

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich. (2 Corinthians 8:9 KJV)

That You Might Be Rich



THE GOODNEWS OF WEALTH

NOAH SIMPE
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I'm Rich and Not Broke

Poverty is the state of possessing little and depending on charity.

One of my favorite Scriptures in the Bible is 2 Corinthians 8:9; *“For ye **know the grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty **might** be rich”*.

This piece of scripture collaborates so well with other scriptures to assure me of my treasure in Christ. We have however recited this particular piece for decades, yet we have not been able to receive the promised riches. This might be because we have neglected the rhema in the word. I have carefully emphasized the word ‘*might*’ in the passage, in that it is expressing a conditional truth. This means certain conditions must be fulfilled in order to realize the riches.

The text clearly shows that the grace of God can

make us rich through the death of Christ. Riches come by an act of grace resulting from Christ's victory on the cross. We must not be poor. In my mind, it is erroneous for anyone to preach the gospel and leave out the doctrine of riches and prosperity. Becoming rich is one of the cardinal concepts of the gospel. Our Lord Jesus Christ was specially anointed by the Father to redeem the poor from their shackles. Read this;

Luke 4:16-19 CEV

(16) Jesus went back to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and as usual he went to the meeting place on the Sabbath. When he stood up to read from the Scriptures,

(17) he was given the book of Isaiah the prophet. He opened it and read,

*(18) "The Lord's Spirit has come to me, because **he has chosen me to tell the good news to the poor.** The Lord has sent me to announce freedom for prisoners, to give sight to the blind, to free everyone who suffers,*

(19) and to say, 'This is the year the Lord has chosen.' "

I believe that as the Gospel is being preached to the poor, they must profit by it and become rich. It is absurd to be a Christian and remain broke. We may begin poor but with the passage of time

as we walk in the word, we must begin to get richer. That is to say that because Christ has paid the price of our poverty we are not supposed to be broke.

Jesus Paid the Price for My Riches

Jesus was careful to pay the price for our freedom out of poverty. The time has come for us to begin to preach about money and loose the hold of poverty. Admittedly, the grace of God can do so many things and the work of Christ has achieved several things, and becoming rich is also one of them. From the text in 2 Corinthians 8:9, I can reliably say that becoming rich by the grace of God as a result of the death of Christ was common knowledge in the early Church.

The Apostle said “*ye know*”, implicitly, it was common knowledge among the brethren in the early Church that the grace of God makes the saints rich through the death of Christ. Praise the Lord! The price of our riches has been fully paid for. It is therefore worth it to pursue it with the same effort as we pursue the saving of our souls. The gospel must save us totally.

As a pastor, I have come to know that many saints are unable to live honest lives because they are broke. In April 2006, my finances began to hit the rocks. Everything about my business began to fail. At that time, I was heavily indebted. Unfortunately, some of the people I owed money to, were Christian brethren. And they were always on my neck because they needed their money badly to settle one emergency or the other of their own. Then as I made promises of payment and could not fulfill them, I appeared as a liar in their eyes. But I was just an honest man in crisis.

Honestly I have come to hate the word poverty. There are still several precious children of God who are languishing in abject poverty and indebtedness. You are loosed from the bondage of poverty to fulfill your purpose in Jesus' name!

But wasn't Jesus a Poor Man?

Yes, He may have been, but that is so that you might be rich. I have heard it being argued in several quarters that Jesus Christ was a poor man. Maybe He was, but that is why I should not be poor. Though He was rich, He became poor that

I will be rich. Clearly, Jesus did not live like a rich man, but he willingly chose to be poor to ensure that I become rich.

Although Jesus Christ want me to follow Him, He did not intend for me to be poor. So I don't intend to be poor either. He took the step to be poor so that I will not have to take that step. It is equally erroneous to argue that Christ was rich. Yes! He was, but on earth He chose to be poor so that I will not be. On earth Christ did not live in affluence, neither should I but I must still be rich.

Why Would Jesus, Although Rich, Become Poor that I Might be Rich?

He became poor, so that he may establish his covenant which he swore unto our fathers.

Deuteronomy 8:18

But thou shalt remember Jehovah thy God, that it is he who giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he swore unto thy fathers, as it is this day.

You see when God called Abraham our father,

He swore to him that He shall bless him and that through him will all nations shall be blessed. Now it is this covenant that God has kept till today. We therefore enjoy this privilege of riches.

Why Must I be Rich? Is it Really Necessary?

It is important for each one of us to understand why it is important that we become Rich. I say so because many of us believe that because Christ said it is difficult for the rich man to enter the kingdom then it is better to be poor than to be rich.

In fact, the Lord did not in any way imply that the rich will not enter the kingdom. All He intended to do was to let the saints know that unless our heart's greatest joy is to serve Christ and workout our salvation, it will be impossible to enter the kingdom. Because no man can serve two masters. God's best for us is to be rich.

**I must be rich, so that my abundance
would supply the needs of others**

2 Corinthians 8:9 DARBY

For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

*that for your sakes he, being rich, became poor, in order that *ye* by *his* poverty might be enriched.*

2 Corinthians 8:13-15

For it is not in order that there may be ease for others, and for you distress,

but on the principle of equality; in the present time your abundance for their lack, that their abundance may be for your lack, so that there should be equality.

According as it is written, He who gathered much had no excess, and he who gathered little was nothing short.

There should be some rich people in church so that we can support the destitute and needy.

Living in affluence is not the primary reason for creating wealth. It is rather to help the needy, help people to pay for their school fees, and medical bills, to buy food for the hungry, supply goods to the prisons, etc.

I must be rich, so that we can advance the preaching of the gospel

The gospel must get to the ends of the earth, and it usually travel on wheels. Think about the cost of one open air broadcast. The cost of one radio

or television broadcast. Think about the cost of maintaining even one missionary on a mission field. Taking the gospel to the place where it is needed most is expensive.

Truthfully every recipient of the gospel must pay for the cost of carrying the gospel to them. It is robbery to share in my spiritual blessing, and you not sharing with me your material gain. For instance, if I preach the gospel to you, you must feed me with material things. The irony however is that the people who need the word most are the poor and they cannot pay for it. In Jesus' ministry there were some wealthy people who supported Him.

Luke 8:1-3 CEV

Soon after this, Jesus was going through towns and villages, telling the good news about God's kingdom. His twelve apostles were with him,

*(2) and so were some women who had been healed of evil spirits and all sorts of diseases. One of the women was **Mary Magdalene**, who once had seven demons in her.*

*(3) **Joanna, Susanna, and many others had also used what they owned to help Jesus and his disciples.** Joanna's husband Chuza was one of Herod's officials.*

Every ministry needs support. I have come to know that if your anointing is not strong enough to create wealth, your dream to spread the Good news might rot.

**I must be rich, so that i can honour
the lord with my substance**

Proverbs 3:9 Darby

*Honour Jehovah with thy substance, and with the
first-fruits of all thine increase;*

**I must be rich, so that i can live an
honest life**

Proverbs 30:7-9 Darby

*(7) Two things do I ask of thee; deny me them not
before I die:*

*(8) Remove far from me vanity and lies; give me
neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the bread
of my daily need:*

*(9) lest I be full and deny thee , and say, Who is
Jehovah? or lest I be poor and steal, and outrage
the name of my God.*

This gentleman had it right. He knew that poverty could drive him to steal. The apostles told the Early Church to work so that they could live honest lives.

Ephesians 4:28

Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

This piece scripture needs no elaboration if you have been there before.

Faith Confession

Because Christ Jesus has paid the price, I shall not be broke or poor. I'm rich and money cometh to me now! Amen. The time is now and the moment has come. I break the curse of poverty over my life. I'm coming out of indebtedness! Amen!

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

Why Some Christians are Still Broke.

Ecclesiastics 7:10-12

(10) Say not thou, What is the cause that the former days were better than these? for thou dost not enquire wisely concerning this.

(11) Wisdom is good with an inheritance: and by it there is profit to them that see the sun.

(12) For wisdom is a defense, and money is a defense: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it.

The Bible says that only a fool ask why the days gone by are better than today. This is because if they were wise they would have known that it takes knowledge to preserve money. In answering this question, we are trying to establish what the causes of poverty are. We need to know this because the easiest way by which a tree would die is to die from the roots. The problem of poverty is embedded in its root causes.

The causes of poverty may be classified into three categories;

1. Personal factors
2. Societal factors
3. Spiritual factors

The cause of poverty are not always spiritual. Most often than not, it is more of personal and societal than spiritual. We will spend our whole lives fighting a non-existent enemy unless we take time to understand the cause of this plight. We understand by the words of Jesus Christ that the poor will always be here with us.

John 12:8

For the poor always ye have with you; but me ye have not always.

It is simply impossible to make everybody walk in sufficiency.

Personal Factors Leading to Poverty

One philosopher said we are our own worst enemies. The self, has harmed more people than the devil has, but we must deal with the devil because man lived in a body long before the devil deceived the woman. Until then, we did not rebel

against God, even though we still lived in bodies. So the self, in itself, is not the problem. I believe that it is the influence of the devil on the flesh that makes the flesh sin.

Poor Mind Setting

The poor will always be around because poverty is a state of the mind and not a state of being. Until people begin to change their mentality, there would be some people who will not have enough.

Sometimes the issue with poverty is not a matter of not having sufficient supply, but it is either not working to earn enough, or not planning the use of what we have.

Surprisingly there will always be people who will never work hard for sufficient funds because they think that their little effort should be rewarded adequately, which is not true and will nearly never happen. It is strange that when it comes to working for sufficient supply, animals know better. Though they lack conscience to reason, you would hardly see a hungry animal lying idle. Unless they are chained or caged, they will move

as far as they can find food or die.

Many do not know they are poor and do not want to know.

In fact, until a man encounters God's divine abundance which brings peace, he would never recognize his desperate plight. That is the more reason why Jesus rebuked the church in the Book of Revelation.

Revelation 3:17-18

*Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and **knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:***

(18) I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich ...

Now it is quite clear that until we wake up to our plight, we may not yield to correction. In the study of demons, this state of people not knowing their actual state is called spiritual blindness.

Inappropriate Attitudes

Sometimes we create our poverty. Many poor states, families and individuals create their own poverty. They created it by their wrong attitudes.

We have created our poverty in Africa. We vote for leaders who neglect us, seek their own wellbeing, steal from the nation, and maltreat us. Yet they come to us again for our mandate for another term in office and we vote for them because of tribalism. And I wonder whether we have heads which contain brains?

Many people will not change, not even after this message.

Such people prefer to live in their comfort zone and continue to do things in their usual style and still remain poor than changing. Change is mysterious and very uncertain. It therefore takes a lot of faith to change.

Laziness and the Love of Sleep

Laziness is *the state of the mind that creates a desire to be rich but shirks the pain of diligent work*. It may not necessarily mean to sleep but to move so slowly that poverty overtakes you. It is the unwillingness to work or use energy.

Proverbs 6:10-11

(10) *Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:*

(11) So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

Lazy people might not be idle necessarily but they would be reluctant to exert energy. They have the desire to possess but refuse to put in diligent work.

Proverbs 13:4

The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

Results are not attained through desire but by diligent work. Money would not fall from heaven because we so wish, but because we put in some effort and do the things that move heaven to release them on us. Lazy people are always wishing and never working.

Typical Signs of Laziness

1. Lazy people think they are higher than some jobs they call menial

They are not ready to do what is available. These guys think they are higher than certain levels of jobs. You will hear them say things like “well for me I can’t work in the laundry, or as a clerk”. But

the truth is, working in that laundry shop may be better than to dress up smart each morning and go out in search of some fancy job. For a start, agree to do any job that conforms to biblical standards as long as it can feed you. While doing it however, you could be looking and hoping for a better opportunity. The theory of motivation says the first motivation to work is food, security and safety comes next, then job satisfaction.

Ecclesiastes 9:10-11 Darby

(10) Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in Sheol, whither thou goest

(11) I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to the intelligent, nor yet favour to men of knowledge; but time and chance happeneth to them all.

The reason for this is because your riches is not in what you do but the heart with which you do it. In that it is time and chance that happened to those who have excelled.

When we started our church, some of the pastors who left us, did so because they thought their

gifts would rust if they stayed. We had all just left the university and we had to pastor a church that had remained 10 members for two years.

One day I asked one guy who had come to look for an opportunity to work as a pastor in the church to start by coming early to arrange the meeting place for church. He left and didn't come again. Later on some friends met him and asked him "why did you leave?" He said "how can you ask me to do such job". And ye many others started there and have become great.

2. Lazy people neither begin nor complete things

They sleep when it matters most. They could be asleep even when there is work to be done. Sometimes, even though they are very actively moving about, they could be mentally asleep. They are always hoping for a great future but neglect the minor present. They hardly do what matters today. They plan on how to spend the money they'll make in selling their game, while the game rotting because they are too lazy to roast it.

Proverbs 12:27

*The slothful man **roasteth not that which he took in hunting**: but the substance of a diligent man is precious.*

3. Lazy people always make excuses for not working

Proverbs 22:13

*The slothful man saith, **There is a lion without, I shall be slain** in the streets.*

How to Overcome Laziness

The key to finding financial sufficiency is education, counseling, and learning from successful people, even if their success is little. Laziness is a mental state that can be dealt with. It can only be dealt with when the victim is ready to be schooled by ordinary people who have become successful at what they do. They are admonished to go to the ant for tuition.

Proverbs 6:6-8

(6) Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:

*(7) Which **having no guide, overseer, or ruler,***

(8) Provideth her meat in the summer, and

gathereth her food in the harvest.

Why are lazy people required to go to the ant? Because the ant is *small, feeble* and *has no supervisor*, yet it works with *initiative* and *diligence*. It is organized, and works with a plan. It makes hay while the sun shines - *foresight*, it saves against eventualities, and it is also very *frugal*.

Proverbs 30:25

The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer;

Diligence in business is every man's duty and should be our wisdom as well. This is not so that we may attain worldly wealth, but so as that we would not be burdensome to others with our needs. It is scandalous for any of our Christian brothers or sisters to steal or engage in any criminal or immoral activity for financial gain.

Learn wisdom from the ant, and don't be ashamed. Don't let habits of indolence and indulgence grow in you, or else your life will run to waste. This will allow poverty, though far from your life at first, to gradually draw near until it overtakes you. Poverty at a distance looks like a traveler who is not coming to stay but when it arrives, it is like an armed man, too strong to be

resisted.

Christian Attitude towards the Lazy

Sometime before this revelation dawned on me, I used to waste God's resource on people who were lazy, always drunk, and felt too precious to work. Such people frequently came to me with touching stories of their need, and I would give them money thinking that they would see the love of God and stay in the faith. Surprisingly, they always abandoned the church at the slightest provocation. The Apostle Paul solves the question of what our attitude towards the lazy should be?

2 Thessalonians 3:6-15 Darby

(6) Now we enjoin you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw from every brother walking disorderly and not according to the instruction which he received from us.

(7) For ye know yourselves how ye ought to imitate us, because we have not walked disorderly among you;

*(8) nor have we eaten bread from any one without cost; **but in toil and hardship working night and day not to be chargeable to any one***

of you:

(9) not that we have not the right, but that we might give ourselves as an example to you, in order to your imitating us.

(10) *For also when we were with you we enjoined you this, **that if any man does not like to work, neither let him eat.***

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

(12) *Now such we enjoin and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ, **that working quietly they eat their own bread.***

(13) *But *ye*, brethren, do not faint in well-doing.*

(14) *But if any one obey not our word by the letter, mark that man, and do not keep company with him, that he may be ashamed of himself;*

(15) *and do not esteem him as an enemy, but admonish him as a brother.*

Christianity is not to countenance slothfulness, which will consume what is meant to encourage the industrious, and to support the sick and afflicted. It is a great error and abuse of religion, to make it a cloak of idleness or any other sin.

The servant who is waiting for the coming of his lord, must be working as his lord has commanded

him. If any man refuses to labor with quietness, we are to note that person, and separate ourselves from them. Yet we are to seek their good by counseling and warning them in love. The Lord is with us while we are here on earth. Hold on to your faith to the end. We must not give up or tire of doing good works. We will have enough time to rest when we go to heaven.

Gluttony and Love of Pleasure

Gluttony and riotous consumption of flesh is deadly. It creates poverty and insufficiency. The Lord admonished me one day to stay away from riotous eaters of flesh. He said “stay away from winebibbers and riotous eaters of flesh”.

Proverbs 23:19-21 Darby

(19) Thou, my son, hear and be wise, and direct thy heart in the way.

(20) Be not among winebibbers, among riotous eaters of flesh.

(21) For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty; and drowsiness clotheth with rags.

The Scripture supremely admonishes us to beware of gluttony and drunkenness. Gluttony brings poverty and drowsiness (wallowing in

drunkenness) will clothe you with rags. If you have a problem leaving drunkenness, then this message is for you. If you drink to forget your sorrow, read this. If you think life is all a bed of roses, read this;

A feast is for laughter, drink to forget your troubles but only money pays bills

Ecclesiastes 10:19

A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all things.

Feast is made for laughter. We go to parties to laugh, to share jokes and meet friends. Pleasantries are exchanged, and it is all celebrations. The drunkards are right, “we drink wine to forget our troubles:, they say. Alcohol drowns the pain of a man. It makes the heart go joyful, but after the influence of alcohol is gone, the bills would still be on the table, waiting to be paid.

Let me tell you this truth which I told an old drunkard years ago; “the only way to pay your bills, get married, and feed your children by the grace of God is to work for money”.

Live on the fruit and not on
the seed.

Embedded in nearly every kind of fruit is the seed. God intended that we eat the fruit and sow the seed. Quiet often the drunkard forgets about the seed, and eats up the fruit together with the seed, all because of their drowsiness. Alcohol reduces our ability to exercise restraint and hence the drowsy are unable to sow any seed.

Greed and Hasty Pursuit are Killers

It takes focus on vision and the blessing of the Lord to make a man rich and not a wild goose chases. In one year, a friend had attempted five different ventures which all failed. Then one day he came to me and said “Pastor, the demons are on my neck”. “Of course” I said “because you are on a wild goose chase”. Then I told him “If in a single year, you attempted to travel to America, to Italy, United Kingdom, to Austria, and South Africa. You’ve wanted to get married, go to school and pastor a church in Ghana.” I said “my brother, surely the devil must be on your neck”.

Some people just can't focus. They also want to do everything that they see others doing.

Sincerely speaking, the greatest force of excellence lies in practice, and practice is efficacious when you have been at it for a long time.

Your ability to focus and envision is supreme to prosperity. Do not follow vain people, instead, till your own land.

Don't run because everybody is running.

In fact, many of the people running around don't know why and where they are running. Many of them run around till they end up in poverty. It is important to aim at one thing and achieve it. After all, not all that glitters is gold. Confer with the Lord and focus on your purpose. The Apostle Paul attained success because he did only one thing.

Philippians 3:13

*Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: **but this one thing I do**, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,*

Jesus Christ understood His purpose well, and for all His life, He did that one thing - to save the world. There came a time when Jesus visited two sisters - Mary and Martha. Each of them had a choice to make and Mary chose to sit at the feet of Jesus to listen to Him, but Martha wanted to serve the Lord. Jesus however said to them “one thing is needful”. The Scripture says

Luke 10:40-42

*(40) But **Martha was cumbered about much serving**, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me.*

*(41) And Jesus answered and said unto her, **Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:***

*(42) **But one thing is needful:** and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.*

Now it is our turn, let us identify that one thing that is needful and care about it. Focus and work at what you have, enough of the running around. Remember, doing the same thing again and again and again, could make you a master at it.

Hasty pursuit (greed) brings much
poverty

Greedy people chase the wind and grasp poverty.
Those in the haste to be rich just follow vain
persons in search of the magic key to get rich fast.
Greed is a killer, and those with a greedy heart
have an evil eye.

Proverbs 28:22

*He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and
considereth not that poverty shall come upon
him.*

The really diligent employ foresight as well as
labour, but the greedy just rush into deals and are
duped.

Proverbs 21:5

*The thoughts of the diligent tend only to
plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty only
to want.*

People who seek riches by a lying tongue seek
death because greed is a cause of death.

Proverbs 21:6

*The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a
vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death.*

The Knowledge Factor

If you lack knowledge, you would be destroyed. Many have come to poverty because of the lack of know-how. Management or stewardship is a great key to sufficiency. Knowledge is a key that unlocks the door to financial sufficiency. The lack of it brings much want and scarcity. It is said that in the abundance of water, the fool is thirsty. Having the technical know-how will enable you to plan and effectively manage your resources.

Many enterprises have failed because the proprietors lacked the basic know-how. Many of them spend their capital and go bankrupt. Refusing to educate yourself is suicidal because one main cause of poverty is the lack of knowledge. Kick ignorance out and poverty would be out. To eradicate poverty, education should be kept on the agenda. A nation that educates her citizens will be able to deal with poverty.

Proverbs 24:3-4 Darby

- (3) *Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established:*
- (4) *And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.*

More Reasons Why Some Christians are Still Broke

Societal factors leading to poverty

Poverty in many homes, communities and even nations is as a result of social or external factors. In fact, even with the right attitude and good plans, the right environment is necessary for wealth creation. Wealth to me is like the seed; even the right seed in the wrong soil may not bear fruits.

Remove the pollutants that kill the potential for the creation of wealth. If we ever want to create wealth, then the pollutants should be removed. Pollutants like wicked governance, inappropriate economic policies, poor institutional structures, and unhealthy cultural practices must be removed. These are the main toxins that stifle our

potential to eradicate poverty.

The Wicked Ruling

When the wicked rule, the people mourn

Proverbs 29:2

When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

When the wicked rule, the people suffer. They mourn because of the hardship that comes upon the nation as a result of perverse judgment, illiteracy, ignorance, bribery and corruption. The policies may not be wrong, but some are inappropriate, and could create an atmosphere which allows poverty to blossom.

Although every government desires to build the nation, leaders who have a wicked heart implement policies that cause poverty and hardship. When the government and employers pay bad wages and there are no laws to protect the interest of the employees, then we should know that the wicked are in rulership. When governments fix minimum wages that can't feed the worker per day, then there is a problem.

Now let's look at some of the things the wicked do which increases poverty among any people.

Perversion of Justice

Typically, the wicked perverse judgments. Obstinate judgments in terms of judiciary, economic policies, and legislature destroy the congenial atmosphere for sufficiency. A wicked government would not pursue pro-poor policies. They do not have a feeling for the poor. They think everybody should be fine, just because they are filled. They pursue their selfish interest and overlook the plight of the suffering masses. The Bible however says,

Proverbs 29:14, 26

*(14) The king that **faithfully judgeth the poor**,
his throne shall be established for ever.*

*(26) Many seek the ruler's favour; but every
man's judgment cometh from the LORD.*

Francis Beacon was right when he expressed his opinion on the laws of the nation that "We live in a nation and world when the laws have become like cobwebs, it catches the little flies while the big ones break through it and escape". The rich in the communities governed by the wicked are

like colossal beast, they trample the interest of the poor.

The society is corrupt, and they have the money to pay their way through. The poor are left to defenseless because the wicked is ruling. The wicked ignore the needs of the poor.

Ignoring Pro-Poor Policies

They ignore the needs of the poor, but remember money is not all in all. Illiteracy and ignorance of the needs of the poor is a killer. The atmosphere conducive enough for wealth creation should be charged with understanding - an understanding of the plight of the poor. It takes the common man to build a nation. We must understand the need of the poor and weak. If the atmosphere is good for the weak, then it is better for the strong.

It takes righteousness to understand and pursue pro-poor policies. The wicked is selfish and thinks only about his wellbeing. This unfortunately describes the heart of many leaders and politicians. One day, a learned woman told me that “politicians are not in politics because they love the nation and seek the interest of the citizens. They are in politics for themselves”

Proverbs 29:7

*The righteous considereth the cause of the poor:
but the wicked regardeth not to know it.*

Poverty is thriving because the nations have neglected the plight of the poor. And charity and feeding programs is not the ultimate solution either. The poor should earn their own money. What Africa needs is not grants, loans or debt cancellation, but a fair deal at the world trades market. The time has come that as a people we arise and fight the sham of the IMF and all such international institutions. It is not about grants and loans but fair trade deals.

There should be an equitable distribution of the powers and the opportunities of the world. The subtle approach of this modern neocolonialism must be condemned, but by who? Our leaders have become slow bellies and yes-men to the con of the industrialized world. How then can we break the cycle of poverty? Many activists in this nation shut up their mouths once they get food in there. Who said they care about the poor.

It might interest you to know that such hypocritical behaviour did not start today. Back in the days of Jesus, activists were mostly in it because of what they can get out of it. Recall the

day the woman broke the bottle of oil?

John 12:1-8 Darby

(1) Jesus therefore, six days before the passover, came to Bethany, where was the dead man Lazarus, whom Jesus raised from among the dead.

(2) There therefore they made him a supper, and Martha served, but Lazarus was one of those at table with him.

(3) Mary therefore, having taken a pound of ointment of pure nard of great price, anointed the feet of Jesus, and wiped his feet with her hair, and the house was filled with the odour of the ointment.

(4) One of his disciples therefore, Judas son of Simon, Iscariote, who was about to deliver him up, says,

(5) Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?

(6) But he said this, not that he cared for the poor, but because he was a thief and had the bag, and carried what was put into it .

(7) Jesus therefore said, Suffer her to have kept this for the day of my preparation for burial;

(8) for ye have the poor always with you, but me ye have not always.

A Corrupt Society Breeds Poverty

Bribery and corruption kills a nation.

Proverbs 29:4

The king by judgment establisheth the land: but he that receiveth gifts overthroweth it.

Bribery and corruption stifles productivity. It kills initiative. Why would our students study hard when job placement is not by merit but by bribery?

Inappropriate Institutional and Economic Policies

The governance may be good but the public and social structure to create the enabling environment must be put in place.

The poor asked for economic and institutional reforms

Poor institutional structures and bad economic policies plagued, overwhelmed and weighed down the people of Israel under the rule of

Solomon. Therefore, after his death, the people asked his successor to reform some of the policies. No people should allow themselves to be taken for granted. It is time for the suffering masses to arise and mount pressure on the governments to ease their pain. The people understood that their suffering and financial insufficiency was not the result of demons or laziness but the bad economic and institutional programs of the wise king Solomon. So they sent a team to talk to the new king.

2 Chronicles 10:3-4

(3) And they sent and called him. So Jeroboam and all Israel came and spake to Rehoboam, saying,

(4) Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore ease thou somewhat the grievous servitude of thy father, and his heavy yoke that he put upon us, and we will serve thee.

Solomon had become selfish and loved many women. He had married about 300 and had 700 concubines. He therefore burdened the people to finance his affluent life style, and this is much like today's leaders.

Unhealthy Cultural and Religious Practices

Unhealthy cultural practices have been one of the major causes of poverty in many lives. One such unhealthy cultural practice is the practice of inheritance. Other common examples are *Trokosi* (system practice among some tribes in Ghana), forced marriages, etc. Stop these unhealthy cultural practices.

In many cultures like it was in Israel, when a man died his inheritance was taken. In Israel, the inheritance of a dead man was taken by the family if he had no sons. This continued until a man named Zelophehad gave birth to only daughters. Certain cultures may have been there for ages but if we can break the jinx of poverty then we must challenge the status quo.

Numbers 26:33

(33) And Zelophehad the son of Hepher had no sons, but daughters: and the names of the daughters of Zelophehad were Mahlah, and Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah.

The daughters of Zelophehad contended the culture in court. They spoke to the chief justice

and fought for what was due them.

Numbers 27:1-5

(1) *Then came the daughters of Zelophehad, the son of Hopher, the son of Gilead, the son of Machir, the son of Manasseh, of the families of Manasseh the son of Joseph: and these are the names of his daughters; Mahlah, Noah, and Hoglah, and Milcah, and Tirzah.*

(2) *And they stood before Moses, and before Eleazar the priest, and before the princes and all the congregation, by the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, saying,*

(3) ***Our father died in the wilderness, and he was not in the company of them that gathered themselves together against the LORD in the company of Korah; but died in his own sin, and had no sons.***

(4) ***Why should the name of our father be done away from among his family, because he hath no son? Give unto us therefore a possession among the brethren of our father.***

(5) *And Moses brought their cause before the LORD.*

Every unfavourable practice we contend in prayer shall be changed for our sakes.

Numbers 27:6-11

(6) *And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,*

(7) *The daughters of Zelophehad speak right: thou shalt surely give them a possession of an inheritance among their father's brethren; and thou shalt cause the inheritance of their father to pass unto them.*

(8) *And thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a man die, and have no son, then ye shall cause his inheritance to pass unto his daughter.*

(9) *And if he have no daughter, then ye shall give his inheritance unto his brethren.*

(10) *And if he have no brethren, then ye shall give his inheritance unto his father's brethren.*

(11) *And if his father have no brethren, then ye shall give his inheritance unto his kinsman that is next to him of his family, and he shall possess it: and it shall be unto the children of Israel a statute of judgment, as the LORD commanded Moses.*

The five daughters of Zelophehad considered themselves as destitute, having neither father nor brother to inherit any land. Their lives leave a good example for us. By their action they demonstrated the following;

1. Belief and expectation that the word of the Lord would be performed in due season.
2. A desire of an interest in the promised

inheritance.

3. The spirit of modesty - Their candid manner of asking without secret murmurings or discontentedness exemplifies great wisdom.

If we want to break the cycle of poverty then
Remember Nothing is a Reserved for the Rich.

Sometimes we are made to think that some things are reserved for some people. When we drive into places, certain places are reserve packing slots. Well, that is fine but when it comes to inheritance, please be a bit persuasive. Show that you intend to take your territory. Exhibit earnest desire. Do not be indifferent, beloved push harder. Talk to the Lord and reinforce your earnest desire in prayer. Do not sit aloof, nothing happens by chance.

They ask for a possession in the land of Canaan.
Herein they discovered,

1. Strong faith in the power and promise of God, concerning the giving of the land of Canaan to Israel.
2. And earnest desire for a place and a name in the Land of Promise, which can be seen as a type of heaven.
3. Respect and honour for their father, whose

name was dear to them even though he is gone.

Their father had not done anything that might bar his children's claim to a land. A parent may have sinned and suffered for their own sins, yet it is great comfort to them when they are at the point of death, knowing that as far as they can tell, their children would not suffer from their inequities.

God Himself is the judge. He takes notice of our affairs; not only of nations, but also of our families, and He orders them according to His will. So the petition has been granted for us all. Those who seek an inheritance in the land of promise, shall have what they seek for, and other things shall be added to them.

These unhealthy cultural practices must change.

More and More Reasons Why Some Christians are Still Poor

These are spiritual factors that lead to poverty; are the gods to blame sometimes?

There are three main spiritual causes of poverty:

1. Attack from demonic forces
2. Curses from God
3. Curses from the people

Attack by Demonic Forces

Some people are poor because of demonic affliction. It is time however to launch a full scale attack on the devil, and recover all that he has stolen from you.

Typically demon driven poverty is characterized by the inability to enjoy the fruit of one's labour. Scripture reveals that,

Judges 6:1, 3-4, 5b-6

(1) *And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the LORD: and the LORD delivered them into the hand of Midian seven years.*

(3) *And so it was, **when Israel had sown**, that the Midianites came up, and the Amalekites, and the children of the east, even they **came up against them**;*

(4) *And they **encamped** against them, and **destroyed the increase of the earth**, till thou come unto Gaza, and left no sustenance for Israel, neither sheep, nor ox, nor ass.*

(5) *...and they entered into the land to destroy it.*

(6) *And **Israel was greatly impoverished because of the Midianites**; and the children of Israel cried unto the LORD.*

This Scripture creates a parallel with the situation of many of us. They faithfully invested, planned and coordinated the nurturing of the investment, but just when the investment shows forth some fruits, something appears to consume the fruits.

Judges 6:6

And Israel was greatly impoverished because of

*the Midianites; and the children of Israel cried
unto the LORD.*

The devil has not left us alone to enjoy the harvest. Most often than not, just before you could reap the fruit of our sweat he comes to devour. One day, a brother asked me “I thought God said He will keep us?” I said “Yes! He is keeping us” then he said “Why then is the devil afflicting us?” I replied quickly, “because we broke the hedge” as the Scripture say,

Ecclesiastes 10:8

*He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso
breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him.*

Our sins and evil works has given us over to our enemies. In plain words, your territories have come under the siege of an evil force. These forces are the devourers. Now, just like how the Midianites were the devourers of Israel’s fields, these devourers are permitted by God, because we broke the spiritual hedge of protection which was keeping them out all along.

What have we done to break the Hedge?

We have either;

1. Defaulted in our tithing and offering or
2. Sinned - done wickedly, and rebelled against God's counsel.

How did we Default in our Tithing and Offering?

Malachi 3:8-12

(8) Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

*(9) **Ye are cursed with a curse:** for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.*

*(10) **Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse,** that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

*(11) **And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes,** and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of*

hosts.

(12) And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

Malachi charges us of defrauding the Lord with respect to both tithes and offerings. ‘Rob’, here means to take by force. The prophet is painting a picture of the incomprehensible – an insignificant man defrauding the omniscient and taking away that which belongs to the omnipotent.

As a New Testament believer, your giving must be characterized by;

1. Freedom

This liberty does not negate the validity of the tithe. Remember this;

2 Corinthians 9:6,7

*Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give **what he decided in his heart to give , not reluctantly or under compulsion**, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

Tithing is the natural and basic expression of stewardship. Jesus demands more in terms of

stewardship than merely the precise compliance with the tithe, but He sanctions at least the practice of tithing (See Matthew 23:23). Though stewardship involves more than the tithe, it is never less than tithe.

2. Responsible Planning

1 Corinthians 16:2

Upon the first day of the week let each of you set something aside near himself, storing up whatever he may prosper, so that when I come no collections may be made then.

Curses from God causes Poverty

Another major cause of poverty is divine curses. You see that in the case of the daughters of Zelophehad, they stated that their father did not die with those who follow korah to sin against God, but he died on the merits of his own sins.

Numbers 27:3

Our father died in the wilderness, and he was not among the company of those who gathered themselves together against LORD in the company of Korah, but he died in his own sin,

and he had no sons.

Some sins invite curse, and we must do well to avoid them. Eli told his sons that “*if a man wrongs a man, God could plead for him but if a man wrongs God, who would plead for that man?*” Why could God curse a man? God would curse those who do the following;

1. Bringing contemptible offerings to God

Malachi 1:14

But cursed be the deceiver, who has in his flock a male, and vows, and sacrifices to LORD a blemished thing. For I am a great King, says LORD of hosts, and my name is feared among the Gentiles.

It is better not to give than to bring a contemptible offering to the Lord.

2. Making vain promises

Ecclesiastes 5:4-7

(4) When thou vow a vow to God, defer not to pay it, for he has no pleasure in fools. Pay that which thou vow.

(5) Better is it that thou should not vow, than that thou should vow and not pay.

(6) Do not allow thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin, nor say thou before the heavenly agent, that is was an error. Why should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thy hands?

(7) For in the multitude of dreams there are vanities, and in many words. But fear thou God.

The case supposes a man coming to the priest, and pretending that his vow was made rashly, and that it would be wrong to fulfill it. Such mockery of God would bring the divine displeasure, which might destroy such a man and what he unduly withheld from God.

3. Looking with contempt at or harming those who faithfully bring their gift to God.

4. Those who take what legitimately belongs to God.

The people shall curse a stingy man

Proverbs 11:24-26 DARBY

(24) There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is right,

but it tendeth only to want.

(25) The liberal soul shall be made fat, and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.

*(26) **He that withholdeth corn, the people curse him; but blessing shall be upon the head of him that selleth it.***

The scriptures have made it clear that it is more blessed to give than to receive. We are thought by Our Lord Jesus to give and it shall be given unto us, a good measure that is shaken together and pressed down. Whenever we give, we have fulfill the principle of receiving an overflow measure.

Luke 6:38 DARBY

Give, and it shall be given to you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall be given into your bosom: for with the same measure with which ye mete it shall be measured to you again.

What We Need is Not Charity

Why should the poor not depend on charity?

The poor must work for three reasons and must refuse to live on charity. Depending on charity or SOS is bad for the mentality of any person. Any people who desire to progress and break the curse of poverty must not allow themselves to live on charity, and the following gives us the reasons;

**Nobody has what it takes to feed
you everyday**

You see that manna ceased to fall after Gilgal. God always expects us to put in some work before we eat.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 DARBY

For also when we were with you we enjoined you this, that if any man does not like to work,

neither let him eat.

God expects us to work with our hands.

Right from the very day God created man, He intended that man would eat only after working. The Bible tells us that the plants which God commanded to come forth did not appear immediately. They waited until the man to till the ground was created. Adam ate after tilling the field.

Genesis 2:4-5 Darby

(4) These are the histories of the heavens and the earth, when they were created, in the day that Jehovah Elohim made earth and heavens,

(5) and every shrub of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew; for Jehovah Elohim had not caused it to rain on the earth, and there was no man to till the ground.

Genesis 2:15-16 DARBY

*(15) And Jehovah Elohim took Man, and put him into the garden of Eden, **to till it and to guard it.***

(16) And Jehovah Elohim commanded Man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou shalt freely eat;

If we refuse to work, more and more people would be poor in our church, and we will not be able to establish the vision of God for our lives. This is why the apostles required us to work.

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

When we learn to work with our hands, then shall we be able to walk honestly towards all men. It would strengthen us to avoid being at the whims and caprices of the rich and wicked. It is time to break the scourge of lack with hard work. Many of us have not been able to live honest lives because we do not work.

If we refuse to work or earn our own money, we may have to serve others all our lives.

Proverbs 22:7

*The rich ruleth over the poor, and **the borrower is servant to the lender.***

The Scripture depicts life as it truly is, alluding to the power of wealth and the bondage of indebtedness without necessarily approving or disapproving it. We must understand that the state of indebtedness is not only a discouragement

and concern, crushing the spirit of a man and opening him to heartbreak and disaster, but also is a hindrance to his faith and dependence upon God to meet his needs.

2 Kings 4:1

*Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and **the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen.***

Everybody living on charity needs to be looking for something profitable to do.

Help the Poor at all Cost

Why the rich should not be weary of helping the poor? Here are four reasons why those who have sufficient should help the poor at all cost. Make it a policy to help people in need if you ever want to receive the gift of God. Helping the poor is necessary because,

Giving is one of the surest ways to
blessedness

Proverbs 22:9

*He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for
he giveth of his bread to the poor.*

He that seeks to relieve the wants and miseries of others shall be blessed. This is a spiritual concept, keep it.

Giving to the poor guarantees you treasure in Heaven.

An important man asked Jesus, “Good teacher, what must I do to have eternal life?” Jesus said, “Why do you call me good? Only God is good. You know the commandments: Be faithful in marriage. Do not murder. Do not steal. Do not tell lies about others. Respect your father and mother”. He told Jesus, “I have obeyed all these commandments since I was a young man.” When Jesus heard this he said, “There is one thing that you still need to do. Go and sell everything you own! Give to the poor, and you will have riches in heaven. Then come and be my follower.”

When the man heard this, he was sad, because he was very rich. Jesus saw how sad the man was. So he said, “It’s terribly hard for rich people to get into God’s kingdom! In fact, it’s easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to get into God’s kingdom.” When the crowd heard this, they asked, “How can anyone ever be saved?” Jesus replied, “There

are some things that people cannot do, but God can do anything.”

Matthew 19:21

Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me.

Jesus does teach that salvation is ever achieved by divesting oneself of all possessions, even for charitable purposes. However, this youthful inquirer had one concern that was far greater than his desire to have life eternal. His possessions occupied the position of primary devotion in his life. Until he could persuade himself to be willing to seek God regardless of the cost, he could never discover eternal life. Therefore Jesus suggested that he sell his possessions. It is however true that the rich by giving to the poor are rich towards God.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 CEV

*(17) **Warn the rich people** of this world not to be proud or to trust in wealth that is easily lost. Tell them to have faith in God, who is rich and blesses us with everything we need to enjoy life.*

*(18) **Instruct them to do as many good deeds** as they can and to help everyone. Remind the rich to **be generous and share what they have.***

(19) This will lay a solid foundation for the future, so that they will know what true life is like.

Being rich in this world is wholly different from being rich towards God. Nothing is more uncertain than worldly wealth. Those who are rich, must see that God gave them their riches; and that He alone can give them the strength to enjoy them richly. There are people who have riches, but enjoy them poorly, not having the right heart with which to enjoy the wealth. What is the best estate worth, if it does not give you an opportunity to do more good works?

Let us lay hold on eternal life by showing our faith in Christ by fruits of love, because not many days from now, the self-indulgent, the covetous, and the ungodly will lift up their eyes in torment.

Proverbs 11:25-26

(25) The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.

(26) He that withholdeth corn, the people shall curse him: but blessing shall be upon the head of him that selleth it.

The liberal soul sells her bread in times of scarcity

so that the famished would have something to eat.

Giving gives people a reason to glorify God.

2 Corinthians 9:13 NIV

Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else.

Men would glorify God for two basic reasons:

1. For our obedience that accompanies our confession
2. For the generosity we show.

Break Free from Indebtedness

2 Kings 4:1-7 CEV

(1) *One day the widow of one of the LORD's prophets said to Elisha, "You know that before **my husband died**, he was a follower of yours and a worshiper of the LORD. **But he owed a man some money**, and now that man is on his way to take my two sons as his slaves."*

(2) *"**Maybe there's something I can do to help**," Elisha said. "**What do you have in your house?**"
"Sir, **I have nothing but a small bottle of olive oil.**"*

(3) *Elisha told her, "**Ask your neighbors for their empty jars**. And after you've borrowed as many as you can,*

(4) go home and shut the door behind you and your sons. Then begin filling the jars with oil and set each one aside as you fill it."

(5) The woman left. Later, when she and her sons were back inside their house, the two sons brought her the jars, and she began filling them.

(6) At last, she said to one of her sons, "Bring me another jar." "We don't have any more," he

answered, and the oil stopped flowing from the small bottle.

(7) After she told Elisha what had happened, he said, "Sell the oil and use part of the money to pay what you owe the man. You and your sons can live on what is left."

The process of breaking the cycle of poverty begins with the following quality actions;

The Mentality - Renew your Mind

Knowing the truth is the beginning of freedom.

You must know the truth that God's best for you is to be debt-free. The Bible says "*Jesus though was rich became poor that you through his poverty shall be rich*". God's best for us is to excel, to abound, and to prosper. The truth is that God is willing to teach us the secret of making wealth.

Deuteronomy 8:17-19 CEV

(17) When you become successful, don't say, "I'm rich, and I've earned it all myself."

(18) Instead, remember that the LORD your God gives you the strength to make a living.

That's how he keeps the promise he made to your ancestors.

(19) But I'm warning you--if you forget the LORD your God and worship other gods, the LORD will destroy you, just as he destroyed the nations you fought.

The beginning of becoming debt-free is deciding to be debt-free. Believe that you can come out and never be bound again. Some people believe you cannot survive without borrowing, but there should be a concrete decision on your part never to spend what you do not have. Do not buy on hire purchase or on credit. Decide to live a debt-free life.

Until a man is totally emancipated, that man cannot be totally free from their bondage. I remember the time when I was indebted to the tune of \$30,000. I had then just graduated from school. It was a frightening experience and all hope was gone. I cried but there were no tears, and fear gripped my heart. I was a pastor and I was afraid, I didn't want anything to ruin my young ministry. I loved the Lord and never wanted anything to cut short my service to Him.

I went through each day with fear and anxiety. If

someone I owed called me on my mobile phone, I would be afraid to answer the call. Then one day the Lord spoke to me clearly. He said **“Is anything too hard for Me to do?”**. He said **“I am the God of all flesh”**, then all of a sudden, I received fresh strength to pray and think. He began to teach me and moved me to act, and within 30 days my indebtedness was reduced by \$12,000. I trusted God and bought into the supernatural. Amen!

The Miracle - Buy into the Supernatural

Because you are bankrupt, you might need a miracle to trigger the blessing. Follow the steps of the widow in 2 Kings 4. She went to talk to the prophet in search of something she might do. She did not require the prophet to do anything. She wanted to know what she must do to arrest the situation. When the prophet spoke, she did exactly what the prophet said. Begin by following the words of the prophet. I have already said so many things in this book. Follow her example.

To buy into the miracle, create a relationship with the prophet before you hit the crisis. The man

who owed this money was one of the “*sons of the prophets*”, meaning he was a prophet himself. He had a relationship with the Lord.

The Motion - Sell and use a portion to pay the debt

She did not hide her success from the prophet. She came back to the prophet. She did not act hypocritically, she came back to the prophet and showed him her success. She did not fear that the prophet would know what she had gained. Please when you excel do not hide it from the prophet.

Interestingly, she received further direction on how to move from being dept-free to having sufficient supply for she and her family.

Occupy - Turn what is left over and live on it

Do not expect this whole process to happen by miracle. Do not leave anything to chance, because

even the miracle would require your involvement. The widow's dead husband had a relationship with the prophet, and she also came to see him. True, the miracle would trigger the blessing that make rich, but you must buy into it.

Praise God! He never created anybody to be poor but some people would surely be poor in our lifetime and after we are gone. Why? Because, God did not give anybody money when they were coming from the womb. Each one of us came into this world naked.

The truth however, is that within the spirit of every man is placed a seed called talent on which we are supposed to thrive. Our purpose here on earth is programmed into our beings. So each and every one of us must occupy his seed. This is where the difference between the poor and the rich shows.

How to Create Wealth

In the story of the widow in 2 Kings 4, discussed in Chapter 6 above, we are told of the widow who experienced the miracle of increase. The prophet told her to sell the oil to pay her debt and live on the rest. Now, the woman could only live on what is left if she can create wealth from that initial miracle oil. She needed to understand that the increased oil was her seed.

The secrets to create wealth is explained below from Jesus' story of a master who was traveling to a far country.

Luke 19:13

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

Each of the ten servants received ten pounds, but they did not all yield the same results, Why? Because all of them had different attitudes towards the seed. That word “**occupy till I come**”

just excites my spirit in that it is a military term which means ‘to invade and totally control a territory’. Can you recall Iraq occupation of Kuwait in the 1990s? Yes! They moved in with their artilleries and troops and took control. They then began to mine crude oil and hauled them back to their home for sale.

To occupy is to be able to harness the potential of goods. Occupation is the ability to harness resource and the potential of goods for your benefit.

The lack of this basic ability is a connotation of poverty. Many people lack this ability. We occupy and dominate the mind of our resources. Therefore owning all the wealth and estate of New York City does not still make you rich unless you are able to occupy and dominate the mind and being of that wealth. When God gives a gift to a man, He expects that man to be able to dominate the mind and being of the gift. This is exactly what God expects you to do with the message of this book.

Notice that the ten pounds the servants received carried in it the potential to produce several other thousands of pounds. Though we have all

received talents, some will still languish in want, unless they begin to learn this truth; to learn how to possess the gift.

Africa is still poor, although we are endowed with many natural and rich human resources. We lack the basic ability to occupy and dominate these resources. We have the potential to become wealthy but we are not. And until we become committed to work out that potential and process it into useful products, we would still be dominated. Of what use is it to sit on a pile of gold, oil, timber, fertile land without the technical know how to exploit it.

Our poverty is our inability to determine
and control money

Now dominance is the ability to control, hold back, or guide something your way. Poverty is the inability to control money. Money should not change you. You should change the value of your money if you are going to be wealthy. People who never break the cycle of poverty are those who are changed by a few pounds. One day, a dear friend told me that a wealthy person is someone who is able to convert money into useful resources for the benefit of man. It is not about how much you

acquire but how much of it you are able to convert to the benefit of other men. A man's life does not consist of the abundance of things he has.

Luke 12:15

*And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: **for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.***

Blessedness or better still, financial sufficiency is not about acquisition, or a state of amassing wealth and heaping treasure. It is neither the presence of wealth nor the absence of wants, but **experiencing divine favour that causes a person to succeed in absolute peace, tranquility and serenity.**

Blessing does not in any way connote hoarding of fruits or abundance. Blessing stands for divine favour. It stands for the ability to occupy and dominate wealth. We can convert our money or talent into useful resources for the mutual benefit of man by the following keys;

Identify your seed

What sees do we have? Your seed is anything you have at your disposal. In fact, when God met

Moses, he asked “what is in your hand”. He had nothing but just a rod, and God empowered that rod to begin the ministry.

Exodus 4:2 DARBY

And Jehovah said to him, What is that in thy hand? And he said, A staff.

The prophet asked the woman “what do you have in the house?” God would always begin with what you have.

2 Kings 4:2 DARBY

And Elisha said to her, What shall I do for thee? Tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thy handmaid has not anything at all in the house but a pot of oil.

Let me emphasize that God will always start you off with what you have at home. Your seed might even be things you use for domestic purposes. When I decided to start a school with my wife, we started from our home. We used to cook the meals for our pupils in our own kitchen, with our domestic cookware. God would start you with what you have.

That is to say that if you do not want to start with what you have then you do not want to walk out of poverty. At least, after starting with what you

have, you could borrow vessels from others - vessels, and not money. God's word says

Ecclesiastes 9:10 DARBY

Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in Sheol, whither thou goest.

Putt effort into developing the seed

Take another look at what God's word says in;

Ecclesiastes 9:10 DARBY

*Whatever thy hand findeth to do, **do with thy might;** for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in Sheol, whither thou goest.*

The Apostle Paul said he can do all things through Christ who strengthens him. He did not say "Christ can do all things for me". If Christ strengthen us then we need strength to achieve the results.

Philippians 4:13 DARBY

I have strength for all things in him that gives me power.

Putting in effort is not to say that start jumping

around and exerting muscle. It is the ability to say “I can do” and then try doing new things without quitting until you succeed. It is the condition of stretching a little beyond your comfort zone.

You have no idea how many times I had to write and rewrite this book. It was a bold step, a new attempt and trying, and trying, and trying, until I came this far. I have heard it being said that “**men don’t fail but some quit trying**” you can make it, just keep trying and stretching yourself a little further. Keep trusting God in all the changing scenes of life and He will strengthen you to do the things that matter.

Keep abreast with the facts

Every endeavour of life is governed by a body of knowledge that ensures our efficiency and effectiveness of work. Ignoring such facts is a sign that you have deliberately decided not to excel.

I remember when I was first called into the ministry. There were so many things that worked against the progress of the church I was pastoring. From hindsight, I can now tell you for a fact that all these things which came up against

us were able to hinder us because we lacked knowledge.

I said the right things to the wrong people. I lacked significant knowledge that could enable me to build the people up. I thought that ministry was all about praying, preaching, and fasting, then one day I chanced upon a book written by a great man of God. As I read the book and begin to practice the knowledge in my ministry, I began to see some increase. It was at this moment that the rhema in this text below dawned on me;

Proverbs 24:3-4 DARBY

(3) Through wisdom is a house built, and by understanding it is established;

(4) and by knowledge are the chambers filled with all precious and pleasant substance.

Get knowledge! Knowledge would enable you to work efficiently. We will soon come to know that unless we keep abreast with the facts, the value of any amount of cash in hand will diminish until it becomes worthless.

Knowledge actually sharpens your skill and ability. Do not forget that in today's world of explosive information. Almost everything is changing and the facts concerning the change

are in books. We can actually excel when we buy knowledge. That reminds me, truth is not for free. Truth is for sale and at a fee. Get knowledge about your field. We have published many powerful books for you, some of them are on-line at simpebediako.com . Get them and devour them. Order for journals, read about the things you do, catch up with new information in your field and you will go places.

Remember! The blessing of the Lord maketh rich.

Ecclesiastes 9:10-11 DARBY

(10) Whatever thy hand findeth to do, do with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in Sheol, whither thou goest.

*(11) I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to the intelligent, nor yet favour to men of knowledge; but **time and chance** happeneth to them all.*

All these afore mentioned steps might not yield result until the set time and opportunity show up. Truthfully, many of the things that we seek

to achieve are buried in effort, knowledge, time, and chance. That said, we should never sit idle and claiming to be waiting for the right time. The right time and opportunity should find us doing the things that matter.

It is however important to understand that it takes the blessing of the Lord to become rich.

Proverbs 10:22 DARBY

The blessing of Jehovah, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow to it.

Hallelujah. What then are the surest ways to invoke these blessing? The most significant way to provoke and move heaven to open up to us for increase is to recognize that as long as the earth remains seed time and harvest shall not cease.

Genesis 8:22 DARBY

*Henceforth, all the days of the earth, **seed time and harvest**, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night, **shall not cease**.*

We must sow our seed if we want the increase. It is true that we cannot receive until we give. And when we give, we must give our best. Our seed will open the windows of heaven. It will provoke the blessing. This is something you should never forget.

Malachi 3:8-12 DARBY

(8) Will a man rob God? But ye rob me. And ye say, Wherein do we rob thee? In tithes and heave-offerings.

(9) Ye are cursed with a curse; and me ye rob, even this whole nation.

(10) Bring the whole tithe into the treasure-house, that there may be food in my house, and prove me now herewith, saith Jehovah of hosts, if I open not to you the windows of the heavens, and pour you out a blessing, till there be no place for it.

(11) And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast its fruit before the time in the field, saith Jehovah of hosts.

(12) And all nations shall call you blessed; for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith Jehovah of hosts.

Do not under estimate the importance of this principle. A whole nation was cursed with a curse because they did not sow their seed. Your potential to increase is buried in your seed.

Beloved be encouraged with these few words.

I love you; God bless you!

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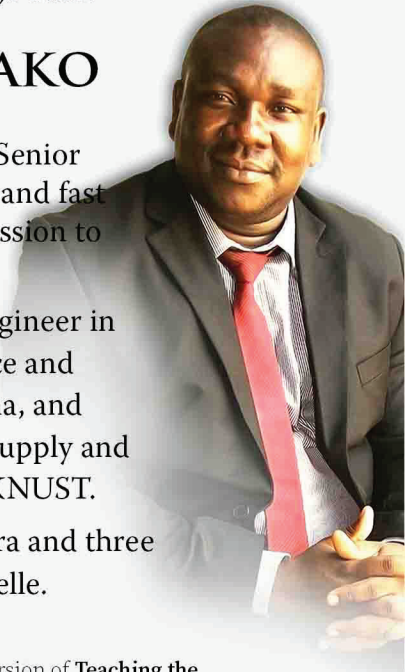
"A feast is for laughter, drink to forget your sorrows, but only money pays bills"

NOAH SIMPE BEDIAKO

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