



*... and this is the victory that overcomes the world,
even our faith - 1 John 5:4*

Noah Simpe Bediako

Steps to
**TOTAL
VICTORY**

Understanding the Christian Life

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HighCity Media & Publication

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the *King James Version* of the Bible.

STEPS TO TOTAL VICTORY

ISBN: 987-9988-2-1845-4

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Printed in Ghana

HighCity Media & Publications

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For my children

Daniel, Judah-Joel, and Michelle

Contents

Prologue—6

Believe—17

Be Baptized—31

Be Added to the Church—39

Fellowship and Obey—48

Breaking of Bread—58

Pray Without Ceasing—64

Fear God and Abstain ...—70

Praise God through your Circumstances—77

Give by Covenant—83

Serve the Brethren—88

Testify of God's Goodness—94

Work with Might, Wisdom and Diligence—99

Prologue

Every man is called and gifted to make a proportionate impact in the market place of life; but for some reason many are unable to make reasonable gains with their talents.

We are called, justified and empowered to occupy in the marketplace of life till Jesus comes.

We must understand that the life here and now is as a servant that has received capital from his lord for trading. We shall give account of all we did upon his return. We have all been endowed with talents and graces to occupy and influence the market place of life till we die to meet the righteous judge or he comes back again.

We must be aware that Jesus Christ, the judge of the dead and quick, shall come again. He is coming again to judge both the quick and the dead. We shall all appear one day before this great Judge to give account of our lives.

Luke 19:11-27

(11) And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to

Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately appear.

(12) He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return.

(13) And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come.

(14) But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us.

(15) And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

(16) Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds.

(17) And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.

(18) And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.

(19) And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities.

(20) And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin:

(21) For I feared thee, because thou art an

Steps to Total Victory

austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow.

(22) And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow:

(23) Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury?

(24) And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds.

(25) (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.)

(26) For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him.

(27) But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.

God has called us

God has called us to be the salt of the earth to preserve her and the light of the world to illuminate her; we are not yeast to destroy or corrupt the world. We are the salt of the earth

and the light of the world. We show the way that others may follow. We are **the HighCity**, a city set on a hill that can not be hid.

Matthew 5:13-16

(13) Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

(14) Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

(15) Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

(16) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Our very lives must impact the seven mountains of the world: religion, family, education, business, governance, arts and entertainment, and media. We are divine agents and missionaries sent to infiltrate and influence the nature and character of these mountains. If we leave religion, family life, education, business, governance, arts and entertainment, and media to the ungodly, they would dominate and corrupt us. Whatever mountain you occupy must come under the influence of the glory of God in you.

Steps to Total Victory

Consider men as Daniel, Joseph, Nehemiah; these are men that influenced nations and territories with the glory of God. They stood tall in corrupt and polytheistic societies to confront evil and shed light.

Matthew 10:16

Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents, and harmless as doves.

God has called us to a higher life in Christ to have a godly and Christ-like impact in the market place of life. The church is the called out; we are lively stones called to a living stone, a royal priesthood, and a peculiar people;

- Being built up into a spiritual house
- To offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God by Jesus Christ and
- To show forth the praises (excellence) of Him who has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light

1 Peter 2:1-10

(1) Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

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

(3) If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is

gracious.

(4) To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious,

(5) Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

(6) Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded.

(7) Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner,

(8) And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed.

(9) But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

(10) Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

You are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood,

the HighCity, a city set on a hill, the members of the body of Christ called to show forth the praises of God and to offer spiritual sacrifices. Without doubt we are called to be a company of priest and kings. We are washed from our sins in his own blood. We are washed in the blood of Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and first begotten from the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. We are not just washed but made kings and priest unto God...

Revelation 1:5-6

(5) And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

(6) And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

We are bought

We are bought, redeem, washed, and empower to rule and serve. We are bought with a price and we are not of our own. We are bought with a price to glorify God in our bodies, and spirits which belongs to God. Your body and spirit belongs to God.

1 Corinthians 6:20

(20) For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

It is time to decide to show forth the praises of him that called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. It is important to understand that that decision would make certain demands on you; these demands must be unveiled, understood and met if we shall break through. As a matter of fact we are not higher animals; not even living souls but quickened spirits. We have a higher life and the responsibility to show forth the praises of God. Hallelujah!

God is sending us

God is sending us to the world; we are divine agents, God is sending us to impact the market place of life: religion, family, education, business, governance, arts and entertainment, and media. We are called, justified and glorified to impact the market place of life. We are the light of the world, until our faith began to impact the market place of life positively, we have failed.

Many are however failing to make any godly

Steps to Total Victory

impact in their sphere of life because they have missed the most important key in life: TO BE BORN OF GOD.

1 John 5:4-5

(4) For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

(5) Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

We all face odds, obstacles, and adversaries in life; but the champions break through them to press on and press in. Unfortunately, some of our brethren become victims of circumstances and situations. Indeed life is not fair and life has never been fair. Every man you see making it, is pressing in and pressing on.

Many are suffering under the heavy burdens of career, family, responsibilities and demonic forces. Matthew 11:28-31 reveals vividly that All who COME, CONNECT and LEARN of Jesus Christ find rest for their souls. His yoke is lighter.

Matthew 11:28-30

(28) Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

(29) 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.

(30) For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

You can make gains in life; everyone can succeed at work but it takes something more than talents, grace, and gifts. The Lord almighty has promise in Deuteronomy 7 that if any one of us can do the following;

- Believe and be baptized in water, in Spirit, and by fire
- Be added to the church and attend assiduously to doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread, and prayers (Acts 2: 40-47)
- Fear God and abstain from the pollutions of sexual immorality, idols, blood, strangled things, and evil company (Acts 15:19-21)
- Praises and invest into eternity through giving by covenant, serving the brethren, testifying of God's goodness
- And whatsoever our hands find to do we can do it with might, wisdom, and diligence in the market place of life.

Then the Lord Almighty shall go before us and drive away every adversary from before us.

Remember, you are not the first to be called. Adam and his wife were given the same

Steps to Total Victory

mandate but they did not continue to believe God, neither did they attend assiduously to what they were commanded nor invest into eternity.

It is our turn, dearly beloved if we must;

1. Believe: have faith in the word of God
2. Be baptized in water, in spirit, and by fire
3. Be added to the church
4. Fellowship and obey
5. Break bread
6. Pray without ceasing
7. Fear God and abstain from sexual immorality, idols, blood, strangled things and evil company
8. Praise God through our circumstances
9. Give by covenant
10. Serve the Lord by serving fellow men
11. Testify of God's goodness
12. Work with might, wisdom and diligence

God richly bless you and until Jesus Christ returns keep living a life of Total Victory!

Believe

To believe is to entrust one's well-being to a person, place or a thing. God want to give you success without sweat or stress (Matthew 11:28-31). The blessing of the Lord makes rich and adds no sorrows. You must enter into the rest and grace of God.

The first lesson on entrusting your well-being to God is learning that:

1. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God

Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

This is what the Bible says “*faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God*”.

Faith does not come by hearing and hearing by feeling, gossips, world news, devils, complains, experts, situations; faith comes by hearing and

hearing by the word of God. Just listen by the word of God.

Everything supernatural begins with hearing. The word is the seed that the sower went out to sow. There can not be a tree nor fruits without a seed. The word is the very first thing every one need and hearing is the very first step to victory.

The entrance of the word brings light and leads to repentance, faith and pursuit of God. For me it is almost like the laws of motion; a man will continue to be at the same place in a state of rest or continue in motion in the same direction unless he is acted upon by a force; and that force is called truth. Illumination comes by hearing; the entrance of God's word brings light.

Hearing God's Word

There are simple steps to hearing and effective spiritual feeding. To effectively feed on the word and draw life for growth from it, let us study Romans 10:13-17; James 1:19 downwards.

1. Sit where you can hear the word:

Many of us have raised high walls. Walls of

philosophy, arguments, pride, concrete. When the devout men heard the noise, they draw near; when Moses saw the burning bush, he drew near to see the sight; blind Bartemeus asked to know what the noise was about. It is time to raze down these walls of appearance, pride and philosophy if you want faith.

2. Recognize and receive messengers sent to you:

Romans 10:13-17 that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? Without a witness; without a preacher; no generation of men can have faith. How shall they preach, except they be sent? God is in the business of sending people, witnesses, preachers, and missionaries.

3. Listen with an open mind; but cross check with the frame of reference:

Search the scriptures to ascertain the verity of their message.

Steps to Total Victory

Acts 17:10-12

(10) And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews.

(11) These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

(12) Therefore many of them believed; also of honourable women which were Greeks, and of men, not a few.

4. Lay apart *all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, malice, guile, hypocrisy...*

5. Desire *the sincere milk of the word.*

6. Be swift to listen, *slow to speak, and slow to anger*

7. Receive with meekness *the engrafted word which is able to save your soul*

8. Don't despise *prophesying*:

1 Thessalonians 5:20

Despise not prophesyings.

9. Search *the scriptures daily*

10. Do *the word*

11. Put away *childish things and move on to maturity*

1 Corinthians 13:11

When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

(See Galatians 4:1-3; Hebrews 5:12)

2. Be anxious for nothing; in all things let your request be made known unto God

Philippians 4:4-7

(4) Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

(5) Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

(6) Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

(7) And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

3. Renew your mind and think on the right things

If you can entrust your well-being to God than you must change the way you think; you must think on the right things in the right way.

Philippians 4:8

(8) Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

Hearing right leads to repentance

Hearing right leads to repentance and change of mind; the truth illuminates sincere minds. Ultimately hearing should not just illuminate

or change your thinking, but ultimately hearing should bring forth faith. What you hear shapes your thought pattern and believe systems. Faith in deed comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. The bible tells us that it is impossible for anybody to believe on one he does not know. The art of hearing is an important step towards total victory over damnation, death, devils, and captivity to our own weaknesses, limitations and frailty.

Acts 2:36-37

(36) Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

*(37) **Now when they heard this**, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?*

Have you considered the fact that until the Ethiopian eunuch heard the truth, he did not understand the need to be baptized? He requested for the baptism only after he had heard and understood the truth. The disciples in Ephesus did not have the baptism of the spirit because they did not know of such a thing. (Acts 19:1-7)

The truth brings us into the realm where we can believe in possibilities.

4. Do the things that you have learned, received, heard, and seen in me

Philippians 4:9

(9) Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

I speak on the authority of the grace given me that you can go far by merely following the faith and lifestyle of those who by faith and patience have inherited the promise.

Faith manifest in two main ways;

- As faith in God
- As faith in his prophets

Faith in God establishes you but faith in his servant prospers you. We go forward faster when we believe God's prophets.

2 Chronicles 20:20

And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness of Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.

5. The spirit of faith is confession or profession of faith.

Our confession or profession of faith activates it to work actively.

2 Corinthians 4:13

We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;

Faith gives access to the grace by which we are justified freely through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Romans 3:23-25

(23) For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

(24) Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:

(25) Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

The word of God tells us that all have sinned and have come short of the glory of God. We have all sinned even those who have not sinned after the similitude of Adam. The Bible teaches in Romans 3:10-22 that “*As it is written, there is*

Steps to Total Victory

none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understands, there is none that seeks after God.

They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

Their throat is an open sepulcher; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes.

In the fullness of time however, God gave His only begotten son, Jesus Christ to die in our place that whosoever believes should not die but have everlasting life (See John 3:14-18).

This is the good news; the news that all who trust Jesus Christ to pay for their sin would never have to pay for their own transgressions.

We understand that all of us were dead in trespasses, but by faith we are justified by grace. The Bible says those who believe and are baptized shall be saved. But for the death and resurrection of Christ we would all be dead and without hope; by grace and through faith however our lives have found meaning (See

Romans 1:16-18; 1 Corinthians 1:17-23)

It is important to mention that there are many kinds of righteousness; righteousness established by men, righteousness which is of the law and righteousness which is of faith.

The righteousness which is of faith is the righteousness that saves a man from destructions. The righteousness which is of faith comes through faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross (See Romans 10:6-17). You receive the righteousness which is of faith by trusting Jesus Christ to pay for your sins.

Those who do not have this faith are dead in their trespasses. They are without hope; but those who believe and are baptized shall be saved.

Mark 16:16

He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

The first step towards total victory is hearing.

When a person is able to make a shift in what the mind can accept as true especially Godwards, that person has taken the first step to victory over the world and devils. Until I could believe that my own sins could be forgiven; I was captive to my own thoughts and

weaknesses.

Our faith is what gives us the victory over the world.

1 John 5:4-5

(4) For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

(5) Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

Believing the gospel is the first step to total victory. The man or woman who believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God overcomes the world. No matter who you are, you need faith to overcome the world. I may not be able to give you scientific reasons but faith overcomes the world.

The friend of God, Abraham is the supreme argument for faith. All of his life reflects the place of faith in having total victory over sin, death, and suffering. He believed and it was counted unto him as righteousness.

Faith in the right proportions is needed for total victory in life. Bible says very clearly that we have access into grace by faith.

Romans 5:2

By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

We sing about Abraham and Sarah and their faith but one thing we often fail to learn from Abraham's life is that he believed God and counted Him faithful that He can fulfill what He has promised. Faith gives you access into grace. So if you want total victory then you must get faith.

To deal with sickness, or death you need to get faith. Believe that God will not disappoint you. Sometimes we are too impatient but no one has ever increase his height by worrying, and no one has been able to turn one of his black hair to white by worrying. So throw away your worrying and believe that God will not disappoint you. Amen!

Faith gives access to the rest of God; when we mix the word with faith then, we can rest and live a stress-free life. Many Christians are stressing and crushing because they do not mix the message they hear with faith. They hear the message and just runs off.

Hebrews 4:1-16

(1) *Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being*

Steps to Total Victory

left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

(2) For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

(3) For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.

Be Baptized

To be baptized is to be immersed into or submerged under. Baptism gives us access to power and the newness of life.

Acts 2:36-39

(36) Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

(37) Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

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

(39) For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

I guess you do not need any other argument to understand the place of baptism in this journey

to a life of total victory.

Every believer must experience three kinds of baptism: water, Holy Spirit, and fire baptism. The early church considered baptism as a very important step to total victory.

Baptism according to the doctrine of scripture is an important step in our journey towards destiny. When Apostle Paul came to Ephesus he enquired whether the disciples there had received the Holy Ghost since they believed. The Holy Ghost is the person that transforms a person. (Judges 16:17)

Acts 19:1-2

(1) And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

(2) He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

In my opinion many people are unable to live the life of faith because they do not have the Holy Spirit (See Acts 1:8; Luke 3:16-18; John 7:37-39; Acts 2:38-39). The father has promised to give the Holy Spirit to those who ask freely.

Baptism gives us access to a life of faith and power. When you are baptized in water, you become a partaker in Christ's resurrection life. You rise into a newness of life. That experience of going into water gives you a new nature which overcomes the weaknesses of the old nature.

After the Holy Ghost baptism you receive power. Jesus Christ is good example of what baptism can do in a man's life. Besides the fact that He was the Son of God, Bibles says in Acts 10:38 that He was able to do all His mighty miracles like healing lepers, feeding 5000 men, raising dead men, etc because God anointed Him with the Holy Ghost and with Power. This means that all that you and I need in order to stop roaming about from church to church is to understand that the secret to the power of God is in the baptism of the Holy Ghost. This is how we can have the same experiences that Jesus had and we can also feed 5000 men.

A lot of Christians have lost interest in the anointing and they are chasing after anointing oil and stickers instead, but the key to power is simple, be baptized in the Holy Ghost; that's all.

Jesus was followed by 12 able bodied men who had left their jobs and yet they never begged for their needs. He never begged anyone, not

Steps to Total Victory

even once. He shook the nations with just one thing that made all the difference; baptism, just the baptism of God. The Baptism of Fire All-night Services at the HighCity Church every last Friday of the month can make all the difference in your life.

These are the exact words of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ

Acts 1:4-5

(4) And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

(5) For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

Our Lord Jesus is the supreme argument for baptism. Acts 10:38 tells us that Jesus Christ was anointed with the Holy Spirit and power and he went about doing good. Many of us are not making nationwide impact because we are not anointed. A man or woman sold out and immersed in God would shake nations. I see you have total victory over the sin nature, death, and suffering! I see you shaking nation from here!

My Testimony

My experience compares to that of Cornelius. It was September 1994; I was in my Sixth form in St Peter Secondary School - a catholic School in Nkwatia-Kwahu in the Eastern Region of Ghana. The stage was set for me to respond to the call of the Lord on my life on this school's compound. I had a vision and met the Lord Jesus Christ.

Though I was raised in a Christian way and had shown obvious signs that I loved the Lord and would be a preacher, I did not know the Lord in a personal way. I knew many Scriptures but was still unsaved or had no personal relationship with God. I followed friends and schoolmates, which led to drunkenness, the use of drugs, sexual promiscuity and cultism.

I was brilliant in class and the innocent look I had helped me to cover the real devil that lived inside me, but in September 1994, I encountered the Lord in a vision that took me to hell and from there I saw heaven. While in hell, I saw the Lord Jesus Christ and bargained for my life-a second chance.

I made a promise to Him that if he let me go back, I will share my testimony with the world. However, after the encounter I continued to drink and smoke but this time not with the

gang. The emptiness in me became deeper and deeper until February 1995, when a group of Schoolmates led me to Christ then subsequently to receive the Holy Ghost. Both my conversion and anointing happened in the same hour. We called it Holy Ghost Baptism but now I know that was when I received the Holy Ghost and the power of God.

I asked Jesus Christ to be my Lord and personal Saviour. The Holy Spirit renewed and sanctified my spirit. My schoolmates led me to ask the father for the gift of the Spirit, which I did whilst they prayed in a tongue I did not know. Then while we tarried in the presence of the Lord in an atmosphere charged with Holy Spirit in a space of barely 15minutes, I did not feel anything; something just told me you have received it. It was at that moment I realized that a voice was echoing in my spirit, so I open my mouth and spoke whatever occurred to me.

I initially doubted, because I did not feel anything different except for a new joy that filled my soul. May be it was because I knew I had received what the other seven boys had. The little doubt I had moved me to read the little Bible they gave me daily more than I read my books. I read my little Bible and prayed daily; sometimes I read my little Bible and prayed

all night. Then in the space of seven days saw scriptures like:

Mark 16:17-20

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

It was at this time I said to myself, if what this Bible says is what God means, then these signs should follow me when I move and God should work with me. In a space of another seven days I went with my new gang as I used to call them to preach the gospel.

After praying for a while, we laid hands on many and they were 'slayed in the spirit'. Since that moment until now, I have preached with the demonstration of the Spirit and power.

Ten simple steps to the anointing:

- 1. Know the doctrine** of baptisms:
- 2. Hunger for more of God:** blessed are those who hunger and thirst...
- 3. Connect with the anointing:** he was willing to follow. He endured the pain, mockery, poverty and isolation.
- 4. Ask the father for the Holy Spirit:** He gives freely to all who ask.
- 5. Tarry in prayer with fasting** for the Holy Spirit
- 6. Perceive the presence** of the Holy Spirit
- 7. Open up to be filled with the Holy Spirit:** nobody gets pregnant with the legs crossed. Until you can let go of your defenses and spiritual contraception, you can not receive the anointing.
- 8. Inherit a mantle;** be willing to lose your identity. Elisha tore his clothes and took the mantle of Elijah
- 9. Imitate your father's faith;** where is the God of Elijah.
- 10. Walk in the Spirit:** pray, sing, rejoice, purpose, fellowship, be led, be filled

Be Added to the Church

Act 2:41, 47

(41) Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

(47) Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

Your connection to the vine gives you access to roots and fatness. Jesus said ‘If you are a branch and you are not connected to me, then you are finished’... Amen! I said “you are what? ... Finished!”

I will tell you one thing, what made Levi qualified to take tithes was simply because of his connection to Abraham. The Bible says that when Abraham paid tithes Levi was in his loins.

Hebrews 7:9-10

(9) And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham.

(10) For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him.

Steps to Total Victory

Connection is such a wonderful thing. Who are you connected to? Are you really connected to the body of Christ? Do you belong to a church? Are you loyal to that church?

Lot was saved from destruction because of his connection with Abraham (Genesis 14:10 - 16 and Genesis 19:1-25)

It seemed right to the Holy Spirit and to the apostles that those being saved should be added to the church. Those that believed and were baptized were added to the church. They did regularize their membership. (John 10:16)

The church of God is not a physical structure. According to Hebrews 12:22ff, when you connect with the church, then ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, and to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaks better things than that of Abel.

Many people are oblivious to the real benefits and the need to connect to the body of Christ.

God is not interested in raising you as a lone ranger. He is actually concerned about raising a people for himself and to building a community which you can belong to for shepherding, accountability, and support.

You must therefore belong to a community of people, the people of God, called the Church. Mega people make a Mega Church.

*Church is all about people involved
in something that matters and is
relevant to their finding abundant
life in Christ;*

So as the people begin to grow and prosper, the church grows and prosper.

When you grow, the church will grow; when you prosper, the church will prosper; when it is well with you, it is well with the church.

It is as simple as that.

1 Peter 2:5

(5) Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.

To connect is to complete all formalities or righteousness to get your details and bio data into the Churches data base. To continue is to make and keep a commitment to make it to all fellowship meetings of the church and continue in the teaching and faith of the apostle of the Church.

Acts 2:41-42

(41) Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

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

The early disciples connected with the church. Jesus feeds his sheep in folds and flocks; under shepherds, hence the need to connect with an elder, shepherd and a flock.

By connecting you are assured of effective shepherding.

God feeds his flock in folds. Remember we are the sheep of his pasture and not a herd of antelopes in the wild.

(Psalm 95:7) For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice,

We have not made ourselves. God has made us.

(Psalm 100:3) Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

He, God who made us has appointed shepherds to feed us with understanding and knowledge.

Jeremiah 3:15

And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

By connecting you become accountable to someone.

You need a shepherd in your life to whom you can be accountable. It is said that a lot more people would steal so long as they know they would not be caught. Every child must belong to a family house with responsible parenting to grow into a responsible adult.

By connecting you become part of a garden that God cares for:

1 Corinthians 3:6-7

(6) I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.

*(7) So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but **God that giveth the increase.***

Indeed, I am not the big deal. God is the master husbandman caring for this husbandry. Make yourself a part and receive utmost care from the hand of God the master caregiver.

By connecting you receive reinforcement and support from other saints

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

(9) Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.

(10) For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up.

(11) Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?

(12) And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken.

The Church offers the reinforcement we all need in times of battle. When Peter was arrested and released from prison, the Bible says he came to his own company

Acts 4:23-24

(23) And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

(24) And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

Do you remember when Peter was arrested after James was martyred? (Acts 12:1-11) The church prayed. He was connected to a church. That is why you must belong to a church.

By connecting you enjoy the roots and fatness of the vine

Romans 11:17

(17) And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;

The church is the body of Christ and the joint is the local assembly you are a member of.

Connecting guarantees freshness and fruits

John 15:5-6

(5) I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth

Steps to Total Victory

forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

(6) 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.

We must therefore willingly take steps into a closer, deeper, and fruitful walk with Christ Jesus. John 15 tells us that any branch that does not bear fruits shall be cut off. We must take steps daily for the rest of your life to make us a fruitful branch of the vine; these same steps are necessary for both our personal and church growth.

The bible tells us we are the branches of the church and indeed the growth of every branch is connected to it being able to abide in the stem. The bible tells us that we last as long as we bear fruits, or else we would be cut off and will wither. Many today are wilting because they are detached from Christ and the church.

Seven steps to connecting with the body

- 1. Visit** the Church
- 2. Complete** membership formalities
- 3. Belong** to church

4. **Be accountable** to the pastor
5. **Keep** the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
6. **Be loyal** and faithful to the church
7. **Represent** the church brand

Fellowship and Obey

Attend all meetings and live by the doctrine

Acts 2:42

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

After being added to the church, we would advance in our walk and relationship with Christ when we continue steadfastly and daily in the apostle's doctrine and fellowship.

From the very day I received Jesus Christ into my heart as my lord and savior, I have lived by the bible and in the bible. I have spent hours upon hours; nights upon night, days upon days in the Bible.

I have never missed fellowshiping with God and with the brethren. I have not forsaken the assembling together of the saints. Fellowshiping is an important aspect of our

walk and relationship with Christ.

Hebrews 10:25

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

I understood one thing in the very early days of faith; that fellowshiping with the brethren will keep me from backsliding. We are admonished to draw near with a heart full of assurance... not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, but exhorting one another: and so much more as we see the day approaching. Fellowshiping with other believers strengthens your faith. Fellowshiping will keep you from sinning willfully. We must assemble together for fellowship, worship and discipleship.

There is so much power in assembling together in fellowship. The Bible says Iron sharpens iron and so does a man's face sharpen the countenance of his neighbor.

Proverbs 27:17

Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

Many people go very far with the lord through fellowshiping with other brethren. As we come

together we reinforce and lighten up the faces of people.

Steps to doctrine and fellowship

1. Prioritize:

See the church meeting as an important appointment you must keep.

2. Plan:

Plan and arrive on time. Never come to a service late; it shows disrespect. You can and must plan to arrive on time.

3. Prepare:

Come with your Bibles, books, pens and accessories that would help you to receive and record the message well.

4. Attend:

Attend with thanksgiving and praises in your heart.

5. *Receive the word;*

Be instructed and obey the truth. As new born babes we must desire or crave for the sincere milk of the word that we may grow thereby.

1 Peter 2:1-3

(1) Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,

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

(3) If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

There is no other way out. This is where we find the will of God; this is where we feed our souls; this is the starting point towards maturity.

We must draw from the succulent breast of Christ and of our pastors the sincere milk of the word of God. No matter who your pastor is if you do not read the bible on its own pages, you are a miserable worm.

There is a difference between doctrine and faith. Faith is to believe what God has said; maybe through preaching, through a direct word from God to you by His Spirit or through His Word. This mostly happens as we pray or as we commune with the Lord in His presence.

Steps to Total Victory

Doctrine on the other hand is what the Word of God has said expressly. It is systematically based on clear Bible verses and passages.

One thing that will help you in these last days is your doctrine. We see this in the life of Christ. The devil tempted Him in the wilderness. When he told Jesus to throw Himself down from the pinnacle of the temple, Jesus replied that it was written that we should not tempt God.

Matthew 4:5-7

(5)Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple,

(6)And saith unto him, If thou be the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and in their hands they shall bear thee up, lest at any time thou dash thy foot against a stone.

(7)Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God.

So Jesus knew more than one scripture. It is good to know that it is written, but you must know what is *'also written'*. A lot of Christians know only one Scripture; *"greet one another with a holy kiss* (See Romans 16:16, 1 Corinthians 16:20, 2 Corinthians 13:12, 1 Thessalonians 5:26). But they don't know that it also says in 1 Thessalonians 5:22 that we should *"abstain from all appearance of evil"*.

Some Christians also know only verses about faith, and no verses at all about wisdom, and that is why they don't overcome.

Staying in the word is an important step to dominion and relevance. Doctrine or healthy spiritual feeding is the foremost secret to meaningful living. Your life will mess up when your theology is messed. The Bible tells us in Ephesians 4:11 downwards that unless we grow into maturity, we would be at the mercy of cunning men.

The Bible says that until a man grows into maturity; though he is the heirs of all things, he differs nothing from a slave. In Galatians 4:1-3, he is put under tutors for a time to be taught. The word of God, doctrine and feeding your soul with truth is important in living the God kind of life.

As branches of the fruitful vine, we need to sap energy for growth and fruitfulness. You must be trained to draw strength and energy for growth. Psalm 1:1-3 tells us that blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law does he meditate day and night.

Steps to Total Victory

And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he does shall prosper. Meditating on the word of God is a secret to prosperity. Continuing in the book of the law is the secret to success and prosperity. (See Joshua 1:6-8)

We are the plantings of the lord, and we need the dew of heaven. Indeed, God's doctrine distills as dew from heaven.

Deuteronomy 32:1-3

(1) Give ear, O ye heavens, and I will speak; and hear, O earth, the words of my mouth.

*(2) My doctrine shall **drop as the rain**, my speech shall **distil as the dew, as the small rain** upon the tender herb, and **as the showers** upon the grass:*

(3) Because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God.

I learnt from my son that food could be categorized in classes and by functions. In classes, food may be classed in proteins, carbohydrates, fats and oil, water, minerals salts, vitamins; in functions as body building foods, energy giving or protective foods; food could further be grouped as cereals, vegetables, tubers, rhizomes etc. I realized that

the real value of what we eat has nothing to do with how sweet or how expensive or from which restaurant we bought the food from. Hamburgers, or potato chips or *abolo* are all just different combinations of the same food materials.

Have you considered that cattle eat just grass and yet they are so fat? So then the real issue here is whether or not what we are eating is in balanced quantities or not.

Gloria Copeland teaches that to know what foods to keep away from; simply listen to your body. For instance a common food like *kenkey*, a Ghanaian staple, is fermented, yet we don't experience hangovers after we take it. So if you experience a hangover after taking anything in a bottle, then your body is telling you that you took in more than you needed to.

In that same way, Christians are compared to farm animals. The Bible says '*we are the sheep of His pasture*'.

Psalm 100:3

Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

This means that without proper feeding your

life will have more problems.

I have learnt by experience that the more I listen the more prospered I become. What you do not know will keep you from getting where you ought to be.

The Bible tells us in Acts 16:5 that the churches were established in the faith, and increased in number daily. When we get established in the faith, we shall grow in number as a church

Act 16:5

And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased in number daily.

This is the simple secret to church growth and increase. The individual members in the community must increase and prosper, then automatically more people shall be added; but when we are still children tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine, cunning men will sweep us off our feet. Apostle Paul teaches this in Ephesians 4. He explains why we should mature and be established in the grace.

Ephesians 4:11-16

(11) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

(12) For the perfecting of the saints, for the work

of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

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

(14) That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

(15) But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

(16) From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Breaking of Bread

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

(16) The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?

(17) For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.

I understand as an African myself that we are fond of drinking concoctions and potions. There is this understandable temptation to continue to have some concoction or potion to drink for spiritual power and protection.

Glory to God! He has not left us without an alternative. You have no business drinking anything; whether oil or water or potion or concoction; whether it is a preparation by a herbalist or prophet; the Lord himself on the night he was betrayed poured his blood in the cup in the form of wine and broke his body as bread for us.

He blessed it and instructed us to do it as often as is necessary in remembrance of him.

The cup of blessing we bless is not an ordinary meal; it is the blood and body of Christ. This cup and bread is the source and connection to the life of the lord.

1 Corinthians 11:23-30

(23) For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread:

(24) And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me.

(25) After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me.

(26) For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.

(27) Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord.

(28) But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup.

(29) For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body.

(30) For this cause many are weak and sickly

Steps to Total Victory

among you, and many sleep.

The cup and the bread is something for us to drink and eat in remembrance of him. Many of us are rather drinking so many things because some prophets have convinced us that those things are powerful than the cup of blessing and bread. Breaking bread is another important key to dominion and relevance (See Luke 22:7-22)

Genesis 9:4

(4) But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat.

The life of the flesh is in the blood. So as we drink of the cup, we are indeed receiving the life of the Lord into our bodies.

The breaking of bread releases the life of the Lord to consume death in our bodies.

John 6:48-58

(48) I am that bread of life.

(49) Your fathers did eat manna in the wilderness, and are dead.

(50) This is the bread which cometh down from heaven, that a man may eat thereof, and not die.

(51) I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live

for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.

(52) The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat?

(53) Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you.

(54) Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

(55) For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.

(56) He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.

(57) As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me.

(58) This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: he that eateth of this bread shall live forever.

Jesus is the bread of life. The bible tells us that indeed, except we eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, we have no life in us. The word of God says any man who eats Jesus' flesh, and drinks his blood, has eternal life; and Jesus will raise him up at the last day. This is because Jesus' flesh is meat indeed, and his

blood is drink indeed. He that eats Jesus' flesh, and drinks his blood, dwells in Jesus, and Jesus in him. Jesus said "As the living Father has sent me, and I live by the Father: so he that eats me, even he shall live by me."

In John 6:48-58, the Lord teaches us that without the breaking of bread, you;

1. Don't have eternal life.
2. Aren't abiding in Christ.
3. Can't live by the son.

This is not a law but a mystery that must be received by faith. From today as you come to the table remember you are eating the body and drinking the blood of Jesus Christ; and for that matter you find refuge in him and he lives in you.

Healing in the Cup

Sunday evenings at the HighCity is for the celebration of communion.

I remember one Sunday evening, I declared that there is healing in the cup. After blessing the cup and taking communion together, we made the usual altar call for those who want to serve the Lord and this gentleman stepped forward.

In less than 30 seconds I heard shouts in the room and lo and behold, for eight (8) years, he had not been able to lift up his left hand, but after drinking the cup, he lifted up his hand without pain for the first time.

Delivered from Pain

In another instance, a young lady came to the celebration of the cup and bread.

During the service, I took notice that she was in pain. She was sitting in the choir. I gave thanks and declared the blessing and we drank and ate.

As we entered into an atmosphere of worship, we began to minister to the Lord and to each other. By the grace of God she was instantly delivered from the pain. All the symptoms left and she was liberated. Glory to God!

Pray Without Ceasing

We have all heard the story of Elijah several times, but what helped him to become that effective? Do you know that it is not recorded anywhere in the Bible that someone like Daniel went to Church. He didn't go into any Church, not into any Synagogue; he didn't even go into any Fellowship Meeting. We only read about how he called his three friends to pray concerning the King's dream.

Interestingly, the Bible doesn't even say anywhere that Daniel paid any offerings. I have not read it anywhere, if you find any such records please contact me and let me know. That he gave an offering? To who? Think of it, Daniel giving an offering; who would he give it to? The magicians, or to Nebuchadnezzar, or to Shadrach? So he didn't even give offerings.

All of Daniel's life is built on one thing. It's not like Daniel read maybe from the book of Jeremiah about the captivity and then started making faith declarations that they were going

to be free by faith, or any such thing. Such things are not said about him. It is later on in Hebrews that we read that by faith they stopped the mouth of lions.

But one thing we read clearly about Daniel's life when you do a character study on him is his prayer and fasting.

Daniel 9:3

And I set my face unto the Lord God, to seek by prayer and supplications, with fasting, and sackcloth, and ashes:

Daniel's prayer made him so effective that he was part of the reign of three different kings. He was a leader in all those regimes, and his relevance was because of prayer.

So do you see that I am giving you 12 different classes of foods that will ensure that you are properly nourished for total victory? Well, Daniel used prayer!

1 Thessalonians 5:17

(17) Pray without ceasing.

This is the next secret to dominion and relevance. A prayer-less believer is a weak believer. Believers who pray go very far in their walk with Christ. Christ himself was a man of

prayer and faith. He knew the scriptures and lived by prayer.

In fact the praying Christ is the supreme argument for prayer. If there is only one thing I can do as a believer I will choose prayer. Praying was and is the first thing Christ Jesus the son of the living God would do every day.

Mark 1:33-36

(33) And all the city was gathered together at the door.

(34) And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.

(35) And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

(36) And Simon and they that were with him followed after him.

I know Jesus Christ would pray about every little thing before arriving at a decision. He made time to pray. He taught his disciples to pray, whereas he did not teach them how to preach. Our Lord encouraged all men to pray always and not to faint.

Luke 18:1

(1) And he spake a parable unto them to this

end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint;

The Lord almost sounds as if prayer is and should be universally common to all men. Until a person truly begins to pour his heart out to God, he or she might not understand the true value of prayer.

James 4:1-5 reveals that many of God children do not receive most of the good things of life because they do not ask or they ask amiss to consume upon their lust.

Prayer is the greatest power to possibilities. Prayer connects us with divinity. Prayer is the spiritual intercourse that when properly pursued releases the supernatural upon mortality for possibilities.

Mark 11:20-26

(20) And in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.

(21) And Peter calling to remembrance saith unto him, Master, behold, the fig tree which thou cursedst is withered away.

(22) And Jesus answering saith unto them, Have faith in God.

(23) For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not

Steps to Total Victory

doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

(24) Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

(25) And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

(26) But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

Seven keys to 100% Answered prayer

We can receive 100% answers to prayer when we engage these important keys to prayer;

1. Desire:

Orient our desires towards God.

2. Pray:

Make your request known to God.

3. Believe:

We must possess the God kind of faith as we pray.

4. Forgive:

Praying men and women must forgive those who offend them.

5. Wait:

It pays to wait upon the lord as a servant waits for his master.

6. Thankfulness:

When we praise God through our circumstances, He breaks through our darkness.

7. Add works:

We know that faith without works is dead; hence the need to maintain a positive confession, attitude and affirmative action.

Fear God and Abstain ...

This key is to fear God and abstain from idols, and from blood, strangled things, and from fornication and evil company.

You would realize that all of Joseph's life was built on one thing; his fear of God who can see even behind closed doors. When Potiphar's wife said, 'lay with me' he replied, 'how can I sin against God and against heaven; he didn't even mention his master Potiphar.

This means that if we can find Christians who fear God and abstain from idols, from blood, from sexual immorality and from strangled things, then the Book of Acts tells us that they will do well (See Acts 15:29)

2 Corinthians 5:9-11

(9) Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him.

(10) For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath

done, whether it be good or bad.

*(11) **Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men;** but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.*

The bible tells us that he that glories that he know God must not only know him as the lord that shows mercy and gives grace but that he is also the God that works Judgment.

Jeremiah 9:24-26

(24) But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight, saith the LORD.

(25) Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will punish all them which are circumcised with the uncircumcised;

(26) Egypt, and Judah, and Edom, and the children of Ammon, and Moab, and all that are in the utmost corners, that dwell in the wilderness: for all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in the heart.

Maybe we are overemphasizing this whole saved by grace issue. Inasmuch as I believe we are saved by grace through faith and not of works as the apostles taught us in Ephesians

Steps to Total Victory

2:4-8; I believe that grace is not a license to be disorderly and unruly.

The fact that grace abounds when sin abounds does not mean that we should continue to sin that grace may abound, rather the apostles teach us in 1 Thessalonians 4 that we should walk and please God more and more. They commanded us by the Lord Jesus Christ in 1 Thessalonians 4:1 reading downwards and in Acts 15:20, 29 that we should;

1. Abstain from pollutions of idols,
2. Abstain from blood,
3. Abstain from things strangled,
4. Abstain from fornication
5. Abstain from evil company

These things were written in black and white to the gentile church.

Acts 21:25

As touching the Gentiles which believe, we have written and concluded that they observe no such thing, save only that they keep themselves from things offered to idols, and from blood, and from strangled, and from fornication.

1 Thessalonians 4:1-10

(1) *Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren,*

and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

(2) For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.

(3) For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

(4) That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;

(5) Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:

(6) That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.

(7) For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.

(8) He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his holy Spirit.

(9) But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another.

(10) And indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia: but we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more;

We understand that we would do well as a gentile Christian community if we observe these

Steps to Total Victory

commandments. We can do very well both in our honest walk with both men and God. We can then say with Apostle Paul as he said in

Acts 24:15-16

(15) And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.

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

Our fear of the Lord would grow from the purity of our heart, the goodness of our conscience, and our unfeigned faith.

1 Timothy 1:3-7

(3) As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,

(4) Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do.

(5) Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

(6) From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;

(7) Desiring to be teachers of the law;

*understanding neither what they say, nor
whereof they affirm.*

We understand by the scriptures that the early church walked in the fear of the lord.

If you have been around for a while you would understand sexual sins and misjudgment concerning money have wrecked more ministries than direct satanic attack.

The fear of the lord is the beginning of wisdom. Those who do not fear God are stupid. The children of God, those who do know him, fear him.

The man or woman that fears God must be feared. God will defend them to the later. 2Corinthians 7:1 exhorts that seeing that we having eternal promises, dearly beloved, we should cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

Seven hints to Overcoming Through Holiness

- 1. Be assured** of the sufficiency of the finished work of Christ on the cross
- 2. Don't allow** any man or thing to condemn

Steps to Total Victory

you

3. **Refocus your thoughts;** think on what you truly want to do
4. **Be filled** with the Holy spirit
5. **Live on your knees** and in the Scriptures
6. **Love God and live according to purpose:** every man is called according to purpose and we must live as such
7. **Be fully persuaded** that in all things we are more than conquerors

Praise God through your Circumstances

To have total victory we need a lot of praising God through all our circumstances.

Think of men like Joshua. A man like David exemplified a life of praise.

What made King Hezekiah change the course of history? He asked God a simple question. He said, *'Lord I know you know all things, so I want to know whether you have ever heard the sound of praises coming from the grave before?'* and God said *'no'* and the king said *'if you kill me, I would not be able to praise you from the grave, but if I am alive I will not cease to offer Your praises'*. And the Lord said, *'I have added fifteen more years to your life to continue giving me praise'* (See 2 Kings 20:1-7)

If you learn how to praise God, he will add years to your life in Jesus' name. If you learn how to live a life of praise, God will bring down

walls, He will lift up our own spirits, and he will command the prison gates to open. Praising God through your circumstances will bring you out of your caves in Jesus' name!

Learning from Michelle

One morning, I was lying in bed with my wife having a quiet time; and I taught her something. I said to her 'if you learn to be thankful, you'll find joy'. I explained to her that being happy doesn't just come by waking up in the morning and telling yourself that you want to be happy.

It could work for children. Sometimes my little daughter wakes up in the morning and smiles, and then she would call out 'Mama!' if nobody responds then she would continue 'Dada', and then I will respond 'what do you want?' 'Milk' she would say. You see she has no care or worry. As far as she is concerned she wants milk and she has a Daddy who can provide it, that is all she knows. Sometimes her mummy would say 'no, you have to brush your teeth first' and she'll retort 'no I want milk', and then I'll offer her some milk, 'Take milk'. And that would be me offering my only daughter whatever she wants.

When most people start growing however, things get a little more complex than that. They

find it more and more difficult to be happy. In fact one way you can tell that you are growing old is that a lot of funny things don't make you laugh anymore. It's a sign that you are growing old if you find it harder and harder to laugh. You can test your ability to win a comedy contest by sharing your jokes with a group of old men, if they laugh, then you can win the contest.

So one way to find joy is to decide to be thankful, and as you begin to thank God for the things He has done, he will put more joy into your life.

Joy of Thankfulness

For instance if you are unemployed, instead of being cast down and asking God every day for a job, just begin to thank God for the free *kenkey* you ate yesterday, and let God know that you will bless Him even more if you are able to provide *kenkey* for someone else today. And then thank Him for life, for the fact that you are awake. And as you begin to thank God for His many blessings, you would be overwhelmed by how good God has been to you and your life will be filled with His joy.

As Jim Reeves, a seasoned man sang years ago

We thank Thee oh Lord for the brand

Steps to Total Victory

new day...

*We thank that we were born with eyes
to see these things*

The man imagined how it would be like to live in this world as a man without the ability to see how women and other beautiful things look like. What do you think? It's a great privilege to have eyes to see.

As a pastor I speak to people, and I've found out that if only we could thank God for the little things we so often take for granted, we would discover that there is more to be happy about than we are. Amen!

So praise is the key

¹ Thessalonians 5:18-20

(18) In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

(19) Quench not the Spirit.

(20) Despise not prophesyings.

Each of these statements stands as discreet truths; but I can see a good connection between them, especially the fact that it is the will of God for us to praise through our circumstances.

Sometimes when you are going through the

motions of life, even prophesy and exhortation sounds stupid, but the Bible says despise not prophesying.

Do you remember Paul and Silas, they sang and prayed unto God in the mist of great challenges; we can also praise God through our circumstances, it is the will of God.

Win by your praise

A heart full of praise and gratitude would see you break through all odds. Praise brings God on the scene to act as a man of war. When we put on the garments of praise, God puts on the garments of war.

Psalms 149:5-9

(5) Let the saints be joyful in glory: let them sing aloud upon their beds.

(6) Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword in their hand;

(7) To execute vengeance upon the heathen, and punishments upon the people;

(8) To bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of iron;

(9) To execute upon them the judgment written: this honour have all his saints. Praise ye the LORD.

Steps to Total Victory

I could preach this all of my life time. I have been through so much in the past years and praising God is what saw me through them all. Mostly, while I waited for God to finish what He was doing, I kept on praising Him.

Give by Covenant

Israel was saved from destruction because of giving. What did God do to save man? For God so loved the world, that He gave. All of us want to worship God, we all want to praise Him. Why do you want to serve God? It's because He gave His Son. Give somebody your time. Give somebody your heart.

I read a quote that the wife of a man of God shared recently. She said that, most heartless people used to care too much. Women especially give all their heart to men until they are rejected. It is a serious mistake to give your heart to people.

Look at what Judas did to Jesus. When multitudes gathered themselves unto Jesus, the Bible says that He gave His heart to no man because He knew what was in man.

Young ladies, be very careful about giving your heart to men. You need a wholesome heart to serve the Lord properly, so don't get wounded in your soul.

Steps to Total Victory

[You can check out your heart to see whether it is still there and beating]

So give, give a helping hand, give a smile to someone, help financially if you have the means, but please don't give your heart to any man. All the issues of life flows out of your heart. If you allow someone to mess your heart up, your life will be in deep deep trouble.

Proverbs 4:23

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

Your heart is the source of all your successes and every other element of your life, so take for instance, if someone you love rejects you after you have given him or her Gh¢10 to buy mobile phone caller credit, your heart can help you to make some more money to replace what you lost. But giving your heart totally to this person would be comparable to giving your money making machine away. So now you see why this is so important. Protect your heart, your survival in life depends on it.

Don't even give your heart to a thing.

One day, I bought a very nice mobile phone which was very dear to my heart. In fact, I took extra care of it, and carried the phone in

a paper bag and in a polythene bag every time. Then one day, whilst in the washroom I received a call from my assistant, Rev George. This would shock you, but whilst I was still talking on the phone the handset slipped from my hands and into the urinal unit. I couldn't believe that my darling mobile phone will do this to me, I mean, how? ... So what could I do, I let them take it to a phone repairer, and they told him that it fell into water. The moment he opened up the phone he asked suspiciously 'Hmm this your phone ... did you say it fell into normal water?'

Things will disappoint you. Give your heart only to God

Remember to honour the Lord with your substance and give by covenant.

Galatians 6:6-10

Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.

God can not be mocked, those who give by covenant to those who feed them spiritual things shall also receive by covenant. Every apostle must live by the gospel he preaches; it is therefore important for those who benefit from the preaching of the gospel he preaches, to give by covenant to his ministry and his upkeep (See

1 Corinthians 9:1-16).

1 Corinthians 9:11

If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?

People who receive from a minister, spiritual things, are required by covenant, they are obligated to give to the ministry.

You give by covenant, you receive by covenant.

Your apostle must serve at your expense. He preaches the gospel and he must live by the gospel. Even the Lord Jesus did not command bread from heaven; He only blessed the offering a little boy gave. Even though God is able to cause a raven to feed the man of God, the church and people he ministers to will be blessed only if they give offerings for his support and upkeep.

God loves a cheerful giver;

He loves those who give by covenant and not by necessity.

Don't give an offering because you think the pastor is poor and needy. The pastor is neither

poor nor needy, he is entitled to your offerings and tithes. You are obligated to give back to him or her your offerings and tithes.

It is robbery not to give offerings and tithes faithfully.

It is a vow and covenant that must be redeemed.

This is one of the most important lessons on money, reaping, and harvesting you can learn. Listen to me, there is nothing more repressive than to live with the consequences you could avoid.

Five keys to cheerful giving

- 1. Prioritize**
- 2. Purpose**
- 3. Plan**
- 4. Prepare**
- 5. Give cheerfully**

Serve the Brethren

The Bible says about David in Acts that after he served his generation according to the will of God, he fell asleep. We talk about things like killing Goliath and killing a lion but the Bible was only interested in the fact that he served. So serving the brethren is such an important thing

Acts 13:36

For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:

The life of King David exemplifies the place of serving in total victory over death, sin nature and suffering.

For great conquest, for total victory, serve.

Galatians 5:13

For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

Our Lord Jesus Christ left us a good example concerning serving one another. Jesus Christ wants us to serve one another. Indeed a great church is not built on great preaching or great music or great buildings but rather a church is built through the contribution of people who in their own lives desire to see the body grow and make sacrifices to see it grow.

We read according to the account of John that after the Lord's Supper, Jesus Christ washed the feet of the disciples.

John 13:12-17

(12) So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you?

(13) Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am.

(14) If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

(15) For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

(16) 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.

(17) If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

Steps to Total Victory

No man or woman can however serve the brethren unless he or she is ready and willing to walk and serve with lowliness and meekness, long-suffering, forbearing one another, and endeavouring to keep the unity of the spirit on the bond of peace. (Ephesians 4:1-3)

John 13:18-20

(18) I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.

(19) Now I tell you before it come, that, when it is come to pass, ye may believe that I am he.

(20) Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.

Nothing that is working works automatic; not even automatic cars. Everything that is working is working because someone is working behind the scenes and on the scenes. Even drones are controlled remotely by real humans.

The reach of any church or nation or organization is as far as the people, citizens, members are willing to contribute to its growth.

The prophet Nehemiah who rebuilt the broken walls of Jerusalem testifies in Nehemiah 4: 6 that the work progressed and joined together

because the people had the mind to build.

Nehemiah 4:6

(6) So built we the wall; and all the wall was joined together unto the half thereof: for the people had a mind to work.

The real significance of our lives is in how many people we serve. Serving is the determinant of greatness. I have always told you that the value of any thing is in what needs, they meet.

Giving your life a meaning

Life is meaningful when it meets eternal needs.

When you serve the brethren, you are serving God. Whatever you do for the little ones because of God, you have done it for God. Whatever means whatever! Whether you give a cup of water to a stranger; or visited the prisons; or visited the sick at a local hospital; or just help a neighbor find a parking space at the mall; or went the extra mile to help a customer find what they really wanted; as long as you did it in the name of the Lord, you have set yourself up for greatness

Lift up your eyes! Needs are all around us and we can no longer pretend to be unaware of it. We can not pretend, we are God's agents for the

present.

Matthew 25:31-40

(31) When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:

(32) And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:

(33) And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

(34) Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

(35) For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:

(36) Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

(37) Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

(38) When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

(39) Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

(40) And the King shall answer and say unto

them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Do not wait to hear a voice from heaven begging you to do. You will not hear a voice from heaven but remember God is waiting for you to do it! So do it! We have no excuse; he has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness.

Seven tips to help you serve well

We are many and do not have the same graces; tips to help us serve to result in growth are:

1. **Sign in:** Join the church
2. **Integrate:** Get involved
3. **Grow:** purge and feed
4. **Find a place:** That suits your personality and availability
5. **Get in shape:** Through training
6. **Sign up:** Formalise your membership
7. **Be found faithful** at all times

Testify of God's Goodness

Mark 16:14-20

(14) Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

(15) And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.

(16) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

(17) And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

(18) They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

(19) So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

(20) And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

See also Luke 14:15-24. The Lord sent us to go to highways and hedges; compel them to come-connect-learn. We must tell them, tell our families, friends, and communities.

The Lord said “...*go into all the world; Preach the gospel...*”

The unbelievers and unchurched and unreached do not seek God; the godly people must seek the ungodly for God.

It is our time to step out in the highways and alleys to compel them to come in. You are the last hope of this generation. You are what this generation has been waiting for. All creation is in expectation, the earnest expectation of the sons of God; and that is referring to you.

When we step out, God goes with us and works with us, when we work. We are God’s men for the now. It’s time to arise and hit the road, the highways and hedges; the lanes and streets; the alleys and avenues are waiting for us. It’s time to share your testimony. The generation is waiting to hear your version of God’s goodness. Can God trust you with the destiny of this generation?

This is such an important key that it brought the devil down from heaven to the Earth. And if we

testify of the goodness of the Lord, the God of peace will crush Satan under our feet soon

Eight fundamental steps to fulfill the great commission:

1. **Decision:** Decide to witness
2. **Plan:** Anything you do not plan for never gets done
3. **Obtain permit**
4. **Mobilize:** Mobilize resources
5. **Pray**
6. **Publicize**
7. **Visit and inspire:** Visit and inspire the world to *come, connect, and learn*
8. **Visit and follow-up:** (See Acts 15:36)

Don't make excuses.

In Luke 14, others made excuses and missed their opportunity.

Everyone has enough time, time enough to contribute in restoring dignity and liberation to humanity.

If you are an eight to five person, then. You have 168 hours/week; You usually sleep for an average of 56 hours/week. You shower, eat, travel, etc for 35 hours/week. You work for 40 hours/week;

What it means is that everybody has 37 hours/week to pursue their dreams and passions. Make time and work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

The bible tells us to redeem the time. In this hour, time is precious.

Ephesians 5:16

Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

We must arise and buy up the time, because the days are evil. The time is now and we can not afford to delay any further.

Every one of us can give 20hours a week working out their own salvation with fear and trembling.

Oh yes! You can watch your soccer and favourite television show but you've got to make time to share your testimony. Make time to tell the world that God is good. Let the world know that

Steps to Total Victory

the Goodness of the Lord is for their repentance.

We can not continue to cook up excuses, the world must know that God is good and his goodness is meant to work for their repentance (See Romans 2:1-11). Go out, tell the world. Do not be intimidated by the challenges and barriers. Step forward and march on.

We are ready to give meaning to living; the real meaning of life. Your life must count for something. Make a difference! *God bless you!*

Work with Might, Wisdom and Diligence

2 Thessalonians 3:10-12

(10) For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.

(11) For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies.

(12) Now them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.

The final step to total victory is working at something legitimate. We can walk honestly towards them that are without and lack nothing when we study to be quiet, and to do our own business, and to work with our hands.

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

(11) And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you;

(12) That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of

nothing.

To work is a commandment; we can do no better than find something good to labour at.

1. Work with Might

Ecclesiastes 9:10

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.

2. Work with Wisdom

Ecclesiastes 10:10

If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct.

3. Work with Diligence

Proverbs 22:29

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

4. Keep the Laws of Maximum Output

These are seven hints to total victory through work.

1. Decide to be faithful ;

“He that is faithful in little shall be trusted with much, he that is faithful in another man’s shall be trusted with his own, and he that is faithful with money shall be trusted with true riches.”

2. Think on how to make a difference:

Think on how to make a difference, meet needs and not to just make a living. You must brainstorm to discover better ways of contributing more effectively.

3. Represent the brand well:

Create, distinguish, position, and promote the brand. Brands consist of elements as name, logo, colour, unique selling proposition, and the emotional experience. Representing the brand means you must be an ambassador.

4. Pray for renewed strength

Pray for renewed strength and direction for your

purpose. Sometimes your spirit gets poisoned by ungrateful people, fake people and the unrealistic drama of life. Prayer renews your energy and gives fresh direction for life.

5. Sharpen your skills:

Sharpen your skills from time to time. You should not remain set when times are changing.

6. Name your price and receive wages.

A workman is worthy of his or her wages. Find polite and sensitive ways of discussing remuneration.

7. Keep the books

Keep the books and budget spending.

Have you ever wondered why a lot of Christians seem to begin their journey of faith so well but fail to see fruits in certain important areas of their lives like their finances, health, prayer life, marriages, social relationships, etc ...?

In *Steps To Total Victory*, you will discover the basic 'vitamins' that puts a difference between anointed and prosperous Christians, and those who backslide and fall into darkness and lose their crown of victory.

As a child of God, your Father wants the world to see His goodness literally manifested in every aspect of your life. True Christianity has always been accompanied by a spirit of excellence. Learn how to walk with God in the face of modern challenges of life and become that achiever that God has called you to be.

Rev. Simpe uses twelve master steps to show you how to add some rock solid actions to your faith in order to live the exciting life that God has already ordained for you. *God bless you!*

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This ebook version of **Teaching the Nations** is published by HighCity Media & Publication, and is available at; **simpebediako.com**

