

DIVINE PLATFORM FOR EXALTATION

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Published in Nigeria by:

PAUL JERE PUBLISHERS AND MEDIA

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Published in October, 2021

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FOREWORD

Divine Platform For Exaltation is a very rich Christian resource material for strengthening the weak and raising strong people for God. The nature of the book compels a studious approach rather than spurious reading. Reading this book demands prayerful attention for personal self development in the foundation of maturity that secures divine elevation.

Pastor Paul Jere is a seasoned man of God and a lover of the Holy Spirit whom I have known for more than twelve years.

From the rich place of wisdom, Pastor Jere has brought forth the virtues of God's presence, devotion and commitment, diligence and patience, the resources of humility, the way of hearing from God, the power of mastery, how to handle counter-promotion, the dynamics of being a serious protégé and many more ways to train for elevation. In his final piece titled "Guidepost for the exalted" Pastor Jere has recommended graces for sustainability in the experience.

I strongly recommend this book as a must read for all serious minded believers who want to experience progress with God.

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CHAPTER 1 SECURING THE PRESENCE OF GOD

One major requirement for a divinely-ordained and approved exaltation of a child of God is his ability to secure His (God's) presence. The Lord will not be interested in exalting a man whom He cannot walk and work with. Exalting such a man is tantamount to elevating disapproval. If the presence of God is not in any life or project, then that life or project is not yet prepared or eligible for His hand of exaltation. Everybody is interested in exaltation or elevation in whatever he is engaged in, but too many people are never in any way prepared for it, because they are not qualified to be carriers of the presence of God. How can God exalt something in which He cannot be present and involved? For what reason will He exalt it in the first place? He desires to exalt where He can be glorified, so that the world will see His glory at the top. Here, we will be using the life and situation of Joseph in order to examine how the issue of securing the presence of God is of utmost importance in divine exaltation.

And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither. And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand, (Genesis 39:1-3) KJV.

God had an intention of exalting Joseph to become a great leader. This is clear as you read about his dreams in Chapter 37 of this Book of Genesis. These dreams resulted to his brothers' jealousy against him, which culminated into his sale into the land of Egypt. For more on this, you can contact my book entitled **"Awake unto Responsibility"**.

He was brought into the land of Egypt so that God's intention for him would be frustrated and nullified, but it resulted to something contrary to their (his brothers') plan. They were planning evil, but not knowing that they were transplanting him unto the realization of his divine exaltation.

Joseph who had what it takes to go up was brought down.... It is a downward journey that provides an avenue for an upward one. God's intention for him was to take him up to the top, but the way to the top starts from the bottom. God's intention for the upward journey of a man attracts the devil's contention to reverse the upward journey to a downward journey. The gravity of the intention determines the gravity of the contention. Heavy intentions attract heavy contentions. It is the contention that would provide a base for the realisation of the intention. That is to say that, it is the contention that will provide a base for the man's upliftment. To

run away from contention is to run away from the fulfilment of God's purpose, intention and upliftment. A life devoid of contention is a life drifted from God's intention. While God's intentions could attract people to a man, the devil's contentions will be designed to distract people from him.

...and the Lord was with him...

This is the most interesting thing about Joseph's life. The presence of God was always with him. All through his life, there was no point that it was recorded that Joseph lost God's presence. So it is possible to be in the presence of God at all times. It is possible for a man to be a literal carrier of the presence of God at all times in all situations-both in the working place and in church gatherings. The location of a man is not expected to drift him outside the presence of God. The presence of God here is not in any way related to His existence. He can exist in wherever you may find yourself, but never be with you there. The psalmist said:

O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways.

Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. (Psalm 139:1-3, 7, 8) KJV

From the above verses, it is clear that God is present everywhere. However, that does not guarantee His presence with men in every location.

Although Joseph was sold as a slave and too cheap for what he was born to become, the Lord was still with him. It was because the Lord was with him that prospered whatever he was doing there. We don't know much about Portiphar's background, but the Lord was still with Joseph under him (Portiphar) in that land. There is no man that secures God's presence who will not experience His hand in all his undertakings.

What is your major pursuit in life and ministry? Is it popularity, riches, prosperity...? All these are secondary issues compared to the presence of God in the life of any man. Can you confidently and sincerely confess the fact that the presence of God is with you at every point in time? Be aware that the presence of God is not synonymous with riches, fame, success, progress.... In fact, the devil can sponsor these in order to delude you of divine realities. As such, you need to be very conscious and cautious over your life and undertakings, in order not to become a victim of God's disapproval after you might have seemingly gotten to the top.

Why was the Lord with Joseph? Was it because He just had interest in him and had ordained him to be a great man? Was it because of something too special that he gave to God that warranted His presence? What served as a motivating factor for God to choose to be with Joseph at all times? Look at what the Bible says about him:

And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field. And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured. (Genesis 39:5, 6) KJV

When Portiphar saw that there was prosperity being introduced in his house and field, he decided to make Joseph the overseer of his house. He also made Joseph to be fully in charge of all that he had. Joseph was elevated in that house because the Lord was with him and made all that he did to prosper. It came to a point that Portiphar so trusted in Joseph that he entrusted him with all that belonged to him. This shows that there is something else that Portiphar saw in Joseph, before that trust was bestowed upon him. If the man knew that there was prosperity and increase in his house, but at the same time there was also a diversion and siphoning of resources, he would have lost confidence in Joseph. So Joseph was not only a carrier of God's presence and an agent of prosperity in that house; but he was also a very honest and upright man who was managing all that came under his care with integrity.

What is the state of your life in this matter? Can your superior officer hand over things and responsibilities to you and have his rest because of who you are? Can valuable and financial resources be handed over to your care without any form of mischief and dishonesty being displayed on your part? This is a serious matter in the school of divine elevation. You can't be corrupt and expect God's elevation to erupt for you; except you decide to pass through the backyard (the unapproved way) and obtain an unapproved one and face the resulting consequences. Are you desirous of God's hand of elevation to come upon your life? Then you need to work on yourself in matters of integrity and uprightness.

...for Joseph's sake...

The Lord blessed Portiphar's household because of Joseph. So Joseph was the reason for God's blessing in that house. If there is nothing that can be attributed to your sake in the place where you find yourself, then you may be a fake man and may need to be sacked. If the presence of God is with you, He will do things for

your sake. The presence of God with a man provides a reason for His attention in the place where the man finds himself. God would normally grant His attention to such a one in order to subdue the contention and bring about the realisation of His intention. If nothing happens for your sake, then you need to seek God's face for your real state. The state of your life with God, to a great extent, determines God's participation in a project for your sake.

What is improving for your sake? What is God doing in that organisation for your sake? What is improving in that ministry for your sake? What is that thing that God could not do before in that place that you now find yourself, in which He now sees your presence as an avenue and an opportunity for Him to do? May you be another Joseph in your generation!

The Lord did things for Joseph's sake because He was seeking for Joseph's elevation, which was consequent to His exaltation. When Joseph became the overseer, God actually became the overseer. Until God oversees a thing, that thing will not be seen to be over that man's capacity. So when Joseph was made the overseer of that house, God was obviously the overseer of the house. When he was elevated, God was exalted and so He had every cause to show His presence in that house to the glory of His Name.

Whatever was in Joseph's hand was automatically in God's hand. As a result of God's presence, his hand was the small representation, carrier and conveyor of God's hand. May your hand cause God to do things for your sake. Through God's hand upon you, He will work for your sake and cause men to seek for you.

Oppositions as Opportunities

Look at how Portiphar's wife lied against Joseph:

And it came to pass, when she saw that he had left his garment in her hand, and was fled forth, That she called unto the men of her house, and spake unto them, saying, See, he hath brought in an Hebrew unto us to mock us; he came in unto me to lie with me, and I cried with a loud voice: And it came to pass, when he heard that I lifted up my voice and cried, that he left his garment with me, and fled, and got him out. And she laid up his garment by her, until his lord came home.

And it came to pass, when his master heard the words of his wife, which she spake unto him, saying, After this manner did thy servant to me; that his wrath was kindled. And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison. (Genesis 39:13-16, 19, 20)

KJV

Joseph was faced with opposing forces that came in the form of lies and false accusations. His brothers and Portiphar's wife lied against him to frustrate what was lying ahead of him. He was sold from his father's house, while his brothers lied to his father, to delude him into believing that a wild beast had devoured him. In the house of Portiphar where he was brought to, the wife of the same Portiphar lied against him. This last opposition brought against his integrity could not also stand the test of time; rather it became another opportunity for his elevation to the seat of a prime minister in the land of Egypt. So for a man of integrity and uprightness who is a carrier of the presence of God, oppositions are opportunities in disguise for his ultimate elevation. .

Even the garment that Joseph left in the hands of the woman in order to deliver himself from that unwholesome act became another instrument in the hands of that woman towards his imprisonment. His outer perishable garment was used against him, but the inner imperishable garment was there to keep the presence of God with him even in the prison. So God kept on being with him because he was not ready to drop the garment of righteousness and integrity. As long as he didn't allow anybody or anything from stripping him of this inner garment, no one could also strip him of the presence of God. So the presence of God is not only made available to a man or a group of people in church meetings or other Christian gatherings. No! It is a valuable asset that is made available to as many as meet up with the condition of righteousness, holiness and integrity. To put on righteousness and integrity is to put on the presence of God upon oneself. To be devoid of righteousness, holiness and integrity is to be devoid of the presence of God. The Bible says:

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, (2 Corinthians 6:16, 17) KJV

It is therefore, clear from here that the platform for divine elevation starts from the life of the man in question. It does not really emanate from what the man can do, but the life that he lives. If it attracts the presence of God, then there is serious opportunity for his exaltation. In the absence of this, any dream of divine exaltation by any man may just be a delusion that will end up in futility.

You cannot be separated for exaltation until you have decided to separate yourself unto holiness, righteousness and integrity. Are you separate? Are you different from your colleagues who do things anyhow and things that are outside

God's ordination by His wisdom? You need to be separate in order for you to be considered for any separate and exalted position.

The Lord says that He will receive only those who are separated unto cleanliness of life. It is those that he receives that can receive reasonable things from Him. It is those ones that can also become reasonable materials unto His glory. He cannot take glory in filthiness and iniquity, so God's platform for exalting any man is the platform of righteousness.

The psalmist has this to say:

Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. (Psalm 45:7) KJV

As a result of the righteousness of the man in question, the Lord who is known as his God anointed him with the oil of gladness above his fellows. Even the measure of anointing is said to be above his companions. It is not to be compared with the anointing of his companions, but it is higher and exalted above that of them all. So righteousness boosts and elevates anointing. When a man is highly consecrated, the anointing of God upon his life will be concentrated. The higher the consecration of a man the higher the concentration of the anointing upon his life will become. Thus, the more the consecration of a man, the more the viscosity of the oil of the anointing of God upon his life will be. A little drop of such anointing will do a far greater work compared to much of a less concentrated one from a man with a less consecrated life. If you have no place in matters of righteousness, then you have no place in matters of God's presence, the anointing and exaltation.

In the Book of Proverbs 14:34, the Bible says:

Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people. (KJV)

This is what happened in Egypt where the righteousness and wisdom of one man, by name Joseph brought about the exoneration of the land from the famine of that period. So the exaltation that could be brought about by righteousness could go beyond the man in question to affect some other people who may be connected with him in one way or the other.

Brought Before the King

As a result of the presence of God in the life of Joseph, the gift of God upon his life began to increase from one level to the other. Before he became thirty

years old, he had become a powerful, but hidden interpreter of dreams. The presence of God upon his life could not allow the gift to be either reduced or dissipated. God's presence was rather an atmosphere for the incubation of the gift that he began to dream about at age seventeen. At that age of seventeen years, he was not able to interpret even his own dreams, but at a point in time in his life, as he sustained his relationship with God in His presence, the gift of interpretation of dreams was developed in his life.

Do you sense any dealing of God in your life in one area or the other? Then you need to sustain His presence in your life through consistent consecration. Consecration keeps the presence of God in a man's life, which in turn, incubates and develops God's gift in him. When you are consistent in God's presence, His gift upon your life will not be corrupted, but it will rather erupt in a glorious way to the glory of His Name.

Two years after Joseph interpreted the dreams of the chief butler and chief baker of Pharaoh, God decided to execute his elevation by causing Pharaoh to dream two dreams. When there was not found anyone in Egypt to interpret the dreams for Pharaoh, Joseph's vacancy was indisputably created for his manifestation and exaltation. All that was incubated on his inside was about exploding unto his exaltation. Only one performance was going to bring about his exposure and elevation.

This is an account of it:

And Pharaoh said unto Joseph, I have dreamed a dream, and there is none that can interpret it: and I have heard say of thee, that thou canst understand a dream to interpret it. And Joseph answered Pharaoh, saying, It is not in me: God shall give Pharaoh an answer of peace.

Now therefore let Pharaoh look out a man discreet and wise, and set him over the land of Egypt. Let Pharaoh do this, and let him appoint officers over the land, and take up the fifth part of the land of Egypt in the seven plenteous years. And let them gather all the food of those good years that come, and lay up corn under the hand of Pharaoh, and let them keep food in the cities. And that food shall be for store to the land against the seven years of famine, which shall be in the land of Egypt; that the land perish not through the famine. And the thing was good in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of all his servants. 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 shewed 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. And Pharaoh took off his ring from his hand, and put it upon Joseph's hand, and arrayed him in vestures of fine linen, and put a gold chain about his neck; And he made him to ride in the second chariot which he had; and they cried before him, Bow the knee: and he made him ruler over all the land of Egypt. (Genesis 41:14, 16, 33-43) KJV

Pharaoh told Joseph that he had heard about his ability to interpret dreams. What the enemy did not want to be heard about him was heard by all means by the king. Some people who might have heard about this initial dream interpretation of Joseph had no capacity of bringing him into the limelight; but when it was God's time for his elevation, the king who was a strategic door for that purpose was affected to that effect. When it is God's time to exalt a man, He has His way of introducing him to strategic doors-human and material doors inclusive. Pharaoh was a door into the place of recognition in the land of Egypt, since he was in charge of the land and so God decided to engage him for Joseph's exaltation. This happened because God was with him The Lord will engage your door(s) unto elevation in the Name of Jesus.

Acknowledge God

Joseph told Pharaoh that it was not in him (Joseph), to interpret the dream to him (Pharaoh), but that God was the one to do so. You can see how Joseph was not going to depend on past glory and experience in handling that situation. He didn't consider himself as a professional dream interpreter, who could do it at will, but was solely dependent on God in this next assignment. If the presence of God will continue to be with a man unto his elevation, he must always be conscious of the fact that God is the one at work in him and not his human capability. He must always be desirous of his hand working under the mighty hand of God Almighty. He should be prepared not to trivialize issues by merely looking back at his past experiences.

Joseph meant to say that whatever interpretation that will come from him was not going to be out of his human capacity, but God's ability. This is a very crucial way for one to maintain the presence of God unto his elevation. Joseph was not ready to depend on his past anointing, but for a fresh one, which was going to depend on God's presence in that situation. He acknowledged his relationship with God through His presence with him than even the gift/anointing of God upon his life. Remember that anointing can be 'stale' without a constant presence of God with a man. A man can go about performing some things somehow through the

anointing, while he had lost the presence of God itself. The anointing can even deceive a man into thinking that God is with him (since he may still be enjoying some acts of the anointing), while in the real sense he had lost his relationship with Him in the place of His presence. Remember that anointing is an endowment and a gift, while God's presence is a relationship phenomenon. You can't be in God's presence and miss out in destiny; but you can be anointed and miss out in God's purpose and intention. If you are in that kind of situation, you are on your downward journey even if you see things seemingly moving forward for you. You may still be working because you still carry some measure of anointing, but you might have missed out in the place of walking with God because you are no more in His presence. May you not be an anointed man that had lost his place in God's presence!

Your worth as an anointed man, as far as God is concerned, is dependent on your ability to remain in His presence. Your promotion unto an exalted position is dependent on your ability to remain as an anointed man in God's presence. Any anointing outside God's presence is a wasted anointing that had lost its worth before Him. May the Lord deliver you from the deception of the anointing against your ability to identify the presence of God in your life!

After Joseph interpreted the dream to Pharaoh, he also included an advice through the wisdom that God suddenly gave to him within that hour. He advised the king through this wisdom about what should be done in the land to avert the incoming period of famine. Can you observe the progress he made in this case? When he interpreted the dreams of the chief butler and chief baker, he didn't have any word of advice for even the baker that was to be executed (although God knew what He was doing), but now he had a word of advice, through the wisdom of God to avert an incoming famine in that period. As he was growing in the gift of God, he was also growing in wisdom through his relationship with Him in His presence. Thus, the growth of a man in God's gift, grace and wisdom is dependent on his ability to be in His presence; and this will culminate into his elevation.

Pharaoh finally saw Joseph as a man that had what no other person had in the land of Egypt and decided to place him over the affairs of the land without any man's dispute about it. Even when he was brought to Pharaoh, it was not in the consent of Portiphar, his former master, who sent him into that prison. When he was to be promoted, no one sought Portiphar's consent. Whether he liked it or not, it was a must for Joseph to be released and promoted on that day. No one went to investigate what sent him into that prison before he'd be considered for elevation. He had passed that test in God's presence and so no one could stop his exaltation. He was not delivered and promoted based on his initial defensive request to the butler, but because of God's intervention. God's intentions attract His intervention.

He uses His intervention to display His intentions. The Lord will intervene over your life in order to execute His intentions for you in Jesus' name!

A Selfless Man

When Joseph was advising the king to look for a discreet (wise) man that could handle the economy of the land through the gathering of foodstuff, he was only advising him, not bringing himself to the front of the matter. He was not making suggestion for himself, but the king still picked him. The gift of God used in the presence of God has the capacity of picking a man from obscurity to the limelight. There was no appeal on the part of Joseph concerning himself at all, but what he was pronouncing still fell upon him for his elevation. He was no longer a beggar of deliverance, but he was automatically delivered and elevated.

As you offer service of any kind to anyone or in the house of God, what comes into your mind about it? What gain do you quickly wish should come to you concerning your effort and commitment? As you work under a man, how do you feel when he could not meet up with your expectation regarding a need of yours that he could not attend to? When you write a book in form of Christian literature, what quickly comes into your mind over the proceeds of the book? Are you not more interested in the money than the impact of the book? Check yourself in the light of these and many more, so that you won't be found wanting on the balance of exaltation.

As you remain calm and selfless in your service to God, you will never be robbed of your place of elevation, in Jesus' Name. Wherever you find yourself, work selflessly, speak selflessly and act selflessly. As long as these are done in the presence of God, no devil can in any way rob you of your higher height in life and destiny, in Jesus' Name

Joseph displayed all these because he walked in the fear of God. That is why he said to the wife of Portiphar

There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God? (Genesis 39:9)
KJV

He was so conscious of the presence of God, such that he felt that whatever he was going to do was going to affect God more than even his then Egyptian master. He so walked in the fear of God that he could not yield to any human enticement unto evil. His highest priority was God's pleasure and nothing else. He can go naked as long as the presence of God was upon him.

How do you consider the matter of the fear of God? Without the fear of God you can reach nowhere in life and destiny. Why do you handle things anyhow

as if you are so much in charge above God? Have you forgotten that you are in charge under God's charge and that you are accountable unto Him? May the fear of the Lord have its grip in your heart in Jesus' Name!

CHAPTER 2 THROUGH DEVOTION AND DILIGENCE

No man can ever experience divine exaltation without devotion and diligence. All through the Scripture, no man ever attained any reasonable height with God without being devoted and diligent in what he did. We will use the case of Daniel in order to discuss this issue from scriptural perspective. You will agree with me that Daniel was a very busy man, as he was one of the three presidents that were set over the one hundred and twenty princes that were set over the land of the Medes. So, going by the average number of princes, Daniel had about forty princes that were accountable to him. Imagine how busy he must have been in attending to these princes. But the Bible records some striking things about Daniel's devotion to God. We will then look into this as we consider the significance of devotion in divine exaltation. We will be majorly dealing with the sixth chapter of the Book of Daniel as we go through this issue.

*It pleased Darius to set over the kingdom an hundred and twenty princes, which should be over the whole kingdom; And over these three presidents; of whom Daniel was first: that the princes might give accounts unto them, and the king should have no damage. 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. Then the presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel concerning the kingdom; but they could find none occasion nor fault; forasmuch as he was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him. (Daniel 6:1-4)
KJV*

Preferred above Others

The man by name Daniel was preferred above all the other leaders (both presidents and princes). He was so honoured by the king that the other leaders were envious of him in that land. One may think that it was because of his performance and some great things he did that earned this for him; but the truth of the matter is that it is because he was a highly devoted man. His devotion resulted to his promotion. You can't be devoted and be demoted. Demotion against a devoted man ends up in his promotion.

The other leaders therefore, decided to plan for a way to possibly eliminate him through some means, but they had nothing to rely on, until his relationship with God through his devotion was affected. That is why they said that they would not be able to do any such thing unless the matter affects his relationship with God.

If you fight against a devoted man you will end up in demotion and destruction. Devotion is the platform on which promotion prospers. Thus, real exaltation begins with a devotion to God. You can't be devoted and be humiliated. Also, you can't be devoted to God and be defeated in life. Your devotion determines your attainment and maintenance of your destiny. As God preferred Daniel through his righteous devotion, He manifested it through the king. So your devotion determines how you'll be preferred and finally become a reference point. Daniel did not bribe the king in any way for him to be preferred; he was rather, preferred because he placed his devotion to God on his highest scale of preference. He was even a foreigner and a captive in that land, but the Lord arose to grant him that elevation. Thus, what you prefer will determine how you'll be preferred. You'll be placed in a position of superiority if you make your devotion to God a matter of priority for yourself. You can't prefer devotion to God than any other thing and be frustrated in life, business and ministry.

No Error to Point at

The presidents and princes were looking for an allegation to be levelled against him, but could find none. They were fault-finders who could not find any fault from Daniel. This uprightness stemmed from his devotion to God. Devotion subsumes and takes away faults and establishes a man's faithfulness. Your faithfulness is determined by your personal devotion. No fault can stand for long against a devoted man. Devotion is a fault eraser and faithfulness raiser-it raises faithfulness and erases faults and flaws from the devotee. Your faults will be subsumed by your devotion!

If you engage in a fault finding mission against a devoted man, you will end up in demoting and destroying yourself, while you're indirectly promoting, exalting and establishing him. Those who are looking for your errors will see you emerging as a hero! Looking for errors against a devoted man will end up making him a hero. Your devotion will herald you as a hero instead of projecting your errors. Little did the people know that the law of God is a force that keeps a man from being brought low! You can't be devoted to obeying God's law and remain low.

The Enemies' Conclusion

Then said these men, We shall not find any occasion against this Daniel, except we find it against him concerning the law of his God. (Daniel 6:5) KJV

The enemies of Daniel then concluded that they shall not find any reason to accuse him. No legitimate accusation could be made against him, unless they had

to fabricate an urgent law that would affect the law of the God of Daniel. Note that God was attributed to be **his** God. He was not said to be the God of the entire Israelite community, but the God of Daniel. Can this be said about you? Can men categorically make claim that God is your God? If a matter of relationship with God should be mentioned around you, is it not going to be a matter of the God of your fathers alone; while you cannot boldly say that He is your God? If God is in your church, ministry or local assembly, can it be said that He is your God and He is with you? What can the people around you conclude about you as they observe your lifestyle for a considerable period of time? When they thought that they can follow your lifestyle in order to know God, don't they suddenly get disappointed as they honestly see some unexpected attitudes and actions from you? How many times have you disappointed heaven and the people around you-in your locality, surrounding, working place, business environment...? How many people were looking up to your life for solutions over setting bad habits in their lives, but suddenly got disappointed as they could not draw a clear and concrete conclusion about your life?

I hope you are aware that before people could come to a conclusion about you, they must have begun to watch your life and its progress from an initial stage. It is your devotion to God that can sustain God's approval and men's trust over your life. In other words, your consistency in faithfulness is dependent on your sustained devotion to the Most High God.

They were to find an occasion against him touching the law of his God. Little did they know that the law of God is a force that keeps a man from being brought low! You can't be devoted to God's law and remain low.

The Enemies' Allegation

Then these presidents and princes assembled together to the king, and said thus unto him, King Darius, live for ever. All the presidents of the kingdom, the governors, and the princes, the counsellors, and the captains, have consulted together to establish a royal statute, and to make a firm decree, that whosoever shall ask a petition of any God or man for thirty days, save of thee, O king, he shall be cast into the den of lions. Da 6:8 Now, O king, establish the decree, and sign the writing, that it be not changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which altereth not. (Daniel 6:6-8) KJV

This was the only way the enemies knew that they could get the king's royal mandate to execute their evil plan over Daniel. They were to make a royal statute against Daniel's status, but they didn't know that he was loyal to a higher royal statute. They were ignorant of the fact that his status stemmed from God's royal

statute. So the battle of that moment was the battle of royal laws-the earthly and the heavenly. A divine and higher statute was being fought by a human and lower statute. They didn't know that God's statutes make and keep a man's status in life and ministry. As such, God's statutes are the makers and keepers of men's status. The people went and made a kangaroo arrangement against an ancient and divinely ordained divine decree. Little did they know that the man they were dealing with was not just a champion in that land, but a general in the presence of God, through his faithful devotion to God!

You can't be loyal to God and remain a local champion. Your royalty is determined and authenticated by your loyalty. Daniel was able to sustain this exalted position in that land through his sustained devotion to God despite all odds. In the subsequent verses we see how Daniel refused to succumb to that emergency decree. The Lord honoured his faithfulness and decided to arise on His behalf. Daniel recognized the One that brought him into that position and refused to compromise his devotion to Him. He could rather, risk his life and position to maintain that relationship in devotion. Praise God! What level have you been elevated to, in life, career or ministry? Have you not lost your place in devotion to the God that brought you there? Be conscious of the fact that He who brought you there has the capacity to keep you there. You only owe Him your faithfulness and devotion to remain there. He won't take you to a position in which He is not prepared to keep you.

The Result of His Faithful Devotion

Although Daniel was later cast into the den of lions, the lions did not do him any harm. He was brought out of the den without any single scratch on his body. The Lord kept him in that den till the following morning. No matter the 'night' created against your progress and elevation, you will scale through it unhurt and come out of it successfully into a new phase of elevation and fruitfulness, in Jesus' Name.

Then was the king exceeding glad for him, and commanded that they should take Daniel up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no manner of hurt was found upon him, because he believed in his God. And the king commanded, and they brought those men which had accused Daniel, and they cast them into the den of lions, them, their children, and their wives; and the lions had the mastery of them, and brake all their bones in pieces or ever they came at the bottom of the den. Then king Darius wrote unto all people, nations, and languages, that dwell in all the earth; Peace be multiplied unto you. I make a decree, That in every dominion of my kingdom men tremble and fear before the God of Daniel: for he is

the living God, and stedfast for ever, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed, and his dominion shall be even unto the end. He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions. So this Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius, and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian. (Daniel 6:23-28) KJV

The enemies who were fighting against Daniel went in for it. They died prematurely along with their relatives. As stated earlier they didn't know that they were planning their doom through their plot against Daniel. They were ignorant of the fact that it is hard to kick against the pricks.

The king, in response to their emergency decree against Daniel's devotion, issued another decree that all the people under his dominion should tremble and fear the God of Daniel. What a decree that was also promulgated on emergency through Daniel's uncompromising devotion! In other words, we could say that Daniel's devotion promulgated another decree in honour to his God. A truly devoted life is an honour and also brings honour to God. No wonder, He will not hesitate to do all He could to elevate such a life and keep it in that elevated position.

The Sons of Zadok and the other Israelite Priests

In the Book of Ezekiel 44:10-19, we read about what God said about the Israelite priests of those days in which they passed through captivity.

And the Levites that are gone away far from me, when Israel went astray, which went astray away from me after their idols; they shall even bear their iniquity. Yet they shall be ministers in my sanctuary, having charge at the gates of the house, and ministering to the house: they shall slay the burnt offering and the sacrifice for the people, and they shall stand before them to minister unto them. Because they ministered unto them before their idols, and caused the house of Israel to fall into iniquity; therefore have I lifted up mine hand against them, saith the Lord GOD, and they shall bear their iniquity. And they shall not come near unto me, to do the office of a priest unto me, nor to come near to any of my holy things, in the most holy place: but they shall bear their shame, and their abominations which they have committed. But I will make them keepers of the charge of the house, for all the service thereof, and for all that shall be done therein. But the priests the Levites, the sons of Zadok, that kept the charge of my sanctuary when the children of Israel went astray from me, they shall come near to me to minister unto me, and they shall stand before me to offer unto me the fat and

the blood, saith the Lord GOD: They shall enter into my sanctuary, and they shall come near to my table, to minister unto me, and they shall keep my charge. And it shall come to pass, that when they enter in at the gates of the inner court, they shall be clothed with linen garments; and no wool shall come upon them, whiles they minister in the gates of the inner court, and within. They shall have linen bonnets upon their heads, and shall have linen breeches upon their loins; they shall not gird themselves with any thing that causeth sweat. And when they go forth into the utter court, even into the utter court to the people, they shall put off their garments wherein they ministered, and lay them in the holy chambers, and they shall put on other garments; and they shall not sanctify the people with their garments. (Ezekiel 44:10-19) KJV

From the above scriptural passage you will observe that the backslidden priests, who went astray after strange gods were to minister at the gates and unto the people. They were not permitted to come closer to God. However, the sons of Zadok, who were also priests that wholly devoted themselves to faithfully serve God even in that state of decadence, were permitted to stand before the Lord and minister unto him in the priestly order as it was originally intended of the priests. Thus, these sons of Zadok were privileged to come close to the Ark of the Covenant and have access to other materials in the sanctuary, including the shewbread. But the other priests were not permitted to have this access. These sons of Zadok were therefore, to have access into the place of refreshing and communion. Thus, they could communicate to the people what they received in their place of communion with God. They were to discharge God's charge to the people. The secret of God was to be found with them. The sayings of God could only be assessed by them. They were the only transmitters and custodians of divine mandate and agenda. They were able to sustain the original intention of God for the priesthood through their uncompromising faithfulness and devotion to God. What a great privilege that the other priests did not have, since they were demoted to serve at the gate and only to the people.

Where is your ministry currently located? Are you sure you are standing before the Lord or only before the people? Are you discharging God's charge or you are just discharging ordinary charge? May God help you to be found in a place where you can really speak for Him unto the people! May you be a conveyor of His charge to the glory of His Name.

I will make them...

The Lord said to Prophet Ezekiel that He was going to make the backslidden priests to serve at the gate and to minister unto the people, as stated earlier. This was a new making from their original ordination (Exodus 28:1, 3, 14, 41; 29:1; 40:15; Jeremiah 33:22; 43:19). They were to be remade, but in a reduced form. Although God was the one to remake them, it was going to be a remaking unto reduction. So there is a making unto elevation and there is a making unto reduction. May you not come to a point with God that He will be fed up with you and conclude that the best He can make you to become is to be in a reduced form.

The other priests were to serve, but not at the utmost place, but at the outermost place, as far as God's sanctuary was concerned. What a reduced form of service! They could appear great at the outermost place, but not really to be found doing their utmost for God. They were not to be found in their place of original ordination and destiny, as it was originally divinely intended. They had an outer life to show, but no inner life to manifest.

There was garment specification for the sons of Zadok, which was not mentioned for the other priests. So those ones may appear with other unspecified garments and still minister to the people. What garment are you putting on as you stand to minister to the people before you? Take note that the priests were not denied the presence of the congregation. Although God was not going to deprive them of the presence of the people, He deprived them of His presence. Though the people were accessible to them, God was not accessible to them. May this disaster not be your portion, in Jesus' Name!

Since the sons of Zadok could get into the inner court, they would be closer to the mercy seat (by virtue of their proximity to the Ark of the Covenant) and have access to the voice of God, in mercy. They thus, had real access to the place of God's mercy.

What these sons of Zadok were to wear in the sanctuary were to be those garments that could not cause sweat. The Lord will elevate you unto the place of sweat-free labour in the Name of Jesus. The mercy of God will subsume your efforts such that the results of your labour will be far more than the labour you've invested, to the glory of God.

The Place of Diligence

At the beginning of this chapter, it was noted that diligence is also of significance in the matter of divine elevation. We will at this point consider this issue. We shall consider it briefly for the purpose of the matter under discussion. Look at what the Word of God says in the Book of Proverbs 22:29:

Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men (KJV)

A man must be diligent in his business in order for him to stand before kings and not mean men. Thus, diligence is a promoter from the mean to the exalted. Exaltation is not really a matter of intelligence, but a matter of diligence. Intelligence is a gift, but diligence is a responsibility. It is possible for a man to be very intelligent, but lazy, while it is possible to be low in intelligence, but hardworking and committed. There is no reward for just being intelligent without working out one's way unto accomplishment; but there is a reward for being diligent in any field of endeavour. There are several intelligent wasters who are not prepared to utilize their intelligence for any meaningful endeavour; while there are some who are not intelligent as such, but have arisen to the height of recognition, as a result their hard work and commitment to responsibility. You can be intelligent and be negligent; but a diligent man is always concerned about his responsibility and ready to work. If you are not ready to work, nothing will work out for you. God is not prepared to fill a vacuum created by laziness and negligence. He is the Rewarder of those that **diligently** seek Him (Heb. 11:6). You can't be diligent and be neglected, but you can be intelligent and yet neglected and abandoned, because of your negligence and laziness. You are as important as your diligence. No serious-minded man will want to employ and keep a lazy man in his organization, except he wants it to run down. There is no promotion for intelligence without diligence. To be devoid of diligence is to be deflated in life. Diligence is the gateway to promotion.

The man from the above verse pointed out that a man should be diligent in **his business...** The man should be able to do **his** business. He is not expected to be involved in another business where he is not called into. There are diversities of work, but each man needs to stay and work where he belongs. Find your business and you will find your upliftment.

That man shall stand before kings and not mean or obscure men. There is nothing wrong in starting with obscure men and in obscurity; but diligence will take a man from obscurity to the limelight. Joseph was in obscurity, but his works spoke for him in Pharaoh's palace. Even the King of kings is seeking for diligent seekers and workers. David was diligent in his work and he was brought before King Saul. The diligence of a man speaks for him even where he is not present. The diligence of a man is his messenger to kings. Your diligence will secure you a seat with kings, as it takes you from obscurity. You can't be diligent and be inefficient. Your diligence will announce you to sit with the renowned. The seat of diligence is the seat unto legendary. In other words, where there is no diligence, then there is no legend.

The Book of Ecclesiastes re-echoed it this way:

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.(Ecclesiastes 9:10) KJV

Don't apply your strength where you are not employed. You will be disappointed in working where you are not appointed. When you find your place of appointment, you will be rewarded unto elevation.

Diligent Hands Shall Bear Rule

The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute. (Proverbs 12:24) KJV

Some other versions render the above verse as follows:

The hand of the ready worker will have authority, but he who is slow in his work will be put to forced work. (BBE)

The hands of the diligent ones shall rule, But laziness ends in slave labor. (WEB)

There is the benefit of capacity to rule bestowed on a diligent worker. God promises such workers the place of rulership. They will be in charge and in authority. Their diligence will earn them the capacity to rule. So authority and ability to rule are attached to diligence. You are only permitted to be in charge by being diligent. You will be discharged from being in charge when you lose your place in diligence. In other words, you will lose your authority when you lose your diligence.

The hand of the diligent shall bear rule, while the hand of the lazy will bear slavery. This implies that the virtue of diligence is a ruling virtue, while laziness ends in servitude. No lazy ruler will command respect to his authority, but a diligent servant can command the respect of even his master. A master who is privileged to have a diligent servant has a ruling servant. He will rule (direct) the affairs of his responsibility and hence, the affairs of the business (or a section of the business) by his diligence. He will command progress and increase in that business. He will also command the recognition of the business through the products of the diligent work of his hands. He will rule over poverty and command prosperity. He will also rule over stagnation and fruitlessness and command fruitfulness and improvement. Joseph's diligence earned him the places of leadership that he experienced; in addition to his faithfulness and uprightness which in turn, kept him in the presence of God.

What role are you playing in the place where you find yourself? Are you playing a ruling role through your diligence or you are playing a role that will end

you up in forced labour? If you don't discipline yourself to labour with diligence you will end up in the place of forced labour. You will be forced to labour if you don't force yourself to labour. So force yourself to be diligent and you will not be forced by another man into it. What you do to yourself will determine what will be left for other men to do to you in terms of placement in life and destiny!

What are you doing now in this stage of your life? What is the intensity of your labour and commitment in the things of God? Diligence will determine your delightfulness. Your diligence will command your elevation in the Name of Jesus.

What Jesus Said about a Faithful, Diligent and Devoted Servant

Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. (Matthew 24:45-47) KJV

Jesus was dealing with the issue of His coming as He was then admonishing the people about the need to be up and doing in the place of their appointment and service. He described a faithful servant who is devoted to his duties with diligence as a wise servant.

The man is made a ruler over his lord's household. He is given ample opportunity and right to handle the affairs of his lord's household as a ruler. Can you see the strong position of a servant of God? The way things would run in that house is to be determined by the ruling servant. He is to pilot the affairs of the house until the return of his master. He is a servant ruler under the master ruler. Whatever role he played in the process of ruling the house would be checked and either rewarded or condemned by the master at his return. His elevation or condemnation will be determined by the verdict of the master at his return.

With the way you are handling the things of God's household, can He commend you at His return or He will rather, condemn you? Will you be eligible for the final and permanent exaltation over there when the role is called up yonder? Don't just labour for earthly and temporary elevation, without being entitled to this final exaltation that will continue unto eternity.

The servant is to provide meat for his lord's household. His master's house should be filled with food made available by this servant. He should be a giver and releaser of food unto the satisfaction of the household. He is not expected to be going about looking for what to receive or get; rather, he should be always interested in the welfare of his master's household.

What are you giving out to your generation? Are you not a poison carrier and a killer of those that are brought under your care? You are there majorly interested

in what they have and not on what you have been given to deliver unto them. You will give an account of this.

It is a blessing for one to continue diligently in this service until the Master returns and finds him doing the job. Take note of the fact that the 'doing' is a continuous issue, until the Master comes and finds you in it.

Progressive Rulership

The Lord said that when the master of that servant arrives back from where he went, he will make him (the servant that is found doing the work as expected) to become ruler over his (the master's) household. The servant is already made ruler immediately after his master's journey. However, there is another making that is going to be bestowed upon him at the return of the master. This is going to cause him to be in charge of the master's entire household. He is going to be made unto elevation, because of how he's found. He is not only going to be of service to the other servants, but he is going to be handed over the things in that house. He is going to have access to the material things in that house. He is then going to become resourceful as he has direct access to the master's resources.

Apart from the Master's final return, He is there looking at you and how you are handling the affairs of His household. Can He confidently consider you for elevation based on what you are doing now? Can He hand over some resources into your hands and be confident that you will handle and use them prudently and in His approved manner? Why God may be afraid of elevating you unto some level of financial increase could be because He is not sure of what will become of you after granting you that privilege. May the Lord help you to overcome this, in Jesus' Name!

CHAPTER 3 BE CLOTHED WITH HUMILITY

But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted. (Matthew 23:11, 12) KJV

This is what the Master Himself said concerning exaltation. He said that the greatest person shall be the servant of others. Service to others is the pathway to one's exaltation. You are not permitted to become a leader if you are not prepared to serve. The other major thing that He spoke about is that one needs humility to be exalted. The place of exaltation is really attained through a life of humility.

The Lord said that whosoever shall humble himself shall be exalted. Thus, humility commands exaltation. It is the base upon which elevation stands. If you are not humble, you will be humiliated; but with humility you will be lifted. Humility is the jack for divine exaltation. You know that a jack is a device that may be small and portable; but in it contains a mechanism for raising very heavy objects that can even carry its owner. By merely looking at this device one would not believe that it could even lift up an object that is one quarter less in weight than the one it is meant for. That is the nature of humility. One who exhibits it may initially look foolish and negligible, but in it is the spiritual mechanism of raising the man in question. God knows how to bring about the exaltation. He knows when to bring it into effect. May you be humble such that you will not be humbled!

It is of importance to note from what Jesus said about self exaltation, that self exaltation attracts abasement. These are two things that a man experiences in his life phases. What you will experience at a later time in your life depends on what you choose to do to yourself as far as these two things are concerned. If you choose to exalt yourself, then God will be left with the second option of abasing you. But if you choose the option of humbling yourself, then you are giving God the other option of exalting you. So humility and exaltation are two positions that a man experiences in life based on his choice. The one you choose for yourself will determine the one that you leave for God to do for you. You have no capacity of placing yourself anywhere, anyhow. You are normally positioned by yourself in one and leave the other position for God to take you there. It is a divine rule for exaltation and abasement. Do you want to be exalted? Then you need to choose the place of humility and stay there. It is then God will step in and take you to the vacant place of exaltation. But if you choose the exalted place through pride and arrogance then you've vacated the humble place for God to place you at His time of His visitation.

Wherever you place yourself, remember that God will visit you. At the time of His visitation, He will only place you where there is vacancy. When you decide

to vacate the exalted place, He will come down to locate you there. So humility is a 'prayer' unto exaltation. God will not take and keep you where you've taken and kept yourself. At His visitation, it is God's responsibility to remove you from where you've placed yourself to locate you at where you have vacated. You can't be in the two positions at the same time. You can occupy one at a time. So it is better to choose a humble place at an earlier stage and end up in an exalted place at a later time. The platform on which you place yourself determines the one that you make available for God to place you. The platform you transport yourself to is your port of entry into the other platform. Make your choice.

Self Righteousness

Jesus gave a parable of two people who went to the place of prayer as stated in the Book of Luke 18:9-14.

And he spake this parable unto certain which trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess. And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. (KJV)

In this parable we observe what the two people did. The Pharisee trusted in himself and despised others. You can see one of the characteristics of proud people. They are so full of themselves and as such, trust themselves more than they trust in God. They forget what the Bible says in the Book of Proverbs 3:5 -7 that:

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. (KJV)

Our trust is expected to always be in the Lord. It is foolishness for one to trust in his wisdom and understanding. The Lord can decide to frustrate it and bring it to nought. Ahithophel can tell you better (2 Samuel 17:1-23).

In the Book of Job 5:12, Eliphaz said:

He disappointeth the devices of the crafty, so that their hands cannot perform their enterprise. (KJV)

If you therefore, trust in yourself and your wisdom more than God, then you must be prepared for disappointment from God. God does not only appoint, but He can also disappoint. He can send the spirit of disappointment to catch up with a self-sufficient man.

In the parable of Jesus, the Pharisee trusted in his righteousness to the point that he began to compare himself with other people. This is one major issue in trusting oneself. It makes one to look around and backward. This Pharisee was making comparison with other men. These other men were really in other classes. He mentioned them as extortioners, unjust, adulterers and even the publican that he saw around. This is a very dangerous issue in the life of a child of God. He didn't mention other religious leaders of those days in his comparison, but he based it only on those he felt that he was better than them. Who made you better than those people if not the grace of God? Did you make yourself what you are today? Why are you bragging about it as if what you are and have was not given to you? When you begin to compare yourself with people with the assertion that you are better than them, you are on your downward journey unto abasement from God.

The Pharisee did not really compare himself with those in his class; but only on those that were considered as sinners. His comparison did not bring any challenge to him, by making him to consider some other people, including some other Pharisees that may even do better than himself. It was never a time of challenge for him as he considered only people that were considered to be of lower degree in religious matters.

I'm not encouraging competition in any form-whether silent or open. But it is advisable to see oneself being challenged by the progress and lifestyle of others. There is no problem in picking challenge through the testimony and success of others. But problem comes when you begin to nurse unhealthy rivalry and hatred against those ones.

This Publican...

The Pharisee came to a point of comparison with a publican that was within his vicinity. He was so narrow-minded and myopic that the next person to compare himself with was one nearby publican. What a short-sighted man he was? What a local champion that he was? He was so localized in the heart and as such thought that he had attained to something reasonable with God, but in the real sense, he had never really started with God. If you are busy comparing and competing with those that are within your locality, then you are going nowhere. Pride and self-exaltation are localizers. If you want to go far in life, then avoid comparison especially with those that have not reached anywhere and those who are not going to anywhere.

Whatever level you've attained in life and whoever you are, there are people either living or already dead that you can pick challenge from their lives. You may not know them. Some of them may not even be famous, but they're quiet generals and commanders in the Lord's army. Even in that your profession, as a career man, bear in mind that there are people of challenge that are there, who you need to learn from them and their lifestyles.

Proud people really have small spaces on their inside that could not accommodate greatness and elevation and so, they feel so contented that they are incompetent of accommodating what God had intended for their lives and ministries. No matter how great a man may look even in the world, God sees his heart to be too small to carry what He intends to do through him and in him when He finds pride in him.

According to the parable, the Pharisee relegated the publican to the background. He looked at him as a negligible material; but he missed it altogether. When you conclude on someone as if nothing good can come out of him, then God may decide to put you to shame by helping the person out of his situation unto a better state. Don't look at anyone with disdain, so that you won't be of hindrance against your journey to the top.

The Lord's Verdict

Jesus said that the publican who prayed in humility and in sincerity went home justified rather than the Pharisee. Despite the religious commitment of the Pharisee, yet he was not justified because of his attitude regarding those religious obligations. What you do for God will only lead to your lifting if the attitude accompanying it is in order. Don't allow your attitude to waste your efforts in the presence of God.

Another Admonition from the Lord

And he put forth a parable to those which were bidden, when he marked how they chose out the chief rooms; saying unto them, When thou art bidden of any man to a wedding, sit not down in the highest room; lest a more honourable man than thou be bidden of him; And he that bade thee and him come and say to thee, Give this man place; and thou begin with shame to take the lowest room. But when thou art bidden, go and sit down in the lowest room; that when he that bade thee cometh, he may say unto thee, Friend, go up higher: then shalt thou have worship in the presence of them that sit at meat with thee. For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted. (Luke 14:7-11) KJV

The issue of humility that the Lord was dealing with from the above scriptural passage is very crucial in dealing with spiritual matters. Since it was a parable, it then means that it was not just an ordinary moral advice that has to do with how one should conduct himself in secular or social functions. There is a spiritual meaning of the parable. Remember that Jesus was normally giving parables in order to relate the things of the Kingdom of God with earthly things.

The Bible says that Jesus marked how people who were invited to a wedding chose the chief (that is, the highest) places in such gatherings. It caught His attention such that He marked their attitudes. He marked them to make them examples to others about the danger and condemnation that is involved in such attitudes. They were marked to become negative examples to those around them. They were not marked for a show of progress and elevation, but for a show of abasement, shame and dishonour. Whatever you are doing, the Lord is looking at you with a mark. What mark are you bearing in the face of the Almighty God? What mark is God showing the world and even the kingdom of darkness concerning you? What is the mark of your life? What is written on your spiritual forehead in the spirit realm? While men may be honouring you in the world could be because they don't see the mark that you are bearing before the Lord in the spirit realm. Men might have earmarked you for something very special because they could not see your spiritual mark. What mark are you bearing on the Lord's platform?

Bidden...

The guests who are to go for the wedding (or feast) are to do so by invitation or bidding. They are not to be there just because they want or wish to be there, but because there is an invitation given to them. So their presence in that wedding is really based on the initiative and authority of the master of the wedding. None of them (no matter how influential he may be in the society) has the right or all it takes to be there. It is rather, a matter of invitation or bidding of the master. This is very crucial for us to take note of. No matter how great and wonderful a man may be, he has no capacity of becoming part of the Kingdom of God, until God's invitation is shown to him in mercy. Your coming into the vineyard of God and to become part of the body of Christ is totally on the revelation of His invitation to you by His mercy. The hand of grace must be extended to you before you can become a bona fide child of the Kingdom. What then do you have to boast about? Is it not foolishness for you to begin to raise shoulders over others, as if your salvation depends on your own human effort? Think about the finished work of the Cross of Calvary, where the price for your redemption was paid by our Saviour and Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

...of any man...

The invitation is an invitation for a wedding organized by a man. It is intended to be done majorly for the pleasure of the host. The pleasure of any of the invitees is of secondary interest. Any position he decides to place any of the invitees is actually meant for the execution of his pleasure. Even the refreshment and donations or offerings that would be made by the guests are intended to be done for the pleasure of the host. The order of activities or items in the programme is drawn to suit the pleasure of the host. The timing and duration of each activity in the occasion is to be handled based on the intentions of the host. The provision for the reception or feeding of the guests and how they should be served should be in tandem with the wishes and desires of this host. What each guest should be served with and where he should be located or sat is expected to please the host. It is his wedding brought about by his bidding.

Can you now imagine how each guest should conduct himself in that wedding? Can you see that none of the guests is expected to do anything that would spoil the day for the host? You should understand from here that your coming into the Kingdom of God is expected to be with thanksgiving and appreciation to God and willingness to do things only unto His pleasure. Even if you are an overseer of a denomination or coordinator of a ministry, all that you are doing there should be in conformity with the will and standard of this Great Host, the Lord Jesus. You are expected to place yourself as low as possible, so that when He visits you and your works in the Kingdom, He can then place you on a seat of elevation. This wedding is not actually yours, but His. So whatever you want to do, you have to make sure that His wishes and desires are your watchword. Be careful so that you won't place yourself where He had not placed you.

...lest a more honourable man...

This is very critical. The Lord Jesus in His wisdom stated the possibility of another more honourable man to come to that wedding. This may not look too serious for you if you consider it on the normal literal ground without deriving any spiritual meaning to it. You should understand that whatever you are doing and whatever position you occupy, it is only granted unto you in mercy. It is also a matter of the grace of God. He chose you, but you did not choose yourself. Moreover, you must be aware that if you misbehave, a more honourable person is there to take over your place. If you place yourself where you are not expected to be, a more honourable man, who can occupy that elevated position, which you are usurping, will show forth. Whenever a man disappoints God, God will replace him with a better man. You are not in that position because you are the best that God has

in His store of human resources, but it is just an election of grace. Behind every 'good' man, there is a better man that God can replace him with.

This is now the strong issue in self exaltation-replacement by a better man. Whenever you exalt yourself, then God will look for a better man to take over your place. The man will take over from you in a more powerful and better way. Are you a preacher with the manifestation of signs and wonders? There is a better man. Are you an apostle or prophet? There is a better man. Are you a general overseer of a Christian denomination or a coordinator of a blossoming ministry? There is better man. So you have no reason to arrogate yourself wherever you find yourself. When King Saul of Israel misbehaved, the Lord sought for a man, that He called "a man after my heart". May you not be due for replacement by another more honourable man! Even if God will use that more honourable man, may he occupy his own seat while you maintain your place in God! May he shine in his own capacity, while you have not lost relevance, in Jesus' Name!

...occupy the lowest room...

Jesus said that you will descend to the lowest rook with shame. This is the result of self exaltation. It brings shame. You may think that your pride and arrogance is helping you; but the truth of the matter is that they are the gateway to shame and dishonour. You cannot carry them along your journey with God and end up in honour and elevation. They contain in them what it takes to bring about dishonour. You can't possess them and avoid shame and dishonour. They remove a man from the place of grace to the place of disgrace.

The most unfortunate and baffling thing that will happen to this man is that he will be left with the option of going to occupy the **lowest** place. Jesus did not say that the man will be placed on the seat where he's really supposed to occupy, but that he is going to occupy the lowest place. The penalty for occupying the exalted place without due permission is to send him to the lowest sit. He is not going to be higher than any other man. This is real disgrace and dishonour. May it not be your portion in Jesus' name!

The man that would take the lowest sit at the initial stage will be honoured among the other guests as he takes the higher place of honour and exaltation. The honour of a man of humility will be seen among his colleagues. In fact, even those that may be higher than him at the time being, will still honour him, because they see the hand of God upon him. His honour is not going to be among those that are outside the wedding. This should be strongly noted. Those outside the wedding hall may not be able to see your honour as such, but those that are invited to the wedding will know your worth and honour you. Those out there have no place and are not really in the place to appreciate what God is doing in your life, but those inside will appreciate it. Even when you are so elevated to the point of doing some tangible

things for God, the world may not appreciate your work in the Kingdom, until they begin to see some great physical things that the Lord is doing through you. Even with that, their perspective of honouring you will be more or less, political and purely secular. They could only honour you because of the benefit the society or community is deriving from you. They will not honour you because of your real walk and relationship with God. They will only honour you for your outward greatness which is just the offshoots of your inner greatness with God. May you not be satisfied with an outward honour that is devoid of God's honour and placement for your life! May men not value you beyond the way God values you! May your honour not be located in the world than in the Church and among the brethren!

Since the elevation of the humble man was by the host, no one in that hall can bring him down. May that be your portion in Jesus' Name! You will be granted an elevation that can never be reversed by any enemy in the Name of Jesus Christ.

What Peter and James Said About Humility

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. (James 4:6) KJV

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble. (1 Peter 5:5) KJV

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up. (James 4:10) KJV

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: (1 Peter 5:6) KJV

From the first two verses above, the two apostles said that God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble. So grace is a fringe benefit enjoyed by the humble. As such, the more the humility of a man, the more the supply of grace upon his life. There is grace made available unto all men unto salvation. However, there is more grace that is made available majorly on the platform of humility. So the ground upon which more grace is released and thrives is the platform of humility. The more the humility you exhibit, the more the measure of grace you command.

Both apostles affirmed that God resists the proud. This is a very fearful aspect of being proud. When the devil and fellow human beings resist a man, God can deliver him; but who can deliver a man from God's own resistance?

In the last two verses, the apostles affirmed that by humbling oneself, God will be caused to exalt or lift a man up. This had been earlier emphasized in this chapter. So there is no need to deal with it at this point.

The only aspect I'll emphasize a bit from here is the way Apostle Peter stated his own affirmation. He said "*Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God...*" A man of humility does so under the mighty hand of God. The humility is done under the mighty hand of God. It is not done away from the presence of God. The initial dealings of the hand over the man may appear to be too heavy for him; but that is where his incubation unto might and capacity to bear that hand of God will emanate. When you are brought up from under the mighty hand of God, you will be identified with that hand.

The mighty hand under which a man humbles himself has the capacity of keeping him from becoming a victim of the forces of darkness. As the hand trains him, it will also keep him. The hand does not kill a humble man, but it deals terribly with a proud man. It makes a humble man but mars a proud man.

When a man subjects himself under the mighty hand of God in humility, the same hand will raise him up. The man will be upheld by the same mighty hand (Isaiah 42:1). Whatever he bears will be on the platform of the hand and in the control and guidance of the hand. God's platform of exaltation is the platform of which his hand upholds His servants. They are solely dependent on Him as the Doer of whatever they do. They don't struggle much over issues, but direct them to the mighty and able hand of God. The efforts of such ones are really taken up by the hand that upholds them. That hand does not uphold a man without lifting him up. Due to the fact that you are operating on top of that hand, you will be operating over the issues of life. Your ministration will also be coming from above. You will not only be lifted up, but you will also stand to be established in strength and might.

An Example of Jesus

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:5-11 KJV)

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) KJV

This is the description of how Jesus was able to accomplish His work of redemption on the Cross of Calvary and the response of God to it. He made Himself of no reputation. He emptied Himself (NIV). What He made Himself determined what God the Father made Him. The Father did not make Him what He had already made Himself. May you choose the right thing to make yourself! He placed Himself on the platform of emptiness and zero reputation and the Father had no option than to fill Him with the Godhead bodily (Colossians 2:9). After making Himself of no reputation, the Father gave Him the highest and greatest name that is above all other names. He was lowly in heart and as such, He was highly exalted. He was so lowly in heart that He accepted to go into the depths of the grave and as such, was exalted unto the heights of the heavens. He ascended unto the highest heaven. The depth of your humility determines the height of your exaltation.

He humbled himself, and became obedient... This is very crucial to note. The Bible does not say that He humbled Himself and was obedient. Rather it says that He humbled Himself and **became** obedient. His obedience was a reflection of His humility. He was not obedient and became humble; rather, it was the other way round. May God grant you understanding! Thus, your level of humility determines your level of obedience. You are as obedient as your humility. You cannot be proud and be obedient; instead, you will be disobedient. Those who are humble don't have problem with obedience. You can't be empty of humility and be full of obedience. Bankruptcy in humility begets bankruptcy in obedience. The platform of humility is the fertile ground for obedience. Also, the lesser your humility the lesser will be the nature and content of Jesus in you.

Humility as Requirement for Honour

The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility. (Proverbs 15:33) KJV

Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility. (Proverbs 18:12) KJV

By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life. (Proverbs 22:4)

These three verses confirm that humility is the leading virtue for honour. Any ground where humility cannot tread upon, is not entitled to the honour of God.

It is therefore, my prayer that you'll be clothed with humility so as to be entitled to His exaltation and honour, to the glory of His Name.

CHAPTER 4 REVELATION AND ACCESS TO GOD'S VOICE

For one to experience elevation, his access to the voice of God is of utmost importance. You can never grow in God beyond the level you can access His voice. Access to God's voice and revelation which comes from Him to a man are divine tools for his exaltation and increase. All through the Scripture, no man had ever been useful and elevated by the Lord without accessing His voice in revelation. Some revelations may not be accompanied with clear and audible voices, but still convey certain crucial messages by being understood by the man in question. If you hear no voice (either audible or inaudible), then you'll have no real voice. The voice of God is His agent of lifting. Let us consider this in the light of the Scripture:

Abraham's Call

In the Book of Genesis Chapter 12, we see how Abraham responded to the call of God to leave his land of origin to a land that would be shown to him in the process of his movement towards it.

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed. So Abram departed, as the LORD had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran. And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came. And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land. And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land: and there builded he an altar unto the LORD, who appeared unto him. And he removed from thence unto a mountain on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, having Bethel on the west, and Hai on the east: and there he builded an altar unto the LORD, and called upon the name of the LORD. (Genesis 12:1-8) KJV

The Lord spoke to Abraham in clear terms by telling him to leave his land of origin to another land, but it is clear that he started moving in accordance to that instruction after his father's death. It was a voice for a risky task. He was going to

begin to engage in a movement that looks very risky, ridiculous and crazy. God's servant, Bishop David Abioye, rightly said "if you detest the ridiculous, forget [about] the miraculous". It was his obedience to this call and instruction that would usher Abraham into the realm of exaltation and greatness intended of him by the Lord. God's intentions are locked up in His instructions. If you hate God's instructions, then you indirectly hate your elevation. His instructions are His raw materials for exaltation.

Necessity of Altars

In the process of that journey, Abraham got to the plains of Moreh and there the Lord appeared to him and spoke to him about how he would bless and make him great. In response to this, Abraham built an altar unto the Lord that appeared unto him. He did not allow that revelation to go just like that. He concretized the covenant made to him in that revelation by building an altar unto the Lord who appeared unto him. He would normally contact that altar in remembrance of what the Lord spoke in revelation. It was an altar of remembrance, commitment and rekindling of the fire necessary to push him forward in the matters surrounding the covenant.

What had the Lord said or revealed unto you? You need to build an altar concerning it. You need to make sure that what He revealed or spoke to you is always before your spiritual eyes. You must not just dump it on the floor of carelessness, so that you won't be like a dog unto which a pearl is cast. Elevation is not for 'dogs' that are so careless and have no space in their hearts and secret places for divine dealings. Build an altar to put Him into remembrance and His promise to you will surely come to pass. Too many destinies had been frustrated simply because the people concerned had no altar of remembrance and commitment to the direction provided by the revelation.

On his arrival to Bethel, Abraham built another altar to call upon the name of the Lord. As he was moving from one location to the other, he was building altars. When he stopped building altars, he started going down to Egypt (verse 10 of the same chapter). Can you see why some destinies end up at the downward trend and lose their place of elevation? When altars are either not built or abandoned, then a downward journey will emerge. You may be moving anyway, but the truth of the matter is that the movement is a downward movement. That shall not be your portion in Jesus' Name

Revelation unto Babes

Although revelation is a divine privilege granted to a man by the mercy of God, the kind of heart the man has is also vital in receiving the revelation. Let us consider what the Lord Jesus said about this:

In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight. (Luke 10:21) KJV

The people regarded to as babes from this verse were not just little kids. They were His disciples that He called from one time to the other and from one place to the other. Many of them were neither knowledgeable nor influential. Most of them were not great in society in those days. They were metaphorically described as babes by the Lord Jesus. Jesus rejoiced in spirit for the fact that the Lord chose to reveal some issues of His Kingdom to these ‘babes’. He rejoiced as a result of the fact that the matters of the Kingdom were revealed to those ‘babes’. He did not rejoice because of their exploits in that mission of the moment, but because of the revelation that was granted to them at that moment. In fact, He discouraged them from rejoicing for their exploits, but to rejoice that their names were written in the Book of life.

And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven. (Luke 10:17-20) KJV

The motivating factor for Jesus’ joy at that time was not based on the miracles that those disciples performed, but in the revelation granted them as stated earlier. He even saw Satan falling from heaven, but did not base His rejoicing in that, but on their revelation about the Kingdom. What they did was the product of their revelation. What would grant them entry into the Kingdom of God was not the exploits, but their revelation. The ability of the twelve disciples to ascend twelve thrones to judge the twelve tribes of Israel was based on this revelation (Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:30). Heaven rejoices when there is revelation; through which a man in turn, attains elevation.

Just like babies are very confident and dependent of their parents, that is how the heart of a man of revelation should be lest he becomes a waster of divine counsel, which could usher him unto the realm of divine elevation. Those who are too calculative and methodical are not good candidates and handlers of divine revelation. The instructions are most often contrary to human wisdom. I pray

therefore, that your human wisdom and understanding will not rob you of divine elevation, through your lack of revelation.

Those who would experience divine elevation should also make God's Word the rejoicing of their hearts.

The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. (Psalm 19:8) KJV

Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart. (Psalm 119:111) KJV

The psalmist so cherished the Word of God that he called it his heritage and the rejoicing of his heart. Before the end of this chapter, we will understand that joy which emanates from a man's revelation results in his elevation. May you experience the joy of revelation unto your elevation, in Jesus' Name!

For Joy...

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field. (Matthew 13:44) KJV

Jesus likened the Kingdom of God to a treasure hid in a field. The treasure is said to be **hid** in a field. The Kingdom of God and all that have to do with it are hidden. Thus, they cannot be accessed without proper search, seeking and exploring. They are too precious to be kept in the open; they are rather kept in a secret and hidden place. They are too valuable to be open unto destruction, carelessness and wastefulness. The treasure is hidden in a **field**. It is thus, hid in the field waiting for a time to be explored and worked upon. It is hidden in a field of labour and responsibility. It is hid in the field of serious engagement and pursuit. It is also hid in the field of devotion, commitment discipline and patience. It is worked out by faith and hope. This field involves both devotion and denial. It involves serious abstinence from some comfort in order to apply the required effort. Working in this field may cause one to look foolish before those who cannot see what he sees, but the one concerned will need to overcome every form of distraction,

The treasure needs to be **found**. It needs to be found before the man can even do any reasonable thing to get it. The treasure therefore, needs revelation for it to be accessed by any man. It is not until any matter of the Kingdom is revealed to a man that he can work and walk in it. Whatever a man is with God is the

product of his personal revelation in that dimension. Adam was placed in the Garden of Eden to fellowship and relate (i.e. walk) with God and to work for Him.

The treasures of the Kingdom are only enjoyed by revelation. It is this revelation that is the bedrock of a man's faith. Faith is baseless without revelation. A finding is the beginning of a particular dimension of Kingdom life for any man. You are as great as your revelation. You cannot step into any dimension of Kingdom life without a commensurate revelation unto it. Your revelation determines your realm. You are not permitted to move away from your present realm without a revelation unto a new one. Your revelation is your realm activator. You are only permitted to walk in the realm that you are able to see by revelation. God told Abraham that he would give him the land of Canaan as far as he can see. How you sound is determined by what you've found. If you sound dull then you are dull in your revelation; and when you sound sharp and strong, it also depends on your revelation. You are as real as your revelation. If you can only operate in the realm of flesh and blood, then your revelation is only in the realm of flesh and blood. But when the Spirit reveals something to you, you will begin to walk in the spirit realm. In fact, you are as spiritual as your revelation.

Jesus said that the man **hideth** (hides) it. The man decides to hide the treasure. It is hidden in earthen vessels. It is hidden in the heart of the recipient or else it will have no impact or effect whatsoever. It is so precious that the owner hides it and at the same time the recipient has to hide it, if it must be of any reasonable use to him. It must be found at the centre of the man's heart. It must be guarded jealously. It must be hidden through meditation and prayers. It must be hidden with the fear of the Lord and with the consciousness of accountability. It must also be hidden through honesty, patience and understanding. You must hide it against every form of trial and temptation.

Since it is hidden, it becomes the secret of the man in question. It is the word you keep that can keep you. You are not permitted to be a carrier and product of divine secrets, until you hide them. Any mystery that is revealed grants man mastery in the affairs of life. However, a revelation that is not kept (may be through a man's carelessness) will never keep him. So it is not only revelation that can change a man, but there is also the need for his ability to keep it focused with the eyes of his spirit. Thus, whatever touches your revelation touches your destiny.

The Lord said "...for **joy** therefore **goeth** ... and **buyeth** that field". When a thing of the Kingdom (salvation and others) is revealed, it introduces some level of joy in a man. Revelation is the springing point of a man's joy in the spirit. To be bankrupt of revelation is to be bankrupt of joy as earlier mentioned. Since revelation comes with light, it comes with joy. Thus, when revelation comes, joy comes. Revelation turns mourning into the joy of the morning. The level of your joy is determined by the level of your revelation. People with revelation are really

people of joy. Revelation is the conveyor of joy. Do you need joy to spring forth in your life over your current situation? Then you really need revelation. No matter the responsibility attached to a revelation, the joy conveyed by it, swallows the feeling of the sacrifice and tediousness involved in the responsibility.

Revelation also causes a man to be on the go. It is an action provoker. A man devoid of certain actions is devoid of the revelation involved in that direction. To lack revelation is to be dormant in pursuit. The distance you can go is determined by your revelation. To be devoid of revelation is to be distanced from destiny. You are as active as your revelation.

That joy goes along with passion. Thus, your passion is determined by your revelation. You cannot have passion for anything until revelation comes to you about it. Passion for carnal things results from carnal revelation (understanding); while passion for spiritual things results from spiritual revelation.

Jesus stated that the treasure is **bought** by the man. It is not just gotten anyhow or collected anyhow, but it is being bought. Treasures of the Kingdom are normally bought. They are bought by sacrificial obedience, self-denial and commitment. The medium of this buying is not money. It is not of any earthly currency. The currency for this exchange is the life of the man himself. Once the totality of the man is yielded and surrendered to God, he can 'buy' all that the treasure has is stock for him. When you are sold out for the gospel, the treasures of the Kingdom will be sold over to you. Your purchasing power is the level at which you are sold out. If you deny all for the Kingdom, it will release all to you in return. What you hold back will keep you back from accessing the treasures of the Kingdom. You cannot hold back your finances, for instance, and be begging God for finances. What you withhold will deny you of being upheld by God. What you withhold will cause God to withhold His treasures from you. Why do you want God to release His treasures without your being ready to release yours? It is an error for one to reap where he had not sown. In short, what you withhold will hold you back.

The man sold all that he possessed. Since the man himself was sold out, all that he had (i.e. his possession) was sold out. When you sell out yourself and your possession, you will have a story to tell about your past as you move to a new level of exaltation. You can't sell out and not sail through. Your selling determines your sailing. How you scale unto higher heights is determined by your 'sales' at lower levels. How are you selling your time, resources, efforts... for the treasures of the Kingdom of God? Jesus 'sold' His glory and position in heaven for the joy that was set before Him. He was then given a name that is higher above every other name.

Looking unto Jesus

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. (Hebrews 12:2) KJV

How Jesus handled His death on the Cross of Calvary is clearly stated in this verse. He despised the shame associated with the death of the Cross. He treated that shame with contempt. It was as if shame was no longer shame. Shame lost its power and grip on Him. He treated it with utter disregard because of the joy that was set before Him. That joy was so clear to Him that the perception and consciousness of shame disappeared from Him. That joy was the joy of His imminent exaltation in the heavenly places. It was the joy of His enthronement over all principalities and powers. He saw it by virtue of His relationship with the Father as it was clearly revealed to Him. That joy was so strong before His eyes that shame was really put to shame. Shame was so mesmerized and therefore, had no option, but to be dissolved before Him. What a wonderful power derived by joy. So the joy derived by one's revelation is an antidote to fear and any form of shame.

This is an indication that the joy derived from the revelation of a man can cause him to do anything, no matter how hard and painful it could be to a natural man. While others may be wondering why he does such things with ease, he will see himself doing it as a normal thing without any show of regret and complain. Whatever you find to be too difficult for you to do for God is majorly because you have no real revelation concerning it; and as such, you will lose the exaltation derivable from it.

Jesus endured the cross because of the joy that was set before Him. This is therefore, an indication that the joy derived from revelation produces endurance. Any adverse condition that cannot be endured by a man is simply because the joy of the revelation of what that situation can terminate in is not available to that man. The fact that you cannot endure a situation placed on your way to elevation as a prerequisite for the exaltation does not mean that it is impossible to be endured. You only need a revelation that will produce the joy that is necessary to overcome the situation. You will overcome your hindrance to exaltation as the Lord grants you revelation and the joy resulting from it, in Jesus' Name.

This revelation can be granted to a man through vision, trances, dreams and other forms of divine encounter. However, the revelations obtained through these media are never superior to the revelation received from the Word of God. In fact, the most authentic way of hearing from God is through the written Word. Every verse of Scripture pictures God's intention for man's future and is a conveyor of His voice. In short, every verse of Scripture is backed up by the voice of God. It

therefore, means that what it would take for one to be elevated is embedded in the Scripture waiting for a time of revelation unto its manifestation. Are you desirous of elevation in life and ministry? Then study God's Word with keen interest and it will grant you honour and exaltation through the revelation that would spring from its lighting. Remember that the Word of God is light (Psalm 119:105; John 1:1-5). May light spring unto you as you read the Scripture!

There is nothing as powerful and forceful as the voice of God. The Book of Psalm 29:3-9 says that:

The voice of the LORD is upon the waters: the God of glory thundereth: the LORD is upon many waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. The voice of the LORD breaketh the cedars; yea, the LORD breaketh the cedars of Lebanon. He maketh them also to skip like a calf; Lebanon and Sirion like a young unicorn. The voice of the LORD divideth the flames of fire. The voice of the His mercy, in Jesus' Name! LORD shaketh the wilderness; the LORD shaketh the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the LORD maketh the hinds to calve, and discovereth the forests: and in his temple doth every one speak of his glory. (KJV)

You can understand from the above scriptural verses that there is no situation that the Word of God cannot handle. The waters, the wilderness, the heavens and all other creatures of the universe are subject to this Voice. Therefore, what you need for any tangible change unto elevation is the Voice of God. May you access that voice by His mercy, in Jesus' Name!

CHAPTER 5 FRUITFULNESS THROUGH MASTERY

Mastery and fruitfulness are two indispensable virtues that cannot be ignored in the school of divine elevation and destiny. It is not the will of God for one to remain a novice in his area of calling. He is strongly interested in the growth and development of such a one in that area of calling. Every genuine employer has provision for elevation through the improvement of his staff. No organization expects its workers to remain stagnant, both in knowledge and experience. It is the joy of every employer to see the improvement and fruitfulness of his employee. Since God is interested in your growth and development, He is also available to aid you in these. His grace is available to cause these to happen in your life.

Grow in Grace

Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen. (2 Peter 3:17, 18) KJV

Peter wrote to the brethren of those days and hence, to the entire Church, that they should grow in the grace and in the knowledge of the Saviour Jesus Christ. He saw the possibility of one to fall from his steadfastness in the Lord. So in order to forestall this fall, he warned the believers of the need to beware of the error of the wicked. Once this fall is forestalled and averted, there is the possibility of growth.

So, one of the strong enemies of our spiritual fruitfulness is a fall into error. This error is very subtle and may even look okay at the initial stage, but it will kill and destroy one's position with God. Your real place of calling may not look very great and flamboyant at the initial stage, but if you remain there in faithfulness and commitment, you will grow. Don't go for something flashy and seemingly promising brought about by any other person (including some other co-workers), as long as it is not part of your calling, lest you fall into error and lose your place in destiny and exaltation.

Since Apostle Peter admonished the believers to grow in grace, it means that this growth is the responsibility of the individual concerned. The capacity to grow may be there, but it needs to be utilized by the individual. It is this growth that results in one's mastery unto fruitfulness. You need to grow in order to glow in glory.

Where to Stay and Grow

The Lord Jesus gave us a clear illustration of where to stay and grow unto fruitfulness. He said this in the Book of John 15:1-7:

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. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. (KJV)

Jesus the true vine stated clearly that we are His branches. We are therefore, expected to bear fruits that will show that we are connected to Him. If we abide in Christ and His word abides in us, then we are sure of fruitfulness. Thus, our attachment to Him and our ability to keep His word in our hearts are the objects of our fruitfulness in Him. There is nothing tangible we can do for Him without His abiding presence in our lives.

Let's move further into the issue of mastery by discussing how David was brought to King Saul when he (Saul) was tormented by an evil spirit:

So Saul said to his servants, "Provide me now a man who can play well, and bring him to me." Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him. Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which is with the sheep. And Jesse took an ass laden with bread, and a bottle of wine, and a kid, and sent them by David his son unto Saul. And David came to Saul, and stood before him: and he loved him greatly; and he became his armourbearer. And Saul sent to Jessef his saying, Let David, I pray thee, stand before me; for he hath found favour in my sight. (1 Samuel 16:17-22) KJV

So Saul said to his servants, "Provide for me a man who can play well, and bring him to me." One of the young men answered, "Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skilful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence; and the LORD is with him." Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, "Send me David your son, who is with the sheep." And Jesse took an ass laden with bread, and a skin of wine and a kid, and sent them by David his son to Saul. And David came to Saul, and entered his service. And Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer. And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Let David remain in my service, for he has found favor in my sight." (RSV)

At the suggestion of his servants in order to help him out of the torment of the evil spirit, Saul asked his servants to look for a man that can **play well**. The phrase ‘play well’ is used in both translations above. The king was not only looking for a man that can play, but for a man that can play well. There could be many of such players, but the king was not looking for an anyhow player, but one that can do it well. He felt that he would feel alright and regain his right mind provided there was a man that can play well. You will do well in life if you can settle down and do your job well. You are not permitted to have the privilege of moving well from level to level and from height to height if you are not prepared to handle initial levels and assignments well. You will move well if you do your work well. There must have been several of such players in the days of David, but Saul would only accommodate the one that can play well.

How are you handling those your initial responsibilities and talents that are inherent in you? Are you handling them well or anyhow? If you handle what you have anyhow, you will also live anyhow and without progress. It is also anyhow people that you could have access to. The way the players were playing their instruments was to determine who among them was going to be privileged to be ushered into the presence of the king. You will wonder what the other players of those days will be saying after David was chosen to go to the king. No matter how envious any of them became, there was nothing he could do about David’s introduction at the palace. If you do well in your initial place of assignment you will step into a palace of elevation. So the platform of elevation is accessed by those who do their job well. If you are thorough you will scale through with time. However, if you handle your work shabbily you will remain shallow.

The choice of a player that played well was not advertised for all players in the land of Israel to apply for. That selection was to be done based on past and present credentials of the player. He must have been doing it and have continued to

do it and was known for it. This is challenging. Your consistency in doing things well will speak well of you. Since there was no place for those musicians to apply, the only thing that could earn one's access to this privilege was for him to be seen by a mandated servant. It is one thing to play well and it is another thing to be seen by the right and mandated person(s). When your right agent of elevation is able to identify you, your journey unto exaltation had begun.

Remember that these servants were not the very king, but they had access to him. They only had capacity to usher a man to the palace, but had no capacity of posting the man to any position of responsibility. Thank God for that servant that quickly opened up in this matter concerning David. He knew and acknowledged what David had and was not in any way going to hinder his manifestation in this dimension. True servants are not the type that would become a wall of defence for their leaders, thereby blocking them from having access to those they may need to see as occasion and destiny may demand. There are people that God may bring on their way both for them (the leaders) to help them (the visitors) unto elevation and also for them (the visitors) to be of help to the leaders. Although there could be need to exercise caution in allowing people to get close to those leaders for security purposes, it should be done with sensitivity and prayerfulness so that such 'ushers' will not frustrate some of God's purposes. Some of such 'ushers' could even go as far as to tell a lie against a leader in the name of securing him. How can you say **"the man of God is too busy now and he says that he cannot attend to anybody now, so everybody should go, till further notice"**. Some may say **"the man is having his rest now because he had been engaged in a week long programme"**. Meanwhile the man of God is probably taking his meal in the office after which he'll relax for about four hours chatting with a co-minister who came to visit him just for the purpose of seeing the numerical size of his church. May you not be an agent of frustration against God's intention for anybody, in Jesus' Name!

The king was also looking for a man with ability and that is why he categorically said that they should provide a man that **can** play well. It was not a matter of one who **will** play, but a matter of one who **can** play well. The man should not be the one that just developed the interest to play well on emergency, but should have had that ability developed in him. His willingness should have generated ability in him. He should be a man that can display that ability at every point in time. Situations and circumstances should not be the driving force for the display of his talent or gift. It must have been nurtured to the point that the man can display it with ease and spontaneity.

What is that thing that is deposited on your inside? Have you developed it to the point that even if you are doing it by the grace of God, men can identify you with the ability to do it? You need to nurture whatever is deposited in you before you can be repositioned unto elevation. Are you a singer? Work on your ability to

sing well. Are you a teacher of the Word of God? Sit down and study so that you can teach well? Are you an apostle, prophet, pastor, evangelist...? Settle down and be up and doing so that you can do it well. To every assignment, there is always a place for improvement in the presence of God at any point in time. Do it until you are known to possess the ability to do it. Learn to do it well and it will lift you high to the glory of God.

The Place of Skilfulness

After the king gave them the order to look for a man that can play well, they knew that they were going for skill. They were going for expertise. The musician or player should not only have the energy to do it, but he should also have the strategy. He should have the strategy and know all the intricacies involved in the work. He should not be a novice. There is no serious office for a novice. You can't expect elevation while you remain as a novice; otherwise, it will become an abuse of office. You should develop yourself in the work and in the presence of God, until you become skilful and specialized in the work. The more your skill the higher your elevation will become. You either become skilled in your place of calling or you reduce and kill your calling. If you are dormant you will not dominate. What are you doing about your calling? This skilfulness is actually a show of mastery in any field of human endeavour. In the school of divine exaltation, mastery is very important and this is what David was observed to display before that day. In every area of calling, mastery is the tool for choice unto placement.

In the Book of 1 Chronicles 15:22, you'll also see the account of a man by name Chenaniah. It reads thus:

And Chenaniah, chief of the Levites, was for song: he instructed about the song, because he was skilful. (1 Chronicles 15:22) KJV

He became the chief of the Levites who became an instructor in songs, because he was skilful in it. He did not attain that position of an instructor anyhow, but through his skilfulness. He became the one that others would depend on in terms of leadership and direction in that aspect of ministry in the land not just because he was anointed or appointed for it, but because he was skilful. His skilfulness set him above others to the point that they had to depend and wait upon him for instruction. He developed mastery in that field and so he became a chief among the people and an instructor. He did not become the instructor of other singers as a result of his age and experience, but he did so through his skilfulness, he pursued skill and was promoted in the school of divine exaltation. You cannot be skilled in your area of calling or specialization and become frustrated. In fact, you cannot be dumped in the dungeon of neglect when you are skilled in your talent or gift. Skilfulness is a ladder and a lifter of a gifted man.

Let us consider something on the issue of mastery before we come back to conclude about David's ushering into Saul's palace.

Remain in Your Calling

Let each one remain in the same calling in which he was called. (1 Corinthians 7:20) NKJV

This is very crucial. Not until you identify your calling and stay in it, you can never develop skilfulness and mastery in that calling. You can't be in every area in life. You are called to stay in that calling and develop mastery and specialization in it. You are called to specialize. You can't do anything special without having an area of specialization. Being special is inherent, but to specialize is nurtured and deliberately developed by staying where you are called to work. Developers of potentials do so by deliberate actions over those potentials. What becomes of the development of your potential depends on the attitude you develop over it. You will become the product of the work you do upon your potential. Stay where you are called and you will become a star. You cannot be a star where you have not stayed. Your stardom is in your staying. There is nothing like overstaying. The more you stay the more it pays. There is nothing better for you elsewhere than where you belong. Stay where you belong and you will get what you are longing for.

Stay in the calling in which you are called. There are various callings in which several people are called into; but you are expected to stay in the one in which you are called, if you must receive increase and elevation. You can enter into a calling, but the question is that; is it the one you are really called into? There is no reward for you when you are in a calling wherein you are not called. You can never gain mastery whatsoever, if you are not called into that work. You can at best end up as a good worker, but never a master or professional in that calling. Mastery is only accessible to a man who stays in his calling. You are never a candidate of mastery until you learn how to stay in that calling with discipline and seriousness. Your learning will generate your earning if you stay where you belong.

Let's get back to David's introduction into Saul's palace:

His Identity before Saul

One of Saul's servants identified David as one of the sons of Jesse. His name was so inconsequential that the only way to identify him was through his father's name. He had no real identity as at then, but his skill was identified. His skill was going to unveil his identity. You can imagine Saul asking him of his name only after he got into his palace. This was just going to be for him to be calling him as

occasion may demand. Although the servant was not initially interested in knowing his name, but his potential and talent was going to bring out the name before the king. Don't struggle for your name to be known; rather, do something that is worth knowing.

Other Credentials

In verse 18 of the Book of 1 Samuel Chapter 16, one of Saul's servants said that he had seen a son of Jesse

...cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him. (KJV)

...skilful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence; and the LORD is with him." (RSV)

The only requirement that the king needed as at that moment to meet up with his need, by calming him down from the torment of the evil spirits was the first virtue-skilful play. However, the servant of Saul identified other virtues and qualities in him. He was a mighty man of valour who was a real warrior. He was also prudent when dealing with matters. Thus, he was a man of wisdom, who speaks in wisdom in the process of handling matters. He was also having a comfortable and goodly quality that could attract other people towards him. Most importantly, he was a carrier of the presence of God-the Lord was with him. This is wonderful! David was not a cheap commodity. Rather, he built up himself in the secret place with these virtues, which the king could not ignore.

Why are we considering all these virtues in the first place? If you give a close consideration to these qualities, you'll discover that David really needed them, not only for his assignment in Saul's palace, but also for his future elevation as the king of Israel. He was going to engage so many nations in warfare. He was going to engage in up to sixty six battles, without losing any. He needed wisdom/prudence to rule the tribe of Judah and the entire nation of Israel. He had to be accommodative as a great leader of an entire nation. To cap it up, he needed the presence of God, so that his presence will convey God's presence in the entire nation. God had begun to grant him these qualities ahead of his ascension unto the throne of leadership in Israel.

Apart from the issue of skilfulness you need other qualities to enable you stand out in your calling. These ones will cause the star of your skill to shine brightly. Some of these qualities may be a bit of some administrative and intellectual skill, as the case may be. Your interaction with people should be in order. You should not be a disappointment to those that will come across your way. You should be ***a man of good presence***. Although some people coming around you may not fill comfortable to be with you because of your standard of life, but the truth of the matter is that you should be of high moral standard.

However, as at that time, Saul employed him into the palace only as a player of musical instrument. It was a time of little beginning for him, but God saw that it was his pathway to the throne.

Therefore...

Wherefore Saul sent messengers unto Jesse, and said, Send me David thy son, which is with the sheep. (Verse 19) KJV

Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse, and said, "Send me David your son, who is with the sheep." (Verse 19) RSV

When Saul heard all these, he ordered that David should be brought to him from where he was taking care of his father's sheep. It was what Saul heard about him that sent him into the palace. Saul heard about his standard and sent for him. You need to have a standard in order for you to stand out. It is the level of your standard that determines how you can stand out. In a nut shell, you can't stand out without a standard. He (David) was then provided with an opportunity to display what he could play. It was an opportunity for him to use what he had received from God in mercy. It was a time to display the grace of God upon his life. When grace coincides with divine providence, evidences will result. Grace that lacks opportunity to be displayed will decay. The grace of God upon your life will meet with the opportunity to manifest, in Jesus' Name.

What you do in your place of calling will take you to the palace. That is to say; it is what you do in your place of calling that will determine whether you are a candidate for the palace. There will be a 'therefore' of recognition for you, in the Name of Jesus. What you have been doing before and had not been recognised will be recognised henceforth, in Jesus' Name. May you receive an opportunity for your manifestation and elevation, to the glory of God!

David ended up at that space of time, being loved by King Saul to the point that he (King Saul) even made him (David) his armour bearer. This is divine. It was a step forward towards his exaltation.

Gaining Mastery

The Book of 1 Corinthians 9:25-27 has this to say about mastery in one's calling and responsibility:

And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: But I keep under my body, and bring it

into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway. (KJV)

Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. Well, I do not run aimlessly, I do not box as one beating the air; but I pommel my body and subdue it, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. (RSV)

Apostle Paul clearly stated that anyone who would strive for mastery, both in the secular and in the sacred, must be temperate. The word ‘temperate’ in the King James Version is rendered as ‘self-control’ in the Revised Standard Version. Other versions, such as Bible in Basic English and the World English Bible, render the same word as ‘self-control’. So it is very important for every candidate of mastery to display the quality of self-control or being temperate. It is this virtue of self-control that will cause him to be reasonably dedicated to his calling. He will be able to control his excesses. He will not allow any form of indiscipline to rob him of his mastery unto elevation. He will bring his body under subjection to the will of his heart, in order to meet up with a particular goal for a particular period and season. It is the spirit of self-control that will enable him to pay the price required for the prize of his calling.

If you are not temperate, you will not meet up with the template of your destiny and elevation. You need to be temperate to operate successfully. Your body must be fully prepared for this exaltation through mastery, so that you won’t fall at the time of your exaltation. Can you imagine an athlete challenging you on how to handle the call of God upon your life through his attitude of self-control in secular sport? How can you become a master over what you do without gaining mastery over yourself? You need training for your reigning. You need days and nights for your training unto mastery. You need abstinence to obtain exaltation. You need self-denial to be in demand.

Where is your discipline in this matter? If you are a singer, where is your training on how to handle your voice and control the praise and worship session? Where is your place in terms of prayer as you prepare for your ministrations? No wonder, there is no impact in your songs and you have become a mere entertainer. As a musician and instrumentalist, where is your training in these instruments? Why do you just wake up to mount up on the key board, drum set... without proper training? How can you raise your head over others while you don’t braze up in the place of training? As a preacher, where is your place in planning and studying the Word of God ahead of your preaching ministrations? Is it not when you are about to engage in a preaching ministration that you begin to make an emergency preparation as you contact your concordances, Bible dictionaries, ipads and other

materials, both manual and electronic? You are never prepared for the top with this attitude. The Bible which is supposed to be your daily companion had been reduced to only a reference material as you contact it when you are engaged in one research or the other; although you attach spirituality in what you are doing. You are deceiving yourself.

It is when you gain mastery that you will be honoured and elevated as a master in the field of your calling. You will be placed over those working with you. How can you lead someone who is better than you? It is an error! Remember that at your time of exaltation, you will be placed ahead and over certain people. How then can you be over a set of people that you are not higher than them both in that area of calling and in other areas such as skill, character and wisdom? There should be something that you manifest to have an edge over them for you to gain their respect. You don't need to be better and greater than them in all aspects of life, but there must be something in you that could definitely command their honour and respect to you. It may even be something they possess, but they see you displaying a similar thing in a better and higher way, to the glory of God. May that be your portion as the Lord grants you elevation, in Jesus' Name!

CHAPTER 6 SOWING AND REAPING

The earth is a place that is set for the activities of sowing and reaping. As long as the earth remains, these activities can never cease. They are ordained by God. Whatever a man does today is a seed against his tomorrow. You are created as both sower and reaper. In the law of nature, you are not permitted to reap from where you never sowed anything; except you are reaping for the sower. So when someone is out to frustrate and do you any evil, you need to know (as someone rightly said) that you are either reaping what you sowed, or he is permitted to sow something through you (though it is very unfortunate). The Lord will deliver you from such unfortunate situation and punish the evil doer, to the glory of His Name.

While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease. (Genesis 8:22) KJV

This is the divine order. The issue now lies on what you choose to sow at any point in time. Whatever you don't want to harvest, then the major preventive measure to it is to avoid sowing the seed that attracts such harvest. If you want to reap elevation, then you need to sow the seed that calls for it. Things don't just happen anyhow; they rather, happen most often, as the harvest of something sown somewhere, sometime by someone.

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. (Galatians 6:7) KJV

Ye have plowed wickedness, ye have reaped iniquity; ye have eaten the fruit of lies: because thou didst trust in thy way, in the multitude of thy mighty men. (Hosea 10:13) (KJV)

It is deception on the part of a man to indulge in a horrible lifestyle and think that he will go scot-free over it. He can't! Did he create himself? Does he have power over nature and the supernatural? May you sow good seed, so that you could reap a pleasant harvest, to the glory of God!

Mercy to Reap what is Sown in Righteousness

It is one thing to sow a good seed and it is another thing to reap as expected. One may be doing some good and wonderful things for God, which would have yielded a bountiful harvest for him, but yet would be leaving as if he's not doing anything to warrant any change in his life. It is not the will of God for a man to be unrewarded for his efforts in life. However, for one reason or the other, the harvest of such a one may be hindered or at best, come in a very low measure. The devil

can hinder the harvest of a man, including his upliftment. The forces of darkness may in one way or the other fight against the harvest of elevation of a man, in order to hinder the fullness of the accomplishment of God's purpose for him. What does the Bible say about reaping? On what ground can reasonable reaping, including the harvest of exaltation, be achieved?

Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till he come and rain righteousness upon you. (Hosea 10:12) KJV

Sow to Yourselves...

Whatever a man sows is primarily for himself. The primary recipient of what a man sows is the man himself. Although people who may be close to him may suffer for his wrong, yet the primary reaper is the sower. From the verse stated above, it is clear that every sower needs mercy to reap, or else he would lose both the seed and the harvest. Even when what is sown would have yielded elevation, if the mercy of God is not shown to the man, his harvest will be frustrated. For more on this, contact my book with the title “**Awake unto Responsibility**”. It is the mercy that is shown to a man that shows the man to the world.

Mordecai's Exaltation

We will consider how Mordecai obtained his exaltation in the land of Persia, even in the days of their captivity.

A Faithful Discipler

Now in Shushan the palace there was a certain Jew, whose name was Mordecai, the son of Jair, the son of Shimei, the son of Kish, a Benjamite; Who had been carried away from Jerusalem with the captivity which had been carried away with Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon had carried away. And he brought up Hadassah, that is, Esther, his uncle's daughter: for she had neither father nor mother, and the maid was fair and beautiful; whom Mordecai, when her father and mother were dead, took for his own daughter. (Esther 2:5-7) KJV

Mordecai, a cousin brother of Esther took the responsibility of bringing her up unto adulthood, after the death of her parents. He took the responsibility of raising her up in the way of the Lord and at the end of it all he became a legend in the place of leadership even in that foreign land. Little did he know what he would become in that strange land, but his devotion and commitment to God, which he transmitted to Esther, earned him a lot. His discipleship over the life of Esther

brought a great turn-around both for him, Esther herself and the entire tribe of Israel in that period of time. His faithfulness to this initial responsibility earned him a place in the entire kingdom of Persia.

You can observe how the Holy Spirit inspired the writer of the Book of Esther to trace part of the genealogy of this man. He was so important, with serious positive impact that his lineage was traced. This would make one to understand that this man had Shimei as an ancestor. This Shimei, a Benjamite and a kinsman of Saul, who followed after King David with cursing on the day of his (David's) departure from Jerusalem as a result of Absalom's conspiracy, had a descendant (by name Mordecai) who had the fear of the Lord. Although what Shimei did was a grave offence to the then king of Israel, apart from the earlier disappointment of Saul when he was on the throne as king of Israel, Mordecai was still able to rise unto an exalted position in his days. What those his ancestors did could not stop him from becoming what God wanted him to become, as he followed God with obedience and the fear of the Lord. May you be another Mordecai in your family in Jesus' Name! As you do this, I assure you that what limited them will not limit you. What stopped them at the point where they stopped in life and destiny will not stop you. To God be the glory!

Mordecai, who brought up Esther to the point when she became the queen of that land, was a keeper of the gate. He had no very big title or post in that land, but he was a great man before the Lord. His great service to God in bringing up Esther was undeniable. He was great even at the gate. Can you pick challenge from Mordecai? Are you the type of person waiting to do great things and raise great people only when you have already ascended to a great height? Then learn something from Mordecai.

Esther had not shewed her people nor her kindred: for Mordecai had charged her that she should not shew it. And Mordecai walked every day before the court of the women's house, to know how Esther did, and what should become of her. (Esther 2:10, 11) KJV

In the course of her stay in custody of Hegai the king's chamberlain, Mordecai was daily visiting the court of the women in order to know about the welfare of Esther. He was not only a discipler and mentor, but a caring man. He didn't only care for the wellbeing of Esther at home, but he was also concerned about her when she was away from home. He was so concerned to see how Esther would look like while she was away from home. He was not only praying for her wellbeing, but was also having a closer look after her as much as he could. He was so careful and meticulous in his assignment over the life of this young lady, Esther. In fact, Esther became her project, until she was projected as the queen of the land. He was very thorough about Esther as he foresaw her great destiny.

He also instructed (charged) Esther not to reveal her nationality. He knew what it could cause against Esther's elevation. He was a man of wisdom. He was not too careless in handling the matter of Esther's elevation. He knew that wisdom is profitable to direct (Ecclesiastes 10:10). He was not only a discipler or mentor to Esther, but he was an instructor and director to her. He was not going to allow her to mess up the plan of God for her life through carelessness and youthful exuberance, but he was prepared to follow her up to the core. He was so particular about Esther to the point that he was willing to give her all the necessary training and instructions required for her upbringing. He was not too 'general' about Esther, but he was so peculiar and specific about her. He was silent, but thorough and meticulous. Esther's affairs became his matter of concern on a daily basis. What a wonderful leader, mentor and discipler!

How do you handle those that are graciously handed over to your care as a servant of God? Take challenge from Mordecai. Are you not the kind of leader that is caring only to those who you know that they can also take care of your affairs? Are you not too particular and caring only to the well-to-do members of your church? Take challenge from the life of Mordecai.

At the end of all these, Esther became the wife of King Ahasuerus. She became the first lady of the land and a major national figure in the history of that kingdom. However, remember that Mordecai who brought her up was still a keeper of the king's gate. He never wrote any application for another post in the land. He was still doing her job, while his disciple was already the first female figure in the land. His greatness was secretly transmitted into the palace through Esther. May you become another Mordecai for someone to the glory of the Lord!

Faithful Servant

In those days, while Mordecai sat in the king's gate, two of the king's chamberlains, Bigthan and Teresh, of those which kept the door, were wroth, and sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus. And the thing was known to Mordecai, who told it unto Esther the queen; and Esther certified the king thereof in Mordecai's name. And when inquisition was made of the matter, it was found out; therefore they were both hanged on a tree: and it was written in the book of the chronicles before the king. (Esther 2:21-23) KJV

This was how Mordecai uncovered the plot of two of the king's chamberlains to kill him (the king). By divine arrangement, this incident took place after Esther had become queen in the land of Persia. As he was stationed at the king's gate, Mordecai was very sensitive and vigilant on his duty and as such he had an awareness of what was going on around there. Since the welfare of the king

was his interest, he decided to uncover that plot. His action was made known to the king and kept in the book of records of the chronicles of the kingdom, through the effort of Esther. Can you see how someone that Mordecai raised paved way for his elevation? The inclusion of that act of Mordecai might not have been recorded in that way if Esther was not there as queen. Mordecai had no access to the king, but he raised someone that could stand in for him before the king. This is part of the joy of raising people. It could provide one with someone to link him to an opportunity which is literally difficult to enjoy. It could provide one with a personality that could speak for him in certain places, organisations, institutions..., thus facilitating his consideration into a position that would have been literally impossible for him to be appointed into. You therefore, need to handle whoever God allows to come under you at a particular point in time with care, discipline and good intention. Human beings are divine instrument unto elevation; but if you mishandle them, they would be instruments unto your abasement, reduction, rejection and humiliation.

What position do you occupy in the Church and the society in general? How do you handle those that are brought before you for one thing or the other? It is wisdom for you to do it with equity and in the fear of the Lord. If you handle human beings like stones, then you'll be converting your stepping stones into stumbling blocks. How do you handle your members as a pastor? How do you handle the cases that come before you as a legal practitioner? As a teacher in any capacity, how do you handle your students, both males and females? How do you handle your customers as a business man? As a royal father, how do you handle that royal seat? Are you not there to mess your community up as you spoil the land with bad customs and traditions? As a Christian medical practitioner, how do you engage the gospel in that profession? Can your patients know or hear about Jesus in that your career? Remember that there are several 'Esthers' coming around you unknowingly. Use your present position such that your 'Esthers' could speak for you in the coming days unto your next new level of elevation. Use your present position to 'apply' for your next level through your unknown 'Esthers'. Use your present level to speak into the lives of those your 'Esthers' that could speak for you in the later days of your life.

After these things...

After these things did king Ahasuerus promote Haman the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, and advanced him, and set his seat above all the princes that were with him. And all the king's servants, that were in the king's gate, bowed, and revered Haman: for the king had so commanded concerning him. But Mordecai bowed not, nor did him reverence. (Esther 3:1, 2) KJV

After all the good things that Mordecai did both in the life of Esther and in the life of King Ahasuerus himself, the king decided to promote Haman, one of the descendants of Agag, a king of the Amalekites in the days of King Saul (1 Samuel 15). Can you imagine the coincidence? I think it is spiritually deliberate. Saul had an opportunity of killing Agag as commanded by the Lord, but he failed to do so. Later in history, Haman, a descendant of the same Agag arose. He was promoted and after that promotion, he became the worst physical enemy of Mordecai, a descendant of Shimei, who was Saul's kinsman. The man Saul spared generated a descendant that fought against a descendant of his kinsman-so it was a battle of Saul's versus Agag's family. God made it in such a way that before Mordecai could get to the limelight, that battle that Saul could not complete must be completed. Whatever a man dodges or shies away from dealing with in his earlier days will become a stumbling block that will need to be conquered before his breakthrough and elevation would be realised. What is the 'Agag' of your life? Why are you shying away from it without taking deliberate steps in dealing with it decisively? What have you done about that immorality you committed that resulted in abortion? What about that secret child you have and you refused to tell your wife when you were in courtship? How about the money you embezzled in your organization of which you came to the church to give fat tithe and offering? You are busy sparing your 'Agag' that will later grow to frustrate your future fruitfulness and elevation. Arise and kill your 'Agag' and your breakthrough and elevation will be realised to the glory of God. Kill your Agag so that he wouldn't generate and be repackaged as a 'Haman'.

When Haman was promoted, evil was promoted. Pride and arrogance was promoted when Haman was promoted. It was very unfortunate to note that the land of Persia was then exposed to the promulgation of unjust and evil decrees through the promotion and exaltation of Haman. Ill and discomfort for the people of God was at its peak when Haman was promoted. But thank God that whatever is the devil's intention over God's intention concerning His children will not prosper. The devil foresaw what would become of Mordecai and quickly promoted his agent. But thank God that no one can outsmart Him.

There are occasions in one's life that when God is about doing something very tangible and remarkable, He will decide to allow the increase and promotion of evil against him. I don't know the 'Haman' of your life, but let me boldly announce to you that he will not succeed over your destiny and elevation, in Jesus' Name. What is that situation in your life that is becoming bigger and bigger on a daily basis and trying to cut you short? I pray for you that what it will take to overcome it will be granted unto you, in the Name of Jesus.

Conquering Haman

After Haman was promoted in the kingdom of Persia, he discovered how Mordecai could not bow for him as did the other people of the land. He (Haman) then decided to destroy Mordecai and the entire Jews in that kingdom. He became too resentful of Mordecai that according to him, the only solution to this resentment was to destroy both him and his people, the Jews. He went ahead to convince the king into promulgating that decree that was issued for the total annihilation of the Jews. When a man does not deal with certain things at the earlier stage of his life, it will wake up to destroy him or hinder him of his destiny along with other people who may be connected to him.

Let us now consider how Haman was conquered.

When Mordecai perceived all that was done, Mordecai rent his clothes, and put on sackcloth with ashes, and went out into the midst of the city, and cried with a loud and a bitter cry; And came even before the king's gate: for none might enter into the king's gate clothed with sackcloth. And in every province, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, there was great mourning among the Jews, and fasting, and weeping, and wailing; and many lay in sackcloth and ashes. So Esther's maids and her chamberlains came and told it her. Then was the queen exceedingly grieved; and she sent raiment to clothe Mordecai, and to take away his sackcloth from him: but he received it not. (Esther 4:1-4) KJV

In response to the decree that was issued, Mordecai and the entire Jewish community cried and many put on sackcloth and ashes. There was serious grief among the Jewish people to the point that they wept, wailed and started to fast. This fasting was prior to the one ordered by Esther. So even before Esther gave the order for the three-day fasting many of the Jews had already been in fasting mood. The condition was very desperate that they had to take desperate steps. It was not a moment of leaving their destinies at the mercy of wickedness. What are you doing about the 'Haman' of your life and destiny? Arise and fight and the Lord will help you, in Jesus' Name.

When the matter got to Esther, she initially decided to pacify Mordecai, who in turn, refused to be pacified. He refused to take the situation as his cross and fought to crush it. Don't hand over your destiny to the mercy of the devil out of ignorance and spiritual indolence.

We also saw Mordecai as a motivator unto Esther. When Esther was about making the mistake of taking it easy, he provoked her by informing her of the danger ahead of even herself, if the decree should be executed. She now took an action and said to Mordecai:

Go, gather together all the Jews that are present in Shushan, and fast ye for me, and neither eat nor drink three days, night or day: I also and my maidens will fast likewise; and so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish. (Esther 4:16) KJV

In dealing with Haman and his plot to destroy the Jews, Esther gave the above order and concluded that he would do what Mordecai wanted her to do and that if she perished, let her perish. What a radical and risky decision! But one thing is clear that those who take risk unto the point of perishing for such noble and spiritual causes don't perish. They end up victoriously. David the king of Israel took such a risk and became a hero after killing that giant by name Goliath (1 Samuel 17).

As the Jews obeyed and carried out this order, Esther was able to go and meet the king, her husband, on the third day. She did this against an initial laid down order that even herself was not expected to see him within that period of time; but through prayers, the atmosphere of the heavens was cleared for her to attract the favour of the king. She took that risk and it became a proof of the answer to the prayer and fasting that the Jews engaged in for three days. In the course of her approach to the king, things began to work out which culminated in the hanging of Haman on the gallows that he prepared for Mordecai. The tables turned around through prayer. Another counter decree was promulgated in favour of the Jews, giving them power over their enemies, who they destroyed and gained total victory. Prayer changes things and enhances destiny and divine elevation. Let us consider how the exaltation of Mordecai commenced.

On that night could not the king sleep, and he commanded to bring the book of records of the chronicles; and they were read before the king. And it was found written, that Mordecai had told of Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's chamberlains, the keepers of the door, who sought to lay hand on the king Ahasuerus. And the king said, What honour and dignity hath been done to Mordecai for this? Then said the king's servants that ministered unto him, There is nothing done for him. And the king said, Who is in the court? Now Haman was come into the outward court of the king's house, to speak unto the king to hang Mordecai on the gallows that he had prepared for him. And the king's servants said unto him, Behold, Haman standeth in the court. And the king said, Let him come in. So Haman came in. And the king said unto him, What shall be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour? Now Haman thought in his heart, To whom would the king delight to do honour

more than to myself? And Haman answered the king, For the man whom the king delighteth to honour, Let the royal apparel be brought which the king useth to wear, and the horse that the king rideth upon, and the crown royal which is set upon his head: And let this apparel and horse be delivered to the hand of one of the king's most noble princes, that they may array the man withal whom the king delighteth to honour, and bring him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaim before him, Thus shall it be done to the man whom the king delighteth to honour. Then the king said to Haman, Make haste, and take the apparel and the horse, as thou hast said, and do even so to Mordecai the Jew, that sitteth at the king's gate: let nothing fail of all that thou hast spoken. Then took Haman the apparel and the horse, and arrayed Mordecai, and brought him on horseback through the street of the city, and proclaimed before him, Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the king delighteth to honour. And Mordecai came again to the king's gate. But Haman hastened to his house mourning, and having his head covered. (Esther 6:1-12) KJV

When Haman went home from Esther's banquet, he became joyful, but the matter of Mordecai was still bothering him. The enemy has no real joy; but the Lord Jesus came that we might have life abundantly and that our joy may be full (John 10:10; 15:11; 16:24). There is nothing good a man can do to the devil that will satisfy him and stop him from carrying out his mission of destruction. He is wicked to the core that he can never be a friend to any man, including his own agents. He specialises in using a man unto his (the man's) destruction.

As Haman was planning on how to have Mordecai hanged on the gallows, the king could not sleep over the night. The prayers of the Jews caused him sleepless nights so that the enemy's plan will be frustrated in order for the exaltation of Mordecai to begin to show forth. Those who are ordained to become agents of your exaltation will experience sleepless nights because of you. The king in the cause of that sleeplessness thought so much and came to a conclusion that the book of the records of the chronicles should be read before him. This is divine. That record had been there for quite some time and nothing was done about it, until that day. The Lord provoked the king into that reading in answer to the prayers of the Jews. Mordecai was to be honoured for that noble role that he played, but it was swept under the carpet for some time; until prayer was offered to God. He sowed a good and noble seed, but it could not shoot forth, until they prayed. So it is lack of wisdom for a man to only trust and depend on his good works and the

seed he sows, without embarking on serious prayers to cause heaven to release the rain of fruitfulness on what he does. Jesus said this to His disciples:

Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full. (John 16:24) KJV

Necessity of Prayer

Has the Lord revealed anything concerning your destiny to you? Are you working towards what you have received from Him in order to receive and attain to that promise? Then prayer must be your watch word among other virtues that you may display. Your prayers will release the rain necessary for what you are cultivating to be manifested. Don't sit down claiming God's faithfulness without putting on the armour of prayer. Mordecai would have continued in that state of no recognition if they had not prayed. Although prayer is not what God totally sees to bring about the change that one desires and deserves, but it draws God's attention to reward a man. Prayer without virtues is baseless and virtues without prayer are fruitless. Don't be a prayer giant and be a dwarf in virtues. You can't keep on cultivating a land without the expectation of rain. It is the rain that really brings fruitfulness to what is sown. It is prayer that causes the release of the rain of change unto any man's divine increase and exaltation.

When one of the king's servants was reading the records of the chronicles to the king, the matter of Mordecai came into his ears. He then began to have some special interest for Mordecai. This is also divine. The man was forced to trace what had to do with the honour of Mordecai, in answer to the prayers of Mordecai and the rest of the Jews (including Esther). Your deeds of righteousness will be made known to people that matter. They will be caused to know more about you as you remain faithful and prayerful. All the barriers that had been placed on their way against your recognition will be removed to the glory of God.

Greediness Facilitated Honour

When Haman came around on the next day based on Esther's invitation, the king quickly asked him about what should be done to the man that he (the king) delights to honour. Thinking he should be the one, he pronounced the good things to be done to such a man; but lo and behold, he was talking about Mordecai, his enemy. This is also divine. Why should he be the one to be asked that question? Why did the king not throw this question to his chamberlains that were there when that record was read? Why should the king wait for Haman to come around before seeking for an opinion in that matter? Already it is clear that Mordecai's honour would suppress Haman's honour, but the king decided to wait for him to pronounce this. Praise God! Haman's greediness paved way for the magnitude of

Mordecai's honour. He wanted to see himself at the highest height in that kingdom, but he ended up doing it for Mordecai. Your enemies will pave way for your upliftment if you remain faithful and prayerful. Those who plan evil against you and who are at the same time exalting themselves against you, will soon become your stepping stones unto exaltation, in Jesus' Name. The good things that your enemies are wishing for themselves against you will become your materials of exaltation, to the glory of the Lord.

Haman had to obey the golden rule, but it was too late for him. He obeyed it, but to the detriment of his personality. The rule says:

Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets. (Matthew 7:12) KJV

May the Golden Rule not stand against you in Jesus' Name! How many people do you have opportunity to do something good for and you refuse to, due to your own selfish reasons? Beware of Haman. Do you know what will become of a man you are suppressing today? If you are an agent of a man's divine upliftment, someone will also become yours. Whatever you sow, you shall reap.

Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him. (Proverbs 26:27) KJV

You may either be a ladder unto the elevation of other men or you are a pit against it. What are you doing to help another man to succeed? You can't cause someone to succeed and not succeed yourself. You are a failure when you cause others to fail. What you bring on the way of another man cannot depart from your own way. You cannot be an oppressor and not be pressed down yourself. You will become what you make others to become. You could even end up being in a better place than where you have caused someone to get to by being an agent of his elevation. You will always reap what you sow.

Haman himself was asked to parade Mordecai. Those things you are doing thinking that they're for the downfall of a man will become stepping stones unto his elevation. Your oppression over any man (especially a righteous man) can never stand the test of time; instead, it will fertilize his fruitfulness and engender his exaltation. I wonder how Haman would feel in the cause of parading Mordecai on that day. Shame and disgrace came upon him as the righteous man was elevated. This is the portion of all enemies of righteousness. They won't survive the exaltation of such righteous men. It appears that even the permissive initial elevation of Haman was of God; such that he being the noblest man of the land among the king's servants should be used to honour Mordecai. What a seeming

erroneous exaltation! When he was initially elevated, the Jews were in trouble, not knowing that that trouble will end up in their joy. The trouble ended up as stubble.

Mordecai was brought again to the king's gate. This initial elevation did not cause him to move away from the king's gate. He was still brought back there, though honoured by the king. He became an honoured man at the gate. He was honoured, but still had to return to where he was serving. This first honour could not take him away from the gate to another more exalted place. God would further test his faithfulness and humility as he continues to serve at the gate without reservation and a show of pride. However, he was not expected to end at that gate. If he had gone straight to the peak of his life at that time, it may not be too bad. But God tests people's faithfulness by allowing them to serve for a while in levels that are lower than their real capacities, in order to test their faithfulness and humility. It only becomes an error when you remain at your 'king's gate' permanently without being ushered to where you really belong. I prophesy to you that you will be placed in the rightful place of your real spiritual capacity, in Jesus' Name.

Consummation of his Exaltation

Mordecai did not remain at the gate forever. He became a most influential man in the kingdom of Persia. This is how it happened:

On that day did the king Ahasuerus give the house of Haman the Jews' enemy unto Esther the queen. And Mordecai came before the king; for Esther had told what he was unto her. And the king took off his ring, which he had taken from Haman, and gave it unto Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman. (Esther 8:1. 2) KJV

Mordecai was brought before King Ahasuerus through the influence of Esther. His relationship with Esther continued to yield results. The king did not know that Mordecai was indirectly close to him through his wife, Esther. He (Mordecai) was an ordinary man that was close to the king through Esther whom he brought up. May the Lord help you to raise people that can usher you before great men! Mordecai's influence in making Esther to be influential was going to result to his own influential position in the kingdom of Persia. He raised a woman of influence and he (himself) became influential. To God be the glory!

All that Haman had in his house was turned over to Mordecai. It means that all those that were at the service of Haman were automatically at the service of Mordecai. Those things that Haman set to fight against Mordecai began to work in favour of Mordecai. Halleluyah! The exaltation of Mordecai as Queen Esther handed over all that was in the house of Haman to him made situations (both positive and negative) to work in his favour. The house of Haman was so subjected

to him that he had to convert what was intended to be for the evil of the Jews to turnaround for his good. This actually shows that the hand of God was in the initial elevation of Haman. Whoever is the 'Haman' occupying a position that is meant for you will give way for your manifestation, in Jesus' Name.

What did Mordecai do after all these? He did not handle his position and house as Haman did. He might have met a lot of evil things including charms in that house, but he would not follow after Haman's lifestyle. When you are elevated to a certain position to replace an ungodly and wicked man, what will you do? Will you not be negatively influenced by the advice of those that connived with him to do evil? Will you not become a womanizer like he was? Will you not begin to embezzle government funds like that your predecessor? May you become another Mordecai to change evil to good and change darkness to light.

And the king Ahasuerus laid a tribute upon the land, and upon the isles of the sea. And all the acts of his power and of his might, and the declaration of the greatness of Mordecai, whereunto the king advanced him, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia? For Mordecai the Jew was next unto king Ahasuerus, and great among the Jews, and accepted of the multitude of his brethren, seeking the wealth of his people, and speaking peace to all his seed. (Esther 10:1-3) KJV

At the end of it all, the king advanced Mordecai in the kingdom. The record of his deeds and those of his advancement were recorded in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia. His records were not found in ordinary archives, but in the records of kings. What was recorded about his acts determined what was accorded to him. He was so significant in the land to the extent that the records about him were found in the chronicles of kings. He was advanced to the peak of his greatness such that he became a spokesman for his people. His greatness was not just in the kingdom, but even among his own people, he was still great. He was not politically great and spiritually small. He was not great only as the second in command to the king, but even his own people saw his greatness. They saw a great man that was still walking with God. They saw him as a man who could not compromise his faith even in the midst of unbelievers.

Where is your greatness located? Are you a political leader that have lost his real stand with God because of political matters which you feel that if you don't do it in the way of unbelievers, then you cannot get to anywhere? May you not be great only in the world, but be too little in the sight of God and His people. Why do you want to be exalted? Is it just because you want to be honoured in the world and become influential among men? It is an erroneous desire. May your greatness not

end in the world system, but to still be found among the people of God and to be approved of God.

When you advance, your advice will be in demand. When you advance to the peak, you will have a better mouth to speak to both ordinary people and other great people. However, when you advance to the peak, you need to be careful about what you say, because speakers at the peak are picked up by critics for the purpose of their criticism.

Mordecai was not only exalted as a great man, but he was accepted among his people. His deeds were so good in the land and also accepted among the Jews. He was not accepted by the world, but rejected by God and His people. No! Why do you want to be exalted? Is it because you want to bring the acceptable counsel of God into the society to the point that even brethren can be proud and confident in you? May you not be a failure at the time of your exaltation! You need the maturity of the kind of Mordecai as you look forward for divine exaltation; or else, you'll throw the Name of God into the mud.

How His people Benefitted from His Exaltation

You are not exalted because of yourself. You are rather, exalted for the people that are divinely entrusted into your hand. Look at how Mordecai handled his great and exalted position for his people. He was not a selfish great man, but he was a man given to the welfare (wealth) of his people. The Bible did not record his contribution and acts over the kingdom, as a great man. It did not record the number of projects he executed in the land, but it was too particular about what he did to his people, the Jews. In working for their welfare, he was doing a work for the Kingdom of God. He was not too engrossed with political matters and the development of the kingdom of Persia to the point that he lost sight of the welfare and good of the covenant people of God. He was there to represent their interest and the interest of God.

As a man in authority, what is your priority? Is it only to execute projects and be of service to humanity at large? Despite this responsibility, you must have a space for God and His Kingdom. Are you a teacher or lecturer in a higher institution? What is your priority in that institution? Is it only to be a good teacher or lecturer and forget about the promotion of the Kingdom of God in that institution? Look at the way that occultism has ravaged our institutions. Are you there only for the job of teaching the students and go away waiting for your salary at the end of the month? You are a failure if it is only the job you bury your head in and forget that those students are brought under you to promote the Kingdom of God by at least bringing some of them into the saving grace of God; while you disciple some others towards maturity, so that they could become instruments in the hand of the Almighty God after graduating from the institution. Are you not

even the type that takes advantage of these students to promote evil? Check yourself in the light of all these. Be aware that the job is your career, but your Kingdom responsibility is your calling. The job is a platform for the fulfilment of your calling.

As an author of books (especially Christian literature), what is your major desire in writing those books? Is it not because you want to make money? Is it really for the promotion of the gospel through your spiritual impact among as many as would read them? No wonder, after writing a small pamphlet, you go ahead and place a very high price on it. Well, God is looking at your motive. Don't you know the cost of production of those materials? Why then do you place it at a price that is more than double the cost of production? People may buy them and even commend you, but God may have a case against you.

When I wrote one of my books several years ago, some brethren urged me to launch it. Before then, I concluded that I will not launch any book written by me. However, as the urge was coming from several brethren, I felt like giving it a second thought and do it. In the process of that I chose some brothers that would shoulder key responsibilities in that launching. I engaged one brother to be our chief launcher, while another one was to be the chairman. Both of these brothers were not very wealthy; but I decided to choose them for these posts so that the launching would be spearheaded by true believers. However, in the cause of this preparation, some brothers mentioned a local government chairman that was not within our state, but who they told me that he was a great giver and a promoter of such launching. They now advised me to contact him, which I somehow did. But to the glory of God, when I got to the local government secretariat, he was not on sit. The people I met encouraged me to wait for him, which I did; but at last he did not come to the office on that day. When I was leaving the office, I was advised by those that were close to him to drop a note for him. I wrote the note and in the process of addressing it to him, I asked of his name and lo and behold, I discovered that it was a Muslim that I was directed to. I was so annoyed that I did not even drop the note. I left the secretariat in annoyance, imagining how that man was recommended by brothers. It implied to me that if such brothers are privileged to write such books, they can engage even idol worshippers in promoting their work. May God help us in Jesus' Name.

From that time on, after that launching I concluded that I will never for any reason launch any of my books any more. That book was the first and last book that I ever launched. I was not really focusing on the amount to be realised, but on the acceptability of such money to God.

There is nothing wrong in executing tangible projects in the society. It is part of the reason for which you are brought into that position and there is reward for that. But take note of the fact that the world that brought you there will want you to

bury your head only in that work and if possible, forget about the things of God. May you not be lured into this evil web. May you be great in the execution of both secular and Kingdom projects! As people are pointing at what you are doing for the society, may they also be able to point at things you are doing for the Kingdom of God.

The acts of Mordecai that had to do with the welfare of the kingdom of Persia were recorded in those chronicles of the kings of Media and Persia. However, the record of the Bible did not involve those ones. It is not because they were not important and acceptable in the sight of God, but because God places more value on works done for the promotion of His Kingdom than any other thing. May you be useful both to the society and to the Kingdom of God!

Mordecai was said to be a speaker of peace to all his seed. He had a seed to work on their peace. You are exalted because there is a seed to speak for and bring up. He had to do so by promoting their peace. He was like peace personified. He was not there to cause commotion and rancour, especially among his people, but to promote their peace. What are you promoting in wherever you are placed? Are you a promoter of peace and righteousness? Will those under you be known for the peace of God in their lives? The more Mordecai was advancing, the more the peace of God was not only advancing towards his people, but it was also settled among them.

CHAPTER 7 SERVING A HIGHER MAN

One of the strategies of God in elevating men is to bring them into the service of other men who have gone ahead of them in the ministry and calling. It is part of His divine wisdom and ordination for ages. He does so by depositing in such men virtues and gifts that are needful in bringing up their servants or disciples. In doing this, the work of the Kingdom will easily grow and expand. No one can become a master if he has not sat under a master(s). You cannot become a teacher if you have not sat under teachers in different levels of your academic pursuit. It is also God's divine ordination in raising men through other men. No matter what you want to become in life and no matter the level you want to rise in that area of calling, there is/are a man/men that God had deposited some level of grace to facilitate your growth and rising. At times, they might not have risen as high as God is about raising you, but if you can identify and submit to them, you will get to where the Lord is taking you.

Your primary school teacher could remain as a primary school teacher until you've graduated from the University. You may even become a professor in the University while the man still teaches in a primary school. The most important thing is that you owe that man the respect of teaching you in the primary school without which you could not get to where you have reached. You may acknowledge an older professor who mentored you in the university as your real mentor, but you may still have other teachers that brought you up. No one can make it to the top without the contribution and impact of others in his life. Although God is the actual Raiser of men, He does so by bringing them under the tutelage and discipleship of other men. We will look into the Scripture to study how some men of old were brought up through the ministry of other men.

Joshua the Servant of Moses

After the children of Israel were delivered from the land of Egypt into the wilderness, the Bible identified Joshua as the servant of Moses. How he came to the realisation of the need for him to come under this man, Moses is not stated in the Scripture. It was his deliberate choice to do so. He was neither elected nor appointed into that service, but he did it by taking a deliberate decision. Even if he had a revelation to that effect, the revelation would have fizzled out if he refused to take a deliberate step into that service. Although he was an Ephraimite and not a Levite, he still decided to follow him closely.

And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand. (Joshua 17:9) KJV

This was the first time the issue of Joshua came up in relation to his service in the days of Moses' leadership in Israel. The Bible does not give a record of how he grew up to the point that Moses could shoulder him with the task of fighting against the Amalekites. However, there is a clear indication that Moses had known him to some extent such that he could entrust such a herculean task into his hand. We only read about how he was considered, but we don't read how he grew and came to the point of being considered. His secret labour in submissiveness and discipleship was not really recorded here, but we see how he went to fight that battle. Was he the only valiant man in the nation at that time? No! But Moses had seen him through his quiet observation of him (Joshua).

Choose Us Men...

Joshua was instructed to handle the selection of men that would go to the warfront in that battle. Moses was not the one to choose men for him, but he had to do it by himself. So Moses had also seen him as a man that had some measure of wisdom in the choice of warriors. Moses' dealings with Joshua had revealed to him some virtues that were inherent in him. He then knew him as a valiant and wise man, with the ability to choose men for war. His future destiny and elevation was prophetically displayed here. He was to lead the Israelites in the process of conquering the inhabitants of the land of Canaan, but he had to fight this battle under the leadership and instruction of Moses. Although he would grow at a later time to receive instructions directly from God, but for that period, he had to learn submission through Moses' leadership.

How submissive are you to your current God-ordained instructor? It will determine how God can deal directly with you. If you don't honour the instructions of your spiritual instructors, you will be deprived of God's direct instructions. It is an error for you to claim that you'll hear the voice of God while you despise His voice brought to you through His media. How can God decide to make His voice available to a man who is not prepared to listen to the instructors that He had sent to him? God tests men's faithfulness to Him by exposing them to instructions brought to them by their instructors. Of course, as a royal priesthood, you are a bona fide recipient of God's voice; but the level at which He can interact with you through this voice is seriously affected by your submissiveness to your instructors. If you despise your earthly instructors' voices of instruction, you will be deprived of the heavenly Instructor's voice. If you don't honour your instructors, you will not become an instructor.

As Joshua was building trustworthiness before Moses, it was subtly transmitted to the sight of God. In fact, God was seeing his submissiveness to Moses and was preparing him to take over from him (Moses). He was building confidence in the sight of Moses and in doing so he was also building confidence

in God. After his choice of warriors, there is no indication from the Scripture of any disapproval by Moses. How can you be under a leader and he will be sincerely afraid of handing over some sensitive and important responsibilities to you? If that is your situation, then be sure that God can never consider you for divine elevation. Learn a lesson from Joshua.

Privilege of Hearing a Prophetic Reading

And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven. (Exodus 17:14)

KJV

The Lord instructed Moses to write about that encounter and rehearse it to Joshua. He (Joshua) was to know His intention about the Amalekites. His battle on that day was just the beginning towards the total annihilation of the Amalekites. There is an indication from here that God already had in mind of making Joshua the next leader of Israel. The reading of this instruction was mainly meant for Joshua because he should be aware of the fact that he had just begun a journey unto the total conquest of the Amalekites. As such, that writing was meant for him. It was a prophetic matter concerning him. Moses had to then draw his attention to this great plan that was ahead of him. It was a one-on-one affair. This was not a reading for the generality of Israel, but a reading specifically meant for Joshua. It was a reading towards one of the specifics of his future ministry. He had to hear it so that he could adhere to it.

If you don't have anything to adhere to then you won't have any adherent. It is what you adhere to that determines who your adherent becomes. You cannot remain at the 'general level', receiving general instructions and become great or elevated in life. You must come to a point in life that God begins to be so particular to you before you can grow into your real intended level of accomplishment. There are some things that every other person around you (including fellow servants of God) may be doing, but God's specific dealing with you may not allow you to do such things because you must be different before you can make a difference.

Are you desirous and praying for an elevation in life and ministry? Find out God's specifics for your life and destiny. Other people (especially other servants of God) may try to lure you into taking after their steps, but you should be careful not to miss your own prophetic specifics. It is your understanding of these specifics that determines your goals and determination. Moses was not reading that writing for himself, but particularly for Joshua. There are many instructions that may come to you through the man you are under just because of you and you alone. The

benefits are not really for him, but for you. If you obey these things you may even rise to be greater than him, because as you obey him you are already obeying God.

Into A Privileged Encounter

By being submissive to his leader and instructor, Joshua was privileged to take part of the encounter that took place on Mount Sinai.

And he said unto Moses, Come up unto the LORD, thou, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel; and worship ye afar off. And Moses alone shall come near the LORD: but they shall not come nigh; neither shall the people go up with him.

Then went up Moses, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel: (Exodus 24:1, 2, 9) KJV

Although he was a young man, Joshua was one of those that went up to Mount Sinai to experience that historical encounter. God was so specific about the people that should climb upon that mountain for that encounter. However, all the elders ended at a point on the mountain when they experienced a level of God's appearance. For more on this, contact my book entitled "**Available for the Master's Use**".

And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written; that thou mayest teach them. And Moses rose up, and his minister Joshua: and Moses went up into the mount of God. And he said unto the elders, Tarry ye here for us, until we come again unto you: and, behold, Aaron and Hur are with you: if any man have any matters to do, let him come unto them. And Moses went up into the mount, and a cloud covered the mount. And the glory of the LORD abode upon mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it six days: and the seventh day he called unto Moses out of the midst of the cloud. And the sight of the glory of the LORD was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel. And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount: and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights. (Exodus 24:12-18) KJV

From this instruction, God asked Moses to move up further to the top of the mountain so that he could have an encounter that would culminate in the handing over of the Ten Commandments to him. However, although there was no

instruction permitting Joshua to go along with Moses, yet Moses decided to go with him. How it occurred to Moses that he should go with this young man is not shown in the Scripture. Was Moses then going with some measure of disobedience to God? It appears that this spontaneous acceptance of Joshua into the presence of God was not acquired overnight. Remember that Joshua was his minister. Moses would need the services of Joshua on the mountain just as he had been doing under the mountain. Since Joshua was useful to Moses under the mountain of encounter, he was also going to still be useful to him on the mountain. He was going to also have some level of experience or direct encounter with the presence of God where Moses was going into. Although the Lord may not speak to him directly the way he was to speak to Moses, but the experience of God's presence and some specific revelations could be released to him. Being close to a real discipler/instructor is a privilege.

On that mountain, Joshua was more privileged than the elders that were not direct servants of the great man, Moses. His servant-hood earned him that privileged encounter. He came face to face with the secret place of the God of his master. His presence on that mountain did not in any way hinder the encounter that Moses had with the Lord. He began to learn how to stay in the presence of God for a long period of time. He was in the cloud with Moses for six days before God called Moses to come over out of the midst of the cloud to speak with him and to hand over the tables of stone upon which the Ten Commandments were written. When you become the principal need of your God-ordained leader, you will end up as a principal need of the people under him and possibly, beyond. Being available to such a one is tantamount to being available to God, Himself. The dealings of God with such a man would be replicated in the life of such committed servants. His spiritual capacity would also be replicated to his faithful and committed servants. Thus, becoming a committed servant of a servant of God is candidature to his level or kind of encounter and authority. It may not be the same, but there could be some level of similarity in grace at the time of your elevation.

Although Joshua was not a Levite, but an Ephraimite, his service before the great man of God who was a Levite granted him the privilege of becoming his successor. Although he was not born into the family of the priesthood like his master, he was still going to become a leader that would be honoured like him because of his submissiveness to him. Even the matter of the pattern of building the sanctuary which was given to Moses was done at his tarrying in the presence of God. No wonder, he was qualified in taking over from Moses despite the fact that he was not a Levite.

Continued Service

And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant

Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle. (Exodus 33:11) KJV

It was the responsibility of Joshua to remain in the tabernacle of the congregation even while Moses leaves it to attend to some other issues outside it. If the Lord would speak at the tabernacle in the absence of Moses, Joshua would be there to receive the message and transmit it to Moses at his return. There is nothing wrong for a servant to receive a message that could need the attention of a leader. True servants could have that privilege, which could even help them to pray adequately for the leader(s) and their ministry. It could be a message of comfort, exhortation, instruction, warning.... Such a thing happened in the days of Eli when Samuel was still tender and inexperienced in the matters of the temple (1 Samuel 3:1-14). What a privilege to be derived in being a committed and submissive servant of a genuine servant of God!

Demonstration of Faith

At the time of the spying of the land of Israel by the twelve spies at Moses' instruction according to the commandment of the Lord, it was only Joshua and Caleb that were able to bring back good report concerning the land of Canaan. This incident is recorded in the Book of Numbers Chapters 13 and 14. When the other ten spies brought an evil report about the Promise Land, look at what Caleb said:

And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it. (Numbers 13:30) KJV

In this particular verse, it was Caleb that was the outspoken man that spoke out to silence the other spies. However, we are also made to understand from Chapter 14 verse 6 to verse 9 that Joshua also spoke with Caleb to the people:

And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes: And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land. If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey. Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not. (KJV)

So Joshua was still faithful along with Caleb in this matter of spying the Promise Land. It is not surprising of him, since he was always in the presence of

the Lord with his master, Moses. All those that brought that evil report died in the wilderness, but Joshua and Caleb survived. However, from the account given below, if one should judge from the above scriptural verses, then Caleb who appeared to be more outspoken (so-to-say) than Joshua is expected to have been considered as the next leader of Israel after Moses, but it was not so. Joshua was rather, appointed for that.

And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him; And set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight. And thou shalt put some of thine honour upon him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient. And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgment of Urim before the LORD: at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation. And Moses did as the LORD commanded him: and he took Joshua, and set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation: And he laid his hands upon him, and gave him a charge, as the LORD commanded by the hand of Moses. (Numbers 27:18-23) KJV

The Lord identified Joshua as a man with the spirit. A similar pronouncement was made of Caleb from the Lord:

But my servant Caleb, because he had another spirit with him, and hath followed me fully, him will I bring into the land whereinto he went; and his seed shall possess it. (Numbers 14:24) KJV

Based on this pronouncement, there was a common factor existing between Joshua and Caleb that would have qualified Caleb also to become the next leader of Israel after the death of Moses. However, the Lord chose Joshua the servant of Moses for that work. Moses then had to lay his hands upon Joshua in order for him (Joshua) to continue from where he (Moses) stopped. The Lord told Moses to release some of the honour that was upon him to Joshua, so that the people will be obedient to him (Joshua). What it took Moses to be honoured and to be obeyed was released upon this servant (Joshua). He did not beg for it, neither did he contest for it; but his steady commitment to the service of Moses earned this to him. As such, your service to a servant of God is an indirect application into the realm of the honour that is bestowed on him. It is a school that one graduates with the honours of the man he serves. If you honour a man that God honours by serving him, God

who honours him will reward your service with at least part of the honour that is upon him. This is because as you honour him you are honouring God who had placed him in that position of honour.

If you don't honour anybody, then don't expect to be honoured. It will be self deception for you to aspire for a position of honour whereby you look down on every other person. Where you place people in your heart determines where you will be placed yourself. There are people that have no respect for any man no matter how highly placed they may be. They'll claim that it is only God that they regard and that every other man is limited and has flaws. Yes, the fact that there are some limitations in a man does not rule out the fact that he is still honoured of the Lord. There are too many critics even in the Church today. They are so critical that they'd claim that almost every other person around is not doing the right thing, except them. Yet they won't do those things they criticise others about to show them the 'perfect examples'. If Joshua had sought for the error of Moses he would have seen the error, such that he'd leave that place of service, and finally miss that elevation that resulted.

The account of how Moses charged Joshua with encouragement and some other instructions from the Lord is clear from the Scripture.

Taking Over from the Master

After Moses died, it is clear from the Word of God that the Lord who was using Moses to give him charge then began with more frequency and steadiness to speak with him. Remember that one major thing that distinguished Moses as leader among the Israelites was his access to the voice of God. Although we've discussed the issue of accessing the voice of God, we'll just touch it here again for the purpose of highlighting its importance as it happened in the life of Joshua. We will only highlight a few verses from the first four chapters of the Book of Joshua.

Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that the LORD spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.

Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying,

According as we hearkened unto Moses in all things, so will we hearken unto thee: only the LORD thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses. (Joshua 1:1, 2, 10, 17) KJV

Within this Chapter 1, you can observe the frequency at which God was speaking directly to Joshua. As the Lord was speaking to him, he became the

transmitter of the mind of God to the people of Israel. After the Lord spoke to him in verse 1 and 2, in verse 10, the Bible says “**then...**” It means that whatever instruction he was giving as at that time emanated from what he received from the Lord in verse 1. His instruction to the officers of the people was based on what he heard from the Lord as at then. He was not any other person, but a minister on a ‘then’ basis. His ‘then’ of action was dependent on the ‘when’ of God’s instruction. When he became such a transmitter, the response of the people became spontaneous as they promised to be loyal to him as they did to Moses, provided the Lord was with him.

And the LORD said unto Joshua, This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee. (Joshua 3:7) KJV

Here the Lord promised to magnify Joshua in the sight of Israel. He did not only intend to grant him elevation, but to also magnify him. So God’s platform of exaltation is also His platform of magnification. When He elevates a man, he magnifies him. In fact, the higher the elevation of a man, the larger will become his magnification, in order to match up with the elevation. When God magnifies a man, He grants him an ability which is very rare among the people he’s leading. What some people under him may have in a single measure may be granted unto him in double measure or more. His impact will be seen to be incomparable with that of others because of spiritual magnification.

By being elevated to higher heights, there are things he could access which others cannot access. There are places he can be granted audience into, which others may not be granted same. By being magnified, he’ll be seen to be greater and bigger than how he had been before. He’ll also be seen to be greater than those he is leading. May the Lord exalt and magnify you to the glory of His Name!

And it came to pass, when all the people were clean passed over Jordan, that the LORD spake unto Joshua, saying, Take you twelve men out of the people, out of every tribe a man,

On that day the LORD magnified Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they feared him, as they feared Moses, all the days of his life. (Joshua 4:1, 2, 14) KJV

That was how this servant (Joshua) was able to step into the shoes of his master (Moses). After the Israelites saw the miraculous thing done in crossing River Jordan, they honoured Joshua in the same way they did to Moses. Joshua did not struggle for this with them; he rather served Moses faithfully and got it. They saw him the way they saw Moses because they saw him carrying what Moses

carried. May the Lord elevate you in honour and magnify you in impact! To Him be all the glory!

Elisha, the Man that Poured Water on the Hands of Elijah

Elisha is another servant that we will consider to illustrate the importance of serving a servant of God on the issue of divine exaltation. In his own case, his master, Elijah was categorically instructed to call him and anoint him to minister in his place after he must have left the earth. We don't have such biblical record in the case of Joshua. That is to say that Joshua deliberately decided to serve Moses. In any case, whether the servant-hood was deliberate or as a result of a call, it culminated in the exaltation of the servants concerned. In other words, servant-hood to a minister of God could be done at the urging or leadership of the Holy Spirit to a servant or through the leadership of the Holy Spirit as it may be revealed to the minister to be served. In both cases, the call should be in one way or the other, confirmed by the other party, as the case may be. However, it is advisable for a leader who a servant should work under him, to allow his conviction or revelation about a servant-to-be to be confirmed by the person in question, so that there will be no unnecessary confusion and accusation in the cause of the relationship.

And the LORD said unto him, Go, return on thy way to the wilderness of Damascus: and when thou comest, anoint Hazael to be king over Syria: And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint to be king over Israel: and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint to be prophet in thy room. And it shall come to pass, that him that escapeth the sword of Hazael shall Jehu slay: and him that escapeth from the sword of Jehu shall Elisha slay.
1Kings (19:15-17) KJV

The call of Elisha and the other men (Jehu and Hazael) is clearly stated from the above verses. The description of the Elisha that should be anointed to minister in the place (room) of Elijah was clear. Elisha was not in any way in close relationship with Elijah based on the above description, but the Lord knew him. Elisha had not in any way, been struggling to force his way into the life and ministry of Elijah, but God knew him. So, when Elijah saw Elisha, he saw him as the man that would rise in the land of Israel to his level and capacity.

So he departed thence, and found Elisha the son of Shaphat, who was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen before him, and he with the twelfth: and Elijah passed by him, and cast his mantle upon him. And he left the oxen, and ran after Elijah, and said, Let me, I pray

thee, kiss my father and my mother, and then I will follow thee. And he said unto him, Go back again: for what have I done to thee? And he returned back from him, and took a yoke of oxen, and slew them, and boiled their flesh with the instruments of the oxen, and gave unto the people, and they did eat. Then he arose, and went after Elijah, and ministered unto him. (1 Kings 19:19-21) KJV

In response to God's instruction, Elijah found Elisha and cast his mantle upon him. On seeking for permission to bid his parents farewell, Elijah responded by saying ***“Go back again: for what have I done to thee?”*** He was invariably giving him his full freedom of choice. He should not look at the mantle as a matter of compulsion, but he should choose for himself whether to follow or not. Although God had told Elijah about Elisha, Elijah was not looking at Elisha as the final or last resort. He (Elisha) could choose to obey and accomplish his destiny, or disobey and end up as a failure.

It was really a point of serious interruption for Elisha. He was going to leave the known and flourishing business of his, to an unknown call. He came to a seeming dangerous point in his life. He was going to become the laughingstock of his friends and colleagues in the same business. But God saw that that was the way into the fulfilment of his destiny. The Lord's platform unto His divine exaltation for a man can be a risky platform. It involves a lot risky moves and attempts on the part of the man in question. How can such a man with an 'established' career just dismantle everything about the career within a short space of time to begin to follow a man that has no real abode? This was a man that would wake up at any time and say that the Lord was telling him to go to Jericho and before you know it, he would move from there and say that he was on his way to Jordan in response to God's command. He was leaving an 'organised' life for a 'disorganised' life. What a price to pay!

If Elisha had been an idle man with a business that was collapsing, then we would have reasoned that the Lord decided to scatter the business in order for him to easily respond to Elisha. But it was not so. He was busy in the business and the Lord was blessing him in the business despite the fact that it was not his bus stop. This hardworking man was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen when the master interrupted. However, the interruption was going to result in his exaltation.

Elisha did not automatically take the place of Elijah, but he went from his business to minister unto Elijah. Imagine a man that was already a master in his business now 'reduced' to a servant of an unstable man who does not even have a house address. He was seemingly reduced in order to give God the opportunity to remake him unto elevation. If he had remained in that business no one would have known about him today; but his initial seeming reduction was an opportunity for

God to rearrange his destiny unto elevation. All his personal arrangements were dismantled for God to make a fresh arrangement for his life. God does not dismantle a man's life in order to destroy it. He rather does so in order to be able to settle down and put it together for the best that heaven expects of it. When God dismantles a life, there is a fresh mantle to be released. He dismantles lives in order to start a fresh work for fresh and greater mantles. If you are too conscious of your life and its welfare, you will not be qualified for fresh and greater mantles in life and ministry. If you hate to be ridiculed, then be ready to remain in a cubicle. It is those who do ridiculous things that finally become illustrious. If you are too meticulous about your future, then you are not prepared for the miraculous. If you are too rigid, you'll end up in your origin.

A Debasing Title

Imagine the new title of Elisha at that time. People give ridiculous titles to those who have vision, because they don't see the mantle ahead of the vision. You may not blame them, because, they are permitted to speak based on what they see. Don't hate them; you only need to understand that they're indirectly and unconsciously saying that your mantle is too precious and hidden from their sight. Look at the way Elisha was addressed:

But Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the LORD, that we may enquire of the LORD by him? And one of the king of Israel's servants answered and said, Here is Elisha the son of Shaphat, which poured water on the hands of Elijah. (2 Kings 3:11)
KJV

One of the servants of the king of Israel in this story told King Jehoshaphat about Elisha by describing him as the man that poured water on the hands of Elisha. What a seeming debasing responsibility Elisha went into at that time! He was pouring ordinary water on the hands of Elijah his master, aiding in wetting and cleaning the hands. We won't go into the intricacies involved in this, but the truth of the matter is that Elisha stooped low in serving Elijah. You can't stoop low and be stopped in going high. Your stooping will enhance your non-stop unto your highest height. Those who are ridiculously nicknamed for God end up as great names for Him. Remember that we have looked into the issue of humility in the earlier part of this book; so we will not continue on it here.

Receiving the Mantle...

Elisha did not end up in that level of being called the man that poured water on the hands of Elijah. Although we may not go through much of how he took over the mantle of Elijah, let's consider this before we move ahead:

And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so. And it came to pass, as they still went on, and talked, that, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire, and horses of fire, and parted them both asunder; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven. And Elisha saw it, and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. And he saw him no more: and he took hold of his own clothes, and rent them in two pieces. He took up also the mantle of Elijah that fell from him, and went back, and stood by the bank of Jordan; (2 Kings 2:9-13) KJV

When the ministry of Elijah was about terminating, he was moving from one place to the other with Elisha. The sons of the prophets were there, but were not following Elijah on that last day of his movement on the earth, although they knew it. They went as far as crossing the River Jordan before Elijah asked Elisha a cardinal question of destiny. He gave him the freedom of choice that would determine his next level of operation in the kingdom. Although he was to take over from Elijah, Elisha had to determine the level and gravity of his future operation on this last day of his interaction with his master. Although the Lord had spoken about Elisha's destiny long before that time, Elisha had to still determine how far he could go. For more on this, contact my book entitled **"Who is a Servant of God"**.

After crossing River Jordan, they continued moving and talking together. They never broke fellowship and communion. They were of one mind and purpose. The talking and walking did not cease before the mantle dropped for Elisha. The relationship was not broken through disappointment and thought of uncertainty before he took over the mantle. When Elijah saw this, he had no option than to ask him of what he needed from him. This is challenging as far as following God through a servant of His is concerned. Elisha was never ready to give up until the mantle dropped. You need a continued walk and communion with your leader for God to help you get something out of the grace upon his life. Look at how he saw the person of Elijah:

and he cried, My father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. (verse 12a).

He saw him as his father, the chariot of Israel and the horsemen. He did not see him as an ordinary personality. He saw him as an embodiment of chariots and

horsemen. It was on that day that his view over this man was expressed. Other people might have seen Elijah as only a prophet in Israel, but he saw him as a chariot and horsemen. That was his revelation about Elijah. This kind of revelation keeps a man intact with his leader, thereby granting him the desired and heavenly-ordained exaltation. It also causes a man to see beyond the natural perspective as far as his leader is concerned. If a man can look and be too critical about the shortcomings of his leader, then he has no serious revelation about him and as such, he can hardly remain submissive; which can in turn hinder his desired exaltation. We are not advocating following a man along with his error and doing nothing about it even in the place of prayer; but we are dealing with the issue of submissiveness without capitalizing in his errors as a human being

Who is your leader to you? What is your understanding and revelation concerning his ministry in the body of Christ? What kind of insight do you have concerning his role in your life and destiny? Your answers to these questions and some others that the Holy Spirit can lay in your heart will determine the level of honour and submissiveness you accord to him. Don't cut your elevation short, by your lack of wisdom.

A Reflection of the Revelation

When Elisha was sick unto death, he called the then king of Israel and this is the record of the interaction between them:

Now Elisha was fallen sick of his sickness whereof he died. And Joash the king of Israel came down unto him, and wept over his face, and said, O my father, my father, the chariot of Israel, and the horsemen thereof. 2 Kings 13:14) KJV

You can see that the same way Elisha addressed Elijah at the time of his departure was the same way Elisha was addressed by King Joash. He also called him his father, the chariots of Israel and the horsemen thereof. The way Elisha saw his master was the same way King Joash saw him. He was an ordinary man when he addressed his master as a father, the chariot of Israel and the horsemen thereof; but in his own case, it was a king that addressed him in the same way. His regard for Elijah produced a king's regard for him. When you regard and honour an exalted man, honoured and exalted men will honour you. Your regard for others will beget men's regard for you. I prophesy to you that you will be honoured by both ordinary and honoured men, in Jesus' Name! However, you can't be reasonably known as a father if you have not been under a father.

CHAPTER 8 IN THE FEAR OF THE LORD AND OBEDIENCE

The fear of the Lord and obedience are two crucial factors that enhance a man's divine exaltation. Even after a man had been elevated by the mercy of God, there is the need for him to remain in the fear of the Lord and in obedience to His Word. In the Book of Ecclesiastes 12:13 & 14 the Bible says:

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil. (KJV)

The central focus of every man that wants to please God to the extent of being exalted by Him is in two factors-the fear of the Lord and obedience or keeping of His commandments. No man can gain any divine approval for any reasonable thing before the Lord without the fear of the Lord and obedience, no matter how he struggles in life and in ministry or career. The Lord used the preacher who wrote the Book of Ecclesiastes to make us understand that the summary of the whole duty of man, no matter the pursuit involved, is in these two virtues. No matter how great and high a man intends to rise or had already arisen, God is looking deliberately to see the fear of the Lord and obedience being displayed in his life. What would receive an approval towards the exaltation of any servant of God is the presence of these two virtues.

We need the fear of the Lord because whatever we are doing shall be brought into the judgment of God. It is possible for a man to be famous and appear great in the society; but if the presence of God is not there, then there is a serious problem. That greatness and elevation is a fake one in the sight of God. May you not experience a fake exaltation!

If a man is exalted without having the fear of the Lord and obedience to His Word, he will end up walking outside His really ordained divine plan for his life. The man will begin to take things for granted and also take laws into his hands. He will become a disgrace and a misfit in the plan and purpose of God. That is why it takes God time with several tests of faith in the life of a man before He finally elevates him as He originally intended. There are certain levels of exaltation that a man can attain just as test of his faithfulness before God could either go ahead and grant him more elevation or stagnate him at that point. Every level of a man's upliftment is a test for a higher level. If a man remains in the fear of the Lord and obedience to His Word, his exaltation will know no bounds.

Apart from the final judgment of God over our works, it is also important to know that there is divine judgment silently going on over our lives and works. This judgment renders us either qualified for higher heights or unqualified. So the

presence of the fear of the Lord and obedience on a regular basis will qualify a man for divine elevation. It is therefore, lack of wisdom for a man to remove his garment of the fear of the Lord and obedience at a particular height in life and ministry. Doing away with these two virtues at a point in the life of a man renders him weightless and worthless in the sight of God.

God's Consideration

Thus saith the LORD, The heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool: where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word. (Isaiah 66:1, 2) KJV

Our major concern is in verse 2 (especially its end). However, in order to deal with the matter at hand, it will not be appropriate to just pick verse 2 and go on like that. There is a serious undeniable connecting issue that the Lord was dealing with in this context. He was telling his people about the fact that He's the Creator of all things, both in heaven and on the earth. So there is nothing that the people can build for Him that they should think that it would become His resting and satisfactory place. In fact, He said that heaven is His throne and the earth is His footstool and as such, the children of Israel should not rely on the fact that they could build a temple with their hands such that it can contain Him. He cannot make a temple built by men to become His abode; being that mighty, large and great. He could at best cause his presence to be in the temple and speak to the people from the mercy seat..., but He cannot be subjected to that small location. How can He who fills the heavens and the earth be compressed into such a small place called the temple? The Israelites so valued the temple and were proud about it and forgot about the weightier matters that really matter in the sight of God. They became so conscious of the works of their hands (especially the presence of the temple) that the matter of the fear of the Lord and brokenness of heart was overlooked. Then the Lord decided to wake them up into this weightier matter.

I want to ask you right now as you read this portion of this book about how much work you have done for God. Have you been able to build a very heavy auditorium for the Lord? I thank God for your life and ministry. Have you built so many Church auditoria from one place to the other? I really commend you for that. Have been able to build homes for the less privileged where there is provision for them to meet and worship the Lord? That is another great thing in the sight of the Lord. To God be all the glory for all these.

However, the question at this point in time is that how far had the lives of those that come under those buildings been built in the dimension of the fear of the Lord and obedience to His Word. Are they just being proud of the building without being reasonably built up in matters of holiness, spirituality and the fear of the Lord? Are they only busy celebrating the great buildings and other achievements, while in the real sense they are poor in matters that have to do with the fear of the Lord and obedience? Why are they busy shouting when you mention about great things done in the ministry, but get uncomfortable when it comes to the crucial matter of the fear of the Lord and obedience? The Lord said:

where is the house that ye build unto me? and where is the place of my rest? (Verse 1b)

He saw the temple, but was still asking about a house that they've built for Him. He saw the temple, but did not derive satisfaction in it. Then what was the Lord looking for as an ultimate source of His rest and satisfaction? Since He didn't see the temple as the place of His rest, what was He looking for as that place of rest? This indicates that no matter how wonderful a physical building could be, it is not God's real place of rest. Although his presence can manifest and do many marvellous things, it is not His actual place of rest. Of course, He would even be the one that granted the revelation and approval about the building, but yet, it is never His place of rest. It can be celebrated by the Church and the world in general, but it is not God's real place of rest. It could be very monumental such that several generations will make reference to it, but yet, it is not His place of rest. He said that His hands had made all those things. No matter what you think about that building or completed project, the Lord says that his hands had made all those things. You are only able to make something out of what He had made,

I'll still emphasize here that we are not relegating or trying to look with disdain at buildings made in the name of worshipping the Lord. The Lord honours gatherings that are organized in such places. The Lord honoured Solomon's temple to the point that He promised to respond to the prayers of the Israelites as they offered it in the temple (2 Chronicles 7:15, 16). In fact, the Lord so honoured the temple that his glory came down as reported thus:

Now when Solomon had made an end of praying, the fire came down from heaven, and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the LORD filled the house. And the priests could not enter into the house of the LORD, because the glory of the LORD had filled the LORD'S house. (2 Chronicles 7:1, 2) KJV

However, the Bible says:

but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word. (Verse 2b)

The strong matter here is about the man that the Lord is looking at. We are talking about whom the Lord is looking up to. He's looking at such a man that there is prospect in his life for His Kingdom to prosper on this planet earth.

A man that fears the Lord to the point that he trembles at His Word will never lack the face of God as He'd continue to look at him. How can God look at a man and he won't improve? How can God be so interested in a man to the point that he becomes a precious commodity for Him to be looking at and yet the man will remain at the same point? It is an error! But the requirement for attracting the face of God to look at any man involves total surrender to His Word with trembling through the fear of the Lord and a broken or contrite spirit.

What is the state of your heart in response to the Word of God? Do you handle it with fear and trembling? This is what God is looking for. God has no any other platform on which you can be elevated without the requirement of this critical attitude. You can never be disobedient and careless about the Word of God and go far with Him. The level of your exaltation with God is determined by the level at which you exalt His Word with fear and trembling. Your breakthrough hinges on your brokenness. If you are not broken in heart, you cannot break barriers. You will break forth if you are broken on the inside. A man with a stony heart will lack stepping stones. The Lord will not provide you with stepping stones out there, since you have one in there. May your heart not be too stony that it will become your stumbling block.

A Categorical Blessing for Obedience

And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

And the LORD shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; if that thou hearken unto the commandments of the LORD thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them: (Deuteronomy 28:1, 2, 13) KJV

When the Lord was giving Moses the instruction concerning the need for the Israelites to be obedient, He deliberately opened the chapter with what we read above (verses 1 and 2 above). He told them that if they could hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord, to do all that He commanded, the Lord will set them above all nations of the earth. Verse 1 is very categorical about this. The Lord did not start by mentioning the other blessings to them, until He had spoken about their altitude. He stated that He'd set them higher **above** all nations. No matter how any other nation had excelled in those days, the people of God were promised an exaltation that would be above other nations of the earth. So they were not expected to look at any other nation as a standard in any field of life. That promise is still for us today. They were to become the standard for all other nations of the earth as they look up to them in terms of development, inventions, wisdom, knowledge.... What a great blessing!

It therefore, appears that the first and major blessing that God ever proposes for His servants is the blessing of elevation. Other blessings could follow suit as the Lord would release from time to time. When He was talking about the blessing of exaltation, He was dealing with the entire nation of Israel. He was not just mentioning about the exaltation of a single person here. However, the exaltation of the entire nation was going to depend on the exaltation of at least certain personalities in the nation. If any man was going to be elevated in the land of Israel, he should remember that his elevation is meant for the elevation of the nation. He needed to take note of the fact that he's not elevated for him to make a show of it, but in order for God to make a show of His covenant nation. Such a one should therefore, have a large heart to accommodate the elevation. You cannot be elevated beyond what your heart can carry. Your elevation is not meant only for your consumption and your little family. This was all in order to show his excellence and supremacy over the other nations of the earth and their gods. Remember Mordecai that we studied about earlier.

Think about the word "**set**" in that verse. He said that He would set them higher above all the other nations of the earth. He was going to place them strategically in the view of other nations of the earth. Exaltation comes with a strategic setting of the exalted man. The Lord will place him so strategically that those who never knew about him before will begin to know about him. The Lord will elevate you and also set you strategically to the view of as many as need your attention. It is one thing to be elevated and it is another thing to be set strategically in view of as many as need your attention. It is one thing to be elevated in wisdom, knowledge, grace... and it is another thing for you to be set in the view of others.

Moreover, the perfect will of God for the Israelites was to keep them in that altitude without changing it. They were to remain there **set** and settled. If anything would bring them lower than that level, then it would be their fault. God does not

intend for any of His children a temporary exaltation, but an exaltation that would stand the test of time.

Ending the Blessing

When the Lord was ending about the aspect of the blessing of obedience, He reiterated the issue of elevation in a little bit different way. He said that the Israelites will be above only and not beneath. At that point, He also stated that they shall be the head and not the tail. The head of every beast and creeping animal normally takes the lead over the rest part of the body, including the tail. So the Israelites were going to be on the lead both vertically and horizontally. They were going to be at the top and also at the front. They were not only to be exalted in fame and popularity, but they were to become front liners in various aspects of life endeavour. They were to be highly lifted in blessing and by the mercy of God and at the same time be found to be at the fore front, breaking barriers and limitations on the face of the earth. Their exaltation was going to come along with the setting of pace. That is to say that they will be both exalted and to become pacesetters.

Considering the vertical exaltation, the Israelites were also to rise above the powers in the heavenly places. Their exaltation would not be at the mercy of any territorial demon. They were to be in charge of every territory where they found themselves. They were not to be afraid of anything that could bring them down. The only thing that could bring them down would be their sin against the God of their fathers. What a perfect, authoritative and comfortable exaltation! They had nothing to fear on the face of the earth as long as their relationship with God was intact. Thank God for His perfect gift.

May the Church of Jesus Christ come to this point to the glory of the Lord! May the Church be so elevated that the world will envy her, but still look up to her as a standard and as a pacesetter! Child of God, this is God's plan for your life. The Lord will make you the head and not the tail, in Jesus' Name! So don't be satisfied in wherever you find yourself. Aspire for more of God's grace, mercy, wisdom and excellence, so that you can become the real person that He wants you to become. However, the key criterion to this is in diligent obedience.

The issue of exaltation therefore, became the opening and the closing of the blessing of God for the Israelites as far as that chapter is concerned. It therefore, acted as a doorway for the other blessings. This implies that exaltation causes a man to become a door through which men can encounter God's blessings and other divine intentions to be realised in their lives. It is one thing to be blessed with open doors in life, career and ministry, while it is another thing to become a door. This is very important. You may have open doors in ministry as ministries and churches open the doors of their churches and ministries to you; however, it is another thing for you to be a door through which ministries break forth and lives are blessed. It is

therefore, a display of wisdom for a man not only to pray for open doors, but to also pray for him to become a door for others to manifest.

As a man that God is elevating from one level to the other, are you a door unto the accomplishment of other people's calling? Are you not even a hindrance against the fulfilment of the purpose of God for their lives? There could be some brethren that would have passed through you to become something in life, but you are not a strategic door since you are not prepared to help them rise to meet up with your level. You only want people to be there for you to accomplish your own calling, while you are not even ready to encourage others adequately. Then your elevation is just like a man that misses his way. Are you a successful door or a failing door? May God help you in this dimension as you become a door that also enjoys open doors!

When Your Obedience is Complete

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled. (2 Corinthians 10:4-6) KJV

being ready to punish every disobedience, when your obedience is complete. (2 Corinthians 10:6) RSV

The weapons of our warfare are not carnal; but they are spiritual and mighty through God. They dismantle all the imaginations plans, strategies... of the forces of darkness. These weapons subdue and overpower all that exalt itself against the knowledge of God. These forces act in such a way as to becloud humanity from the knowledge of God. They act in such a way that people who are suppose to acknowledge God and give Him the glory due to Him would not do so. They act in such a way as to rid the earth of the knowledge of even the existence of God, thus causing man to come up with several theories and hypotheses all with the ultimate aim of denying the existence of God. In order to bring down whatever had been exalted and cause the Name of the Lord to be exalted, there is the need for obedience. Thus, Paul stated from this passage that we will be in readiness to revenge (punish) all disobedience when our obedience is complete. It therefore, implies that when a man is obedient to the Word of God, he becomes qualified to sit in a position to punish whatever stands to disobey the Word of God. So the exaltation of every child of God is meant to bring punishment to all that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. It is an exaltation brought about to deal with

and bring judgment to another opposite exaltation. If a child of God is not exalted at certain levels, it will be difficult to fulfil the punishment he's called to mete out on the exalted things of darkness. There are forces bragging about and dealing with territories and lands and God wants to deal with them through His children, but the advancement/ exaltation required to match up with these is lacking. You cannot punish someone who is higher than you. May the Lord find you after reading this book as His exalted agent ready to punish all exalted works and forces of darkness, in the Name of Jesus!

For one to be able to deal with all forms of disobedience requires his complete obedience. The more your obedience to the Word of God and His instructions, the more will your ability to punish every form of disobedience become. Whatever you are still struggling with in terms of obedience will stand against your authority to bring punishment against disobedience. You can't be disobedient and expect obedience to come on your way. If you want to be obeyed, then you need to obey. Obedience begets obedience. You cannot reap where you've not sown. It therefore, implies that exaltation answers to obedience. The exaltation and punishment you can command is determined by the gravity of your obedience. You can cause others to obey God if you also obey Him.

CHAPTER 9 GUIDEPOST FOR THE EXALTED (PART 1)

It is a highly commendable and very joyful thing for one to be exalted. There is a sense of accomplishment and feeling of satisfaction derivable in one's being elevated in life and ministry. However, this exaltation or advancement is not only meant for one's enjoyment and rest in life. It rather, comes with both responsibility and challenges. If you are not ready for more responsibility and to face more challenges, then you have to forget about being elevated in life and ministry. We will deal with certain issues that need to be noted and taken care of by a man who desires to be exalted or who is already operating at a certain level of elevation. As we look into some of these issues, I pray that the Holy Spirit will help us to be more sensitive to God's help and to be determined to work in conformity with His desire.

1. Increased Responsibility and Demand: One of the cardinal things that every man, both the more elevated and the less elevated (who is desirous of more elevation), should be conscious of and also welcome as the reason for the level he comes into, is the matter of responsibility and demand.. It should be noted that the more a man's height in life, the more the eyes of men will be looking at him. Moving upwards demands being looked up to. Men will normally look up to a man that is up. The higher you go, the higher the demand of responsibility. Let us consider what the Scripture says about this as we consider few instances of exalted men.

Moses, the Servant of God

And it came to pass on the morrow, that Moses sat to judge the people: and the people stood by Moses from the morning unto the evening. And when Moses' father in law saw all that he did to the people, he said, What is this thing that thou doest to the people? why sittest thou thyself alone, and all the people stand by thee from morning unto even? And Moses said unto his father in law, Because the people come unto me to enquire of God: When they have a matter, they come unto me; and I judge between one and another, and I do make them know the statutes of God, and his laws. And Moses' father in law said unto him, The thing that thou doest is not good. Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone. Hearken now unto my voice, I will give thee counsel, and God shall be with thee: Be thou for the people to God-ward, that thou mayest bring the causes unto God: And thou shalt teach them ordinances and laws, and shalt shew them the way

wherein they must walk, and the work that they must do. Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens: And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee. If thou shalt do this thing, and God command thee so, then thou shalt be able to endure, and all this people shall also go to their place in peace. So Moses hearkened to the voice of his father in law, and did all that he had said. And Moses chose able men out of all Israel, and made them heads over the people, rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens. And they judged the people at all seasons: the hard causes they brought unto Moses, but every small matter they judged themselves. (Exodus 18:13-26) KJV

After the Lord elevated Moses from the raring of his father-in-law's flock to the leadership position in the land of Israel by bringing them out of Egypt to move them into the Promise Land, he was faced with the responsibility of judging between the Israelites and to counsel them over series of issues. In one of those days, his father-in-law, Jethro, came to him along with his (Moses') wife. When he saw how Moses was busy in this aspect of his responsibility, he faulted him and gave him an advice on how to handle it more wisely and conveniently. He had to disseminate this responsibility to other people so that he'd be relieved of the responsibility and have the chance to face the presence of God in prayer and other spiritual exercises. The wisdom demonstrated by his father-in-law really helped in relieving him of this responsibility, as he'd be faced with only the harder issues.

You'll now discover how the height attained by a man also attracts hard matters. The higher you go the harder some matters around you will become. Are you desirous of higher heights? Then be prepared for harder issues. There is therefore, the need to seek for more wisdom, knowledge and understanding. If you go higher, without an accompanying commensurate level of wisdom, knowledge and understanding you'll crash-land in the cause of the discharge of your responsibility. Are you praying for higher heights? Then you need to pray for more wisdom. You also need more strength at the level of your elevation. You can't aim high with less strength. The height of elevation is a height to be up and doing. In fact, your usefulness at that level depends on the measure of your strength at that level.

Thank God for Moses who God blessed with such a great adviser at that point in time. Who knows whether God just orchestrated the visit of Jethro at that time for the soul aim of counselling Moses out of that situation? At whatever level you are, you need advisers so that you can make it and not miss out in your place of responsibility. May the Lord bless you with such advisers! They may not necessarily be as highly anointed as yourself, but you need them. They may not be General overseers of ministries and churches, but you need them to fulfil your mandate. Jethro was not as highly anointed as Moses, but he sharply pointed out Moses' error by telling him without mincing words, that what he was doing was not good.

Even at that level Moses was humble enough to calm down and abide by Jethro's advice. He did not see himself as the all-in-all and needed no human advice. He didn't feel that it is only him that had access into the mind of God. He surrendered his shortcoming and things went on well with him and his ministry. This made him to take advantages of the virtues and capabilities of others. He needed to do the work by harnessing the capabilities of the other Israelite leaders that were under him. He needed to know how to organise his assembly with various levels of responsibility. He therefore, needed to understand the capability of each of the officers that he was to appoint. He needed to understand what each person had the ability to handle. This is another task that needed both the revelation of the Spirit and wisdom. He was therefore, expected to have a grasp of the ability of each of these leaders. That his choice was expected to be done with the fear of God, so that he won't appoint a man that is not approved of God. What a sensitive choice!

The higher a man goes up the ladder of spiritual height, the more he needs to pray for sensitivity rather than sensibility. You will be encountered with more sensitive matters in going up the ladder of divine exaltation. If your sensibility becomes higher than your sensitivity, you'll end up as a carnal leader and the work of God under your care will suffer from God's divine provision. If you are more sensible than being sensitive, you'll be caused to provide for the work as God folds His hands at 'your' projects. Sensibility is in the realm of the soul, while sensitivity is in the realm of the spirit. It is the realm from where you derive your ideas that determines the realm from where your provision will be released. If your ideas are only within the realm of the known natural laws, then that is where your provision will come from; but if it is from the spirit realm and through faith in God, then God will be your Source of supply. May you not be elevated to the point that God leaves His work for you!

King Solomon was endowed with so much wisdom that the whole earth sought for his wisdom. The more he gained recognition, the more people from all

nations of the earth were trooping in to hear his wisdom. What a herculean task on his part through his exaltation in wisdom. The Bible says:

And all the earth sought to Solomon, to hear his wisdom, which God had put in his heart. (1 Kings 10:24) KJV

The wisdom that God put into the heart of Solomon was so enormous that his fame went to many nations of the earth and they were coming to listen to him. Divine elevation normally develops from a point in one's life and ministry. The elevation of Moses among the people of his generation sprang up from the miracles that he began to perform among the Israelites and in the entire land of Egypt. That of Joshua came up when the Israelites crossed the River Jordan miraculously; while David began to be famous in Israel when he fought and defeated Goliath. It is a matter of being sensitive and allowing God to take you off from a particular point. I prophesy to you that the Lord will cause your breaking forth from your God-ordained starting point, in Jesus' Name. Be sensitive to God and you will be granted your point of elevation, in Jesus' Name.

The Lord Jesus

When the fame of the Lord was being spread abroad, more work was coming to Him as many people were coming around Him to hear the Word of God and to see the miracles that He was performing. So in the daytime, He was faced with a lot of work in attending to the people and in preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God. What He was doing in order to keep His relationship with the Father to be intact and to remain fresh in the spirit was to be praying in the night. In several occasions, He'd embark on prayer all through the night. This would then make Him to be readily available for the task of the day. It is an example and a pattern for us to follow. If the Master Himself had no option in this matter, then we are expected to follow in His footsteps.

And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God. (Luke 6:12) KJV

As your responsibility begins to grow along with your elevation, you need to create space for quality relationship and fellowship with the Lord, or else, you'll expire while you are still alive up there. Where is your place in prayer, communion, worship, the study of the Word of God...? Are you not a great performer who is perforated in the spirit, having lost your place in relationship with God? May you not lose your place at the time of your exaltation, in Jesus' Name!

Solomon, the King of Israel Endowed with Unfathomable Wisdom

After Solomon had been crowned as the king of Israel, he decided to build the house of the Lord as instructed by God. After that building, he dedicated the house and offered a lot of animals as sacrifice unto God. His sacrifice was so much that the Lord appeared to him in a dream asking him of what he wanted Him to do for him. The Bible says:

And king Solomon offered a sacrifice of twenty and two thousand oxen, and an hundred and twenty thousand sheep: so the king and all the people dedicated the house of God. (2 Chronicles 7:5) KJV

The more a man grows in height with God, the more the sacrifice expected of him from the Lord will become. You cannot grow high and expect your sacrifice to be lower than that of the people under you. What I'm saying here is that your growth with God should reflect in your sacrificial life. Your sacrificial life should be a challenge to those you are leading, if you must really carry them along. They are learning from you, both in word and in action. When there is an ongoing project instructed by the Lord, you should be at the fore front in terms of sacrifice. Even if your giving is not as much as theirs in quantity (in case some of them are wealthier than you), the gravity at which your giving affects your income should be more than the gravity at which their own giving affect theirs. In that case, it is clear that you are more sacrificial than them. If your income happens to be more than theirs, then you are expected to give more than all of them. Who told you that you only need to encourage them and then go and sit back, doing nothing substantial? Don't you also need a reward from God?

Similarly, Abraham, that great hero of faith, displayed his faith and love for God through the sacrifice of his son, Isaac (Genesis 22:1-14). The more he grew in faith, the more the sacrifice that God demanded from him. So the life of a divinely exalted man is a life that is full of sacrifice. It is a responsibility that can never stop until a servant of God leaves this world.

2. Increased Recognition: As the Lord begins to elevate a man, a more sense of his recognition will arise from various quarters. Both genuine and mischievous people will begin to identify with him. Let us consider this as we study the life of King David.

And the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, Rechab and Baanah, went, and came about the heat of the day to the house of Ishbosheth, who lay on a bed at noon. And they came thither into the midst of the house, as though they would have fetched wheat; and they smote him under the fifth rib: and Rechab and Baanah his brother

escaped. For when they came into the house, he lay on his bed in his bedchamber, and they smote him, and slew him, and beheaded him, and took his head, and gat them away through the plain all night. And they brought the head of Ishbosheth unto David to Hebron, and said to the king, Behold the head of Ishbosheth the son of Saul thine enemy, which sought thy life; and the LORD hath avenged my lord the king this day of Saul, and of his seed. And David answered Rechab and Baanah his brother, the sons of Rimmon the Beerothite, and said unto them, As the LORD liveth, who hath redeemed my soul out of all adversity, When one told me, saying, Behold, Saul is dead, thinking to have brought good tidings, I took hold of him, and slew him in Ziklag, who thought that I would have given him a reward for his tidings: How much more, when wicked men have slain a righteous person in his own house upon his bed? shall I not therefore now require his blood of your hand, and take you away from the earth? And David commanded his young men, and they slew them, and cut off their hands and their feet, and hanged them up over the pool in Hebron. But they took the head of Ishbosheth, and buried it in the sepulchre of Abner in Hebron. (2 Samuel 4:5-12) KJV

As the Lord was elevating David and was establishing him as the king of Israel, after the death of Saul, two men by the names, Rechab and Baanah the sons of Rimmon went and killed Ishbosheth, a son of Saul and brought his head to King David, in Hebron, where he reigned over Israel for a period of seven years. Why did they do so? They wanted the acceptance and commendation of David. They saw that the Lord had began to help him and decided to ‘help’ him in their own wicked way. Who sent them on that mission? Thank God for King David who would not take such things for granted! He ordered for their immediate execution. They recognised him and thought of doing a good job for him; but in the wrong way.

This is a serious lesson to learn. There are many people who will want to be of help to you as the Lord begins to help and elevate you. However, you need to check their lives, actions and motives. Some may come with stolen money to help you in the work of God. Some may even make their money through armed robbery, embezzlement of government funds and prostitution. If you are not careful you’ll be blessing people that are already cursed, thereby antagonising the verdict of God over their lives. You’ll be busy blessing them, while God will be busy nullifying your blessings with curses. May you not be found opposing the Lord based on some helps that come your way! When you accept a rejected material, what will happen to you? Will you not become rejected along with it? How do you expect the

presence of God and His approval over a building that you raised for Him through illegal means? Check yourself and your work in the light of this.

In the same Book of 2 Samuel 5:1-5, the Bible says:

Then came all the tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, Behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh. Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel. So all the elders of Israel came to the king to Hebron; and king David made a league with them in Hebron before the LORD: and they anointed David king over Israel. David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years. In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months: and in Jerusalem he reigned thirty and three years over all Israel and Judah. (2 Samuel 5:1-5) KJV

It was at this point that the Israelites recognised David's relationship with him. They had no option than to openly confess it. Where were they when Saul was pursuing after him? How many of them advised Saul to stop that act against him? Were they not the same people that Saul was using to fight against him? Why then did they display such a sudden recognition? Everybody normally wants to associate with a successful man. In the Name of the Lord Jesus, those who the devil is using against you today will soon be turned over to your favour and disposal.

They also recognised David's success and role in the days of Saul and his wars. They recognised that David was really the one causing the success in Saul's battles, while Saul was only there taking the glory. In other words, Saul was just there as a figurehead. May you not rise in life to a point that you become a figurehead, of whom things are happening in your ministry, but not really because you are there; but because of those that are serving under you. Are you another 'David' of whom your church or ministry is flourishing primarily because the Lord had decided to honour you and not necessarily the man that is placed ahead of you? He may be taking the glory, but don't worry, the day of reward will come and the just Rewarder will reward you accordingly to the surprise of everybody.

Abner, a commander of Saul's army was also another man that at last bowed to the leadership of King David. There was trouble between him and Ishbosheth, Saul's son after he (Abner) slept with Rizpah, a concubine of Saul. The Bible says:

And Saul had a concubine, whose name was Rizpah, the daughter of Aiah: and Ishbosheth said to Abner, Wherefore hast thou gone in unto my father's concubine? Then was Abner very wroth for the

words of Ishbosheth, and said, Am I a dog's head, which against Judah do shew kindness this day unto the house of Saul thy father, to his brethren, and to his friends, and have not delivered thee into the hand of David, that thou chargest me to day with a fault concerning this woman? So do God to Abner, and more also, except, as the LORD hath sworn to David, even so I do to him; To translate the kingdom from the house of Saul, and to set up the throne of David over Israel and over Judah, from Dan even to Beersheba. (2 Samuel 3:7-10) KJV

You can see how trouble sprang up between these two personalities leading to the anger that ended in the death of Abner. Of course, he intended to mobilise the entire kingdom of Israel in his own way, to move over to David. God Himself can cause confusion among you enemies, just for you to be recognised. Don't struggle to be recognised by men; rather, work to be recognised by God and He will command and compel men to recognise you, by whatever means.

You Need David's kind of Forgiving Heart

Let us consider how David handled Shimei's case. This was the Shimei that became an ancestor of Mordecai, who we used as a case study earlier in this book.

And when king David came to Bahurim, behold, thence came out a man of the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei, the son of Gera: he came forth, and cursed still as he came. 2 Samuel 16:5) KJV

And Shimei the son of Gera, a Benjamite, which was of Bahurim, hasted and came down with the men of Judah to meet king David. And there were a thousand men of Benjamin with him, and Ziba the servant of the house of Saul, and his fifteen sons and his twenty servants with him; and they went over Jordan before the king. And there went over a ferry boat to carry over the king's household, and to do what he thought good. And Shimei the son of Gera fell down before the king, as he was come over Jordan; And said unto the king, Let not my lord impute iniquity unto me, neither do thou remember that which thy servant did perversely the day that my lord the king went out of Jerusalem, that the king should take it to his heart. For thy servant doth know that I have sinned: therefore, behold, I am come the first this day of all the house of Joseph to go down to meet my lord the king. But Abishai the son of Zeruiah answered and said, Shall not Shimei be put to death for this,

because he cursed the LORD'S anointed? And David said, What have I to do with you, ye sons of Zeruiah, that ye should this day be adversaries unto me? shall there any man be put to death this day in Israel? for do not I know that I am this day king over Israel? Therefore the king said unto Shimei, Thou shalt not die. And the king swore unto him. (2 Samuel 19:16-23) KJV

From the above lifted verses, we read about how one Shimei, a Benjamite of the family of Saul was following and cursing David in the days he (David) was running away from his son, Absalom. You will know those who really love you in the days of your adversity and lowliness. After all that and Absalom had also died, David returned back to Jerusalem. The same Shimei hastened to meet him over Jordan with many other people. Why? It is simply because *When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him (Proverbs 16:7)*. When there was a request to put Shimei to death, King David, who has that forgiving spirit dissuaded them from carrying out that act.

As the Lord raises you, He will cause your enemies to bow before you; but the Lord is requiring from you a heart like that of King David. What kind of heart do you have? Are you not the type that matters can never be erased from your heart even after you have reconciled with someone else? Then you are not prepared for real elevation; because the Lord knows how you'll handle those your offenders at the time of your elevation. Don't keep matters in your heart to the point that you vow not to relate with your offenders any more, no matter what happens. Learn a lesson from David. If offences cannot be erased from your heart, then forget to be raised for the Lord. You will not really matter for God unto elevation if your matters are too strong for you to let go. If you don't let it go, then you won't go to anywhere. If you place matters over your head, then you won't go over in life. If you don't let it go, it will not let you go.

3. Exposure to Favour and Gifts: Divine exaltation attracts favour and gifts to the exalted man. This increase in favour and gifts is intended to facilitate the fulfilment of the purpose of that exaltation. King Solomon was one of the highly favoured people in his days and the Bible says this about him:

And when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to prove him with hard questions. And she came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bare spices, and very much gold, and precious stones: and when she was come to Solomon, she communed with him of all that was in her heart. And Solomon told her all her questions: there was not any thing hid from the king, which he told her not. And

when the queen of Sheba had seen all Solomon's wisdom, and the house that he had built, And the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel, and his cupbearers, and his ascent by which he went up unto the house of the LORD; there was no more spirit in her. And she said to the king, It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom. Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard. Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom. Blessed be the LORD thy God, which delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel: because the LORD loved Israel for ever, therefore made he thee king, to do judgment and justice. And she gave the king an hundred and twenty talents of gold, and of spices very great store, and precious stones: there came no more such abundance of spices as these which the queen of Sheba gave to king Solomon. (1 Kings 10:1-10) KJV

The queen of Sheba came all the way from the East when she had of the wisdom of Solomon and the Name of the Lord that was the bedrock of that fame. After she listened to Solomon, she was so overwhelmed to the point that she confessed that what she heard about him could not be compared with what she saw. She decided to give him a lot of precious and goodly materials. Solomon did not demand for them, but she gave them to him, the favour of God was so much in display that this woman had to open up her royal bounty unto King Solomon. Well, in response, Solomon also gave her certain things out of the abundance that he had. Whatever the woman requested, it was given her out of the abundance that Solomon had. The abundance of spices that the woman gave to Solomon was incomparable in the Kingdom. This was the favour of God in display.

It was not only the queen of Sheba that gave Solomon precious gifts. A man by name Hiram also provided Solomon with some precious materials.

And the navy also of Hiram, that brought gold from Ophir, brought in from Ophir great plenty of almug trees, and precious stones. (1 Kings 10:11) KJV

Can you see how people were at his disposal in terms of favour, such that it reflected in the gifts that they presented to him? It is a privilege of which the man in question should be aware that the favour and the gifts coming his way are meant for the expansion of the Kingdom of God and not only meant for his welfare.

4. Need for More of God: No matter the level attained by any servant of God, the need for more of God in his life is very imperative. He needs more of the presence of God than ever, without which he will find himself in a mess. If a man reaches a point in which he thinks that he's arrived and that he could handle things the way he likes, then it means that he's on his way to a fall. The saints of old knew this and made it their watch word. Let's consider this in the light of some scriptural passages:

<<To the chief Musician, Maschil, for the sons of Korah.>> As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? (Psalm 42:1, 2) KJV

Those that be planted in the house of the LORD shall flourish in the courts of our God. (Psalm 92:13)KJV

For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. (Psalm 84:10) KJV

<<A Song of degrees of David.>> I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the LORD. (Psalm 122:1) KJV

The attitude of a servant of God, no matter the level he had attained in life is expected to be as the psalmists stated in the above verses. He is expected to be thirsty of the presence of God like the deer (hart), panting after the water brooks. He's supposed to be so hungry of the presence of God in his life, being so spiritually sensitive to the absence of God. It is a great privilege for a servant of God to be aware of God's presence or absence in his life and work. It is possible for one to be working with results following, yet with the absence of God.

If you don't have a panting spirit concerning your relationship with God, you will not remain sharp and pointed in the spirit. When you pant for God, you don't need to panic for the devil. You will be fresh and viable in your place of appointment by regular panting for the Lord. You are appointed to pant for the presence of the Master. Everyday appointment with God is very accessible to those who pant for His presence in their lives. Your desire to accomplish your appointment with God should not outweigh the level of your panting for Him. You'll expire in your place of appointment when you lose a panting spirit. Your thirst for God determines your taste before Him. Anything you do for God outside a thirsty spirit for Him is nothing else, but an ordinary activity. Your work for God will not pass the test of time if your thirst for God is lost in the course of doing it. One of God's yardsticks for elevation is having a thirst and hunger for Him. In fact

God tests men's trustworthiness before Him through their test for Him. Losing your thirst for God implies failing His test of your spiritual fitness and sensitivity. You are never a success before God, until your longing for Him is intact and grows consistently.

Your longing for God will make you to go a longer distance with Him. Don't be a lodging Christian with God, but make His house your abode. Make the longing for His presence your daily duty and you will not be lost in your duty post. You are not posted to die for the post, but to die for Him that posted you. When you lose Him at your post, you become a host to yourself in that your post. But remember that you are a guest in that your post and so your honour is released from your Host. When you lose this your Host, your placement in that place becomes baseless. Your real honour before heaven will fade off.

You are not only expected to go to the presence of the Lord, but you are expected to be planted there. This is serious. You must have your abode, take nourishment and grow in the presence of the Lord. The house of the Lord should be your plantation, but not your lodging or visiting place. Your life, health, knowledge, wisdom, strength... must be rooted, grow and take bearing from God. Your life should be characterized by what you receive from Him. Your base of existence and operation should emanate from the Lord.

Where do you dwell? From where do you get what men see you with? Where do you normally resort to in order to sort things out? Where is your strength sourced from? A day in the courts of our God is far better than many days spent elsewhere. So you need to be desirous of this one thing-never to lose your place in His house (as you are consistently in His presence). It is your base that determines the basis of your duties. Where is your spiritual base? Imagine how a man will choose to become a doorkeeper in a house than to have a full dwelling place in another place! Imagine a doorkeeper who may not even have full right into the belongings that are inside the house, being considered to be better than one who dwells in the tents of wickedness. But you are not called just to keep the door, but to dwell with the Almighty and enjoy His presence and glory.

David the highly exalted king of Israel declared his gladness in being called to go to the house of the Lord. Remember that he was not opportuned to build a house for the Lord in his days, but he still saw the sanctuary of God as a desirable place to be with gladness. You have a serious spiritual problem when the issue of being in the house of God even in the midst of other believers becomes a matter of displeasure and struggle to you. You are as spiritually healthy as your desire to appear before the Lord, both in private communion and corporate fellowship with other believers. You can't outgrow the fellowship of the believers. You cannot grow too high to the point that you will only need to appear before the Lord in corporate worship only for the purpose of ministering to others. You need to also

have the desire to be ministered to. May you not lose your place in the house of God and His divine presence!

CHAPTER 10 GUIDEPOST FOR THE EXALTED (PART 2)

Apart from the factors discussed as guidepost for an exalted man in the last chapter, there are other factors that should be considered as pitfalls and traps against an exalted man. We will discuss some of these factors in this chapter.

1. Tendency to Feel a Sense of Satisfaction and Arrival: This is a very crucial factor to be guided against by any man that the Lord is raising and helping. Such a one could reach a point that he could be tempted that he had achieved a lot and enough in his life and ministry. The tendency to begin to sit down and slack back in several basic spiritual responsibilities would be evident in the life of such a one. He may begin to assume an arrival in life and ministry that he may lose his zeal and desire for more and higher things. He may be tempted to think that his level in life and ministry is the highest he could attain. But this is not true. It is a lie and a deception from the pit of hell. It is brought to him with the aim of stealing away his focus for the things of God. There is no level that you have reached and there is no achievement that you've ever made that is the ultimate. Have you raised the dead before? There is something higher than that if you can be consistent and desirous for more of God. Do you have a church congregation counting in hundreds of thousands? There is something higher than that. You can never exhaust God. Any day you think that you have arrived, you are telling God that that is the best that He can do through you and in you. So you need to escape this web of deception from the pit of hell and always move ahead and press towards the mark and say like Apostle Paul that:

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3:13, 14) KJV

This was the attitude of this great apostle of God. I hope you know the man that authored this Book of Philippians. This man by name Apostle Paul waxed so great for the Lord that many churches were planted through his missionary journeys. In terms of miracles he performed a lot of them that even his handkerchiefs were administered to sick people unto their recovery from their sicknesses. He became a powerful and great figure of faith in his generation to the point that the powers of darkness acknowledged knowing Christ and him (Acts 19:15). In terms of sufferings, persecutions and other forms of hardship, he passed through a lot for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Yet, imagine such a man expressing his dissatisfaction over how far he had gone in the things of God.

David somehow fell victim of this problem:

And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem. And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house. And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child. (2 Kings 11:1-5) KJV

Look at how David handled that battle. It was the season at which kings went to battle. It was not the time for him to be staying in his big and comfortable house only to send his commander in chief to go and lead the army. He was expected to be there in person, but he stayed behind believing that his soldiers will be able to gain victory in his absence. He must have felt that he had so trained them that they can now fight on their own without him. He'd then begin to rest in that season of the wars of the kings. He violated the expectation that he needed to have accomplished for the season. He decided to rest at the time of work. He became insensitive to the demand of the season over his life and ministry. Every season that you find yourself in has its expectation for your life and ministry; but this can be beclouded in your life by the spirit of self satisfaction and an assumption of arrival in life and ministry.

This costly assumption caused David a lot in life of which he could never recover from it. His life was characterised by so many positive things and series of commendations from the Lord, but with a big 'but' after all. When he stayed at home, he was walking on the roof of his house and then saw this woman. He was not walking on the hill of vision and revelation, but on the roof of his house. He lost the place of insight and was left with his ordinary and physical eye sight. He lost his spiritual sensitivity and began to work with his natural senses. His servants were still loyal to him even in this backslidden state. This is very tempting. He didn't lose the honour and submissiveness accorded to him by his subordinates, but yet, he was a backslidden man. He did not lose his title as king even in his backslidden state. The devil began to remote him through his eyes, since he had lost his spiritual vision and insight. This ended him up in adultery and his

subsequent killing of Uriah, the husband of Bathsheba, the woman that he committed adultery with. This is a very serious issue that every genuine servant of God at every level needs to guide against.

Imagine David who could not kill even those that rose up against him. When someone brought the tidings that had to do with the death of Saul in the hands of the Philistines to him, he killed the man for testifying that he killed Saul (1 Samuel 1:1-16). The man brought this false testimony thinking that David would commend him, but the whole thing went the other way round. When Saul was pursuing after him to kill him, God delivered him (Saul) into his hands, but he refused to kill him (1 Samuel 24:1-6). When Shimei was cursing him, he dissuaded his men from killing him (2 Samuel 16:5-13). How comes that David suddenly became a murderer that planned the killing of his very loyal servant, Uriah? It looks strange, but that is the usual thing that happens when a man loses his focus as he assumes a sense of satisfaction concerning his life and ministry. This shall not be your portion, in Jesus' Name.

2. Provocation of Jealousy, False Accusation, Unnecessary Criticism and More Warfare: These are some of the things that could be aroused in the cause of a man's exaltation. Even when he had arisen to a very high level, these things were incited against him. In fact, the more the rising of a man, the more these things are being sponsored from the kingdom of darkness against him, all with the aim of distracting him and to bring him down. The Bible has this to say about the rising of David unto kingship in the land of Israel:

And when the Philistines heard that David was anointed king over all Israel, all the Philistines went up to seek David. And David heard of it, and went out against them. (1 Chronicles 14:8) KJV

Upon hearing that David was anointed as king over the whole nation of Israel, the Philistines mobilized each other in order to find him and fight against him. They did not carry out such mobilization against him when he was yet outside the throne of kingship. They knew him as the man that had done a lot of havoc to them and that being elevated to the place of kingship would inflict more harm to them by his hands; they then decided to fight him in order to forestall his future anticipated massacre of their nation. This was the third time that David was anointed in Israel and when the enemies heard of this last and all important dangerous level of exaltation for David, they became uncomfortable and went to fight against him. They were not prepared to surrender, but they wanted to do away with him.

Are you desirous for elevation in life and ministry? Then prepare for more warfare in several areas of your life and ministry. The enemy will come through so

many ways, using several means to fight you in order to forestall your success at your elevation. They can make several plans from time to time to eliminate you and frustrate the purpose of God for your life; but the joy of it is that He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4). When they rise up like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against them (Isaiah 59:19). However, you need to stand on the right track to fight them. The enemies know the power in your elevation and the harm it can inflict on them and so they won't allow you to move over and stay on that level. But the Lord will take you there and keep you there if you remain focused and unyielding to their tactics and gimmicks.

Before His crucifixion the Lord Jesus was faced with some accusations from the religious rulers of those days. In the Book of Matthew 26:59-61 the Bible says:

Now the chief priests, and elders, and all the council, sought false witness against Jesus, to put him to death; But found none: yea, though many false witnesses came, yet found they none. At the last came two false witnesses, And said, This fellow said, I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to build it in three days. (KJV)

This report is also found in the Book of Mark 14:55-58, which says:

And the chief priests and all the council sought for witness against Jesus to put him to death; and found none. For many bare false witness against him, but their witness agreed not together. And there arose certain, and bare false witness against him, saying, We heard him say, I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands. But neither so did their witness agree together. (KJV)

The Lord Jesus Himself was faced with false accusations even towards the end of His earthly ministry. They misinterpreted His saying concerning the destruction of the temple. The temple He was talking about was His body, but they misinterpreted His saying claiming that He said He would destroy the temple. This is what He said of which they accused Him of:

Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body. When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said. (John 2:19-22) KJV

Jesus said ***“Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up”***. Can you observe the discrepancy between Jesus’ statement and their accusation? Jesus did not say that He will destroy the temple, but they said that He said so. He didn’t say that He was the one to destroy it with His hands, but they said that He said that He’d destroy it with His hands. Moreover, He didn’t say ***“I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands”***. Where did the issue of replacing a temple built with hands with one built without hands come from? All these were just false accusations that were brought for the purpose of condemning Him to death. However, all their witnessing did not agree.

Can you observe this? What Jesus said was falsely presented by His accusers. Their accusation was just brought up for the purpose of tarnishing His image in order to put Him to death. If the Lord Himself was accused in this manner, who are you? He said:

Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. (John 13:16) KJV

If the Lord was falsely accused, then you as His servant should not be surprised being similarly accused. If they misinterpreted what the Master said for the purpose of blackmailing Him to carry out their selfish interest, then they could do a similar thing to you. That is why it is wisdom that the higher you go the fewer should be your words. The more exposed you are in the limelight, the more you should be calculative in your words and actions. There are certain things you may have to stay mute over them just like the Master did in this accusation.

And the high priest stood up in the midst, and asked Jesus, saying, Answerest thou nothing? what is it which these witness against thee? But he held his peace, and answered nothing. Again the high priest asked him, and said unto him, Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed? And Jesus said, I am: and ye shall see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.(Mark 14:60-62) KJV

When the high priest tried to persuade Him to state His defence, the Lord decided to hold His peace and answer nothing. He knew that it would be useless for Him to try to defend Himself at that point. But when He was asked of whom He was, He did not hesitate to voice it out by accepting that He was the Christ and that He would soon be in the right hand of power and that He will come back in the clouds of heaven. He was not prepared for useless and unprofitable defence, but

would not hide His identity. He would not also fail to declare what was ahead of Him in glory. He made them to understand that their accusation notwithstanding, what God wanted to do in His life will definitely come to pass. It is wisdom at times to be silent over some allegations and hand them over to God as long as your explanation and self defence may not bring any change. Allow God to speak and fight for you. Even when you needed to clarify issues to your audience, there are some allegations that would appear too difficult for you to really defend yourself. Do your sincere best and hand over the rest to God. He will speak for you on the long run. The anointing of God in your life is not for nothing. The Lord says:

And when they went from nation to nation, and from one kingdom to another people; He suffered no man to do them wrong: yea, he reprov'd kings for their sakes, Saying, Touch not mine anointed, and do my prophets no harm. (1 Chronicles 16:20-22) KJV

You can see the importance and jealousy that God bestows on His anointing upon your life. He can rebuke even kings and other highly placed men in the society just for you to fulfil your purpose in life. Hence, no mortal man is permitted to do you harm if you can maintain your stand in the Lord. You have been declared untouchable and as such, you should know your value before God.

As a servant of God, there are some attitudes you may display in the cause of reacting to your accusers, but it will end up causing you to make certain unnecessary and offensive utterances. That is why you need to be calm even in the process of responding to certain accusations, or else, you may need to hold your peace and hand it over to God. There are even people that will be made to believe certain false accusations against you of which you may not be in a good position to respond to it and defend yourself; but the only thing you should do is to be calm and allow God to defend you by Himself. Take an example from the Lord Jesus. There are certain things you may achieve as fulfilment of your ministry of which some people, including some other brethren may accuse you of, because they don't believe that you've achieved such things by the help of God. Don't fight them; but hand everything over to God. They will in one way or the other come back to you in shame when they later come to the understanding that you achieved such things by the hand of God. They'll also want to know the secret behind your success. When they wait to see your downfall, but discover that you are moving upward instead, they will change their minds concerning your life and ministry and come back in shame to relate with you.

Learn how to ignore many things. Don't waste your precious time and words over certain things that will yield no result to you. If you don't ignore things, very soon, you will be ignored. If you fight for yourself over every matter concerning your life or ministry, then you are a disgrace to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Learn to

hold your peace and that peace will hold you up. Your calmness and silence (as the case may be) will render your accusers and opponents foolish even in their own eyes. The more you are calm and maintain your peace, the more you maintain your focus and overcome distraction. One of the great enemies of distraction is to have a quiet and calm spirit. When you are calm, there is no cause for alarm. A rowdy and disturbed spirit is a friend of distraction and confusion. You can't have a rowdy spirit and see your road clearly. Be calm and avoid scam!

No matter the criticism over your life and ministry, it cannot be compared with the glory ahead of you. Let not the accusation or criticism size you down. If you are even in ministry and nobody had ever spoken evil about you, neither have you been criticized, nor wrongly blamed over certain things then you need to check it up. It could be highly probable that that your ministry has not yet had a recognisable impact against the kingdom of darkness. The more your impact both for the Kingdom of God and against the kingdom of darkness, the more the devil will fight against you through so many ways. But the good news is that since you are becoming more fruitful, heaven will come to your aid in order to enhance more of your fruitfulness.

Beware and ignore backbiters and gossipers. When they backbite you, it is an indication that you have a strong back. When they gossip you it is because they are as negligible as the grasshoppers. They can say all manner of things against you, but that should not change your godly manner. In doing so, they will be put to shame sooner or later. The Lord will put your accusers and critics to shame to the glory of His Name.

There are individuals that will never look to see the positive and good side of your life or ministry, but they are there to criticize every step you take to mean something negative that is far away from your intention. Don't mind them; that is what they have time for and they will end up becoming nothing reasonable in life and before God. If you don't see the good in another man, then there are a lot of bad things around you. In short, if you don't see anything good in any other person, then there is nothing good in you. Other people will be looking at your bad side too. You are like a man going about with excreta and thus, smelling all over the places, but accusing others of the same odour coming from you. The spirit in you determines what you see and look for in other people's lives and ministries.

3. Attraction of some Untrustworthy and Mischievous Followers: Elevation attracts different kinds of people to a man. When they discover that he's been elevated to a certain level and thus, see his usefulness and importance among men, they'll try to associate with him. However, such a man needs to be vigilant and sensitive in handling such attraction and sudden recognition. He should be wise and careful in relating with those concerned at least, at the initial stage of the

relationship. The Israelites were deceived by the Gibeonites in the days of Joshua when they heard about their victory over Jericho and Ai (Joshua 9:3-21). Joshua made the mistake by making peace with them without real investigation and confirmation of their claim. They didn't even seek the face of God on the matter before receiving them into their midst. If they had done that, they would have probably killed them at that spot (except if God had instructed otherwise).

Jesus had twelve disciples, but one of them, by the name Judas Iscariot was a thief and a traitor. He ended up betraying Jesus to the enemies for a sum of thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:15). An incident occurred in the Book of John 12:3-8, in which the Bible spoke about the character of Judas.

Then took Mary a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair: and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment. Then saith one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, which should betray him, Why was not this ointment sold for three hundred pence, and given to the poor? This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein. Then said Jesus, Let her alone: against the day of my burying hath she kept this. For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always. (KJV)

When Jesus was hosted in Bethany where Lazarus whom He raised from the dead was, Mary decided to anoint His feet with a very costly ointment. In his reaction to this precious service of Mary, Judas questioned why that kind of service should be rendered to Jesus and not for the ointment to be sold and the money to be distributed to the poor. He didn't say this in sincerity for his care for the poor, but because he was a thief who used to steal some of the money in the purse for his personal needs. In making such a comment, he was definitely speaking for what would have in one way or the other been of benefit to him. He was not actually concerned about the poor as he claimed, but he was using them as a cover up to satisfy himself.

Even in highly organised and flourishing ministries, you'll find many people who are there with the kind of heart that Judas had. They'll try to even suggest and convince their leaders over certain issues and projects with the sole aim of satisfying themselves at the end of it all. They could neither be trusted nor entrusted with sensitive responsibilities without a questionable and doubtful report after all. They are there for themselves and not for the work. To them it is a means of making two ends meet, while the leaders are in constant sacrifice in the work. They don't know that the platform for exaltation is a platform for sacrifice. They are very selfish and cunning in character. They are deceitful and full of lies. They

are not there for service, but they are there to service their pockets. They claim to promote the work, but in the real sense they are internal agents of demotion and destruction of the ministry. They take glory in the success brought about through their leaders as if they are responsible workers in the ministry. The Lord will deliver His Church in Jesus' Name.

Although Judas was a thief, he was in charge of the money bag in the ministry of Jesus. He was in charge of the money and yet the Lord knew him as a thief. Jesus did not even relieve him of that post, but he was there as if all was well and as if the Master was not aware of it. What a dangerous state to be in a ministry. The Lord may not even reveal your nature to His servant that you are working under, but He may leave you in that way giving you the opportunity to repent. The Bible does not give a record about when Jesus earlier cautioned Judas concerning that attitude, but He knew about it. He ended up destroying himself at the end of his journey with the Lord.

The response of Jesus did not even involve anything that had to do with the character of Judas. He only rebuked him from discouraging Mary from her service. He told him to leave Mary alone. He had to stop being a stumbling block against someone who was out for service. He was rebuked from being a hindrance against a good servant. He was reprimanded for that saying and urged to leave Mary alone if he was not ready to be very useful in the hands of the Master in his own case. It was John that stated that Judas made that comment because he was a thief. Jesus was silent about that aspect of his life in that occasion, but it was not the best for Judas at the final analysis. May the Lord help you to become a good and trustworthy follower, in Jesus' Name!

Jesus' rebuke to Judas indicated his misplacement of priority. Even the matter of the care of the poor that he claimed to advocate for, was a secondary matter at that point in time. He was a follower of which mundane things had blocked his spiritual senses. He was appearing to be busy for the Master, but not sensitive to heavier issues that bothered that Master. That is the state of so many so-called followers. They are looking for things that matter on the now, but not sensitive about matters of eternity and the heartbeat of the Master. They enjoy working for an immediate benefit, not minding of the matters that would grant them eternal reward. They are so interested in doing things that men will appreciate and applaud them even when God's approval is not there. They are busy on monetary and other lighter issues, but are outside the plan of God. They are in the list of rejection, but occupy big posts in the Church. Learn a lesson from Judas.

A Pharisee's Acknowledgement

And one of the Pharisees desired him that he would eat with him. And he went into the Pharisee's house, and sat down to meat. And, behold, a woman in the city, which was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at meat in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster box of ointment, And stood at his feet behind him weeping, and began to wash his feet with tears, and did wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kissed his feet, and anointed them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee which had bidden him saw it, he spake within himself, saying, This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner. And Jesus answering said unto him, Simon, I have somewhat to say unto thee. And he saith, Master, say on. (Luke 7:36-40) KJV

When a Pharisee by name Simon welcomed Jesus into his house, the Bible says that he desired that He would eat with him. He welcomed Him with desire, but yet with a reservation in his heart concerning Jesus. He welcomed Him, but had certain doubts about Him in his mind. This is something that every one whom God had raised at any level should guide against. There are some people that will claim to come close to you and to be part of the work handed over to you, but they still have some doubts and reservation concerning you and the ministry. They are there to watch out and see whether it will work or not, so that they will know the next step to take in order to help themselves. They are not following you based on the revelation and belief they have in the work, but they are there on trial. Be careful with these ones. They will never be willing to continue with you at the time of your testing and adversity. They seem to be at work when things are working normally and according to their expectation; but they draw back and stand aloof when things are tough and rough. That is to say that they tend to work when things are working well, but get out of work when things seem not to work well in the ministry. For more on this contact my book entitled **“Awake unto Responsibility”**.

Simon the Pharisee spoke in his heart concerning his doubt about the person of Christ by saying *“This man, if he were a prophet, would have known who and what manner of woman this is that toucheth him: for she is a sinner”*. He doubted if Jesus was a prophet not knowing that He was more than a prophet. He didn't know that the man he was dealing with carried more grace than what he even doubted him to be. This is the state of so many so-called followers. They don't know half of what you carry and they are already in doubt about how far you could go in life and ministry. They are not prepared to help you bring out the best

in you, but they are there doubting a little portion of the grace you are endowed with. God will deliver and help you to overcome such situations in Jesus' Name.

When Jesus knew his thought and called him by name to draw his attention for Him to speak with him, he answered Him by saying "**Master, say on**". But in his heart he initially said "**This man...**" Can you see the difference between the two claims of the same man? In his heart, Jesus was one man who might not be a prophet, but from his mouth he was called a master. He responded to Jesus with the title of a master, but initially had another view of Him in his heart. What a hypocritical response! How can a man whom you doubt to be a prophet then become your master suddenly? What an erroneous confession of Simon!

Not all that call you with heavy titles know you by those titles. They may be calling you by those titles just to gain your attention and favour. Beware of the 'Simons' around you. they can call you Apostle, Pastor, Bishop, Prophet, Evangelist and so many other titles, but right on their inside, they don't see your worth. When they come around you, they can respond to you by saying "Sir..." at every response to your conversation with them, but deep down, your value is far less than the title they accord to you with their mouths. They give you titles with their mouths, but do not acknowledge the mantle that attracts that title in their hearts. They give you titles, but have less value for you. Beware of your 'Simons' in life and ministry!

Instead of Simon to ask Jesus why He allowed the woman to **wash His feet with tears, and to wipe them with the hairs of her head, and kiss His feet, and anoint them with the ointment**, he decided to draw an erroneous conclusion about the person of Jesus. People of the kind of Simon draw wrong conclusions, thereby causing them to make wrong decisions concerning leaders and their ministries. You will become a wrong leader if you conclude wrongly of a leader. Do you know what it means to be in a position of leadership? Have you been there before? If you were there before, what brought you down from that position? If you are no more the kind of leader you used to be, then who gave you the audacity to criticize others? If you are not a leader, how can you be criticizing a man who is in a position which you've not been? Put yourself in his shoes and let's see what becomes of you. People would quickly see your nakedness and folly if you happen to be there

4. Danger of Pride: As God decides to elevate a man by His mercy, the danger of pride coming into the life of the man is something to be watchful against. Several men and ministries had fallen because of the spirit of pride being found in the lives of the ministers concerned. Pride is a destroyer of lives as it introduces high self esteem. Lucifer, who is now called the devil was in a very high position in the presence of God, until iniquity was found in him (Isaiah 14:12-20; Ezekiel 28:13-

15). The iniquity that was found in him was manifested in the form of pride. The issue of pride was highlighted a bit at the earlier part of this book. However, for more on it, contact my book entitled **“Pride, a Messenger of Destruction”**.

A king of Israel by name Uzziah was reported to have done well in the earlier days of his leadership over Israel as king. But when he became strong, he became proud. This is recorded in the following way:

And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that his father Amaziah did. And he sought God in the days of Zechariah, who had understanding in the visions of God: and as long as he sought the LORD, God made him to prosper.

But when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction: for he transgressed against the LORD his God, and went into the temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense. And Azariah the priest went in after him, and with him fourscore priests of the LORD, that were valiant men: And they withstood Uzziah the king, and said unto him, It appertaineth not unto thee, Uzziah, to burn incense unto the LORD, but to the priests the sons of Aaron, that are consecrated to burn incense: go out of the sanctuary; for thou hast trespassed; neither shall it be for thine honour from the LORD God. Then Uzziah was wroth, and had a censer in his hand to burn incense: and while he was wroth with the priests, the leprosy even rose up in his forehead before the priests in the house of the LORD, from beside the incense altar. And Azariah the chief priest, and all the priests, looked upon him, and, behold, he was leprous in his forehead, and they thrust him out from thence; yea, himself hasted also to go out, because the LORD had smitten him. And Uzziah the king was a leper unto the day of his death, and dwelt in a several house, being a leper; for he was cut off from the house of the LORD: and Jotham his son was over the king's house, judging the people of the land. (2 Chronicles 26:4, 5, 16-21) KJV

As a young ruler, King Uzziah did well as he decided to seek the face of God in the days of Zechariah who had understanding of the things of God and was therefore, able to interpret the visions of God. He (King Uzziah) subjected himself in humility to the teachings/interpretations of the revelations that came from God. The Lord prospered him. As long as he submitted to Zechariah’s tutelage (at least to some extent), he prospered. This is very crucial. Don’t grow up to a point that you go beyond the guidance of God-sent counsellors. They can come along your way from one point to the other, to aid your success in life and ministry. Some of

them may not necessarily be as prominent as yourself (as stated earlier), but they may have a special role to play for your success. May you not consider yourself growing beyond divine counsel and guidance!

However, after the death of Zechariah and as King Uzziah was increasing in strength, he was becoming proud (his heart was lifted up). This is one of the things to guide against when it comes to the issue of divine elevation. When Uzziah saw himself as a strong man, his heart was suddenly lifted up. He became so confident in himself and began to wane in the aspect of seeking the face of God over issues. When a man begins to wane in seeking God's face over even so-called small issues, his ministry will begin to wind up in the face of God. Men may possibly see him moving on, but heaven had already packed him up. Uzziah began to take things for granted as his heart was lifted up. He stopped being lowly like Jesus and heaven left him alone. When you are lifted up in your heart, heaven will bring you down in the physical.

Look at how Uzziah ended up his life. He went into the temple of God to offer incense unto the Lord. When did he suddenly become a priest? Probably he then saw himself as the all in all in the nation of Israel and so, can do as seems right to him; but he was withstood by Azariah and eighty other priests. Thank God for such men that will not compromise the standard of God. They were not going to allow him mess up the altar of God by doing what was not expected of him. They knew when he was going beyond his boundary and were there to withstand him. They knew their job and so were not going to allow the level and strength of Uzziah to intimidate them. They saw God to be the final authority and not the king. They were not prepared to sacrifice the standard of God on the altar of sycophancy. They were not mindful about what would happen to them if the king decided to raise a group of armed men to kill them. They withstood him and said ***“It appertaineth not unto thee, Uzziah, to burn incense unto the LORD, but to the priests the sons of Aaron, that are consecrated to burn incense: go out of the sanctuary; for thou hast trespassed; neither shall it be for thine honour from the LORD God”***. They called him by his name without including his title as king. They saw him as a king that had lost his place through trespass. Watch out against the spirit of trespass in your life.

Why have you become the all in all in your ministry? You've already gotten people that have been ordained to handle several positions in your ministry, but you are interfering with their work so much that they can't do any single thing in your absence. You have so brainwashed them to the point that they are so intimidated and become afraid of taking any single step in their respective units even after God had approved it. Have you not taking over the finances of your ministry even though you have people who you've appointed to render account to you? You are too conscious and critical of every single financial income that

comes into the Church or ministry. No wonder you have been the chief financial officer of the church who normally sits down with those ‘collation’ officers to see into the church income every Sunday. They’re only there to put it together and hand it over to you, because all the expenses must be done by you through you.

As a child of God, you need to maintain your ground even when your leader is falling. You are not called to fall with him. Don’t be such a follow-follow follower who is ready to follow even in the place of a fall. Help him out in one way or the other. Advice him, pray for him and trust God for a change in his life.

When the king tried to resist the priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead. In fact, the leprosy of his heart was transmitted into his forehead as physical leprosy. You are a spiritual leper when you begin to handle the things of God with levity and disrespect. You may even be receiving an increase in attendance in your church/ministry, since the people do not know what you’ve become in the spirit. Even though, you are being accommodated among brethren and ministers in the body of Christ that has nothing to do with the state of your life in the spirit realm. You are allowed to be on the stage because no one knows your state in the spirit. No one may be able to remove you from your pulpit because you are still looking strong even in a spiritual pit. You appear real in this realm, but in the spirit realm you are a fake individual. You are fading, but you are still putting on bold face. So you would normally mount up the pulpit from your spiritual pit and not from the mount of the Lord. From where do you mount up to your stage? Is it from a mountain with the Lord, or from a pit of captivity and rejection? The Lord will help you in Jesus’ Name.

Uzziah’s pride could not allow him to succumb to God’s instruction through the resistance of those priests. He became wild and untameable and ended up in shame and disgrace. Watch out and guide against pride in your life, as the Lord decides to elevate you by His mercy. For more on Uzziah’s seclusion and death, I advise you to contact my book entitled “**Arise For a Change**”.

Pride in the place of success and elevation is dangerous of course. It makes one to take the glory that is to be accorded to God and you know that He will never share His glory with any man. King Nebuchadnezzar tried that and was immediately sent into the bush to feed with the beasts of the field, after which he learned his lesson and gave glory to God (Daniel 4:28-37). Learn a lesson from him so that you won’t fall victim of such humiliation.

5. Problem of an Unhandled Spiritual Issue: There is the need for every man who desires to prosper and remain useful in the hands of God at any level to beware of an unhandled or ignored existing spiritual problem in his life. The flesh is the leading one among such problems. Many other issues may arise, but the bedrock of all others is the flesh and the sin that is inherent in it. As such, any sin

that a man is careless about would end up stagnating or pulling him down the ladder of divine exaltation. We will consider this issue using the lives of two prominent men in the Old Testament.

Moses Struck a Rock in Anger

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink. And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him. And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also. And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them. (Numbers 20:7-12) KJV

When the children of Israel complained about water in the wilderness, the reaction of Moses over the situation is our major focus at this point. He was asked to take the rod of God with Aaron his brother and speak to a rock so that it would bring out water for the congregation to drink. This happened when Moses and Aaron had fallen before the presence of the Lord. After God spoke out about what to do, Moses came out and began to speak roughly to the people by saying **“Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?”** Who sent him to speak like that to the people? They’ve sought the counsel of God quite alright, but he went an extra mile in the way he spoke to the people. From this situation, there is a clear indication that he had the problem of anger in his life even at that point in his life. He had risen to an enviable height anyway, but the problem of anger was still a matter he had to seek the face of God for help. The Book of Psalms 106:32, 33 re-echoes the issue in this way:

They angered him also at the waters of strife, so that it went ill with Moses for their sakes: Because they provoked his spirit, so that he spake unadvisedly with his lips. (KJV)

They angered him at the waters of Meribah, and it went ill with Moses on their account; for they made his spirit bitter, and he spoke words that were rash. (RSV)

The problem that the Holy Spirit pointed out here through the psalmist is not the problem of striking the rock, but the problem of speaking rash words. The rash words came through the spirit of anger that was aroused in him. The anger in him could no longer contain the misbehaviour of the people, but for him to speak rashly to them. The words that came out of his mouth were rough and offensive, but he thought that he was fighting for the interest of God. He was not bothered about how the people felt concerning what he spoke, provided he was able to speak as his anger motivated him. He loved the Lord anyway, but he was not mindful of how to hallow His name in the midst of His congregation. There are words that are not fitting for a servant of God to utter, no matter the situation on ground. The need to glorify the Name of the Lord even in a time of provocation is very important. You can't be rash and not end up in trash. He spoke unadvisable words. What is the implication of that? What he spoke was not expected to have come out of his mouth and does not have any positive impact on any of the people.

The second major problem was his disobedience to God in striking the rock. His anger ended him up in disobeying the instruction of God. The instruction was for him to speak to the rock, but he ended up speaking to the people and striking the rock. He spoke to the wrong audience through his anger. He could no longer follow God's instructions to the later because of anger. Anger can cause a man to mix up things wrongly. It can cause disorderliness in the life of a man and ministry. The instruction of God could be violated as a result of anger. It kills spiritual sensitivity and introduces misplacement of priorities.

This was not the first time the issue of anger was identified in the life of Moses. It was also identified when he went to the presence of God on Mount Sinai. He was able to commune with God and to receive the Ten Commandments written on tables of stone. Before coming down, the Lord told him what was going wrong in the camp of the Israelites. The Lord told him about how He was angry with the Israelites and how He'd kill all of them in the wilderness and raise another generation through him; but he pleaded with God on their behalf. However, on his way down the mountain, his anger was aroused and he did two unadvisable things.

And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount. And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it. (Exodus 32:19, 20) KJV

The first of those things that he did was to break the tables of stone. What had the breaking of the tables of stone to do with the matter at stake? How can something you laboured for in forty days suddenly become a victim of the disobedience of the People? What is the connection between the breaking of the stone tables with the solution to the existing problem of idolatry in the land? He took a baseless and useless action that only yielded a negative result for him. It ended up taking him back to the mountain for another forty days and forty nights without food and water. What a stagnation and backwardness that caused him! Anger is really an agent of stagnation and retrogression. May God deliver you from it in Jesus' Name!

Secondly, Moses made the people to drink out of the calf they had made. The question is that who told him to do this? What solution did this act bring to the existing problem? Would that action bring repentance to the Israelites? May the Lord deliver you from baseless and unfounded actions through anger!

What was the resultant effect of this in the life of Moses? He also ended in the wilderness (after he struck the rock). The Lord told him that he would not take them into the Promise Land because of this action. The Lord vowed to him that he'd no longer be the leader to take the children of Israel into the land of Canaan even after he pleaded with Him for three times (Deuteronomy 16:16). His life and ministry were cut short. He ended halfway because he was no longer considered capable of moving further into the Promise Land. Anger is an incapacitating and shortening agent. It incapacitates a man in ministry and shortens his life so that he'd not spoil the work after all. Anger is a spoiler.

But there was something that is consistently observed about Moses when he comes to the presence of God. Let's consider it briefly:

And the LORD said unto Moses, I have seen this people, and, behold, it is a stiffnecked people: Now therefore let me alone, that my wrath may wax hot against them, and that I may consume them: and I will make of thee a great nation. And Moses besought the LORD his God, and said, LORD, why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people, which thou hast brought forth out of the land of Egypt with great power, and with a mighty hand? Wherefore should the Egyptians speak, and say, For mischief did he bring them out, to slay them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth? Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit it

for ever. And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do unto his people. (Exodus 32:9-14) KJV

When the Lord expressed His anger and displeasure over the action of the Israelites in worshipping the golden calf, Moses pleaded with Him. As He threatened to destroy the nation, Moses pleaded with Him with cogent reasons to support his appeal to Him. He became more or less an adviser to God in that occasion. His reasoning before the Lord at that point of staying in His presence was very sincere and genuine. His action was very constructive and edifying. Look at another instance in the ministry of Moses:

And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto them. (Numbers :6) KJV

When the people complained to Moses about water, he and Aaron went from the presence of the people to the presence of God and fell on their faces before him in humility. They appeared there in humility and the Lord honoured their humility with the appearance of His glory to them. It showed that they sought the face of God not with arrogance, but with the sense of sincerity and humility.

But the matter at stake here is that after Moses had conducted himself very decently and perfect in the presence of God, there was another picture that would show at times in his life. This picture could not be totally erased or eradicated in his life-anger. He could stay for forty days and forty nights in God's presence and be greeted with anger few minutes later after the encounter. Oh, what a great waster anger could be! It was like anger will be watching him when he was busy with God and be saying **“there is no problem, you can keep on staying there for this moment, but one thing is sure that I am waiting for you to come down from there to continue from where I stopped with you”**. On coming down from the mountain Mr. Anger will just say **“welcome, how was it on the mountain? But here is no more the mountain; can we continue our journey...?”** If Moses had left the presence of God from the tabernacle, anger would still appear seeking for a way to manifest itself in him. It was just a matter of using someone or the entire congregation of the children of Israel to arouse the anger in him and it is done. May the Lord deliver us from the works of the flesh in the mighty Name of Jesus!

It is not only anger that needs to be dealt with by every genuine servant of God. There is the need for one to circumnavigate himself in the light of the Word of God and hand over every work of the flesh to the power of the finished work of

the Cross of Calvary. In doing so, the Lord will show Himself powerful and gracious to deliver in Jesus' Name.

King Solomon Loved Many Women

In the Book of 1 Kings 3:3, the Bible records this about King Solomon:

And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places. (KJV)

This was a good report about the life of Solomon as at that time. He loved the Lord and walked in the statutes of David his father. His walk was based on his love for God. He did not walk outside the principles in which his father instructed him to. He was obedient to his father's instructions because he loved the Lord. However, he had the problem of the love of women alongside his love for God. No matter how his love and passion for God was strong, there was a corresponding extinguishing force in his life that he failed to handle, until it drove him far away from the purpose of God in the later days of his life. The Bible says in the Book of 11:1-9 that:

But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites; Of the nations concerning which the LORD said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love. And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart. For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father. Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods. And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice, (KJV)

King Solomon loved many strange women and ended up having seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines. His love for women was gradually following him to the point that it uprooted his love for God and established itself in his life. Although he had established himself in the nation of Israel before that time as king through his love for God, his love for women was gradually establishing itself in him. Sin does not need to be taken care of or watered before it grows and establish itself in the life of a man, even when he had gone far and high in life and ministry. It is never a respecter of one's level. The only solution to this is to deal with it by the power in the blood of Jesus and the Cross of Calvary. It is by honestly dealing with it by discipline and sincerity. You may not be that perfect, but your honesty and sincerity to yourself will grant you God's help.

Those women whom he loved turned his heart away from the Lord. Can you see a man that started with the love of God, but now turning away from the God whom he loved to go after many strange gods? He loved strange women and thus, began to love strange gods. Any strange thing that you don't deal with in your life will eventually transport other strange things into your life. What is the strange thing that you are harbouring in your life and you call it 'your weakness?' It will eventually land you into a strange life and pull you down from the height that God had elevated you to. The Lord will grant you help in Jesus' Name.

FINAL CHARGE

Having considered several issues regarding the elevation of a servant of God for the purpose of accomplishing his divine mandate effectively, there is therefore, the need for every child of God to sit up and evaluate himself in the light of all these and many more that may be laid in his heart by the Holy Spirit. It is the will of God to elevate His children in various capacities. In fact, it is His utmost desire to see His servants excelling far above principalities and powers. He says:

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: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all. (Ephesians 1:20-23) KJV

Christ had been raised from the dead and exalted far above all principality, power, might and dominion. The beauty of this to the believers is that He is the head over all things and the Church is his body. If the Church is His body, then it implies that by divine order, she's expected to be above all that Christ is set over. She's expected to fulfil the desire of the head which is Christ. It is very striking and exciting to note that the Church is the fullness of Christ. Although Christ fills all in all, but His own fullness is found in the Church. What a wonderful privilege and placement for the believers in Christ Jesus! It is therefore, of utmost importance for every servant of God to know where he belongs and thus, work towards the manifestation of its reality. If you are an eagle, but you still move about like a duck, then you are walking in error. You need to realise yourself before you realise your purpose and placement in life and ministry. It is an error for an eagle to die where ants die.

You may appear to be in a low position or situation today, but the truth of the matter is that there is a higher platform for you in Christ Jesus. If He is your head and you are His body, how can He be placed far above principalities, powers, dominion and might and then keep you under them. Does He separate Himself from His body? Take example of your own body. No matter how high your head is placed as a result of your tallness, does it not join with the rest part of the body which is immediately under it? When you decide to climb a tree, do you climb with your head and leave the rest of your body? So Christ's exaltation connotes our exaltation.

Consider yourself in the light of Christ's exaltation and you'll have every cause to walk in that realm and to aspire to move higher. The realm you walk in determines the reality you command. You cannot command anything that is

beyond your realm of vision, faith, wisdom, understanding and focus. You are only permitted to be in the helm of affairs based on your realm of operation. You are who you think you are. Your thinking grants you a link into your realm. In other words, what you think is a link to your world and level of operation. So in matters of divine exaltation, you need to have a right mentality for a right placement for your life and ministry. Your mentality determines your audacity and authority. You can't be mentally bankrupt and be impact oriented. You can't have a low mentality and expect high outcome in your life and ministry. Your mentality determines the totality of your accomplishment to your world and the Kingdom.

Be focused. You are not permitted to do everything in your lifetime. You have a domain of your operation. It is your discovery of this your domain that determines the level of your dominion and excellence. See beyond the physical and access your domain in the spirit. The Bible says this about Moses:

By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible. (Hebrews 11:27) KJV

You can now discover a secret behind Moses' elevation. He saw the invisible. When he saw what others could not see, he accessed a level that others could not access. You need a focus to be on cause. You cannot access any level that is not set before the eyes of your spirit. You can't just dominate anyhow; but you can dominate as far as your eyes can see. Moses found himself in the level he got to because God decided to elevate him through his ability to see in the invisible realm.

You need to walk in the love of God. The Bible says:

For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him. (Isaiah 64:4) KJV

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. (1 Corinthians 2:9) KJV

There is something that God had prepared for those that wait upon Him. It had not been seen, heard or perceived by any mortal man. There is an ultimate exalted destiny for those that love God; but at the same time, there is also a divinely ordained exalted level for every servant of God for the enhancement of adequate accomplishment of his goals in life and ministry.

The Book of Isaiah says that it is prepared for those that wait upon the Lord; while Paul said in the Book of 1 Corinthians 2:9 that it is prepared for those that love God. When Apostle Paul was making reference to Isaiah's statement, he used the word "**love**" in the place of the word "**wait**". Actually true lovers of God do wait upon Him. You can't love God and not desire His presence and visitation. Those that have the love of God in their lives cannot miss out in the place of tarrying in His presence. To be deficient in the place of tarrying in God's presence is to be deficient in His love.

Why do you desire to be exalted? Does it spring from your love for Him? Those who love the Lord cannot miss out in His divine agenda. Imagine a man or an organization promoting a man that does not have the interest of their purpose at heart, due to his lack of love for that organization. Is it not foolishness on their part? Where is your love for the Lord and the things pertaining to His Kingdom? Check up in this respect and give a proper justification for your exaltation.

Moreover, you need faith to be able to access the level and dimension of your purpose in life and ministry. No servant of God can grow and be elevated beyond the capacity of his faith. Your level of faith determines the level of your spiritual fitness. You are as fit as your faith. In the Book of Hebrews 11:1, the Bible says:

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. (Hebrews 11:1) KJV

Faith is said to be the **substance** of things hoped for. The Greek word which is translated as 'substance' is 'hupostasis', which implies 'setting under' or 'support'. In other words, it implies the '**ground**' upon which something stands. It also implies '**confidence**'. So faith is the ground upon which one hopes for certain things. It gives support for the reason of one's hope. Thus, if you are desirous to be exalted to a level in which you'd become more accomplishing in life and ministry, then you need the ground of faith. You are barren without faith. Where there is no faith then there is no capacity to rise. Your faith is your feet for your rising. You have no ground or basis for any remarkable rising in the absence of faith. So, in addition to all that had been discussed in this book, faith must be there as the bedrock. Faith is your real link into what you see in the realm of the unseen, thus, enabling you to transmit it into the seen (visible) realm. What bridges the gap between what you can't see and what you can see is your faith. Where is your ground in the place of faith? How can you tell me that your elevation can stand the test of time without faith?

Faith is also the confidence of the things we do hope for. It is not only an evidence, but it is also a confidence. Can you see the important role of faith in the life of a servant of God? It is actually an evidence that what we do not seem to see really exist in another realm. It grants us the evidence that where we can be elevated

to in life and ministry really exists. Apart from that, it is the confidence that those things that we see through the evidence of the same faith should be hoped for. May the Lord grant you understanding of this fact!

If faith were only to be an evidence of things not seen, then it means that we can only claim that those things which exist are there, but we may not be able to access them since we don't even hope for them. But by the confidence provided by faith, we both have access to the fact of the existence of what is not seen and at the same time have confidence in the hope that those things can be released to us on the long run.

What are we driving at this point? We're establishing the fact that there are two major components in faith-the evidence component and the confidence component. If you only have the evidence component of faith, then you have an incomplete and baseless kind of faith that has no ground for manifestation. This evidence component is a very important component anyway. It is not unimportant, since it provides an idea for the existence of something. But if that is all that one knows about faith, then such a man will only have knowledge, but no force to back up his claim unto reality. It is the confidence aspect of faith that gives it a strong basis for realising what is not seen unto a man. But one thing is sure that there is no way a man can exhibit the confidence dimension of faith without in the first place possessing the evidence aspect of it. Your confidence in faith is based on the evidence you have in the first place. That is why the Bible says that:

***So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.
(Romans 10:17) KJV***

The Word of God provides an evidence that things which we see came from what is not seen. It equally provides us with the confidence or ground or basis of believing that what we do not see can come into our view and possession.

What had God said to you before concerning your life and ministry? It is an evidence that such a thing exists for you. The question now is that where is your confidence over what He told you about? It is your confidence that can drive you to a place of seriousness with God unto the realisation of what He had said concerning you. The push of confidence would become the spring point of a covenant between God and man. As he lives with the mentality of that confidence, it would cause him to do certain things that can attract God's covenant to him. Had the Lord promised you something great about your future, then you need to believe in him.

Apart from believing in God, you also need to believe in yourself. You need to believe in your vision and calling. Don't expect anybody to believe in you if you don't in the first place, believe in yourself. You can't drive others in a boat that you are not in. If you are therefore, in the boat of faith, you can drive others into having faith and believing in you and your ministry. They will be caused to believe in what

you claim that God is asking you to do only if you believe in God and yourself. You can't move high if you don't believe in yourself. Your ministry is as important as the importance you place in it and how you believe in it.

You are different and you are special. Know yourself in that way. That is normally the mentality of those who rise into the place of excellence and also make a difference. It takes you seeing yourself as different to rise higher and make a difference.

I therefore, prophesy to you that the height God had ordained for you will never be frustrated in your life in the Name of the Lord Jesus. Your elevation will reach its perfect and ordained apex before you leave this world to the one yonder.

To bring an end to this write-up, I want to remind you that the ultimate exaltation that the Lord had planned for you is in heaven. What will it profit you to be highly elevated on earth and yet miss heaven? It is my prayer that you will both make it here on earth and still receive a bountiful reward in heaven, in Jesus' Name. Remain blessed, elevated and redeemed to the glory of God!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Paul Jere is a teacher of the word of God. He teaches in churches, fellowships, conferences, revival programmes and other Christian gatherings. He had authored other books which include: Arise for A change, Understanding Divine Strategies, Making Excellent Divine Impact, Available for the Master's Use and Awake Unto Responsibility. He lives in Idah, Kogi State, where he coordinates a revival programme tagged 'The Hour of Decision'. He is married with children.

OTHER BOOKS WRITTEN BY PAUL JERE

- 1. Pride, A Messenger of Destruction**
- 2. In His Presence**
- 3. Who is A Servant of God**
- 4. Arise For A Change**
- 5. Understanding Divine Strategies**
- 6. Making Excellent Divine Impact**
- 7. Available For The Master's Use**
- 8. Awake Unto Responsibility**