my life, in the name of Jesus.
10. Desert arrows, fired against me, backfire, in the name of Jesus.
11. Holy Ghost fire, cut off every unbiblical cord still attached to satan, in the name of Jesus.
12. Every bondage of circular spirit, break, in the name of Jesus.
13. I withdraw my name, from the book of born for nothing, in the name of Jesus.
14. I shall get to my destination at the appointed time, in the name of Jesus.
15. I shall not take longer journey to my inheritance, in the name of Jesus.
16. Every power, prolonging my stay in the wilderness, die, in the name of Jesus.
17. Every witchcraft agenda, for my destiny, I kill you now, in the name of Jesus.
18. Every local Kadesh Barnea. I kill your power, in the name of Jesus.

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

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

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

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

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

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