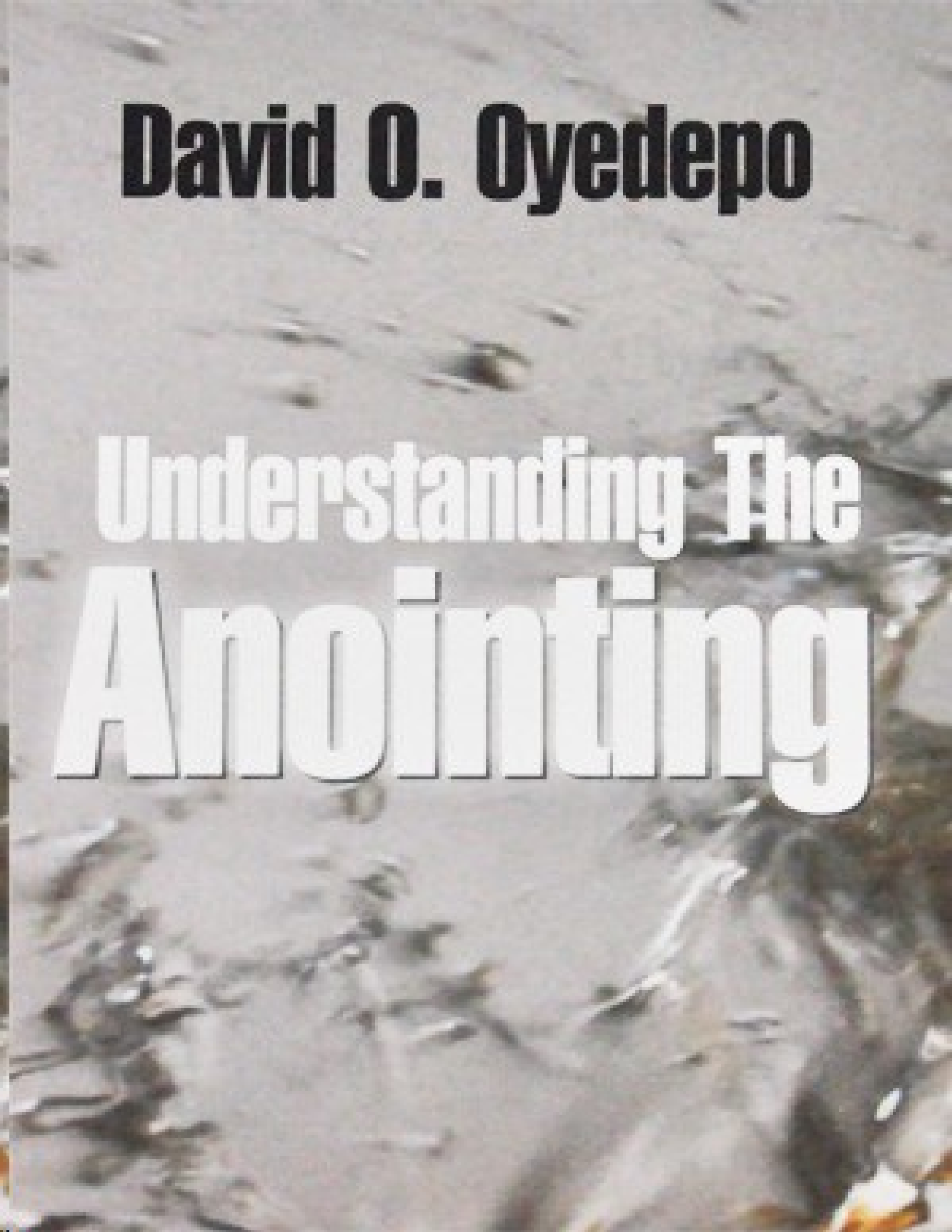
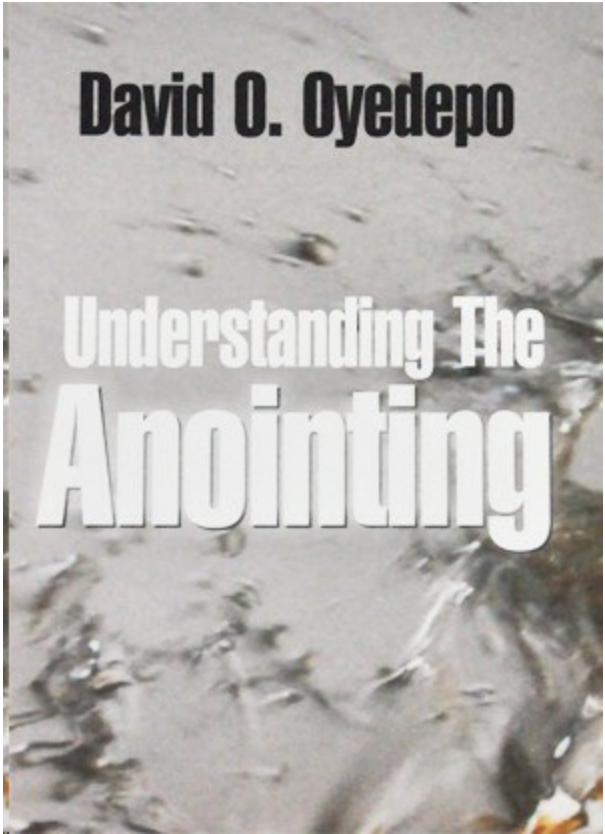




David O. Oyedepo

**Understanding The
Anointing**



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Introduction

Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.

Zechariah 4:6

Everyone born of God is born an overcomer, and is by heritage destined to live a triumphant life (1 John. 5:4). No child of God should be struggling to survive or be a liability, when he should be an asset to the kingdom of God and his generation. God has created you, not for troubles, but for triumph.

However, there is what you must encounter to establish your desired breakthroughs. It is God's provision for your manifestation as His son. When businessmen operate under it, they become irresistible. When pastors get connected to it, they never lack what to teach their congregation, neither can their messages ever be dry.

That divine provision for triumphant living is the anointing. It is what brings an end to struggling, and ushers a man into an era of sweatless triumphs. Contrary to popular beliefs, the anointing is not limited to ministry, nor is it solely for preaching or teaching. The anointing is meant to make you a man or woman of exploits in whatever area or field you are in. Once the anointing comes upon a man, no one can mistake him for a byword and a proverb; rather, he becomes a man in charge, with everything at his command.

An anointed man does not have to advertise himself, as the anointing is self-advertising. Once you have it, the whole world will see and know it.

Returning with my wife from a trip to New York sometime ago, a woman at the ticket counter asked for our tickets, looked at them and said, "Please we have a place for you in first class." But I said, "I don't have a first class ticket." She replied, "I know, but please come to the first class section." She was literally pleading with us!

There is something about the anointing: it removes stains, eradicates stress and refreshes you. It also ensures that you ascend your God-ordained

throne, where everything answers to you at all times. There is, therefore, no substitute for the anointing, because its absence signals the presence of frustration. When it comes upon you, whether you are wearing slippers or shorts, you will be distinguished, and men, no matter their colour, will do obeisance to you.

Perhaps as you read this book, your life has been characterized by breakdowns – in your health, business, Family, finances, etc. The good news is that the coming of the anointing upon you will bring to an end the breakdowns of your life, and grant you perpetual breakthroughs, in Jesus' mighty name!

The anointing guarantees your protection:

He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reproved kings for their sakes; Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.

Psalms 105:14-15

The anointing quickens your body:

But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Romans 8:11

It also sharpens your mind and makes you of a quick understanding:

And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; And shall make him of

quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

Isaiah 11:2-3

The anointing teaches you all things:

But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

1 John 2:27

The anointing is, therefore, indispensable in the life of a believer. I believe you will have an encounter with that anointing in this book, and your life will not remain the same again. Please, say this prayer:

"Lord, give me an encounter with the help of Your Spirit via this book. I am tired of crawling, stagnation and breakdowns. I want to join the company of the high-flyers. I have sweated enough, now it is my turn to enjoy true triumphs. Open me up Lord, I need a definite touch from You. Thank You Lord."

Chapter 1: What Is The Anointing?

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified.

Isaiah 61:1-3

From the above, it is clear that the anointing holds the answer to all the questions of humanity. When the anointing comes, it binds up the brokenhearted, sets the captives free, opens the prison doors to them that are bound, comforts all that mourn, replacing their sorrow with joy and their ashes with beauty. The anointing clothes with the garment of praise, instead of the spirit of heaviness.

Once this unction comes upon a man, all forms of disappointments are converted to supernatural appointments. By this, I mean that everything is compelled to work in his favour — **"To appoint unto them..."**

So, what is the anointing? It is the empowering of the Spirit of God for supernatural accomplishments. It is the Holy Spirit at work in a man, producing extraordinary results. The anointing is God's devise for equipping men to do exploits.

Jesus, for instance, was here as the Messiah. But for the first 30 years of His life, He was without an identity. The most outstanding thing that was recorded about Him was that He was a lay-reader in the synagogue (Luke.

4:16). But when He turned 30, He went to be baptized by John the Baptist, and the plan of destiny was unfolded. The Holy Ghost descended on Him and equipped Him for supernatural accomplishments.

And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.

Luke 4:14

It is impossible to understand what the anointing is without first knowing who the Holy Spirit is. When you discover His personality, it becomes easy for you to know how He empowers people for supernatural feats.

Who The Holy Spirit Is

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the trinity. He is also the Chief Executive of the divine programme on earth. He is in charge of the affairs of God on the earth, and is behind every exploit in the kingdom of God. Nothing has been known to move without His involvement, because He is the motivator, energizer and operator of every revealed plan of God.

For instance, in Genesis chapter one, the Bible records that darkness was upon the face of the earth unchallenged, until this great Personality moved upon the face of the waters and triggered off the force of creation. It was the move of the Spirit that brought into effect the commands issued forth by God the Father.

And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

Genesis 1:2-3

I remember a song we used to sing years back, on the move of the Holy Spirit. Some of its lyrics says, "Every time I feel the Spirit moving in my heart, I will pray." This is because it is only when He moves in you that your prayers are anointed and receives heaven's attention.

It also took the moving of the Spirit to give birth to the Church of Jesus Christ. In Acts 2, while they were all assembled together in one accord in the upper room, there came a rushing mighty wind and the Holy Ghost came upon them. Those men who had hitherto, out of fear, locked themselves in a room exploded in power, causing waves in their generation. Peter preached only one sermon, and 3,000 men were added to the Church that same day!

When the anointing of the Holy Spirit came, many of the priests who had opposed their doctrine became obedient to the faith. Authorities could no longer handle them; their slogan was: **"We ought to obey God rather than men" (Acts 5:29)**. In essence, everybody had to surrender to their authority.

This was only possible by the enabling ministry of the Holy Spirit.

That we are in the explosive age of the Church is evident. We are in the days when a little one among us shall become a thousand; and a small one, a strong nation (Isaiah. 60:22). But in order to partake fully in this explosion, we must have a good understanding of the move of God and the anointing of the Holy Spirit, otherwise we will simply be onlookers, rather than partakers.

He Is The Comforter

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 14:26

Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

John 16:7

Jesus describes the Holy Spirit as the Comforter. He is so called because His primary assignment on the earth is to make life comfortable for the saints.

His comforting ministry is not restricted to spiritual matters alone. He is also mandated to comfort us in our mind, body, environment, etc. He is to ensure that we live a tension-free, strain-free, sweat-free and pressure-free life.

Isaiah 61:1-3 fully describes the comforting ministry of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will set at liberty those that are bound. The Bible says yokes are destroyed by the anointing (Isaiah. 10:27).

Therefore, the anointing of the Holy Spirit destroys all forms of hardship for the believer, establishing him in the comfort zone of life, where he is immune to failure and frustration. His testimonies will be so amazing, that it will be almost unbelievable. People who used to know him will see him and will be forced to exclaim, "This must be the hand of God!"

To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified.

Isaiah 61:3

It means that by the help of the Spirit, you will become a praise on the earth. People will hear of your exploits and say, "Glory to God!" Your life becomes beautiful.

He Fulfills Vision

And the angel that talked with me came again, and waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep, And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all of gold, with a bowl upon

the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which are upon the top thereof:

And two olive trees by it, one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left side thereof. So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What are these, my lord? Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord.

Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.

Zechariah 4:1-6

There are many talented Christians who are obvious failures. Many, although highly educated, are frustrated. Some others are in business, but rather than experiencing breakthroughs, are breaking down. Yet others have been called to preach, but are stagnated, making no progress; not because their callings are not authentic, but because the unction to function is not there.

The issue is simply this: without the help of the Spirit, no dream can be fulfilled. The vision might be from God, but without the help of the Holy Spirit that gives the unction to function, it might remain tied down in obscurity forever.

See what happened on the day of Pentecost: Peter preached and the multitude was pricked in their hearts. It was not Peter's eloquence that convicted them in their conscience and brought the breakthrough, neither was it his intelligence. Rather, it was the Holy Spirit at work. It is written that

when He comes, He will reprove the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgement (John. 16:8). So, it was the Holy Spirit that pricked the hearts of the people and made them accept Jesus.

Joseph's great dreams and vision could not be fulfilled without the help of the Holy Spirit. He went from the prison to the palace, out of obscurity into limelight, by the help of the Spirit.

And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is? And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath showed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art:

Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou. And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, See, I have set thee over all the land of Egypt.

Genesis 41:38-41

Daniel was a man distinguished by the Spirit. He was known as a man "in whom is the spirit of the holy gods" (Daniel. 5:11). He had access to mysteries that other men did not have, because the Holy Spirit revealed them to him (1Corinthians. 2:10-11).

You need the help of the Spirit. Every breakthrough is rooted in His help.

He Is Seven-dimensional

There is one body, and one Spirit...

Ephesians 4:4

This means there is only one Holy Spirit, and He is the third Person of the Godhead. But we discover that He is also made up of seven spirits.

And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God...

Revelation 3:1

And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Revelation 4:5

And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.

Revelation 5:6

The Holy Spirit is a seven-component Spirit. He is seven-in-one! And those seven spirits are not hanging around in heaven, but are right here on the earth, effecting breakthroughs in the lives of men – **"...The seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth."**

In Matthew 3:16-17, the Bible records that as Jesus came up out of the water, the Holy Spirit descended on Him in the form of a dove. Later in Acts 10:38, Peter speaking said:

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Jesus is "He that hath the seven spirits of God" described in Revelation 3:1. This establishes the fact that what Jesus received in Matthew 3:16-17 is the Spirit of God in His seven dimensions.

When Jesus was leaving, He said:

As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.

John 17:18

So, you and I have access to the seven-component Spirit of God. What is the function of these seven spirits? They are at work on earth today, producing inexplicable breakthroughs in the lives of the saints. Let us examine what these seven spirits are and how they produce breakthroughs in a believer's life.

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

Isaiah 11:1-3

Looking closely at verse 2, I discovered that the comma after **"and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him"** clearly distinguishes the Spirit of the Lord from the six others following it. So, there is the Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and the fear of the Lord.

The first is therefore the Spirit of the Lord. Searching through Scriptures, I discovered that His first manifestation is conviction. In the ministry of Jesus, for instance, there was a strong wave of conviction whenever He ministered. Nobody was spared. It was the Spirit of God at work, bringing about conviction.

Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

John 16:7-8

Of the remaining six manifestations of the Spirit – the Spirit of wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge and the fear of the Lord or holiness, we discover that five of them are intricately linked with wisdom.

Proverbs 4:7 connects the Spirit of understanding with wisdom:

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

The Spirit of counsel is also linked with wisdom in **Proverbs 8:14**:

Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have

strength.

Again, the Spirit of knowledge is connected to wisdom:

And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the Lord is his treasure.

Isaiah 33:6

Of the Spirit of the fear of the Lord, **Psalms 111:10** says:

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

The Spirit of might is the only one not linked with wisdom, because it signifies power. The Holy Spirit manifests Himself predominantly in wisdom.

I believe that the initial baptism in the Holy Spirit is the believer's introduction into the first phase of the seven spirits of God. But there is more. So, he must go from the elementary stage of just speaking in tongues, to the stage of encounters with the Spirit of wisdom. It is at this level that he is guaranteed all-round breakthrough.

He Is The Spirit Of Wisdom

The Holy Spirit is essentially the Spirit of wisdom. This is not surprising, because we are told that God did amazing things by the operation of wisdom:

O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.

Psalm 104:24

The Lord by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.

Proverbs 3:19

Jude 1:25 also refers to God as the only wise God. God's great exploits and His unquantifiable breakthroughs are rooted in wisdom. Wisdom not only created the earth, but also established it. Hence the earth is still intact today. This implies that whatever breakthrough you obtain today by the Spirit of wisdom will be durable, and generations after will also partake of it.

In addition, all the ways of wisdom are full of pleasantness and her paths, peace. Meaning that an encounter with the Spirit of wisdom is an encounter with pleasantness and peace.

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her. She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

Proverbs 4:7-9

She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst

desire are not to be compared unto her. Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

Proverbs 3:15-17

If wisdom brings promotion, honour, a crown of glory, an ornament of grace, length of days, riches, pleasantness and peace, it therefore means that there is absolutely nothing a man desires that wisdom does not offer. That is why it is described as the principal thing! There is no knotty area of your life that wisdom cannot untie. Even divine direction, the bane of many lives, is also one of wisdom's great virtues (Ecclesiastes. 10:10).

When the Spirit of wisdom rests upon a businessman, his business will open up on all sides. When He is resident in a home, the peace of God will simply flow there like a river. When ministers are endued with it, they will encounter ease, pleasantness, joy, beauty and fulfilment in the pursuit of their vision. The Spirit of wisdom positively affects all areas of life.

Let us link this up with the end-time Church, which we are part of. **Ephesians 3:10** says:

To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God,

God's purpose for the end-time Church is to disarm all the forces of hell through the operation of His manifold wisdom (a combination of the Spirit of wisdom, counsel, understanding, knowledge and the fear of the Lord). A combination of these forces will compel principalities to bow.

The Amplified Version renders **Ephesians 3:10** thus:

[The purpose is] that through the church the complicated, many-sided wisdom of God in all its infinite variety and innumerable

aspects might now be made known to the angelic rulers and authorities (principalities and powers) in the heavenly sphere.

Therefore, by the operation of the manifold wisdom of God, principalities are disarmed and satanic installations forced to their knees. Isaiah foresaw this time, when the reign of wickedness will loose its grip on the saints, and the earth will literally become like heaven to us.

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Isaiah 11:6-9

Please note that we are in the wisdom era of the Church and if any believer will experience breakthroughs, it must be by the Spirit of wisdom. Every child of God is by destiny a kingdom star, and one major characteristic of stars is that they shine. Consider these two Scriptures for what guarantees the shining of the believer:

And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

Daniel 12:3

I counsel thee to keep the king's commandment, and that in regard

of the oath of God.

Ecclesiastes 8:2

In essence, every kingdom star shines by the Spirit of wisdom. It is the Spirit of wisdom that effects a change in your countenance, and produces obvious changes in you, at home, at work, and everywhere. He produces sporadic and unmistakable changes that compel the envy of men. This wisdom is behind the making of men. Let us examine some of such men.

Joshua

And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him: and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the Lord commanded Moses.

Deuteronomy 34:9

God instructed Moses to lay hands on Joshua and impart him with the spirit of wisdom. Later on, we see the magnitude of that impartation:

Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.

There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

Joshua 1:3-5

The man became insulated from evil by the Spirit of wisdom. He could not be resisted, stopped, molested or harassed. When God said to him, **"Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you..."**, it was a guarantee for open doors everywhere he turned. In essence, every gate was lifted up for him and every door flung wide open. That is definitely a breakthrough!

Joseph

And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is? And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath showed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art: Thou shalt be over my house, and according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled: only in the throne will I be greater than thou.

Genesis 41:38-40

The operation of the Spirit of wisdom gave Joseph a place in the palace, so that he became the first slave to become a prime minister. But this Spirit of wisdom did not come upon Joseph only when he was to interpret Pharaoh's dream. Joseph's steps right from his days in Potiphar's house showed a man who was led by the Spirit of God. No wonder wisdom lifted him and caused him to prosper.

Even when misfortune struck and Joseph was put in prison, he was in charge of everything done there. He was a solution-provider, answering their questions, lightening their burdens. If the Spirit of wisdom guaranteed breakthroughs for Joseph, and turned a captive into a celebrity overnight, with Him operating in your life, your breakthrough is sure!

Jesus

And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?

Matthew 13:54

And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands?

Mark 6:2

Jesus' great exploits here on earth were rooted in the unique operation of the Spirit of wisdom in His life. The mighty works were direct results of the "strange" order of wisdom at work in Him, and not the product of strength or vigour.

Operations Of The Spirit Of Wisdom

And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

Isaiah 11:3

This is a summary of the operation of the Spirit of wisdom in the life of the believer. The anointing of the Holy Spirit makes the believer of quick understanding. It grants access to "strange" insights. I don't mean insight into secular education or human wisdom, but spiritual insight into the depths of God.

With the Spirit of wisdom fully operational in you, you become supernaturally smart, with an unusual insight into the deep things of God. This insight causes you to produce great results that cannot be denied.

Understand that your depth in God determines the height you attain in life. It is not your clapping, dancing or singing, but the quality of insight you have in His Word that grants you access to the top He has ordained for you. A supernatural access into the Word of God, not struggles, is the source of outstanding breakthroughs in life. Once the insight comes, proofs are inevitable.

The Bible links the miracle of the feeding of 5,000 to the insight Jesus received.

And this he said to prove him: FOR HE HIMSELF KNEW WHAT HE WOULD DO.

John 6:6

He fed 5,000 by knowing what to do. Recently, I looked through the documented testimonies of members of our congregation and observed that majority of them traced their miracles to something they saw from the Word, read in a book or heard from the pulpit. Remember John said, "**That...which**

we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life." The Word can be caught.

Look at this testimony:

"On April 27, 1997, my wife delivered a baby boy. But I got to the hospital and met her crying. As I sought to know why she was crying, she said I should go and look at the baby's reproductive organ. When I did, I saw something strange. I got back to my wife, collected the anointing oil, poured it on the baby's organ and noticed some strange movement there.

"I met the medical director and he told me that the baby was born with two penises. I said, 'No, that cannot be my portion!' We were referred to the Lagos University Teaching Hospital (LUTH), the following day. There the baby was scanned, and they told us the baby had problem in his testes, but I believed that my God would heal my boy.

"After two weeks on admission in the hospital, I went through one of the Bishop's books titled, *Releasing The Supernatural*. In it, he said many believers have been waiting on God to perform signs, while God has in turn been waiting on them to obey His Word and use it to work out their miracles. I pondered over this.

"I then got up from my bed and wrote a letter to the Chief Consultant of the hospital, seeking my baby's discharge. I took the letter to the hospital the following morning and my baby was discharged at the end of the day.

"We came home and started anointing the baby's private part and his testes started reducing in size. Eventually, we brought the baby to the church, and the Bishop laid hands on him. To the glory of God, the testes went back into the scrotum. We took the baby back to LUTH and they confirmed that he was okay.

"If I had allowed them to perform surgery on my baby, it would have cost us about 40,000 naira. I give glory to God."

Daramola, N.

Insight makes all the difference!

He will Teach You All Things

When Jesus introduced the Holy Spirit to His disciples, He revealed what His cardinal ministry would be:

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 14:26

From this, we understand that when the Spirit of the Lord comes, He grants insight into the will and purpose of God for our lives. The Holy Spirit is also called the Helper, and I believe He is so called because He can help our insight into the Word.

But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

1 John 2:27

One of the reasons for the anointing is to give us insight, not for a display of gimmicks. It is God's provision for the believer's access to the deep things.

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

1 Corinthians 2:9-10

The Holy Spirit does not only teach you all things, He also brings to your remembrance all things, so that when you are faced with a challenge, you are able to locate a way of escape from the Word. He connects you to the right

Word and without any struggle, you walk gallantly out of all stress.

Think of it: miracles are the results of depths in the Word, not sweating or crying. Once you locate the Word on any issue, and comply with it, you have compelled God to confirm it. That is why the Holy Spirit comes to unravel the deep things of God to you, to cause you to encounter your breakthrough.

A woman whose menstrual period had ceased for 21 years was instantly delivered, as the Holy Spirit opened her up to certain mysteries in the Word.

"I am from Winners' Chapel, Cameroun. For 21 years now, my menstruation ceased, without any solution to the problem. I attended WOFBI and while there, our pastor told us to study and meditate. But I did not understand what he meant then.

But sometime last year, my thought went back to what he said about studying and meditation, and I decided to do it. So, I went for the book, Keys To Answered Prayer, written by Bishop David Oyedepo. As I was reading this book, I saw a Scripture in Proverbs 4:18, which hit me. It says, "The path of the just is as the shining light, which shines more and more unto the perfect day." So, I said, 'This means my healing would come more and more until I am fully restored.'

The Holy Spirit again took me to Isaiah 58:7-8. After I had meditated upon the Scripture, I asked God, 'Am I not doing those things? If I am doing them, why not give me my healing now?'

After that, I took my bath, and as instructed by the Holy Spirit, I anointed my private part. Immediately, I felt pain in my womb. I didn't bother because I was used to that. When I was about going to bed at night, I felt wet and went to clean up. Behold, I saw blood! That was how 21 years of ceased menses was restored! I give God all the glory!"

Kogo, S.

This sister did not need to pray to be delivered; she simply contacted the Word and complied with its directives and God was compelled to come to her

rescue.

Jesus needed to feed 5,000 men and the Bible says, "...He himself knew what he would do" (John. 6:6). Which means He was riding on the wings of depths of insight. Remember **Psalm 45:3-5** says:

Gird thy sword upon thy thigh, O most mighty, with thy glory and thy majesty. And in thy majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness and righteousness; and thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things. Thine arrows are sharp in the heart of the king's enemies; whereby the people fall under thee.

The original texts render the phrase, **"...thy right hand shall teach thee terrible things", as "...thy right hand shall teach thee wonderful things."** Meaning that the depth a man encounters is what determines how high he rides in life.

God has high ways mapped out for every child of His to ride on; that is why He has also given us the Holy Ghost, to grant us supernatural access to the deep things. It is depths that determine heights. So, rather than becoming a prayer project, collecting prayers from all over the town, what you need is to go before the Lord and let the Holy Spirit open up the Word to you and unravel those hidden mysteries. That's all you need.

I believe that there is no predicament a Christian could be faced with that does not have a way out. God will not "tempt" you beyond what you are able to handle, according to 2 Corinthians 10:13. So, you will never be confronted with an issue higher than you. All that you require is to devote time to locate the way out of your situation. The Spirit of wisdom will take you into depths in the Word, to establish your breakthrough.

A brother once testified of how God set him free. He said that as a youth, a soothsayer had come to their home and begun prophesying over the members of the Family. She said to one, "This one will be a millionaire", but when it got to his turn, she said, "You will be an armed robber."

She then put something in a bowl of water and gave him to drink. From then on, according to him, something took hold of him, so that everything he

saw, he wanted to steal. That was how he began stealing everywhere. He was a source of misery to the entire Family. Everyone wished him dead.

Even after he gave his life to Christ, the habit persisted. So he came for a meeting and heard me sharing from Zechariah 5, that the curse of the Lord is in the house of the thief. According to him, in the course of the service, I said, "Now begin to curse everything out to curse you." As he did, he said he saw a dark object leap off his shoulder and go out of the door. The demon that soothsayer had passed into him could not withstand the light of God he had contacted!

A couple had been barren for years. One day, they were watching a video film of one of our Breakthrough Seminars, when they heard me say, "Barrenness is a curse. You don't pray about curses, you curse them in the name of the Lord. When Goliath cursed David, David cursed him back. He said, 'Today, I am bringing your head down.'" So, they held hands and together they cursed barrenness. The woman conceived the following month!

One of the ways the Holy Spirit carries out His ministry of comfort is by granting insight. He leads men into realms of comfort, pleasantness and peace. All He does is to quicken your understanding, making you become supernaturally smart. You then know where the problem lies and how to solve it.

For instance, I knew that I could not fail; not because I am a super intelligent man, but by an insight I contacted from the Word, which removed me from the class of failures. I also knew that I could never be poor; not because I came from a rich Family and had some things to inherit, but because of insight into certain truths that guaranteed my abundance.

I used to be very sickly and fragile in my youth. But I got strength, health and vitality by certain depths uncovered by the help of the Holy Spirit. I do not think there is anything I could do twenty years ago that I cannot do now, just like Caleb testified!

That is precisely what the Spirit of wisdom does — He uncovers depths to men, thereby establishing their heights in life. When the Spirit of wisdom rests upon a man, he gains possession of certain nuggets that cause explosions in his business, bring peace and serenity in his Family, and sound health to his body.

Signs and wonders are also by-products of depth of insight into God's Word.

Sometime ago, a lady ran to me, lamenting. She said she suddenly went blank during her exams. She could not write anything and as a result, had to submit a blank answer sheet. At that instance, it came from deep within me that God has a pen. I remembered that the Bible records that He wrote the ten commandments Himself, **"by the finger of God"** (Exodus. 31:18).

I also figured out that the One that teaches men knowledge shall He not know? For instance, how can a chemistry teacher think of confusing God Who taught man knowledge of chemistry in the first place? Remember He is the only wise God!

I then told the lady that God must have a pen with which He fills up empty pages at times like this, when any of His children is about to be cheated and robbed by the devil. Interestingly, that was exactly what God did, because she passed the exams!

It led me to conclude that unique insight commands unique results. Once you are in possession of a unique insight, it keeps on producing amazing results. Particularly when that insight is delivered to you by the Holy Spirit, it becomes your lifetime inheritance.

Chapter 2: When The Anointing Comes

Kathryn Kuhlman, the woman who shook the world with the healing power of the Holy Spirit, said, "If you find the power of God, you have found heaven's treasure." Something about a treasure is that it is precious in itself and also has the ability to make its possessor precious. The anointing is heaven's treasure. When a man finds it, he becomes precious.

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 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.

Isaiah 55:1-2

Wine symbolizes the anointing. It is that which satisfies. Once a man encounters the anointing, his frustrations come to an end. The difference between an anointed Christian and one not anointed is that while the former is on a ride, the latter just pushes on.

For instance, what method can you use to get a ride in a car that has no fuel? Once the fuel in the car finishes, you must get ready to push, or you will be grounded. Even if you have a gold medal in weightlifting, when you are pushing a car, your speed cannot match that of a motorcyclist.

Talking about various measures of the anointing, prophet Ezekiel described a particular measure, which when a believer gets to, his journey through life can be likened to being on a flight.

Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over.

Ezekiel 47:5

The level of the river had risen to a point that it could not be passed over – that's a flight! It is impossible for a car, no matter how sophisticated it is, to get to Kaduna from Lagos, before an aeroplane! That car will crash if it attempts it! Friend, you have pushed enough, it's time you got on a flight! When the anointing comes upon you, you become like Elijah that outran Ahab's chariot.

We who live in this dispensation are at an advantage, because unlike the saints of the Old Testament, who only had access to the anointing "upon", we have the privilege of having both the anointing "upon" and the anointing "within". There is an anointing "upon" and an anointing "within".

And the spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father's house.

Judges 14:19

But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

1 John 2:27

If Samson could do such exploits by the anointing upon, how much more we, of whom it is written:

Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.

Joel 2:23

You can then imagine what God has planned to do through us: unfathomable, mind-blowing things, just bursting forth from us! That is why Jesus said, "...He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these..." (John. 14:12). How shall he do these greater works? "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever... for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you" (vs. 16-17).

In essence, the Holy Spirit will give you the anointing within plus the one upon, then you will explode upon your world! What else happens when the anointing comes?

You Have An Identity

And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.

Luke 4:14

The anointing gives men identity. We live in a world of about seven billion people. Therefore, it will take nothing but a supernatural push to shoot the believer into the limelight. For instance, Jesus was here on earth for thirty years without any form of identity. He was the Messiah sent for our emancipation, but He remained a lay reader in the synagogue of Nazareth until He was anointed.

But as soon as Jesus had an encounter with the Revealer of men, He came out of His hiding place. When the Holy Ghost laid hands on Him at His baptism, He made Him known to the world.

That should make you know that no matter your field or area of life God has called you into, it will take the anointing to distinguish you. The grandeur of your destiny notwithstanding, your destination is not sure without the unction of the Holy Spirit.

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Acts 4:31

This Scripture makes it clear that the anointing cannot go unannounced. I often humorously say that "Anoint-ment" is what provokes announcement! This is because an anointed man is automatically announced. He may be an ignorant and unlearned man (just like the apostles), but the anointing will compel even the most prominent of men in the world to take notice of him. Those who dislike him may castigate him, but they cannot ignore him.

I met a man of God sometime ago when I travelled outside the country.

He hails from a country in West Africa. He could not speak English, but when he ministers, he would read just a verse of Scripture and then pray. And that is it! All types of healing would then begin to erupt! I am told he never had much formal education, but he had an encounter with the Holy Spirit, and that has given him a place of prominence among men.

Show me an anointed businessman, his business will automatically be announced, because of the aura he carries. It is the anointing that distinguishes between one Christian and the other. How much anointing you carry upon and within you determines the quality of life you live.

Look at this testimony:

"I started worshipping here in June 1996. On the first day I came here, my Christian life was in a mess. I was almost sleeping under the bridge then, yet, I was a Christian (I received the baptism of the Holy Ghost in 1982)!

"I came here on a Sunday, almost in rags. At a time, I was just listening to the Bishop preach for listening sake, as I only strayed here that day. But at a point while preaching, the Bishop prophesied. He said, 'From this day, no one shall tell you, "Sorry O!" any more.' He was facing the direction I was sitting when he said this, and I knew that prophetic utterance was for me. And since then, it has been like the prophecy of Ezekiel to the dry bones! All the materials that would make that prophecy work just began to work in my life since that day!

"Before then, I had a debt of 150,000 naira, which I didn't know how to pay, as there was no business forthcoming. I didn't know where I would get my next meal from. But as God would have it, God directed those I couldn't pay to write off the debts! Since I came here, I've been riding on the wings of prophetic utterances.

"At the Hosanna Night, the Bishop said, 'People will look for you!' I wondered to myself, 'Who are the people going to look for me, seeing that I only have a first degree in agriculture?' I found myself selling pharmaceutical raw materials, a job that was off my line.

"Some people in Britain wanted to invest some money in Nigeria. And lo, the angel of the Lord directed them to my office, asking me to write out a proposal. I had not written a proposal before and didn't know how to write it. I wrote it anyhow, and it was taken to London. They came back and said my

proposal was fantastic! The proposal is worth 33 million naira, and the goods (pharmaceutical raw materials) are contained in seven containers. They told me that they would start with a container first. The container is on its way here now; it's expected to get here in two weeks time and it is worth 30,000 dollars!"

Agbolade, O.

You Are In Command

Then Samuel took a vial of oil, and poured it upon his head, and kissed him, and said, Is it not because the Lord hath anointed thee to be captain over his inheritance?

1 Samuel 10:1

The anointing has a unique feature; it can make captains out of captives. A captain is a commander, the one in charge and at the helm of affairs. When a captain says to a soldier in his platoon, "Go", he goes, or, "Come", he must come. Remember what the centurion said to Jesus?

For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.

Matthew 8:9

When the anointing comes upon you, you are upgraded to the status of commander-in-chief, able to issue decrees and give mandates that even the devil is forced to obey. The Holy Ghost power in your life, which is the anointing, is a treasure more to be desired than gold, because it puts you in charge. It charges you up to take charge!

This brother took charge and got his healing:

"Yesterday, I came for the first service, and as the Bishop was giving the message on the New Birth Connection, I caught a word. He said I'm now a god. I did some further studies on it when I got home.

"I've had tonsillitis for over three years, and when I woke up this morning, my neck was swollen again; and I knew it was the same ailment. As I was going to the bathroom, I said, 'I'm now a god, and a god can't be sick.' And before I got to the bathroom, something brownish came out of my mouth and I was healed!"

Adetunji, K.

It Will Bring Recovery

When thou art departed from me to day, then thou shalt find two men by Rachel's sepulchre in the border of Benjamin at Zelzah; and they will say unto thee, The asses which thou wentest to seek are found: and, lo, thy father hath left the care of the asses, and sorroweth for you, saying, What shall I do for my son?

1 Samuel 10:2

The moment the anointing came upon Saul, the lost asses he went in search of were recovered. Many in the faith today are running helter-skelter, from pillar to post, sweating and struggling, just to secure certain contracts or get certain monies owed them paid. The good news is that the anointing can bring your toil to an end.

This testimony fully explains what I mean.

"I came here with my wife on July 21, 1996, and attended the Business Fellowship held here on Monday 22.

"Before then, in 1990, my money, amounting to \$30,000, had been impounded in Switzerland. I was given a contract to supply spare parts and went to Switzerland to buy the parts. I paid the money in travellers' cheques, but after one month, I couldn't get the goods. Then I received a reply telling me that \$8,000 out of the money I paid in was bad; and because of that, they had impounded the whole money.

"I went to Switzerland and spent one month, trying to explain things to them, yet nothing happened. The Managing Director of the company said because some of the money was bad, they couldn't release anything to me. I spent a lot of money on fax messages, letters and telephone calls. From that 1990 till 1996, they didn't release the money.

"At the end of the Business Fellowship that day, the Bishop prayed earnestly from his heart for all businessmen. I was there with all the documents relating to that money. It was July, the month of praise, and the Bishop had asked us to dance our "dancest" and wipe off the sweat on our faces with our business documents, indicating that we would never sweat

over our businesses any more. That was it! On the 23rd (the following day), the woman released the money! The letter notifying me of the release was dated 23rd and I got it in August.

"You can imagine the difference between the exchange rate in 1990, and the rate in 1996, when they released the money! Thank God, I was not owing the bank, I would have been in a terrible mess! But now, you can just imagine the bumper harvest!"

Odogwu, B.

It Will Compel Progress

Then shalt thou go on forward from thence...

1 Samuel 10:3

The anointing of the Holy Spirit compels progress, bringing an end to all stagnation. There are people whose businesses have been tied down, or have kept crawling for ages. They are in the right location, and are perhaps selling something that is in high demand; yet nobody would patronize them. By the anointing that yoke can be destroyed and progress guaranteed.

And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing.

Isaiah 10:27

The anointing prevents retrogression or stagnation, while at the same time ensuring progress.

It Will Attract Favour

And they will salute thee, and give thee two loaves of bread; which thou shalt receive of their hands.

1 Samuel 10:4

When the anointing comes, men will stop grieving you and start greeting you. You become dignified and carry an aura around you, that forbids your begging. Men see you and desire to bless you.

All thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad. Kings' daughters were among thy honourable women: upon thy right hand did stand the queen in gold of Ophir. And the daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift; even the rich among the people shall entreat thy favour.

Psalms 45:8-9, 12

That smell referred to here is the smell of favour, or the anointing for favour. That fragrance oozes out of you charged with favour, so that authorities fall over themselves, seeking to bestow favours on you. The daughters of Tyre were the world rulers in their time. In essence, the anointing will compel the powers that be to give to you.

It Will Make A Sign Of You

And let it be, when these signs are come unto thee, that thou do as occasion serve thee; for God is with thee.

1 Samuel 10:7

When you are endued with power, you become an evidence, not just an evidence producer. You become a sign, a man of proofs. As a result, wherever you go, you attract attention to God's kingdom. The proofs you hold in your hands become tools for evangelism, and you no longer have to struggle to convince people to come to Christ; they will be the ones begging and offering to submit their lives to Him.

You Are Divinely Protected

I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him: With whom my hand shall be established: mine arm also shall strengthen him. The enemy shall not exact upon him; nor the son of wickedness afflict him. And I will beat down his foes before his face, and plague them that hate him.

Psalm 89:20-23

The anointing ensures the security of the anointed. As a matter of fact, it is dangerous for anyone to be annoyed with him, because God rises up to beat down his foes before his face and plague those that hate him.

He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reproveth kings for their sakes; Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.

Psalm 105:14-15

God is jealous over His anointed. He stands as a watch over him, to return to sender every evil directed at him. All you need is to key into the anointing and no one dares to harass you any longer.

Who Anoints?

It is important to know who the anointer is. Who is the source of the anointing? This is because if you don't know the source of a product, you may be frustrated in your search for it. For instance, when you need spare parts for your car, do you search for it at the vegetable market? It will look foolish to ask a tomato seller if she has Toyota Carina engine piston. If that is the only market you know, you may end up frustrated.

Many people do not know the source of what they are looking for, so they keep running helter-skelter. The anointing oil bottle is not the source of the anointing! What or Who then is the source?

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Acts 10:38

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Luke 11:13

In Acts 4:29-31, the apostles prayed, connecting the Father in the name of the Son, and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost. God the Father is the source of the anointing. The good news is that God is not a respecter of persons, so He anoints whosoever fulfills the requirements for receiving it.

If God is the One that anoints, who then is Jesus? He is the Baptizer. The baptism is the first leg of the journey, it is like an introduction to life in the spirit. But the anointing brings you to the power realm of life. In other words, while the baptism is a form of initiation, the anointing is the enabling.

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

Matthew 3:11

Jesus' life is an apt example. When He came out of the water after He was baptized in water, the Holy Ghost descended on Him in the form of a dove. That was His baptism in the Holy Ghost. He was later led into the wilderness (perhaps to seek unction). On His return, it was obvious that He had been anointed with the Spirit, and His fame spread to all the regions far and wide!

And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.

Luke 4:14

Jesus' fame did not spread abroad until He had an encounter with unction. Therefore, if Jesus, the Son of God, could not set out in ministry without first receiving the anointing, then you need the anointing much more. Your personal encounter with the Father will determine the level of unction you operate in.

Chapter 3: There's A Price To Pay

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. 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.

Isaiah 55:1-2

Heaven's treasures are not free. They are available to all, but there is a price to pay for them. Kathryn Kuhlman said, "Any of you can have what I have, if only you will pay the price." There is a price tag on heaven's gems. Many want them free of charge, so they go without them all lifelong.

The anointing is not free! There is a price to pay for it. Even in the natural, nothing of value is without price. In fact, it is the price of the product that places value on it and draws your attention.

The anointing is very valuable. Without it you are like an engine without oil or a car without fuel. But there is a price to be paid for the anointing. The price you pay is not an earthly one, nor is it money. Please understand that the anointing I am referring to here is not the anointing with oil, but the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Come And Buy!

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Isaiah 55:1

"Come, buy wine and milk..." Notice that He does not say "take" or "receive". You are to "buy". So it is not free. But what is the price?

The price is – "Come!" Do you yearn for the anointing? Then you must come to Him in person in order to receive it; it is a non-transferable responsibility.

He says, "Come!" because nobody gets anointed without first having an encounter with God. For instance, there is no way Samuel could have anointed Saul until Saul first encountered him. Jesus reiterates this truth in **John 7:37-38**:

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

Notice that He said, **"If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink."** Are you thirsty? God says, "Come!" He is saying in essence, "Get in touch." Many, though they attend church services, cannot be said to have come unto Him, because they are not in touch with Him. And until you are in touch, you cannot be touched.

The parable of the ten virgins further illustrates this point:

Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that

sell, and buy for yourselves. Matthew 25:1, 8-9

Take note of the phrase, **"Buy for yourselves."** Each one is expected to buy for himself, as an encounter cannot be shared. That explains why I may lay hands on ten men, all equally beloved, but they all don't have the same encounter. Each one determines his own encounter.

Eleven years ago, I went on a search for the anointing. I had been following a certain ministry closely for quite sometime. I had read all the books of the minister, until I almost wore out all the pages. I have a Word of Faith ministry from God, and noticed that he had the same calling and had proved it. Everything about his ministry thrilled me, so I said to myself, "I must go find what is in this man, it is the kind of thing I want."

I attended one of his programmes, at which I sat in the gallery, with my eyes glued to him. I prayed, "Holy Spirit, I have come here for an encounter. I don't need anything else; not shoes or clothes. I am here to collect what this man carries."

Then one afternoon, as he came on the platform, in a moment of time, within a twinkle of an eye, I saw his face change suddenly. And some force from him was fired into me. It penetrated my heart and I burst into tears. I sobbed and sobbed, with my whole body quaking. Then suddenly, the Holy Ghost said to me, "My son, the baton has been passed over to you."

If you are not set, you cannot have an encounter, because encounters happen suddenly. Getting set entails paying attention. Remember how the anointing was passed on to Elisha? It came suddenly. If he had not been paying attention, he would have missed the opportunity.

You can have encounters with the anointing in the course of reading anointed books. I remember the encounter I had with the Holy Spirit in July, 1976, after reading T. L. Osborn's book, *The Purpose Of Pentecost*. I read that book at a sitting. When I finished, I said, "Holy Spirit, if it is true that You are a Person, speak to me now." And for the first time in my life, I heard Him speak to me clearly. I have enjoyed His supernatural ministry of guidance ever since.

That encounter still lives with me today, because I gave total attention to

the book. Total attention attracts encounters with unction.

Chapter 4: Receiving The Anointing

The labour of the foolish wearieth every one of them, because he knoweth not how to go to the city.

Ecclesiastes 10:15

One of the most frustrating things in life is to know what you want, but not know how to get it. The lack of know-how is the reason why many are stranded. For instance, many believers know the healing provisions and the terms of the covenant of prosperity in the Scriptures, but they don't know how to appropriate the benefits for themselves. In essence, they know what they want, but not how to take delivery of it.

I already said that the anointing is the empowering of the Spirit, and that until it comes upon the believer, he will lack identity among other things. So how do you receive the anointing? How can you get empowered or enabled by the Spirit?

The Place Of Consecration

Consecration is a fundamental requirement for the anointing. It takes consecration, not tearful and mournful prayers or prolonged fasts, to be anointed. Purity is the price for power, it is the requirement for the release of unction.

Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

Proverbs 1:23

It is not God's turn to pour out the anointing upon you until you turn at His reproofs. That is why until consecration is in place, no matter the amount of physical exertions you put yourself through in the name of fasting, you don't qualify for the anointing. Until you are standing on the right platform, you can't be empowered.

Many want to be mighty instruments of deliverance in God's hands. But you can't live a morally loose life and still expect to be an instrument for liberating those that are bound. For instance, someone in police custody is not qualified to stand bail for another arrested person.

Satan knows this, so he organizes to keep people perpetually blindfolded to the need for consecration, so they will keep struggling for the anointing. the need for consecration, so they will keep struggling for the anointing. days; and yet nothing happens. But there is no substitute for consecration in your quest for unction. Consecration cannot be compromised in your search for the anointing. Jesus knew this, and that's why He said:

...Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness.

Then he suffered him. And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto

him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

Matthew 3:15-16

As soon as He had fulfilled all righteousness, the Holy Ghost descended upon Him, and He had an encounter with the Spirit. As a result, therefore, He had an identity and His fame spread abroad (Luke. 4:14). If you don't want to live a life that lacks identity, it is important that you destroy every root of iniquity in and around you.

But new wine must be put into new bottles; and both are preserved.

Luke 5:38

Notice that the Scripture says "must", not "may". That means that God will never pour new wine until there is a new wine skin to match. It means, therefore, that the level of unction God gives a man is a function of his level of consecration.

When new wine is put into an old wine bottle, the bottle is destroyed and the wine wasted. But because God wants to preserve you, He waits until you are fit to accommodate the power you are looking for, otherwise it will blow you apart.

You cannot do without the anointing, if you desire to live a colourful, fulfilled and fruitful life. Since consecration is what guarantees unction, wisdom demands that you give up on all forms of unrighteousness, and embrace purity.

Conviction First

Conviction is the first step to a life of purity. When you can no longer be convicted and sin has become your way of life, then consecration is impossible. Conviction is when the Holy Spirit in you comes knocking on the door of your heart, saying, "Hello there, that thing has to stop, that habit has to go, retrace your steps." If you refuse to respond, then you can never be anointed.

Please note that the Holy Spirit wants to empower you, but He cannot come until you can be convicted. To become familiar with sin is to become a stranger to power.

Then Repentance

On the great day of Pentecost, while Peter was preaching, the people were pricked in their hearts (conviction), but not stopping there, they asked:

Men and brethren, what shall we do?

Acts 2:37

To which Peter replied:

...Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 2:38

"Repent...and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." That means repentance is paramount, if you are to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Remember that when Peter denied Jesus, he wept in godly sorrow. Until he repented, he did not qualify to be in the upper room. But when he did, his place was guaranteed. In like manner, you must repent in whatever way you have denied Christ. You know the things you do that God hates: that demonic anger, the hidden pride that makes you see yourself as better than others, that fighting spirit, immorality, or whatever else is tying you down and blocking the flow of the anointing.

As you open your heart to Him, pray, "Lord, I want to experience true freedom. Break the entanglements of sin in my life, liberate me from this chain of life. Let Your blood avail for me, let it purge my conscience from every evil work. Let the yoke be destroyed, Lord, in the name of Jesus." You will experience total deliverance. Remember, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John. 8:36).

The times of refreshing from the Lord will not come, until you first repent and your sins are blotted out.

Look at this testimony:

"The Lord has done wondrous things in my life and that of my Family. He has made our lives to have meaning. I come from a broken home, and was raised up by my mother who had little or no interest in how I lived my life.

"I started having sexual intercourse with men at the age of 12 in 1987, and had my first abortion at the age of 14. I almost lost my life through excessive bleeding, as it was done by a quack doctor. Since then, I aborted once or twice yearly. Everybody in my Family hated me, saying I was different from them.

"I started coming to this church fully in June 1997. The day I came, the Bishop announced a three-day fast for strategic warfare, and a voice told me to participate. During the fast, I saw the Bishop's book, Dynamics Of Holiness with a young lady and the voice again told me to buy it.

"As I read the book, especially the part that talked about immorality, I asked God for forgiveness and a new beginning. I gave my life to Christ in June and vowed that if I dared commit fornication again, God should strike me with a deadly disease. I also vowed that if I went back to the world, He should see to it that I do not prosper in whatsoever I ever lay my hands upon.

"Since I gave my life to Christ, God has been making me to gain favour in the eyes of men. People now give me money without asking to sleep with me. After my salvation, I prayed to God, asking that He should send His light into my Family that was covered in darkness.

"During the Victory Celebration, He told me that He had separated me, that from me light will break forth to my Family.

"My mother who was once a worshipper of the mermaid spirit has given her life to Christ and now she prays and reads the Word of God. My stepfather also threw away his idols and gave his life to Christ at the last Breakthrough Night.

"Now, God has made a star out of me. Whenever anybody wants to know the will of God concerning any issue, they come to me and God always gives me wisdom to answer promptly and correctly. Also, if anybody is ill or in pains in my neighbourhood, they always call on me to pray for them. From June to December is just about six months, but what God has used me for

makes me look like someone that has been in the faith for a very long time. I thank God for making me different from the rest of my Family."

God is the One who anoints, not man. No one has any other access to the anointing other than God's laid down principles. You are either qualified in His sight or you are not. So, embrace purity and power is sure!

The Thirst Factor

The second thing that enhances the release of unction is thirst. When Jesus introduced the power of God, He said:

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

John 7:37-39

The word "if" makes your receiving the unction conditional. That is, except you are thirsty, you cannot receive the anointing. Your desire must first be in place, because what you don't desire you don't deserve.

O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. Psalms 63:1-2

God's power is available for the taking, but you must first desire it desperately. God hates waste. So what you don't seek, you don't find; that is a law of the spirit.

The kind of thirst I am talking about is not just the talk of the lips thirst, but a heart-seated longing for the anointing. That is what actually qualifies you for an outpouring.

For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring: And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses.

Isaiah 44:3-4

The outpouring provokes the springing up of great blessings. But God will not pour the anointing upon everybody; only the thirsty qualify for an outpouring.

How then do you generate a thirst?

See Your Helplessness

You must come to a point where you see yourself as helpless without the anointing. When you see how powerless you are without Him, a thirst will be generated in you. You will cry out of your own volition, "Lord, I need You!"

I remember when the Lord called me to ministry. I knew that I wasn't qualified for the call. I looked around and couldn't see what I could boast of as my qualification. The first thing I asked myself was, "What will I be saying to the people that will still make sense after a year or two from now?"

The thought of all these caused me to start sobbing. I remember I was in tears on the day I was being commissioned to ministry. After the commissioning service, I went up to a mountain, because I knew that I needed His help. I spent that night crying out to Him, "Lord, I don't know what kind of trouble You got me into. What will I be saying till I die. I don't know anything, I have nothing. If You won't help me, I'd rather die." At every point, God kept consoling me and saying to me, "My boy, I will be with you."

Until you see your helplessness, you won't look for His help. It is this feeling of emptiness that compels Him to fill you up. A genuine thirst always compels an outpouring. Be desperate for an encounter with the anointing; it is available and obtainable!

See Your Need to be Empowered

The reason many people do not crave for empowering is because they don't understand the function of the anointing. But the truth is that without it, Christianity will be nothing but frustrations. It is the anointing that adds colour to a man's life. It adds sweetness and makes life cheap. When you are anointed, your business cannot be the same, you will simply be on a flight!

Without the anointing of the Holy Spirit, your life is limited and your destiny is insecure. You will be utterly helpless in the midst of conflicts. The anointing is your source of help.

...When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.

Isaiah 59:19

I have observed that in the body of Christ, we have more miracle seekers than we have miracle workers. But the time has come for us to arise to our God-given roles as saviours (Obadiah. 1:21). However, this cannot be done by power or might, but only by the enabling of the Spirit. The truth is that your personal encounter with the anointing will lead to the liberation of multitudes, so you cannot afford to live a life that lacks the anointing.

After reading through the book of Acts of the Apostles sometime ago, I became desperate for the power that was at work in the apostles, which caused them to produce diverse signs and wonders. I read the book unhurriedly. I avidly drank in the words. And at every point, because there was a deep longing in my soul, I kept having definite encounters.

At a point, my bed could not contain me any longer, so I moved on to the floor! Something had been released from heaven. On concluding my study, I went to preach somewhere and could not tell how I found myself at the back of the auditorium! It was as if I was floating. That day, I had an unforgettable encounter. Friend, every encounter is as a result of desperation.

Now cry out to the Lord for the anointing. Say to Him, "Anoint me Lord, I long for Your touch."

The Place of Fasting

Fasting enhances the speedy release of power. It is not begging God to act, but getting empowered to deal with situations of life. It is a spiritual device for receiving the anointing.

Isaiah 58 lays out the pattern of the fast which is acceptable to God, its purpose and what it is designed to accomplish.

Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

Isaiah 58:6

This is the purpose for every fast. But some people have mistaken fasting to mean the affliction of the soul, or the subduing of the flesh.

The fast I mean here is that which endues one with power from on high, one that breaks yokes (you know the anointing destroys yokes). It is not one in which you pray, "Oh God, deal with all the witches in my village." The fast I'm talking about here is one in which God supernaturally empowers you to destroy all yokes by yourself, not Him doing it for you.

Jesus, after He was baptized in water, was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where He fasted for 40 days. The Bible says He returned in the power of the Spirit into Nazareth and exploded! He was empowered for ministry after His fast. Jesus made it plain that fasting is not meant for struggling with the devil, but for enduement with power, so we can deal with the devil.

Fasting is to enhance your strength, so you can loose the bands of wickedness, undo the heavy burdens and break every yoke. This is God's kind of fast.

I do not believe that fasting is essentially meant for getting answers to prayer. Whenever we pray according to His will, He is committed to answer. Many of the things you fast and pray about will not need prayer when you are empowered; they will answer to you automatically, as you will have authority to command them at will. There is a realm of power you operate in, where

even your presence is an answer in itself. Satan sees you, recognizes you as his tormentor, and cries out, "Jesus, I know, Paul I know."

When you engage in this God-ordained fast, you build yourself up spiritually to a point where Satan steers clear of you and issues that concern you.

Once, I was on the mountain top in a fast for three days. The first thing that arrived there was a serpent. It dropped down right in front of me from a tree. So I smiled and said to myself, "This must be the mountain of God, because there was a serpent in the garden of Eden."

The only source of light I had was the torch in my hand. On the third day, after having read through the book of Ezekiel, the Lord said to me, "Behold, I have touched your tongue with a coal of fire; henceforth, as you say it, you see it!" That is empowering from heaven!

After then, somebody had brain cancer and was brought to me after one of our church services. I smiled and said, "It is gone." I later got the report that the disease had gone! On another occasion, a man came into our church on a Sunday morning, and according to his testimony, he had been impotent for 25 years. He was instantly healed and restored after he heard me say, "At the end of seven years, thou shalt make a release."

All these testimonies prove that fasting is undertaken to receive power, and not for afflicting oneself.

After we ministered at a crusade sometime in 1977, where there was such great demonstration of power, we were ushered into our quarters at the end of the meeting. As soon as the door was opened, a human-like amorphous creature rolled out of the room through the open door. Almost simultaneously, a large bird screamed and flew off the window where it had perched. I said, "Satan, shut up there. You're too small to tell me when to pray. We are going to sleep now." I turned to the fellows who went with me on the trip and said, "We are going to bed now, to wake in the morning. In case you wake up and the person beside you does not wake up, just touch him, don't pray."

I had built myself up to a point where Satan was no longer a concern to me. You too can build up your power system to a point where anything that comes your way can be dealt with, without you having to run helter-skelter.

Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the Lord shall be thy rereward. Then shalt thou call, and the Lord shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity;

Isaiah 58:8-9

These are the things that happen after you have been empowered. Among others, **"You shall call, and the Lord shall answer..."** That connotes authority. If God answers at your call, then everything else is at your command. All you need do is say it, and it answers to you.

The essence of fasting is to build you up in power, not to lose weight or look haggard. If fasting does not culminate in the release of unction, then all you engaged in was a hunger strike.

Fasting to Refill

...In fastings often...

2 Corinthians 11:27

Paul saw fasting as a means of increasing his power level. He fasted often, and had proofs of his encounters with unction. It was not just something he did out of a religious mentality. Paul grew up in power to the extent that people said of him, **"...The gods are come down to us in the likeness of men" (Acts 14:11).**

Just as you would refill a lamp whose oil level has gone down, you need to refill your power supply constantly through fasting. When you observe your power gauge and see that your power supply is running out, you need to go on a fast, to refill.

Perhaps, you sing and you sense that you are disconnected, or you pray, but are not getting through. You might also feel that there is no trace of eternal life flowing in you. What you need do is to go to the filling station for a refill. See fasting periods as opportunities to grow in the anointing. You are reconnected to your power source for fresh supplies during fasting periods.

This is where accepting responsibility comes in. The anointing you need can only be acquired personally. Nobody can give you of his own. Spiritually, we are like cars with deep fuel tanks. Such tanks are designed in a way that once fuel goes into it, you can't get it out again. Likewise, nobody can give you some of his unction; each man must personally acquire his (Matthew. 25:7-9).

Warring With The Word

When Jesus was in a fast, I believe He must have been busy stuffing Himself with the Word of God; so that when it was battle-time, He fought valiantly, using the Word-weapon. He kept saying, **"It is written"**, until the devil fled **(Luke. 4:1-13)**.

There may be some contrary circumstances warring against you right now, for which you will need more unction than you presently have to deal with. Jesus prescribed a remedy for such situations:

And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

Matthew 17:20-21

Fasting is for spiritual empowering. If it does not culminate in the release of power, it's a waste of energy.

The Place of Praise

It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O most High: To show forth thy lovingkindness in the morning, and thy faithfulness every night, But my horn shalt thou exalt like the horn of an unicorn: I shall be anointed with fresh oil.

Psalms 92:1-2, 10

Another Scriptural device for spiritual empowering is praise. If you make thanksgiving and praise your life style, your head will never run dry of fresh oil. When you praise God, you are concentrating on His integrity, faithfulness, acts and doings. You are acknowledging the wonders of God and His touch upon your life. As you do this, He releases fresh oil upon you.

I have observed that truly anointed people are men and women of praise. They are always excited. Their walk with God is characterized by excitement, gratitude and appreciation. They are not complainants or murmurers, but genuinely thankful people.

These are people who praise God, not as part of a church activity or programme, but as a life style. Such people are the ones who have encounters with the anointing.

The dullest days of the believer are days he wakes up without seeing a reason for thanksgiving. In his estimation, nothing tangible happened yesterday, so today he is on a protest. He looks at his Bible, and flings it aside. What He has failed to realize is that complaining and murmuring are the quickest means Satan uses in trapping his victims. The moment an individual starts complaining, God turns His back on such a one. And if God turns His back on you, you will never find your way to the front again.

I have not found the first reason to complain, either about my life or the work of the ministry. As far as I am concerned, all things are working together for my good. I believe that everything happening around me will ultimately culminate in my good. I trust Him so much because I know that He

won't stay in heaven and organize my hurt on earth.

Thanksgiving and praise provide an easy access to power. For instance, I have observed that almost every utterance made at great miracle services are punctuated with thanksgiving – "Thank you, Jesus." I believe that this thanksgiving system is what makes the yoke-destroying anointing cheaply available. God arrives quickly on the scene, and before the prayer is ended, He moves among the congregation, healing every sick person.

As you praise God, your horn is exalted like that of a unicorn. Horn is a symbol of strength. It therefore means that your strength increases. You are also anointed with fresh oil, and you begin to see your desires on your enemies. You also hear your desire upon the wicked that rise up against you. You flourish like a palm tree and grow up like the cedar in Lebanon. You are fat and flourishing (productive), to show that there is no unrighteousness in Him (Psalms. 92:11-15). These are all offshoots of thanksgiving and praise.

Let us now see some examples of praiseful men who walked in great power:

David

In **Psalm 89:20-22**, God said of David:

I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him: With whom my hand shall be established: mine arm also shall strengthen him. The enemy shall not exact upon him; nor the son of wickedness afflict him.

God found David because David sought Him in praise.

Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments.

Psalm 119:164

Take note of the words "do I praise thee", not "will I praise thee." This shows that it wasn't something he intended to do, but something he was actually doing. David understood the mystery of praise, so he never lacked the release of fresh anointing.

Jesus

The two most striking miracles in Jesus' ministry were products of thanksgiving. At the grave side of Lazarus, Jesus gave thanks and he that was dead came forth. When He was to feed 5,000 men, He gave thanks to God and the five loaves of bread and two small fishes multiplied. In both instances, the miracles were triggered off by thanksgiving.

During the war in Liberia, a sister who had just graduated from our Bible School had no food in the house. Remembering what she had been taught on the wonders of praise at the Bible School, she began to praise God. Suddenly, rebel soldiers invaded her compound, bringing along with them bags of rice, beans, chicken and all manner of cooking condiments and ordered her to cook for them. After the first meal she cooked for them, the rebels suddenly left, leaving behind all the food they had brought. So this daughter of Zion fed fat in the time of famine on what the enemy brought. Praise released the power of God, which brought the opposition under subjection.

Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands: Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious. Say unto God, How terrible art thou in thy works! through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee.

Psalms 66:1-3

Paul and Silas

Incarcerated for preaching the gospel, Paul and Silas prayed and sang praises aloud to God (the prisoners heard them) and power broke forth! There was an earthquake and their chains fell off!

I believe it was the Holy Ghost that came down into the prison house, because in Acts 4, after the apostles had prayed, the place where they were assembled shook and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost.

Paul and Silas were so confident that they had what it takes to make the miracle happen again that they did not run away when the prison doors were flung open. The jailor fell before them, shivering, because he had never seen such manifestation of power (Acts 16:25-34).

Peter

Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.

Acts 12:1-4

Do you know what Peter did to provoke divine intervention? He slept! Though chained down between two soldiers who were "armed to the teeth", Peter fell fast asleep! He wasn't complaining, otherwise he would have been shot even before the judgement day. But he remained calm, and an angel came, woke him up, and released him.

He shall not be afraid of evil tidings: his heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord.

Psalms 112:7

A calm state is a praising state. That is why you must not be moved by any situation. You provoke God's intervention when you remain calm.

The Place of the Word

The Word of God is another avenue for receiving the anointing. This is so because every encounter with the Word is an encounter with power.

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Hebrews 4:12

The Word of God is self-anointed. Every Word in the Bible was gathered by the Spirit. So every time the Word is preached and it gains entrance into you, a new anointing is released upon you. When the Word enters you, you suddenly find yourself hooting and shouting, because there has been a release of fresh oil. Fresh insight naturally provokes fresh anointing.

Seek ye out of the book of the Lord, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them.

Isaiah 34:16

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

John 6:63

And the spirit entered into me when he spake unto me, and set me upon my feet, that I heard him that spake unto me.

Ezekiel 2:2

While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

Acts 10:44

I remember when our church in Kaduna needed to relocate. We went everywhere in search of land. After a long search, I said to myself, "This cannot be the way to get a piece of land." I then settled down to search the Scriptures, for a way out. Suddenly, a verse I had always known struck me. That verse was divinely illuminated that day.

God said to me:

The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

Psalms 24:1

"I am the owner of land, I won't need to beg man for what is Mine!" That was it! We got 54 acres of land without hassle!

The Place of Supplication

Having put all the other keys in place – consecration, thirst, fasting, praising and the Word – you need to give expression to your desire for power through supplication.

If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

Luke 11:13

It is the intensity or fervency of your prayers that makes tremendous power available, which is dynamic in its working

James 5:16 AMP.

We pull fire down with heart-felt prayer, just like Elijah, who prayed and fire fell from heaven, licking up the water, burning up the stones, wood and consuming the sacrifice. Even water, which usually quenches fire, could not resist that kind of fire.

There is a kind of encounter a man has that no water of life can quench. That fire is the fire of the Holy Ghost, the consuming fire of God. Elijah called it down with his strange order of prayer.

And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29:13

The reason why many people experience weakness in prayers is that their communication does not get through to the Father. Just as it can be frustrating to spend time talking to someone who is not receiving you on the phone, it is equally frustrating to be talking to God when He has switched off.

What is needed to get to God, is for you to get rid of all the sin that has disconnected you from Him and reconnect your prayer line. Once that is done, you have access to the Father through His Son, Jesus Christ. You can then call for a new anointing. As long as the prayer is heart-felt, it will make tremendous power available.

John G. Lake once stayed up in church and began to cry, "Lord, I need that fire." While he was still praying, someone was brought to him for prayers. As he reached out his finger towards the woman's head, it was like an electric shock. She was lifted up and came crashing down on the floor, healed of her disease. Lake then said to himself, "I got it!" because he that seeketh findeth!

Do you have a strong desire for the anointing? Then open your mouth now, and with the greatest intensity you can muster, looking up to the Father through His Son, call out for the anointing of the Holy Ghost. As you do, be expectant and it will be yours.

Chapter 5: Growing In The Anointing

God has a programme to bring us into the fullness of the stature of Christ. That is, to bring us up to a point where we can do whatever Jesus did. A point where we can be said to have entered the shoes of Christ, operating in the same class of anointing as He did. That is heaven's grand design for you and me.

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

Ephesians 4:13

The anointing is the provision God has made for the manifestation of His sons. That is why every son of God needs to be anointed and to grow in the anointing. No matter your area of specialization, you can operate in the class of Christ. That means, for the businessman, his business should show that he is on an entirely different wavelength from other businesses.

Some years ago, a woman came to tell me that she was making poor sales in her shop. I decided to go there and see. When I got there, I said, "Satan take off your hands now, in Jesus' name. Amen." According to her, the shop which before 12 noon was about to shut down, now became a centre of attraction. Everyone passing by wanted to buy what she had on display!

I thought to myself, "What if she was operating in the same class of anointing? There won't be a day she won't make great sales." Can Jesus be in business and not make sales? Every believer needs to be anointed. It is the only remedy for frustration. You're either anointed or you are frustrated. However, we are not equally anointed, and never will be.

The anointing is in measures. We are all differently anointed. But the degree to which an individual is anointed is not God-determined, but

mandetermined. If you understand what it takes to grow in the anointing and line yourself up with them, God is committed to keep on multiplying His hand upon your life.

Talking about Jesus, the Bible says:

...For God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand.

John 3:34-35

If God gave Him not the Spirit by measure, it means that the anointing is in measures. How then can you grow from measure to measure?

Get On The Right Side

Afterward he brought me again unto the door of the house; and, behold, waters issued out from under the threshold of the house eastward: for the forefront of the house stood toward the east, and the waters came down from under from the right side of the house, at the south side of the altar. Then brought he me out of the way of the gate northward, and led me about the way without unto the utter gate by the way that looketh eastward; and, behold, there ran out waters on the right side.

Ezekiel 47:1-2

The right side in this prophetic parable is very symbolic because the Bible says that Jesus is seated at the right hand of majesty on high (Ephesians. 1:20). So, Jesus is the One at the right hand, from where the waters are running out. But what does the water signify?

Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

John 16:7

He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

John 7:38-39

The water flowing from the right side is the outpouring of the Spirit of God. That means that as soon as Jesus got on the right side of majesty on high, He began to release the power. He sent forth the Holy Spirit to stand in His place in our lives, and be our Helper — helping us against the enemy,

granting us access into the deep things of God and keeping us aflame for God!

Describing the effects of that water, Ezekiel said:

Then said he unto me, These waters issue out toward the east country, and go down into the desert, and go into the sea: which being brought forth into the sea, the waters shall be healed. And it shall come to pass, that every thing that liveth, which moveth, whithersoever the rivers shall come, shall live: and there shall be a very great multitude of fish, because these waters shall come thither: for they shall be healed; and every thing shall live whither the river cometh.

Ezekiel 47:8-9

This is talking about the power of God at work in us to affect our world for Him, liberating the captives and rescuing the perishing. It is a virtue carrying water, loaded with healing, deliverance, and life.

As the song writer says: "There's a river of life flowing out through me. It makes the blind to see and the lame to walk. It opens the prison doors, sets the captives free. There's a river of life flowing out through me."

Measures Of The Anointing

And when the man that had the line in his hand went forth eastward, he measured a thousand cubits, and he brought me through the waters; the waters were to the ankles.

Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through the waters; the waters were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand, and brought me through; the waters were to the loins. Afterward he measured a thousand; and it was a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over.

Ezekiel 47:3-5

Just as the water of the river of life from the right side was in measures, so also is the anointing of God in measures. To get to that great place God has for you, you need an understanding of the various measures and a knowledge of how to go from one measure to another.

At The Seashore

The new birth is the starting point in our journey into the anointing or the power of God. It is like the athlete who hears, "On your marks, set..." but does not venture out until he hears the command, "Go!" At new birth, you get on your marks, warming up to go. You have not begun the race yet, you are only warming up to begin.

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 2:38

He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.

1 John 5:12

Life is the beginning point, but it does not end there; you must grow. It is the same in the natural also. Until a child is born, you can not determine the profession he will pursue. He must first be born, start growing and expanding his mental capacity through education, until he comes to an age where he can make decisions for himself.

That is why the new birth is likened to being at the seashore. You have not yet entered the water, you are at zero point, just about to begin the journey into power. The journey does not begin before you are born again, but after life has been established. The dead cannot be empowered, only the living; and new birth is what brings you into life.

You begin the journey into power by believing:

But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

John 1:12

Ankle-Level Anointing

The baptism of the Holy Ghost is what I consider the "Ankle-level anointing." Jesus referred to it as the introduction into the realms of power. It is a step forward from the new birth.

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 1:8

Again, the way of getting to this point is by believing.

But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.

John 7:39

Knee-Level Anointing

From the ankle-level, there is a movement upward to the knee-level. The believer moves from having mere power to great power.

And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.

Acts 4:33

At the arrival of the Holy Ghost in Acts 2:4, the apostles were filled with the Spirit and spoke in tongues. That is the baptism into power. But later in Acts 4, they were filled again, but this time with great power they gave witness of His resurrection. So, there is a progression from the power realm to the great power realm.

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Acts 4:31

Prayer is what brings you into encounters with great power. Jesus, for instance, returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit in Luke 4:14. And in chapter 9, after He climbed up the mountain to pray with Peter, James and John, He was transfigured before them. It was also obvious that He had moved from the level of power to great power.

And as he was yet a coming, the devil threw him down, and tare him. And Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the child, and delivered him again to his father.

Luke 9:42

Prayer is what takes you from power to great power. Interestingly, this is the knee-level, which is a commonly known prayer posture.

Loin-Level Anointing

The loin-level of the anointing can also be described as the exceeding great power realm. Paul wrote to the Ephesian Church, praying them into a new realm of life. He said:

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 1:18-20

Paul qualified the power he was talking about in verse 19 as a self-quickenning power. He links it to the resurrection of Jesus. That is, it took exceeding great power for Jesus to rise from the dead without anybody praying over His body. He just came back to life by Himself!

Remember that when Mary went to the tomb to anoint His body, she could not find His corpse. Rather, when she was enquiring of Him from whom she supposed was a gardener, she discovered she was talking to Jesus Himself! That was because nobody had expected Him to rise. But there was an anointing that quickened Him.

But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

Romans 8:11

This is the self-quickenning realm. At this level of operation, things happen on their own accord simply because you're involved. I believe that there is a realm of this sort in God.

Look at this testimony:

"Today makes it exactly two years that I first visited this church. I had asthma from birth, ulcer for 25 years and cancer of the breast. I had done two operations for the cancer of the breast. The first one was in 1979 and the second in 1981. After the second operation at Lantoro Hospital, Abeokuta, I was warned to be careful. Then the third one came and it was painful.

"I went to see the doctor and it was again diagnosed as cancer, and I was given only six months to live. This was in 1995. August 1995 was two weeks to the date given me to live. So all preparations were made for me to go abroad and have the final operation. They were going to cut off my left breast.

"But my son had been persistent, that I had to come to Winners' Chapel. Nobody knew where Winners' Chapel was. Apparently, there was a classmate of his that kept worrying him, telling him, 'It's only sinners that die in our church. If they give you communion, you will not die.'

"I went home to pack my things on the night I was to travel and my son asked me, 'Mummy, are you a sinner?' I said 'Yes, everybody is a sinner.' He said, 'No mummy, you don't have to die. Let's go to Winners' Chapel.' I said, 'Where is that?' and he said he didn't know the place. I told him that since we didn't know the place, we couldn't go there.

"But something stopped me. We packed and people had come to see me off. I knew I wasn't going to come back once I took that trip, because the plan was for me to die there. But somehow, I looked at my son and thought within me, 'If I die, who would look after him?' So I stayed back. This was on Friday night, the 25th. I promised him that on Sunday, we'll go there.

"Now where's Winners' Chapel? He didn't know, and I didn't know too. Okay, we'll make an effort. A deacon from this church was preaching in the bus we boarded and when he heard me ask the conductor for Winners' Chapel, he said, 'You are in the right bus. Get down at Church bus stop.' When we got down from the bus, he said, 'Run, otherwise you won't get a seat.' I saw people running, and I joined them. And for the first time in 10 years, I found myself being able to run without having any problems, or feeling anything!

"The moment the Bishop came to the pulpit, he said, 'No, you don't have

to die. It is not yet your time. What the devil has stolen, you can have back in folds. No, you can't ask for just 15 years, you can ask for more!' And there and then, I said, 'God, I want to live till You come.'

"I bought some copies of the Signs and Wonders Today bulletin and when we got home, I began to share the testimonies I heard in church with my parents and friends that were around. At about 3 p.m. my mother shouted, 'You haven't taken your drugs.' I ran for my drugs, but my son said, 'Mummy, No! But you've just heard those testimonies, and you've not taken the drugs since morning anyway!'

"It was then it dawned on me that I hadn't taken the drugs since morning and that I was healed! And exactly two years today, ulcer for 25 years, asthma from birth, cancer of the breast have all bowed! This is to say a never-ending 'Thank You' to the God I serve."

Olaleye, M.

How do we gain entrance into this realm? Paul's prayer in **Ephesians 1:18** holds the key.

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened...

Enlightenment is what brings you into this dimension of the anointing. It does not happen by prayer or any other means, but by insight into the deep things of God. Paul talked further about that realm in **Philippians 3:10**:

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

It follows, therefore, that it is knowledge that precedes experiencing the

power of His resurrection. The access is insight, enlightenment or divine illumination. "That I may know Him", not, "pray or fast Him". Fresh insight releases a fresh anointing. Every time a believer contacts a profound truth, he is quickened on his inside. He feels he has come out of a particular grave. Then he makes declarations based on that insight and things begin to happen. What he is manifesting is exceeding great power!

I remember a time when I decided to discover God's provision for prosperity for myself. I had some understanding on it, but I knew that I needed to know more. So I took two books on prosperity, one written by Kenneth Copeland, the other by his wife, Gloria, and my Bible. I then locked myself up in a room for three days.

From studying the Word, I understood the infallibility of the covenant. I saw that as long as I woke up each day and the sun still shone in the sky, God's covenant is still in force. As that understanding dawned on me, I came out of my room and shouted, "I can never be poor!"

Exceeding great power is accessible by insight. The good news is that God does not leave us alone to unravel the deep things. He has made provision to help us by the working of His mighty Spirit, which helps us unravel the mysteries of His Word, and this in turn connects us to exceeding great power, or the resurrection anointing.

Remember also that we have moved upward from the ankle-level to the knee-level and now we are in loin-level of the anointing. It is interesting to note what **Ephesians 6:14** says about the loins:

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth...

At the loin-level, you girt your loins about with truth. Also, the Scripture says, "**Stand therefore**", implying that you stand strong on the basis of the depths of revelations you have uncovered in God's Word.

A further look at Ephesians chapter 1 reveals something remarkable about this exceeding great power.

Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead,

and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:

Ephesians 1:20-21

Jesus' position after His resurrection is far above principalities, power, might and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come. It means that when you enter this realm of anointing, you have stepped into the "Touch not" category. Any one who despises you, insults or curses you is in for it. God Himself will arise in your defence, to deal with all your adversaries. This may not happen at the ankle-level, and seldom does it happen in the knee-level; but when you get to the loin-level, Satan has to steer clear of you!

Some years ago, a woman came into our church for the first time and heard me say something she considered derogatory. She hissed, got up and walk out of the service indignant.

I didn't notice her actions. But as she left, she noticed an unusual weight in her stomach. It felt like a stone. She went for tests upon tests, but the problem could neither be diagnosed nor treated. In search of help, she attended a meeting, and seeking further counsel from the pastor, she was told that her problem was not unconnected with a certain man of God she had insulted. She was counselled to locate that man of God and ask him to pray for her, as he was the only person who could help her.

Meanwhile, her husband who was an unbeliever had started making moves to replace her with another woman, since her condition made marital relations impossible. She came to my office in agony, and narrated her plight. Out of compassion, I prayed for her, laid my hands on her abdomen, and the stony substance dissolved instantly!

He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reproved kings for their sakes; Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm.

Psalm 105:14-15

I plead with you to steer clear of offending anyone at the loin-level. He will not need to retaliate, God will do it for him.

Immeasurable Level Of The Anointing

This is the last level of the anointing. It is the realm of waters to swim in, or overflowing unction. This is the anointing without measure – the level Jesus operated in, and that's where we are heading.

I saw from Scriptures that in addition to power, great power and exceeding great power, there is what is known as powers of the world to come.

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this will we do, if God permit. For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

Hebrews 6:1-5

In this realm, the believer could be said to be experiencing heaven on earth. That is, whatever is not obtainable in heaven does not happen around him. Nothing is impossible to him. Oppositions are crushed in his wake. Demons are tormented by his looks alone, just as it was with Jesus.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

John 14:12

The Church of Jesus Christ is leaving behind the beggarly realm of life, where she has been in obscurity, and is moving on to the limelight. Those who know their worth will soar like eagles.

In the light of the above revelation, some verses among those quoted above took on a new meaning.

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

Hebrews 6:4-6

When a believer tastes of the powers of the world to come, I believe that it becomes literally impossible for him to fall. Just as Jesus was secured because He operated in that realm, when you begin to operate in that class, you cannot be confused over the integrity of Scriptures or the reality of heaven. Even if in a dream someone comes to attack the things you believe in, the great deposits of truth in your spirit will enable you respond against the attack without you giving it a second thought.

How do you get to this realm?

And have tasted the good word of God...

Hebrews 6:5

It is by the good Word of God. I call it going into the deep of the deep of God. For example, a swimming pool has varied depth, with the depth getting deeper as you go in further. Eight feet is deep, but not as deep as twelve or sixteen feet. That is why I said it is "strange" insights into the deep of the deep of God that bring you into the realm of the powers to come.

Proverbs 24:13-14 helps us appreciate what the good Word of God is. It is the honey of the Word. Jesus partook of this honey, hence He could operate in the realm of the powers of the world to come.

My son, eat thou honey, because it is good; and the honeycomb,

which is sweet to thy taste: So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.

Proverbs 24:13-14

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good.

Isaiah 7:14-15

Having eaten the honey of the Word, Jesus knew how to refuse the evil and choose the good. This realm of anointing is a realm of choice. You decide what happens in your life. In essence, you do as occasion serves you in the affairs of your life.

Honey is the hidden treasures of the Word. Undoubtedly, Jesus had access to it, so He could determine and control the affairs of His life. All the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hid in the Word, and you can uncover them by the help of the Spirit. As you do, you too become the determinant of the events of your life. It is time to leave the elementary principles of baptism, faith, repentance from dead works and go on to perfection.

Many are stuck in the great power realm because they do not know how to get to the exceeding great power realm. And because there's a law similar to the law of gravity in the realm of the spirit, if you're not going up, you start going down, so the power begins to dissipate.

This end-time, the Church is going to provoke revolutions in all areas of life, by the manifold wisdom of God. The depths of insight she will operate in will be simply amazing. As a result, extraordinary miracles will occur, which might become difficult to share, because of its magnitude. That is where God is bringing you and I to!

Chapter 6: Factor For Growth

In science, we are told that every object assumes a state of rest until a relevant force is applied to it. This is equally true in the kingdom of God. There are certain relevant forces needed to enhance a forward movement. You don't merely wish these forces, you work them, to ensure that you are progressing in the anointing.

For instance, there are things you must do to move from your house to work. You cannot sit in your house and expect the anointing to transport you to work; otherwise you will wait indefinitely. You need to first rise from your sitting position and take one step after another, until you eventually get to your office. You need to do something to get somewhere. Nothing moves on its own. Every motion is by the application of certain forces.

Life that is void of progress is a burden. Stagnation is the mother of frustration. There is need to apply yourself to the vital forces that ensure increase in the anointing. And you are the one to make it happen, as it never happens on its own.

The key factor for growth in the anointing is the Word of God. When the apostles discovered the devil's plan to distract them from the Word, they rose up against it:

Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

Acts 6:2,4

Steady increase is noticeable throughout the book of Acts, because their focus was the Word. As they grew in the Word, they also grew in the anointing. I believe that order is still the same today, it has not changed.

Wood For The Fire

A fire is kindled inside us at baptism. John said:

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

Matthew 3:11

This is also established in **Revelation 4:5**:

And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Fire, when not attended to, will begin to die down. That is why any Christian that does not do anything about his fire will watch it go down before his eyes. As young boys, whenever we went hunting or camping, and we lit a bonfire, we had to keep supplying wood into the fire, or else it would die and the wild beasts would descend on us.

So also is the case with the fire of the Spirit. To keep it on the increase, you have to constantly put wood into the fire.

Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.

Proverbs 26:20

What Is The Wood?

For if they do these things in a green tree, what shall be done in the dry?

Luke 23:31

Jesus referred to Himself as the green tree. He was here on earth as a green tree, and was hung on the cross at Calvary. He is now the dry tree, the Wood that sustains the fire of the Holy Ghost. A prophecy about Jesus says:

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

Isaiah 11:1

Jesus is the Word of God:

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

1 John 5:7

It is impossible to increase the fire of the anointing without adding the wood of the Word of God. Every other thing you do is supplementary to the Word, which is the wood for the fire. You need to constantly supply the fire with the wood of the Word, in order for it not to go out.

There is a man whose life has made tremendous impact in my life. I learn how to live as I watch him. His name is Kenneth E. Hagin. Although he is over eighty years old now, he still spends an average of five hours on the Word daily. I saw a new book he wrote after 63 years in ministry and discovered that what he wrote was still a reference material for ministers to read and learn from. Most of his contemporaries are either dead or have lost relevance in this jet age. But he is still contributing to his world; all because the fire of the anointing has been maintained!

I don't care how much you are jumping about now, if you are not rooted in the Word, you will rot away tomorrow. No matter how gifted you are, except you embrace the Word, there will be no increase in unction, making it difficult, if not impossible to sustain the fire.

Levels Of The Word

The Bible clearly identifies four levels of the Word. It is important to identify them and locate at what level you are operating in. This will help you determine to move up higher, remembering that your depth in the Word is what determines the level of unction you enjoy.

Milk

The milk level of the Word is for new born babes, who are unskilful in the Word of God. This level is for nourishing your spiritual life. It boosts growth, the same way a baby grows on its mother's milk.

As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:

1 Peter 2:2

Meat

At the meat level, you are no more unskilful; you now have an effective working knowledge of Scriptures. You take in spiritual strength at this level. This is the strength you need for the fight of faith.

Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

John 6:27

Strong meat

At the strong meat level, you have exercised yourself in the Word to a point that you can discern between good and evil. It is the enlightenment stage; the realm of choice, where you decide what happens around you.

For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Hebrews 5:13-14

Honey

Jesus operated at this level. Isaiah 7:15 says, "Butter and milk shall he eat..." I believe He ate butter (a derivative of milk) for the first thirty years of His life. He entered the honey level when He stepped fully into public ministry, and blew open His world!

Every Christian in the honey level of the Word is a sign and a wonder. They are in touch with certain truths that others do not have. As a result, they have testimonies that show that they are far ahead of other Christians.

Look at these testimonies:

"Last week, I hired a vehicle from Alaba Rago to Ikoyi, to pack some goods. Before we left, I offered the driver 20 litres of fuel, but he rejected it, saying he had a full tank. I asked to see it and he opened the tank for me to see and indeed, it was full.

"We left for Ikoyi, packed the things I wanted, and as we were about leaving, the driver said, 'Madam, there is no fuel in the car.' I said to him, 'But you told me you had a full tank, what happened?' He went out to look for fuel and came back with a four-litre keg. Unfortunately, it was adulterated. It was half water, half fuel. But he didn't know this before he poured it into the tank. It was after he had poured it in that he discovered what had happened, because the car couldn't move.

"Then I thought to myself, 'I've been with the Bishop since 1989 in Kaduna and I've never heard him say he was stranded, so I can't be stranded. As a believing believer, this is my month of signs and wonders, and signs are expected to follow me.' I brought out my bottle of anointing oil and said, 'In Cana of Galilee, Jesus changed water into wine and He said I would do greater works. He also said He has given me a mouth and a wisdom, which none can resist nor gainsay.'

"I then opened the tank, poured in the anointing oil and told the driver, 'Enter the car and start it.' The people around helped to push the car, but I told them, 'I said start the car, not push it.' The driver then started the car, and lo and behold, it started moving!

"The fuel finished before we got to Mile 2, and he said, 'Madam, the fuel has finished.' I said to him, 'Don't say that. Jesus is in this car, you are only holding the steering. Since I'm in this car, together with Jesus and the power of God, this vehicle is taking us to our destination. With fuel or no fuel, we are getting there.'

"The man said, 'How?' I told him not to worry. By this time, he was covered with sweat and was confused. Before long, we arrived Alaba Rago with an empty tank! The driver was the one now sharing the testimony of our miraculous arrival by himself. He said to me, 'Madam, I've never seen this before.'"

Ilesanmi, (Mrs.)

"Yesterday morning, on my way to work, I saw a friend sitting outside his house, with his head bowed. I had not seen him for about a week, so I went to him. On touching his back, I felt the heat on his body. I looked at his face and it was very dull. I asked him what happened and he told me he had been suffering from typhoid fever for the past one week.

"I left for my office, but kept meditating on the Word of God. I remembered having heard the Bishop say, 'You don't pray for sickness to be healed, you curse it to die.' I remembered that God did not create typhoid fever when He created the world.

"I was so full of power generated from my meditation, that I left work and went straight to that friend's house. I laid hands on him and said, 'I don't care to know your name, but you sickness, I curse you in the name of Jesus.' I didn't need to pray any long prayer or to vibrate. I just knew that it was done and I went back to work. I saw him this afternoon, and as he laughed I knew something good had happened."

Orume, E.

God is taking the Church to the realm of manifold wisdom, which is also the honey of the Word realm.

My son, eat thou honey, because it is good; and the honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste: So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.

Proverbs 24:13-14

[The purpose is] that through the church the complicated, many-sided wisdom of God in all its infinite variety and innumerable aspects might now be made known to the angelic rulers and authorities (principalities and powers) in the heavenly sphere.

Ephesians 3:10 (AMP)

When I discovered certain secrets on Family life, I knew it, and so got ready for a hitch-free Family life. As a result, we have had a wonderful marriage. I have never been anywhere in the world and wished I lived there; nowhere is like my home to me. Also, I found certain things in God that have guaranteed our success in ministry. We have never gathered together to pray that we succeed; we just succeed naturally.

You must aspire to get to the honey level of the Word by the help of the Holy Spirit, because that is the realm where things keep working on their own. The Church has hung around the milk, meat and even strong meat level for too long. It is time to move on to the honey level. At the milk level you are ankle deep in the anointing; at the meat level, you are knee deep; and at the strong meat level, you are loin deep. But when you get to the honey level, you can be said to be swimming in the anointing. That is the realm where you begin to partake of the powers of the world to come.

Comparing The Word And The Anointing

Looking at the Word and the anointing recently, I saw that both have a lot in common. You cannot grow in the anointing of the Spirit without growing in the Word.

Power

The word "power" is connected both to the Word and the anointing. They are both sources of power.

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 1:8

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth...

Romans 1:16

Fire

Both the Word and the anointing are sources of fire.

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

Matthew 3:11

Is not my word like as a fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?

Jeremiah 23:29

Guidance

Also, both the Word and the Holy Spirit have a ministry of guidance.

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.

John 16:13

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Psalms 119:105

Water

Water symbolically represents both the Word and the Spirit.

He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

John 7:38-39

That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the WASHING OF WATER BY THE WORD,

Ephesians 5:26

Destroy Yokes

I also discovered that both the Word and the anointing destroy yokes.

And it shall come to pass in that day, that his burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and THE YOKE SHALL BE DESTROYED BECAUSE OF THE ANOINTING.

Isaiah 10:27

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Matthew 11:28-29

Jesus meant to say, "I will destroy the yoke that gives you unrest when you come to learn of Me." The Word carries a liberation unction that can end the struggles of man. That is why certain things happen in your life that you never knelt down to pray about; they just come as a result of particular insight you contacted from the Word.

The anointing destroys yokes, insight also destroys yokes. The anointing provokes divine access into the deep things of God, to destroy the yokes upon your life. So also, as you read the Scriptures, particular Words are illuminated in your spirit, with which the yokes upon your life are destroyed.

I believe strongly that the devil knows how potent the Word is in destroying yokes. As a result, he puts all sorts of barriers on the way of people, in order to keep them from studying the Word. He hardly tries to stop people from praying, particularly the kind that is empty of the Word. He could even allow them pray for forty days. But he won't let them sit with the Word for just one day. He knows that his works and influence in their lives will come to an end the day they are able to catch an insight from the Word. There is liberating unction in the Word of God. When you are able to gain access to the mysteries it contains, then your liberty is guaranteed.

A Common Source

Both the Word and the anointing have a common source.

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

Isaiah 55:1

Milk signifies the Word of God (1 Peter. 2:2), and wine, the anointing (Ephesians. 5:18). They can both be contacted by hearkening diligently

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.

Isaiah 55:2

This similarity should not surprise anyone, considering that Jesus also said:

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

John 6:63

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

2 Peter 1:20-21

In essence, the Word of God has a Holy Ghost root. Therefore, every encounter with the Word is an encounter with the anointing. Look at this:

He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock;

Deuteronomy 32:13

This is talking about God's covenant people and His supernatural provision for them. God made them to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the for them. God made them to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the 14), and oil is the anointing (1 Samuel. 16:13). They both are obtained from the same rock.

The Rock according to 1 Corinthians 10:4, is Jesus Christ. As we have already established, Jesus is the Word. It means, therefore, that we can suck honey and oil from the Word and enjoy increase in the anointing.

Friend, if growth in unction is your desire, then the Word is indispensable. You may have prayed, but it is now time to hearken diligently to the Word of the Lord. If you pay an unusual attention to the Word, you will live under the anointing all the days of your life.

Chapter 7: Operating Under The Anointing

The anointing is our guarantee for unending breakthroughs. However, it does not function in isolation. To operate effectively under the anointing, the anointed needs to be spiritually sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. That is what I call the law of divine signals.

The law of divine signals is primarily the art of being spiritually sensitive. It is being led and directed by the Holy Spirit as to what next step to take.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Romans 8:14

Divine signals is fundamental to the operation of the anointing. Until you know how to be led by the Spirit and are wise enough to move when He leads, you can never manifest your sonship.

For instance, at the marriage ceremony in Cana of Galilee recorded in John 2, Mary, the mother of Jesus, came to Him to report: "They have no wine." Jesus' reply showed that He believed and operated by divine signals. "Woman, what have I to do with thee? Mine hour is not yet come", He said. Mary went to the servants and told them, "Whenever His hour comes, whatever He tells you to do, do it."

Later, it was said concerning Him:

This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and manifested forth his glory; and his disciples believed on him.

John 2:11

Jesus was anointed without measure, yet He could not function under the anointing without being sensitive to the instructions of the Holy Spirit.

No matter how anointed you are, therefore, you cannot operate under the anointing without obeying the law of divine signals. Every signal when obeyed, commands signs without struggles, because an anointing that turns actions into manifestations is released.

Before any church service, I spend the preceding nights before the Lord, inquiring what He would have me do. The moment I receive the signal from heaven, I am confident that there will be outstanding manifestations of His presence in the meeting.

That was how a woman, who for 38 years could not defecate without being aided medically, was instantly delivered. When it was time to minister to the sick, God spoke to me to pass my jacket round, for a touch by anyone who desired healing. She touched the jacket, and for the first time in 38 years, went to ease herself without any medical aid! Jesus made her whole!

At another time, one of our deaconesses had been barren for about four years. To complicate matters, she had undergone surgery before her wedding and one of her ovaries was removed. She was told that the second one had also been turned around, further reducing her chances of ever getting pregnant.

But she was at one of our meetings, when the Lord instructed me to pass round the overflowing native attire (agbada) I had on. When it got to her turn, she laid it on her tummy and became pregnant that same month! The yoke of barrenness was destroyed. She now has two children, to the glory of God!

Sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit is what guarantees your manifestation as a son of God.

And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

Isaiah 11:3

It takes being sensitive to function effectively under the anointing. That is

why the Bible says that the anointing will make you of quick understanding. In essence, it will make you smart enough to pick divine signals.

One vital ministry of the anointing is the quickening of our mortal bodies (Romans.8:11). Once this happens, we become supernaturally sensitive to heaven's signals, and are able to know what God wants us to do per time.

Somebody once asked me, "How do you get things done so cheaply?" I said, "We don't do anything until it is commanded." I remember what happened when the site of our present church facility was spotted. I went to the site, held the gates and prayed, inquiring what the mind of the Spirit was. Then the Lord said to me, "This is the place." So, even though the landlord was proving a bit difficult initially, I was at rest, because I knew I had heard God.

That is the mystery of divine signals at work. Until you learn to do things as commanded, you will not get results cheaply. Your breakthroughs in life are tied to your sensitivity to His instructions.

I remember with mixed feelings an incident that happened early in our ministry. A little girl that had been out of school for about two years, due to ill health, was at the point of death. When I learnt of it, compassion gripped me, and I decided to go and pray for her, together with my associates.

As we arrived their home, the signal came, "You must not enter." I turned to my associates and said, "God just spoke to me not to enter. However, in case anyone feels like going to pray for the child, go ahead." The person who went in to pray for her died mysteriously a week later.

My not going in to pray for the girl had nothing to do with fear. She was just a little girl after all. But I had heard Him clearly. In operating under the anointing there is no substitute for sensitivity, if you desire continuous breakthroughs.

Look at the case of Lazarus, for instance. Jesus had just been informed that he was sick, yet Jesus would not break the law of divine signals.

When he had heard therefore that he was sick, he abode two days still in the same place where he was.

John 11:6

We were not told that Jesus was either teaching or preaching in those extra days He abode still in Jerusalem. What I believe happened was that He knew that Lazarus was dead, but He was waiting for the signal from heaven before He moved.

...He saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth...Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.

John 11:11-14

Jesus knew all the while that Lazarus was dead, but He waited for a divine signal before making a move. And when the signal came, the sign was inevitable.

If Jesus, our perfect Example needed to yield to the law of divine signals, we also need to yield much more. He said:

I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.

John 5:30

It is picking divine signals that makes you a sign and wonder on the earth. You can never become a commander in the kingdom, until you are sensitive to His commandments. So there is no overemphasizing the place of sensitivity in divine signals. You cannot function under the anointing without it.

**Who is he that saith, and it cometh to pass, when the Lord
commandeth it not?**

Lamentations 3:37

I remember how the mandate to go into publishing was handed over to me. I was having a nice time in the Holy Ghost on the morning of Saturday February 14, 1983, when the Lord said to me, "The Words I have put in your mouth, the same commit into writing, and I will cause the same anointing on the spoken Word to rest upon the written Word, bringing about the same effect."

This is the reason why we never run out of what to write. I do not consider myself as just an author, but a messenger. I write what He instructs me to write, and the books have been causing commotion in the kingdom of darkness. Everywhere I go, people say to me, "It was as if you were speaking to me."

One young man was reading my book, Anointing For Breakthrough, and got to the page where I said, "If you believe, you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit right now!" He had been struggling to get baptized, so he began to wonder, "Is it so simple?" As soon as he said, "Amen" to the last statement, he just burst out in tongues!

So much power is loaded in our books, because it's a message, not a mere document. But what would have happened if I was insensitive to His voice?

Enhancing Sensitivity

Two things that enhance sensitivity are righteousness and faithfulness.

And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth...And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

Isaiah 11:3-5

I said in church sometime ago, "God is my witness. I have never stood here and said God said something He did not say." For instance, one day, the Lord said to me, "It's time to get the aircraft!" He told me this while I was in the toilet. I came out and told my associate, "God just spoke to me now, that it's time to get the aircraft." We took the offering for the aircraft just once in church, and we got more money than was needed! Once God leads you to do a thing, there is a running-over anointing to accomplish the task!

That step you will need to take, to end your struggles in life, and shoot you up to the top will come when you are sensitive to His voice. Expect to hear the voice of the Lord direct you right now!

If Jesus could do nothing of Himself, then sensitivity is indispensable in our Christian adventure. I believe that His sensitivity was what led to the dignity He enjoyed. It implies that sensitivity results in dignity.

There is a step you will need to take, that will terminate your struggles in business and lead to your distinction. If you are going through crisis in your Family, the instruction to take to make it a haven of rest will come expressly to you, in Jesus' name. You will not miss that divine signal!

But what are the benefits of the anointing in a man's life? Why do we need the anointing?

It Guarantees Overflowing Unction

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Psalm 23:1,5

God's leadings attract an anointing for performance. There is always a release of unction to accomplish the purpose for which God is leading. The anointing naturally follows the leading. I call it "a running-over experience." But until He leads, your cup never runs over with the anointing.

Talking to Gideon in Judges 6:14, the Lord said, "Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel from the hand of the Midianites: have not I sent thee?" This shows that a divine might accompanies any mission God sends a man on. When He sends, He releases a might to accomplish the assignment. Success in any given task is not a function of expertise, but comes in response to divine signals.

If businessmen can understand this, and allow themselves to be led by the Spirit, they will encounter the running-over anointing that accompanies divine signals, which in turn produces outstanding results. It will ensure that where others are failing, they will triumph. While others are suffering under inflation, their stars will rise higher and shine brighter, because something is accompanying their steps, to ensure that God's purpose for their lives is accomplished!

See what happened in this brother's life:

"Before I knew Christ, I was an addicted fornicator, a compulsive liar and a chain smoker. It was so bad that I could neither eat nor go to the toilet without smoking. Even when I was in the university, I never sat for my exams successfully without leaving the exam hall to smoke some sticks of cigarettes. It was that bad.

"Many people ministered, prayed and fasted for my restoration, but the devil hardened my heart the more. In fact, I lost all senses of moral or ethical

values.

"I came in contact with the Bishop through one of his books entitled, Born to Win. I read it during my Youth Service in September, 1996. After devouring the book, I was fully restored. Not only that, the taste and desire for fornication, lying and smoking died, and were replaced by an unquenchable thirst for God.

"After reading Understanding Vision, also written by the Bishop, I realized that God's calling on my life was in the area of business, so I immediately stopped writing application letters for employment. Then I programmed myself into God's vision for my life, which is to be the greatest financial pillar of the gospel in my generation. For this, I read another book, Covenant Wealth, which taught me how to achieve my goal.

"In January 5, 1997, I became a member of the Winners' Family and God led me to sow all I had – my capital, profit and reserve. After attending the WOFBI February Special programme, I experienced an unprecedented level of insight into God's Word and ways.

"At the July Hosanna Night, the Bishop said we should write our requests on a sheet of paper and dance over them. I wrote mine and danced. In fact, I almost danced my life out! When the pieces of paper were being burnt, the Bishop said, 'All your sorrows have been burnt.'

"Less than two weeks later, the heaven opened and strange things happened! My father who had not been in good terms with me sent for me, and made me his business supervisor and adviser. He also gave me 200,000 naira to start business! Now, I have my own 2-bedroom flat, where I live. I also have my own business and employees now!"

Sadiku, A.

Ministers of the gospel will experience even greater results when, instead of running helter-skelter doing things because that is what others are doing, they begin to be led by the Spirit. Often, the reason for struggles in ministry is not because the man in charge is not called, but because he has missed it to wrong direction. But when there is a divine signal, an accompanying

anointing to accomplish the mission is guaranteed.

I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied.

Jeremiah 23:21

We did not send missionaries into African nations because it was the popular thing to do. Rather, it was in response to divine signals. On May 4, 1994, on my way back from Zaria, the Lord said to me, "The harvest of Africa is now overripe. Rush in and preserve it from decadence!"

Four days later (on 8th), we lifted up the map of Africa in church, and dedicated the continent to Jesus, commanding the gates of each of the nations to be opened. On June 14, our World Mission office was dedicated, and on January 21, 1995, the first set of missionaries set sail! The speed and ability to do all these came because the instruction came from Him. And without doubt, His anointing backing the commission has been very visible!

Below are some testimonies from the foreign field.

"I want to thank God for a miraculous healing that I have just noticed even as I am writing. I have had tubal blockage since 1985, after getting married. I tried all doctors (Gynaecologists) in Uganda and had failed. They had recommended an operation in July, 1996, which I rejected and resorted to prayers, until a sister friend of mine who attended WOFBI classes told me of the healing school and testified to me of those that had been healed.

"On June 22, 1996, I attended the healing school and that was where my healing took place! Early in July, 1996, I went to the doctor and asked him to test me for pregnancy. He was amazed, but I told him that I had been healed and wanted him to find it out.

"He tested me and it was positive, but he wasn't satisfied. So he recommended an ultra-sound examination in Nulago. I went there and the doctor carried out the test, which surprised him too.

"As I laid there in bed, the doctor placed some instruments on my stomach, and all of a sudden, I saw the computer write that there was a single

live foetus in a normal intra-uterine gestation sac and aged nine weeks! He asked me which clinic I had gone to and I told him that I had gone to Jesus, who is above all doctors and had healed me.

"I took the result to my doctor who sent me and told him the same. I left him in a social quagmire. I give all the glory to Jesus for the power in the blood."

WMA UGANDA

"In 1995, I had a stroke that resulted in my being paralysed on my right side. I could not walk, neither could I use my right hand. I had a long prescription of drugs and every month my wife spent a minimum of FG 80,000 (about \$71) on drugs. I also had a long list of things I could not eat. I left work and was at home, since I needed aid to walk.

"But last month, a cousin of mine invited me to fellowship at the World Mission Agency. I was anointed and prayed for. Since then, I have been attending all the meetings. I also enrolled in the February Bible School and kept hearing the Word that built faith in me for my healing.

"Today, I can walk without aid! I come to the Bible School on my own. I can now write with the affected hand and do not need to use drugs any more!"

WMA, GUINEA

"I had growth of excess bones that shot from my heels. Apart from the severe pains, I had to tip-toe while walking. It was quite embarrassing, as people thought I had gone off my senses. I was to be operated upon and the operation was to cost Le 100,000. What prevented me from going for the operation was that the doctor told me that after the operation, I would stop having feelings on my heels.

But after the praise and worship session at the August Breakthrough Seminar, I discovered that the pain was no longer there. I can walk normally now!"

WMA, SIERRA-LEONE

"I received a call from my brother in Canada, telling me of a perfume company which wants to open their African market. He came and left some samples, which we sold in no time. The company then requested for a capital sum of \$524,000 in order to send us the containers of perfume. Twenty per cent was to be paid in dollars before the arrival of the goods. There were other competitors who were ready to meet this condition.

The pastor had told us that if we paid our tithes and live right, we should give thanks to God for receiving the goods. We did, and received a call from Canada. The company agreed that we pay 10%, and that will be after receiving the goods in good condition! The Word works!"

WMA, COTE D'IVOIRE

It Quickens The Mind

The anointing also empowers the mind for results. Behind every outstanding event is wisdom. But there is a difference between supernatural wisdom and natural wisdom. Just as the supernatural is superior to the natural, so also is supernatural wisdom superior to natural wisdom. Supernatural wisdom guarantees supernatural results, whereas natural wisdom only guarantees natural results.

Supernatural wisdom is a product of the Spirit of God. It is a product of the anointing; that is, the supernatural enabling to go beyond the limits of our mental strength.

But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

Job 32:8

The Amplified Version renders it this way:

But there is [a vital force] a spirit [of intelligence] in man, and the breath of the Almighty gives men understanding.

The Spirit of God is a Spirit of intelligence. He is an excellent Spirit that helps you go through life without stress and strain.

Wisdom is not with the great, no matter how great your background; neither is it with the aged, no matter how old you are (Job 32:7-10). But there is a spirit in man, a vital force, which when exposed to inspiration, will make you a mark on the earth.

Many years ago, when I was in school, after meditating on the mental excellence of Daniel and the three other Hebrew boys recorded in Daniel 1, I sensed a very strong spark in my mental system. I was going to write an

examination the following day, but while I was preparing for the exam, at a point, I closed the book and said, "Lord, I'm understanding this thing too well." It was like a lid had lifted from my mental system.

The following day in the examination hall, I answered the questions in such a way that will also teach the lecturer. In fact, I answered the first question in two different ways. On seeing my answer script, the lecturer got so carried away by my answers, that he unknowingly marked all six answers and gave me 120%! When he realized what he had done, he had to cancel 20%, as it was impossible to score 120%.

Now, by reason of the anointing at work in me, there is no level of information that my mind cannot assimilate. My mind can assimilate whatever information the human system has the ability to absorb; it doesn't repel any kind of information.

There are three classical examples of anointed men who possessed sound minds in Scriptures.

Joseph

And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is? And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, Forasmuch as God hath showed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art:

Genesis 41:38-39

The anointing guarantees supernatural access into deep things that are beyond the natural sphere. Not only was Joseph able to tell Pharaoh's dream and give its interpretation, he was also able to devise a means of preserving food for fourteen years! By the anointing, Joseph had supernatural mental enabling that took him beyond natural limits.

Daniel

In the time of Daniel also, the king dreamt a dream that he couldn't remember when he woke up. He called forth his wise men, desiring that they told him the dream and its interpretation.

The Chaldeans answered before the king, and said, There is not a man upon the earth that can show the king's matter...And it is a rare thing that the king requireth, and there is none other that can show it before the king, except the gods, whose dwelling is not with flesh.

Daniel 2:10-11

Then Daniel went in, and desired of the king that he would give him time, and that he would show the king the interpretation. Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven...Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his...

He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desired of thee: for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter.

Daniel 2:16-23

The Bible says, "**The Spirit searcheth all things, ye the deep things of God**" (**1Corinthians. 2:10**). God reveals secrets via His Spirit – the Holy Spirit. Supernatural wisdom has its source in God, and is conveyed by the Spirit of God to man. Daniel was so anointed that when a similar problem arose in the land later, they knew who to call upon for the solution.

There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, I say, thy father, made

master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers;

Daniel 5:11

The degree of mental soundness you possess determines the level of greatness you will experience on the earth. But this greatness is not a function of size; it's a function of the mind. Exploit in life is a product of mental excellence.

Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.

Daniel 6:3

The Holy Spirit generates mental excellence in the anointed. Daniel had an excellent spirit, which gave him an edge over all his peers.

True anointing has a very visible and tangible expression in mental excellence. Genuine anointing provokes mental prowess and empowers the mind for excellence.

Jesus

And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?

Matthew 13:54

The mighty works Jesus wrought were products of the wisdom of God at work in Him. I've seen many anointed men who are miserable failures in life and ministry. Their spirit-man is empowered, but their minds are powerless.

Out of the seven manifestations of the Spirit of God in Isaiah 11:2, four of them have to do with the mind – the Spirit of wisdom, Spirit of counsel, Spirit of knowledge, and the Spirit of understanding. That explains why the Bible says, **"Wisdom is the principal thing."**

Until your mind is empowered, you don't have a future. Your achievement in life is a function of the active use of your mind, because God never blesses any man beyond his mental capacity. And wisdom and knowledge are the stabilizers of life.

And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the Lord is his treasure.

Isaiah 33:6

Your strength is measured by the quality of your wisdom, not by your muscles. God won't bless you and me beyond our mental capacity. But the Church has grown lopsided over the years. We have talked so much about the spirit and forgotten about the mind; hence life is appearing more and more miserable everyday. The Bible says:

A man's heart devises his way, but God directed his steps,

Proverbs 16:9

It is man's responsibility to use his mind in working out the details of his

vision. God won't draw any structures for you; He will only show you what job to do. God didn't tell me how to go about liberating the world through the preaching of the Word of faith. After receiving the commission, I gave myself to serious programming: setting the structure, defining the positions, establishing requirements, and then setting the controls for achieving the task. All these require the use of the mind!

The problem is that the Church has become so mentally ignorant and sick, that nobody is thinking any more. Some even think it is carnal to put the mind to work. But the anointing of the Holy Spirit is for the quickening of our mental system. Life becomes colourful when we effectively use our minds. The Holy Ghost is the One that empowers the mind for exploits. He is our Teacher.

Servicing Your Empowered Mind

You need to know how to service your empowered mind, because no matter how costly a vehicle, if you don't have a good understanding of the maintenance process, you will lose your engine.

You service your empowered mind with qualitative meditation on the Word of God. The Bible is heaven's wisdom bank. When you have qualitative meditation in it, you keep your mental system well serviced and properly maintained, so you don't suffer mental blockage.

O how love I thy law! it is my meditation all the day. Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.

Psalms 119:97-99

Meditation in the Word is the principal way to keep your mind healthy, active, resourceful and productive. Qualitative meditation (not just reading, but pondering on the Word in your mind), is rubbing your little mind with the great mind of the Creator. And because iron sharpens iron, the Creator's great mind begins to sharpen your little mind, upgrading and increasing its capacity to function.

No matter how empowered your mind is, it requires a maintenance programme; the Word of God is the tool and meditation is the process.

Chapter 8: Sustaining The Anointing

One day in my office, my secretary brought me a pack of fruit drink and my attention was drawn to the packet. I thought to myself that the fruits packaged in it would not have lasted beyond five weeks in their natural state. But someone discovered how to preserve them for over a year, with their vitamins still intact.

This is also true of wine. A bottle of wine can be in a man's wine cellar for a hundred years. The owner may even die before it is drunk, and bequeath it to someone else. That is why you find men celebrating the hundred year anniversary of a bottle of wine. In its natural state, it is impossible to preserve grapes for that long, but wisdom has been applied for its preservation.

Likewise, the anointing of the Holy Spirit can be preserved. God intends for it not only to last the believer all lifelong, but to outlive him, like it did Elisha (2 Kings. 13:20-21). But there is what you must do to preserve it

People who do not know how to maintain the anointing will eventually lose it. And when the anointing leaves a man, his beauty leaves. Everything about him is affected: his language, demeanour, everything. Suddenly, he begins to look haggard. When he speaks, his words are dry and lifeless. He is unwelcome everywhere he goes. People detest him. His real problem is that the anointing has left him.

But it is possible to sustain the anointing of the Holy Spirit even to the grave, like Elisha did. Jesus also carried His anointing to the grave. It was the Spirit of God upon Him that quickened Him from the dead (Romans. 8:11).

In contemporary times also, there are men who have maintained the anointing of God upon their lives for decades, and are still bringing forth fruit in old age. Only recently, I received a newly published book — The Healing Anointing, written by Kenneth Hagin. In my opinion, it is much more powerful than the one he wrote on a similar subject twenty years ago. That means he is still flowing in the anointing, even after about 62 years in ministry!

The Body of Christ has encountered various waves or moves of the Spirit, yet none has passed him by. He has successfully ridden on the waves and is a recognized voice the world over today. He is one man who has discovered the secret for sustaining the anointing.

Some people only manage to sustain the unction upon their lives for five years, others for ten. Few retain it for fifteen years, and very few get to twenty years. They are not dead, but have lost relevance because their oil is stale. And just as stale food smells, they speak, but it is as if they are stinking.

That is why when we find men who are still freshly anointed after 62 years, we should confidently follow their examples (Hebrew. 6:12). There is no copyright when it comes to the anointing. We are permitted to follow people who have obtained what we are looking for, and do what they are doing to get the results they have. Therefore, how do I sustain the anointing?

It Takes Wisdom

Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps...And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.

Matthew 25:1-9

The Bible calls it foolishness not to know how to sustain the oil of the Spirit. The word foolishness in Hebrew is Nebalah, which means "foolishness, senselessness, impropriety, stupidity." It is very bad to be called foolish, but that is what the Bible called those five virgins who did not know how to sustain the oil in their lamps.

Wisdom is what it takes to preserve the anointing.

And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the Lord is his treasure.

Isaiah 33:6

What is Wisdom?

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

Matthew 7:24-25

Wisdom is hearing what God says about something and doing it. This is not common sense, but "heaven sense". A man who does the Word of God can go to rest, forgetting about the rain, storm or wind, because his house, which is standing upon the rock, can never fall.

What is required of you now is to ask, "Lord, how do I preserve Your anointing upon my life? What have You said about preserving the anointing in Your Word? Show it to me." When He shows them to you and you apply yourself to doing them, you cannot but remain freshly anointed all the days of your life.

Let us now consider the vital forces for preserving the anointing of the Holy Spirit, so that as you observe them, you will remain freshly anointed all the days of your life.

It Takes Consecration

Consecration is the first vital force for preserving the anointing. It is impossible to sustain the anointing when you are living in sin. Once you become comfortable with sin, you are on the way to losing the anointing. Actually, God gives you several opportunities to turn from your sins. But if you do not turn, He will turn His back on you.

**Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you,
I will make known my words unto you.**

Proverbs 1:23

Let us look at some individuals who lost their unction to sin.

Samson

Samson was one of the most anointed judges in Israel. The Spirit of might was upon him in an unusual way. As a matter of fact, Samson was anointed from the womb. His birth was similar to Jesus', because it was announced by an angel. When the angel met Manoah's wife, he told her what will become of the child:

And the angel of the Lord appeared unto the woman, and said unto her, Behold now, thou art barren, and bearest not: but thou shalt conceive, and bear a son. Now therefore beware, I pray thee, and drink not wine nor strong drink, and eat not any unclean thing: For, lo, thou shalt conceive, and bear a son; and no razor shall come on his head: for the child shall be a Nazarite unto God from the womb: and he shall begin to deliver Israel out of the hand of the Philistines.

Judges 13:3-5

As Samson grew, God blessed him and the Spirit of the Lord began to move him in the camp of Dan. The Spirit of the Lord would come mightily upon him, and he would enter the camp of the enemy and deal with them. Samson was a very anointed man.

The turning point came in chapter 16, when Delilah tricked him and he revealed the secret of his strength. The Philistines caught him, plucked out his eyes and made him an object of mockery.

It was true that the Spirit of God began to move him, but because he did not know how to sustain the anointing, it left him.

...He wist not that the Lord was departed from him. But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house. Judges 16:20-21

Samson's beauty was turned to mockery. His anointing became stale. The mighty man of valour became a toy in the hands of his enemies. The

Philistines were rejoicing that their god, Dagon, had delivered Samson into their hands; not knowing that Samson's sin was what spoilt his anointing.

It is one thing to be anointed, but an entirely different thing to stay anointed. If you don't put in place what it takes to maintain the anointing, it will leave.

We are the temple of the Holy Spirit, and so have an awesome responsibility to live consecrated lives, otherwise He will leave. Once He leaves, whatever beauty we previously enjoyed disappears. There are men who used to be renowned in times past, but who have disappeared from the scene today. Like Samson, when they rose up and tried to do as former times, they "wist" not that the Spirit had left them.

The Spirit of God had been moving upon Samson until God finally gave up on him. Earlier, the Bible records that while Samson went into a harlot, the Philistines laid ambush for him, hoping to arrest him in the morning. But at midnight, he arose, took the door of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and carried them on his shoulders to the top of a hill before Hebron (Judges. 16:1-3).

He was that anointed, but could not maintain it without consecration. There is simply no short-cut to maintaining the anointing. Consecration to God is paramount. If you do not live a consecrated life, you cannot sustain the anointing.

It is time to do something about that sin that easily besets you. Sin stinks and sinks. You, therefore, need to do something definite to arrest it, or it will hinder the flow of the anointing upon your life. You have watched it with folded arms long enough. Now, turn at God's reproof or He will turn His back on you!

Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour.

2 Timothy 2:19-20

What vessel you are is essentially determined by you. You determine your degree of consecration, not God. So make a choice for consecration today, as it is the only way to retain the unction of the Spirit.

Gehazi

But Gehazi, the servant of Elisha the man of God, said, Behold, my master hath spared Naaman this Syrian, in not receiving at his hands that which he brought: but, as the Lord liveth, I will run after him, and take somewhat of him.

2 Kings 5:20

One word strikes me in the above Scripture. Gehazi said, "My master hath spared..." That means he considered the work of the ministry as an opportunity to exploit people. He saw it as an avenue to amass wealth. So Gehazi pursued after Naaman. He collected two talents of silver and two changes of garments from him, and that became his undoing. Instead of receiving a double portion of the anointing upon Elisha, Gehazi procured leprosy for himself. Greed terminated his journey into the anointing.

I believe that Gehazi had never really been a worthy instrument. In 2 Kings 4, Elisha had given him his anointed staff to lay on the Shunammite woman's dead son. But Gehazi "laid the staff upon the face of the child; but there was neither voice, nor hearing. Wherefore he went again to meet him, and told him, saying, The child is not awaked" (2 Kings. 4: 31).

The love of money and covetousness blocked the flow of the anointing in his life. I have seen very many ministries sink because of this. All they are interested in is exploiting their members.

Beauty in ministry is a function of the anointing. Once the unction leaves a man, all his beauty disappears!

Balaam

Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.

2 Peter 2:15-16

Balaam was a mighty prophet in his time, a gifted man, who even prophesied the coming of Christ (Numbers. 24:17). But he lost his prophetic unction after he ran greedily after unrighteous gain.

Simon

Simon the sorcerer, as he was known, got saved and was baptized in the Holy Ghost. But when he saw the Holy Ghost descend upon men through the laying on of hands of the apostles, he thought of making a business out of it. So he said to the apostles:

...Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:19

Peter looked at him, and knowing his intention, said:

...Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

Acts 8:20-22

Simon's crave for money prevented him from flowing in the anointing. If God has called you into ministry and you think it is for sale, you will soon be sold off. There is a need for caution, therefore, in the running of ministries.

Samuel

Samuel had a national testimony of integrity and was anointed till the end of his days. It is written concerning him:

And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.

1 Samuel 3:19

Samuel maintained his anointing through integrity, uprightness, probity and accountability. He had a public testimony of consecration at the end of his journey on earth.

Behold, here I am: witness against me before the Lord, and before his anointed: whose ox have I taken? or whose ass have I taken? or whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed? or of whose hand have I received any bribe to blind mine eyes therewith? and I will restore it you. And they said, Thou hast not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken ought of any man's hand. And he said unto them, The Lord is witness against you, and his anointed is witness this day, that ye have not found ought in my hand. And they answered, He is witness.

1 Samuel 12:3-5

Paul

In the New Testament, the apostle Paul was a mightily anointed man. He was anointed in the sea, on land, in prison, just about anywhere! More than half of the New Testament books were written by him. He could boldly say:

Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:

1 Thessalonians 2:10

And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.

Acts 24:16

No wonder, therefore, that he flowed in an unusual unction all his life. It was as if he lived in the same room with the Holy Spirit. In some of his letters, he would say, "This is not the Holy Spirit speaking, but me, Paul", and the Holy Ghost would stamp whatever he said. This showed that not only was he anointed, he had also successfully maintained the anointing all through his life.

Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.

2 Corinthians 4:1-2

Dishonesty is one of the cheapest ways of cutting off the flow of unction. If you are a minister of the gospel, be careful not to say what God has not said, in a bid to take advantage of someone.

Paul was so confident of his walk with God that he could say, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ" (1 Corinthians. 11:1). He was saying in essence, "You can't miss God following me." He could say that because he had a sound testimony of integrity.

Jesus

Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre. Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

Psalms 45:6-7

The anointing upon Jesus was maintained because He loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Throughout His earthly ministry, He had a public testimony of integrity. He could say:

Which of you convinceth me of sin?...

John 8:46

Note that the price for sustaining the anointing is consecration. It is the same price for obtaining it. Purity is the price for power. It is also the price for its maintenance. My prayer for you is that you will cultivate an uncompromising hatred for sin, and desire to live a consecrated life.

It Takes Fellowship

Fellowship is another way of sustaining the anointing.

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

Hebrews 10:25

Why is fellowship so important to the sustenance of the anointing?

Your Fire Never Quenches

There is a fire burning upon every anointed altar (Isaiah. 6:6). Also, God has put certain fire-carrying people in the Church.

And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.

Hebrews 1:7

When these anointed men of God pick up the Bible, they literally "set it on fire". They have the ability to ignite a fire within others. That was what happened when Peter stood up to preach in Acts 2. The men who heard him were pricked in their hearts (Acts 2:37), implying that a fire was kindled in their hearts.

On another occasion, after His resurrection, Jesus was talking to two disciples on their way to Emmaus. They were busy narrating to Him the events surrounding His death, not knowing He was the One. When they knew, they said:

...Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?

Luke 24:32

A fellowship centre is a place of fire. There is fire on the altar and there are anointed men, full of fire, to keep you aflame. Remember that the spirit of man is the candle of the Lord. But if by chance that candle goes out, when it comes into a fellowship centre where the fire is burning, the fire can be rekindled.

When we were to take over a new church property in Kaduna (where the Garden of Faith is presently located), God instructed me to go over there at night, with a team of people, each one carrying a lit candle. I told them,

"Your candle light must not go off while we are marching round. If it does, quickly light it again from the person next to you." That is what we are in fellowship for – to maintain the flame.

In out-door camping, there is an all-important rule – you must keep the bonfire ablaze. Whether the weather is hot or not, you compulsorily have to keep the fire ablaze, otherwise you will be vulnerable to attacks from wild beasts. If by chance the fire starts burning low and the animals sense it, they will begin to approach where you are. That is why a man is often assigned to keep watch over the fire, adding wood to it intermittently, to keep it burning. There is also a spiritual analogy here.

If, for instance, you stop coming to fellowship for a month, you will discover that all the sicknesses that had earlier left you will begin to return. Your beauty will gradually begin to fade away, and your reasoning will also be affected. This is because it is only fire that keeps the bulls of Bashan away. The fire that kept the "bulls of sickness" away has gone down, so you become vulnerable to attacks. When the prodigal son left home, he was stripped naked, and was reduced to a beggar. Similarly, Zion is the covenant home of the saint. When he leaves, he will be stripped naked.

At the outset of our ministry, we had a young staff, who suddenly left. He was quite anointed, but someday, he rebelled and said there was no need for fellowship. I believe the devil entered him. I met him recently and could not believe it was the same fellow. He had lost all beauty and literally looked like a guineaworm. Why? He was no longer in touch with the fire place to maintain his fire.

Looking at the apostolic era, we see that they were baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire at the beginning.

And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:3-4

But they did something to fan their fire and keep it perpetually ablaze.

And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

Acts 2:42

They continued steadfastly in fellowship, so the fire never went out. Fellowship is to the believer what the anvil is to the blacksmith. It keeps pumping air to the fire. The fellowship centre is where you bend down to fan the fire. As the believers congregate at fellowship centres, they are fired up in the spirit by ministers, who themselves are flames of fire. So, fire plus fire equals explosive fire. That way, your beauty and anointing is maintained.

Men addicted to fellowship keep their fire burning brighter. The apostles were addicted to fellowship, so their fire kept burning brighter and brighter, the flames climbing higher and higher.

I was at a meeting at Asaba a few years ago. I was not there as a speaker, but as a partaker, and yet I can never forget the encounter I had in that place. I left there with a strange fire. No believer can afford to be without fellowship. Even if he travels out of town, he must look for a place to fellowship, or soon, whatever fire he previously carried would begin to go down, until it is finally extinguished.

Two deacons in our church left the country for the United States of America. One of them had received a fantastic miracle of a baby back home before he left. But they didn't keep the fire burning through fellowship, and a year later, I learnt they had "acquired" new wives and had "sacked" their former wives left behind in Nigeria.

During our days on campus, a young man gradually began excusing himself from fellowship. I went to visit him one day and asked, "Why have you not been around?" His first response was, "I am fine, everything is fine. Is it because I am not in fellowship?" But I persisted. I said to him, "Something is wrong. Nobody leaves home when everything is alright." He finally broke down and confessed, "It is true, it is true, sir. In fact, I have started taking alcohol."

You cannot miss fellowship without losing your fire. Fellowship is God's

wisdom for sustaining your fire. I am not just admonishing you to get into fellowship once a week, but to become a registered Zionist, one who is present whenever the church doors are flung open. David said:

I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord. Our feet shall stand within thy gates, O Jerusalem.

Psalms 122:1-2

David was a king, yet he was in fellowship; seven times a day to praise and three times to pray. Some are lifted into key government positions, and they stop coming to church. So when they are given 50 girlfriends as part of the benefits of their new post, they get hooked by the devil. I believe such people had never loved the gates of Zion, nor had they been lovers of fellowship.

We often hear testimonies of people in church who resign from high paying appointments for lower ones, because the demands of the high paying job prevented them from being committed in church. Such people are the ones God does not hesitate to lift. In addition, they are the ones that stay aflame.

One other characteristic of fire is its ability to keep you warm. You cannot grow cold around fire. That is why in temperate regions, when winter comes, the fire-place is lit to generate heat. Zion is a spiritual fire-place; the farther you are from it, the colder you get. If you don't retrace your steps fast, you could get frozen.

I am not just talking about the fellowship between friends, but congregating in an assembly where God has chosen to put His name.

That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:3

According to Hebrews 12:22, whenever we assemble together, there is an assemblage of an innumerable company of angels. They pick fire from the altar and help to keep your candle aflame. The angelic activity in Zion sees to it that the coal of fire picked from the altar is that which can minister to the specific needs of men, so they don't freeze.

I remember a testimony of a brother who brought his international passport to church and placed it on the altar, and said, "Lord, I have had this passport for years, I must travel somewhere." When he got to the office that day, his boss asked him, "Do you have an international passport? You will be travelling this week." The fire on the altar administered by angels produced that testimony for him! 1 Thessalonians 5:19 says, "Quench not the Spirit."

If Paul said **"Quench not the Spirit"**, it means that He can be quenched. The fire can be extinguished. So stay in fellowship to keep your fire burning brightly.

Your Understanding Is Enhanced

For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.

Psalms 73:3,17

One other blessing Zion offers is the release of unction for understanding. I believe that when you come to Zion, you have come to the city of the Living God. We are told in Scriptures that God dwells in a light that no man can approach unto. So when you come to Zion, light is made available into previously dark areas of your understanding.

God Himself grants you a unique access into Scriptures, such that certain Scriptures which you had read but did not understand, are illuminated in Zion. Perhaps during the welcome charge, testimony time or offering, someone would say something that would open your understanding.

Ministers can attest to this fact. When you are ministering, suddenly the depths are broken up and you say certain profound things that you did not know during your study time. Why? There is an unction that illuminates your understanding in Zion

Here is a testimony of an encounter a sister got in church.

"Some time in 1995, the Bishop preached on vision. While ministering, he quoted Jeremiah 1:5 — "Before I formed thee, I knew thee." I immediately caught that vision and said, 'God, that means You know me.'

"About six months before then, I had been retrenched and everything around me was dead. If I came to church, my father would send me out of the house, lock the gate, and say that I should go back to the church and eat there.

"But I keyed into that message that day, and everything around me changed! Three months after that day, I got married and today, I'm blessed with two children! I bless the name of the Lord for His goodness!"

Dada, B.

Fellowship is a vital force in sustaining your anointing. If you must stay ablaze, then you must remain in fellowship; it is a powerful key to sustaining your unction.

It Takes Dedication

An unparalleled dedication to the kingdom of God is another way of sustaining the anointing. By dedication, I mean a total commitment to God and the affairs of His kingdom.

In **Acts 1:8**, God reveals to us His ultimate purpose for anointing you and me:

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

The essence of the anointing is so that you can be a witness; that is, to represent God here on earth. When you are committed to representing Him, He in turn commits Himself to constantly supply you with the unction needed to keep you on your assignment.

His empowering you with His anointing is to enable you represent the interest of His kingdom. For instance, God will only release the anointing for wealth upon you, to the degree to which you are committed to His kingdom financially. When you stop being committed to His kingdom financially, the anointing on your finances dies. So, to keep His hand on your finances, you must keep your hand on the kingdom plough.

As you enlarge your kingdom dream, you are enlarging your capacity for empowering, or else God has no business anointing you. This is the secret for enjoying sustained unction. You may pray until next year, but without a total commitment to God's kingdom, you can never sustain the anointing.

One thing I have observed over the years in the life of Kenneth E. Hagin is his unbroken dedication to the assignment God committed into His hands — the preaching of the Word of faith. For him, it has been the Word of faith, morning and night, day in and day out. At His age, he still runs week long programmes. That explains why the anointing upon him remains fresh.

Dedication Commits God

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

John 15:1-2

God is committed to the sustenance of a fruitful believer. So if you are fruitful in God's kingdom, He will simply keep anointing you. He will not send a vinedresser to prune you, but will arise and do it by Himself, so that you can bear more fruit.

If on the contrary, you are an unfruitful Christian, you are not qualified for sustained unction. In Luke 13:6-9, Jesus told a prophetic parable about a vineyard that was planted:

He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down.

This implies that there is no short cut to sustaining the anointing outside dedication. To be anointed, you must be dedicated. Remain totally committed at your duty post, and the anointing will keep flowing.

Stay Faithful

Dedication connotes faithfulness to God and His kingdom. Until a man is faithful, he does not have a future in the kingdom of God. It is not possible to succeed in the kingdom of God without faithfulness.

...There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods. And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward.

Luke 16:1-2

The rich man took away the stewardship from the unfaithful servant. God does the same thing too. He takes away stewardship from unfaithful men, and the anointing that makes things happen.

Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

1 Corinthians 4:1

The requirement for good stewardship is faithfulness, not strength, eloquence or good looks. However, note that commitment goes beyond physical involvement. A hearty dedication to God and His kingdom is what guarantees the sustenance of the anointing.

Faithfulness brings promotion. That is why Jesus said:

...Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

Luke 19:17

A faithful man attracts the anointing, which brings liftings and

promotions. You cannot rise without being anointed, and you cannot retain the anointing unless you are faithful.

But my horn shalt thou exalt like the horn of an unicorn: I shall be anointed with fresh oil. The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon. Those that be planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;

Psalms 92:10,12-14

Therefore, determine not to be a layabout, doing nothing for God's kingdom, representing no one and affecting nobody. God will not put fire in a lamp that will not give light to anybody. Do men light a candle and hide it under a bushel? In like manner, you cannot hide under a bushel and expect God to keep your light burning bright. Jesus, through faithfulness, maintained the flow of unction in His life.

Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus; Who was faithful to him that appointed him, as also Moses was faithful in all his house.

Hebrews 3:1-2

Jesus was faithful to Him who appointed Him. We see this displayed severally in His ministry on earth. In **John 4**, His disciples thought somebody had brought Him food to eat when He told them, "I have meat to eat that ye know not of...My meat is to do the will of Him that sent Me, and to finish his work." He maintained the flow of unction upon His life through His dedication and commitment to God. This dedication could be seen when at age twelve, Jesus said to His earthly parents:

...How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?

Luke 2:49

When He was told that His brethren were looking for Him, His reply was:

...Who is my mother, or my brethren? And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.

Mark 3:33-35

That was the level of His dedication; no wonder, He maintained a continuous flow of unction all His life.

At another instance, we see Jesus in Gethsemane saying to the Father, **"...O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless, not as I will but as thou wilt" (Matthew. 26:39)**. Jesus maintained His dedication even to the grave, hence He maintained the anointing to the end. Even though He had died and was buried, the anointing He retained raised Him back to life again!

It was also Paul's dedication that helped him maintain the anointing upon His life to the end. Hear what he said of Himself:

For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!

1 Corinthians 9:16

And why stand we in jeopardy every hour? I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. 1 Corinthians 15: 30-31

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:21

Paul was very committed to God and his assignment, so his oil never dried up. By his dedication, he committed God to keep releasing His anointing upon his life. So also, as long as you stay dedicated and faithful, the anointing upon you will never dry up.

There is another man whose life affected me tremendously. His name is Oswald J. Smith. He was sold out to the cause of the kingdom. He was still ministering at conventions at the age of 93. On one particular occasion, he said, "Yesterday, I was looking at my dictionary and I saw that there is a difference between the words faith and trust." He could still consult a dictionary at that age! Oswald J. Smith knew how to sustain the anointing. His secret was dedication to his given course. To stay anointed therefore, you must stay dedicated.

It Takes The Word

One sure way to maintain the fire of the Holy Ghost already kindled in you is by constantly adding wood to it. That is what the Word of God is to the anointing. When you stop putting in wood, the fire is bound to go out.

Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out...

Proverbs 26:20

A careful look at any man who has maintained his anointing over a long period of time will reveal an unbroken fellowship with the Word of God. Just as nothing can effectively substitute wood in sustaining a bonfire, so it is with the Word. No wood, no fire. No Word, no anointing.

In the parable of the ten virgins, the five foolish ones said to their wise counterparts, **"Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out." But the wise virgins replied, "Not so, lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves." (Matthew. 25:8-9.)**

What are they to buy?

Buy the truth, and sell it not...

Proverbs 23:23

The truth is comparable to the oil you buy into your lamp, making it indispensable in the sustenance of unction.

As Rain From Heaven

The Word of God is also depicted as rain from heaven, whose function is to sustain the river of the Spirit flowing inside you.

For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Isaiah 55:10,11

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

John 7:37

If you have ever seen a river during the harmattan, you will understand the relevance of rain to the maintenance of a river. When the weather is dry, the water level drops and the river is affected grossly. If it was being dammed for hydro-electricity supply, the rate at which the turbines turn slows down as a result of the drying up of the river, and power supply becomes irregular. That is how your effectiveness diminishes when the water level in your river is low.

One day, as I drove by Lokoja area, I saw goats and sheep playing in the middle of River Niger. I reasoned that they could only do that because the water level was low. That is also how the devil toys with you when your water (Word) level is low. So you cannot afford to sit down with arms folded, watching your Word level go down.

Certain factors help you get full benefits out of the Word of God. Many are studious quite alright, but not much revelation appear to gain entrance into their hearts. Whereas some others open the Book, and in just a matter of

minutes, the depths are broken up to them. So how do you approach the Word?

Come With A Meek Heart

The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will show them his covenant.

Psalms 25:14

God only teaches the meek in heart. He teaches only the humble, those who are willing to learn, not the proud or stiff-necked. Moses was a man of unusual revelation, and the Bible also says he was the meekest man on the face of the earth.

(Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.) My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house. With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the Lord shall he behold...

Numbers 12:3,7-8

So it was meekness that granted him access to heaven's secrets. It was to him that God delivered the ten commandments.

Jesus was also meek and lowly in heart.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Matthew 11:29

Meekness is the only way to learn from God. If the Messiah possessed a meek and lowly heart, and was ready to receive instructions at all times from God, then we need much more to possess meekness. Jesus was the Living Word of God. Yet He was teachable. Until you are teachable, God won't reveal His Word to you.

Apostle Paul was so loaded with insight and revelations, that God had to apply the brakes on him in 2 Corinthians 12:7. He was a learned man, well schooled in the law, yet he said:

But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

1 Corinthians 15:10

He counted every qualification he had as dung, for the excellency of the knowledge of God in Christ Jesus. He said he could do all things, not through his own ability, but through Christ. No wonder then that God gave him such a unique entrance into the mysteries of the kingdom.

Hagin said, "You see, you never get to any point in life where you know everything in God." That is why he keeps growing in the anointing, waxing stronger everyday!

Instead of burying your head in the Book, first humble yourself before the Lord and ask for the depths to be broken up for you. Without meekness, you may spend 24 hours a day trying to study the Word, and still never gain entrance into the mysteries.

Come With A Joyful Heart

Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation.

Isaiah 12:3

You need joy to flow in the revelation of God's Word. Without joy, you cannot draw water out of the wells of salvation. That is why the enemy strives so hard to depress you. He knows that you cannot have access to the mysteries of the Word when you are depressed. The Psalmist said:

Thou wilt show me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

Psalms 16:11

The path of life is unfolded in God's presence. But to get into His presence, you first enter through His gates with thanksgiving and proceed into His courts with praise.

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands. Serve the Lord with gladness: come before his presence with singing. Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

Psalms 100:1-5

As you enter into His presence with joy and gladness, you have encounters with the Word and the paths of life are unfolded to you. That explains why when you are angry, and you pick up your Bible, it looks like Chemistry. Imagine someone who has never studied Chemistry before being

given advanced Chemistry to study!

That is just how it is when you are sorrowful, depressed or angry; you cannot have revelations. Your access to revelation is blocked. Look at David, he was such a joyful man that God revealed so many things about the coming Messiah to him. He was a king, yet joy granted him a very unusual access to God's secrets.

Meditate On The Word

I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.

Psalms 119:99

Meditation is a spiritual process where the Word of God is broken down into assimilable bits. It is during meditation that the believer gains access to the honey of the Word. The Holy Spirit breathes on you, to impart an unusual understanding.

Unfortunately, while there are many readers of the Word, very few go beyond reading to assimilating by meditation. It is when you meditate that you receive the right wood for your fire. Time should therefore be devoted to meditation.

In the natural when you swallow your food, it delivers no value to your body until it first goes through digestion, assimilation and then absorption. In like manner, before the Word delivers value to your life, it requires a process of pondering, grinding and absorbing.

Reading is like swallowing the food. Meditation then takes over, to make it deliver virtue to you. It is not the quoting of Scriptures. That is why a man may know where it is written in the Bible, yet those things are not reflecting in his life. Meditation is a must, if you want to take delivery of wood for your fire.

It's for the Pure

And he said unto them, Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables:

Mark 4:11

Purity is a basic requirement for revelations from the Word of God. Insight is reserved for the disciples, not for those without (Revelation. 22:15). One major characteristic of Christians without is found in **2 Peter 2:22**:

But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

Every Christian who returns to the sins he earlier gave up is a dog. And because every dog is without, no matter how hard he studies, he cannot dig deep into the Word. Consecration enhances the flow of revelation, and revelation is wood for the anointing. So purity is vital, if you desire to sustain the anointing in your life.

Staying anointed requires that you stay in the Word: for this you require meekness, joy, meditation and consecration. Every moment you spend in the Word will count in sustaining the anointing as you follow the principles I have outlined above. Very soon, you will begin to feel the effect of the fire burning; and sickness, frustration, failure, stagnation, poverty, etc. will respect and bow to you.

Let me say that to buy an aircraft is cheaper than maintaining it. Its maintenance is comparable to buying it continuously. The anointing is very much the same. If you do not know how to maintain it, people will soon forget you were ever anointed.

Chapter 9: Go, Use The Power!

The anointing brings an end to all struggles in life. It brings you into the realm of sweatless triumph, where you obtain results without stress. It causes you to excel where others dread to tread! It empowers you for victory and breakthroughs. The anointing provides answers to all questions of life.

The anointing is, however, not an emblem; it is an instrument for triumph.

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 1:8

The world is about to witness the greatest of all moves, and our principal instrument for manifestation is the Holy Spirit.

The time has come for the Spirit to dwell in us so much that we live perpetually under the influence of His anointing. Then shall we begin to do things that will make people wonder at us. Our results will be so staggering that men will be confounded.

God desires that you and I become an amazement to our world, just as it was with Jesus, who after the Holy Ghost descended on Him, the eyes of all men were fixed on Him. The eyes of all men will be fixed on us because of the exploits we will be doing. Men will come to recognize our new power and status!

Signs and wonders are meant to be your mark of identity. You are meant to be a commander of signs, one who dissolves problems, converts obstacles to miracles, and troubles to triumph. You are born a solution to the problems of the world, not a problem. But this cannot be by power or might, but by the anointing of the Holy Spirit. I see your struggles coming to an end right now!

It is the dawn of a new day for you! From now on, you will emerge as a man or woman of breakthroughs! By reason of the anointing upon you, no more would you be mistaken for a proverb and a byword in your community!

Here are some testimonies of people who did exploits by the anointing power of God upon their lives.

‘...Things Started Happening!’

"For five years, things didn't work well in my husband's business. He is a water engineer. That my husband's business was grounded was terrible for me as a pastor. I continued praying about the situation; but year after year, there was still no improvement.

"Also, I have a sister who had been in Europe for a very long time. Suddenly, for three years, she wasn't writing to anybody. At times, my mother would come and tell me, ‘Pastor, pray for your sister.’ I also have a sister whose husband was behaving funny. My mother would tell me to pray concerning them too. I did my best and prayed for them, but nothing seemed to happen. I have a young ministry. What surprised me the most was that all those whom I prayed for prospered; but there seemed to be no solution to the problems concerning me.

"I couldn't attend the Victory Celebration '97 for some reasons. But one morning during the celebration, I told my mother that I didn't want to see anybody, that I wanted to be alone with God.

"As I was alone with God, something about Elisha struck me. I saw that when Elisha's mantle couldn't divide Jordan, he had the wisdom to use that of Elijah. As I thought on this, I ran to my study and brought out some old bulletins I had from Kaduna that carried the Bishop's photographs. I cut the pictures out from the bulletins.

"I picked the one where the Bishop was looking very serious, placed it on my husband's picture and prayed, saying, ‘Father Lord, I want seriousness in my husband's business and peace in our home.’ Then I got another picture where the Bishop was laughing and pinned it to that of my sister's husband who wasn't laughing. I coupled the third photograph to that of my sister in Europe.

"Just about three months later, things started happening! My sister in Europe phoned my father, to say there was a man in Austria who wanted to marry her. A month later, she sent the picture of their court wedding home. She told my father they would be coming home very soon for their native and church wedding ceremonies. I said, ‘The Bishop's photograph is working.’

"Also, peace finally came between my sister and her husband. But God

was yet to throw the bombshell. I then reminded Him, saying, 'Lord, the pastor's husband must get contracts.' To the glory of God, for the first time in our lives, my husband got a job worth 15 million naira!

"When my mother saw all that was happening, she said it was because I used the Bishop's photographs. I got home three weeks ago and she showed me pictures of all her children which she had pinned to that of the Bishop. A sister of mine who had been married for eight years without any child is now two months pregnant!

"When I saw that the Bishop's photographs were working for me, I undoubtedly believed that those of his wife would work too. So, I took her picture and said, 'If the Bishop's photograph has worked for my husband, that of his wife will work for me.' I then pinned one of her beautiful photographs to mine and said, 'I want to be beautified.'

"Two weeks later, my husband called me and told me to look into his eyes. I looked into his eyes and he said, 'You are my wife of inestimable value. For these past years, things were rough. But now, I will give you anything you want.'"

Okosayo, E.

Following On To Distinction!

"I was at zero level for years. I come from a Family that lived from hand to mouth. I never thought I could amount to anything in life.

"I got born again on August 2, 1987 and was exposed to teachings that stressed on heaven. So, I started lying to make it on earth.

"One day, God gave me a revelation. I needed deliverance then. God showed me from Scriptures that I have to follow someone's footsteps in order to be successful in life. He also said to me, 'The Holy Ghost cannot come upon you until you grow on the strength of somebody. Joshua grew from the strength of Moses and God was with him.' With that I decided to follow the Bishop.

"I am not sure if anybody in my household had ever counted as much as 120,000 naira at once. But to God's glory, today, giving 10,000 naira offering in a service is like giving 10 naira! Between last year and this year, the Lord gave us a ministry that has published at least three books, one of which is dedicated to the Bishop.

"I had the opportunity of laying hands on somebody who by God's grace got a 4.5 million naira job. He came back to give thanks. How was I to know that I carried 4.5 million naira job in my hands if I had not met the Bishop? Also, I received an invitation from the university I graduated from, to receive an award for Christian Development on that campus.

"Just last year, somebody came to my office and said, 'Your record in the Nigerian Law School has not been broken yet.' In my ministry, we carry out our projects without stress and we have divine favour on all sides. We purchase things the way we have never done before in my Family. I give God the glory!"

Oladipupo, P.

Ministry Explosion!

"I came to Nigeria from Liberia, by divine ordination. Before then, my life was hopeless and I had no sense of direction. All that mattered to me was just to get born again and go on with God's business like that. That is what we learnt in my country Liberia, and nothing worked!

"But when I came to Nigeria and attended the WOFBI Special course, my life suddenly turned around. My destiny started coming up and I began to experience things that never happened to me before. One day in the class, the Bishop said, 'Whatsoever God tells you to do, it is possible to start from where you are now.' This statement struck me.

"One day, the Bishop was a guest minister at another church, where I also attended on invitation. He didn't know I was also at that meeting. As he ministered the Word of God, he told the testimony, I had earlier shared in church, of how armed robbers attacked me. Then he concluded by saying, 'That boy is one of my sons; he is a pastor.' That day, my calling changed from that of an evangelist to a pastor.

"I then said to God, 'If the Bishop called me a pastor, then the sheep must be somewhere in Nigeria.' In trying to locate the place, God directed me to Port Harcourt. I travelled to Port Harcourt without knowing anybody there. On getting there, I pulled my shoes and said, 'If Bishop Oyedepo's God is God, let that God answer me.'

"Immediately, I saw a young man passing by, and told him I came to the city to plant a church. I asked him to hold my bag and he succumbed. He then took me to his house, where I slept. As I stayed on in Port Harcourt, the work of God started growing gradually in my hands.

"I was present at Victory Celebration '97, where the Bishop said, 'By this time next year, everyone of you here that doesn't have a house will have his own house.' I said, 'Amen' to that prophetic utterance and believed it so strongly in my heart and went back to Port Harcourt with it.

"August 1998 came, and my house hadn't arrived yet. But I knew that the Bishop had said, 'By this time next year', so I was not shaken.

"There was a man the Bishop ministered to in Port Harcourt in 1983. He is about 73 years old now. He was blessed after the ministration, and had a

turn-around in his business. Recently, he visited our church and heard me preaching on the mystery of feet-washing. The man came to me at the end of the service and said, 'This message you are preaching is Bishop Oyedepo's message.' He then requested for further ministration.

"Meanwhile, he was owing his staff (about thirty) six months' salaries. He later came to my office and I had to locate what the Bishop calls Pillars, just to help him. Suddenly, an oil company approved a gigantic contract for him. This man came and said that the only thing God has told him to do is to get me a well-furnished three-bedroom apartment!

"He came again with another contract document and said I should use the name of Bishop Oyedepo's God to pray over it. He said the document was to be sent to an oil company for a 500 million naira contract. To God be the glory, he was awarded the contract, which was upgraded to one billion naira. He became so excited that he gave our church a plot of land. This is divine visitation! I praise God!"

Turner, J.