"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils, speak with new tongues, take up serpents, ... not be hurt, lay hands on the sick ..." [Mark 16.17-18]

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Walking in

HOW TO OPERATE IN THE SUPERNATURAL POWER OF GOD

NOAH SIMPE Bediako

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highcity media & publications

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

Walking in Signs and Wonders

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What are Signs?

MARK 16:17-20

(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.

The word *signs* comes from a Greek word *se meison*, which means, *an indication, miracle, token, wonder*. Signs are tokens given to show the authenticity, the power, and efficacy of the gospel. These signs follow them that believe. In the name of Jesus;

- 1. They cast out devils.
- 2. They speak with new tongues.

- 3. They take up serpents.
- 4. Deadly things do not hurt them.
- 5. They heal the sick by the laying on of hands.

The power that works these signs can flow into or out of the lives of those who believe.

Deliverance -

Casting out devils in the name of Jesus

The greatest enemy of mankind is the devil. He is the old fiend who has troubled man since creation. He is the old thief who comes not, but for to steal, to kill, and to destroy. Now one of the first signs that will show that a man has believed the gospel of Jesus Christ is the bequest of authority to cast out devils. The concept of casting out devils is to eject or force - someone or something - to move from a place. The sign of casting out devils shall follow them that believe.

Our faith in Jesus Christ enables us to receive and exercise the power to cast out devils. Every demon of oppression and infirmity has lost their power. Our faith bestows power and authority on us by which we can cast out devils.

Woman Delivered from Bareness

In 2007, a woman in her thirties visited our Solution Service with her husband. She had not menstruated for nearly 36 months. The team of pastors and I engaged those demons in warfare but were unable to cast all of them out.

So I invited her for deliverance counseling. It was in this session that she opened up and told me her ordeal. She was a witch, and she had familiar spirits. These spirits had married her, and usually when her husband was away, they would visit her. She said she could feel their presence even though she couldn't see them. The room becomes scented with perfume, and they repeatedly have sex with her.

Her husband confirmed that had smelled the perfume a couple of times, when he came home unannounced.

Thank God for His anointing; we succeeded in casting out the devils and she menstruated that month and conceived a few months later.

Praise the Lord!

Casting out Witchcraft Spirits

In the year 2007, we witnessed another deliverance from darkness. It involved a woman. Her 'school mother' initiated her into witchcraft. It happened in her first year in senior high school in a town called Koforidua in Ghana. She initiated her and other girls in their bathroom; they all bathed together using her special soap. After her initiation, her school mother promised to take very good care of her. She used to buy her lingerie and other items in the name of love. Then shortly afterwards, she began to see this school mother in her dreams. She would then take her to a tree where their coven met.

According to her account, she would see many people; some of whom she knew. They would mostly be dressed either in white, black, or red gowns or clad in cloth. They would sing, dance, and then eat. Some of them would be under the tree and others would be on top of the tree. This continued until she left school.

Then she started resisting their invitation. This was when a spirit being began to rape her at night and she bled for a whole year. She came to one of our meetings and by the grace of God, she got delivered.

Praise the Lord!

Girl, 13, Delivered

In 2006, there was an encounter that involved a 13 year old girl, a primary five pupil. According to her own account, she became a witch after she ate a piece of sweet given to her by her school mate. After eating the sweet, at night, the school mate came to wake her up and took her to their coven in the spirit realm. There she met other members of the coven. Some were old and some were young. Like the previous testimony, they also sang, danced and ate cooked meat. This continued for a while, before she came to live with her aunt in Accra. She was then given an assignment to destroy her aunty's husband's job and make her aunt barren.

However, when she arrived, the home was saturated with prayer. So she was unable to carry out her assignment. The members of her coven came to punish her. In her pain she began to scream out in her sleep. This was when she confessed everything to her foster parents.

They brought her to us the following day and we prayed for her. I have not followed her progress because she was moved to another city.

This and many countless testimonies fill our meetings. Praise the Lord, We have power over every power of the enemy.

Empowered Tongues -

Speaking with new tongues

You see, what you believe affects the things you say. Your faith in the gospel empowers your tongue. The things you say carry supernatural powers. When you believe the gospel, the Lord empowers your tongue to be able to;

- 1. **Pray in tongues:** speak mysteries concerning your life to God.
- 2. **Prophecy:** To build people up and edify them by speaking to them on God's behalf

Many years ago, a man of God called Moses, sent twelve men to go and spy out a land which God had promised to give to His people, Israel. In fact, the land was good. It was a land flowing with milk and honey, yet when the twelve men returned from spying the land, ten of them had a bad report and only two had a good report. Only Joshua and Caleb had the Lord's report. Let us read the full account from the Bible.

NUMBERS 13:26-33 AMP

(26) They came to Moses and Aaron and to all the Israelite congregation in the Wilderness of Paran at Kadesh, and brought them word, and showed them the land's fruit.

(27) They told Moses, We came to the land to which you sent us; surely it flows with milk and honey. This is its fruit.

(28) But the people who dwell there are strong, and the cities are fortified and very large; moreover, there we saw the sons of Anak [of great stature and courage].

(29) Amalek dwells in the land of the South (the Negeb); the Hittite, the Jebusite, and the Amorite

dwell in the hill country; and the Canaanite dwells by the sea and along by the side of the Jordan [River].

(30) Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once and possess it; we are well able to conquer it.

(31) But his fellow scouts said, We are not able to go up against the people [of Canaan], for they are stronger than we are.

(32) So they brought the Israelites an evil report of the land which they had scouted out, saying, The land through which we went to spy it out is a land that devours its inhabitants. And all the people that we saw in it are men of great stature.

(33) There we saw the Nephilim [or giants], the sons of Anak, who come from the giants; and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

Now, what was the difference between these men? The difference was their faith. Joshua and Caleb believed the word of God, and having seen all the miracles that the Lord had done in the wilderness, they could believe that He would give them the land. What you believe affects what you see and say.

Your tongue is the tree of life. Your confession determines your direction.

Discernment -

Taking up serpents

Of all the signs which are to follow believers, this one is the least explained. Taking up serpents is synonymous with discernment. You see we live in a dark world ruled by light and darkness, depending on which one prevails. You are sent out as sheep among wolves in sheepskin. A serpent in Scripture is always a type of wisdom, subtlety, and cunningness. As we go forth to preach the gospel, the Lord empowers our vision and mind to discern the devil from far.

Apostle Peter's Encounter with a Serpent

It was in Samaria; it involved Simon the sorcerer.

ACTS 8:18-21 AMP

(18) However, when Simon saw that the [Holy] Spirit was imparted through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he brought money and offered it to them,

(19) Saying, Grant me also this power and authority, in order that anyone on whom I place my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.

(20) But Peter said to him, Destruction overtake your money and you, because you imagined you 12 could obtain the [free] gift of God with money!
(21) You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is all wrong in God's sight [it is not straightforward or right or true before God].

Apostle Paul's Encounter with Serpents

In Paphos, he picked up Elymas.

ACTS 13:6-12 AMP

(6) When they had passed through the entire island of Cyprus as far as Paphos, they came upon a certain Jewish wizard or sorcerer, a false prophet named Bar-Jesus.

 (7) He was closely associated with the proconsul, Sergius Paulus, who was an intelligent and sensible man of sound understanding; he summoned to him Barnabas and Saul and sought to hear the Word of God [concerning salvation in the kingdom of God attained through Christ].

(8) But Elymas the wise man--for that is the translation of his name [which he had given himself]--opposed them, seeking to keep the proconsul from accepting the faith.

(9) But Saul, who is also called Paul, filled with

and controlled by the Holy Spirit, looked steadily at [Elymas]

(10) And said, You master in every form of deception and recklessness, unscrupulousness, and wickedness, you son of the devil, you enemy of everything that is upright and good, will you never stop perverting and making crooked the straight paths of the Lord and plotting against His saving purposes? [Hosea 14:9.]
(11) And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon you, and you will be blind, [so blind that you will be] unable to see the sun for a time. Instantly there

fell upon him a mist and a darkness, and he groped about seeking persons who would lead him by the hand.

(12) Then the proconsul believed (became a Christian) when he saw what had occurred, for he was astonished and deeply touched at the teaching concerning the Lord and from Him.

In the philippi, he picked up the slave girl in Acts 16:16-18;

(16) As we were on our way to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who was possessed by a spirit of divination [claiming to foretell future events and to discover hidden knowledge], and she brought her owners much gain by her fortunetelling.

(17) She kept following Paul and [the rest of] us, shouting loudly, These men are the servants of the

Most High God! They announce to you the way of salvation!

(18) And she did this for many days. Then Paul, being sorely annoyed and worn out, turned and said to the spirit within her, I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her! And it came out that very moment.

The Lord empowers our understanding to discern the intents of people and to walk in safety among wolves in sheepskin. The ministry is a very dangerous vocation. Discernment is then very important for safety.

My Encounters with Serpents

Sometime in 2006, I was in my office one day preparing for a service in the morning when a woman entered. She came pretending to seek employment in our school. However, the Holy Spirit began to reveal to me that she was on a mission for the devil. Her masters had sent her, as she would put it, to come and trap me into sin. The Holy Spirit began to tell me about her, and who she really was. I invited her into the meeting and praise the Lord, she was delivered.

In fact, this was a serpent sent to bite my heel.

In January 2009, a young woman in her twenties visited our church. She appeared very religious

but after counseling and casting out devils, she confessed to being a witch on an assignment to our church. She was sent there to seduce me with lust.

She had already been to other churches and had succeeded in either disintegrating the choir, or seducing and trapping the pastor into adultery with her charm.

In her narration, she also used the word "they say..." When she got home that night after the deliverance, the spirits which we have cast out attacked her again, and strangled her until she collapsed for nearly six hours. She came back the following time in so much fear and anxiety. But thanks be to God for His word that is able to rescue us; she was delivered.

Abundant Life -

Immunity to deadly poison

Your faith gives you immunity to deadly poison.

In the year 1995, I was preaching in a Revival at Akyem Anyinam, a town in Ghana. On the third day of the meeting, the Holy Spirit arrested the cook who was cooking for my team. Then she confessed to being a witch and that whenever she cooked our food, she doped it with a charm to poison our spirits. After several attempts, she failed to achieve her aim because the potion was not working.

She had attempted to poison our spirits through the food, but we were immune to deadly poison.

Healing -

Healing the sick by laying on of hands

There are several gifts of healing, but healing through laying on of hands is for every believer. The Bible tells us to pray for the sick, and that the prayer of faith would heal the sick. In James 5:14-15, the Bible assures us that if anyone among us is sick, he should call in the church elders - the spiritual guides. And they should pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer [that is] of faith will save the sick, and the Lord shall restore him; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

God Healed Paralysis

In 2010, we experienced one of the spectacular miracles of healing. A man in pain was carried into the meeting. He was paralyzed, and was in excruciating pain. He laid on the bed groaning and 17 writhing in pain. They had taken him to several places; from one white garment church to the other but they could not help him. Then in a moment, the power of the Holy Ghost hit him. I laid my hands where he was hurting and transferred the power of God into the infirmed part of his body, and then bam! The healing came.

These are the signs that accompany faith and believing. You cannot be sick. You will be in health. You have been mandated to heal the sick. Faith is the key, the master key to divine health. I rebuke every sickness, weakness or infirmity in your body in the name of Jesus!

Lay your hands on your head and say this after me;

"As I lay my hands on my head, I receive the divine healing of God right now in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen".

Do We Need Signs?

GENESIS 1:14 AMP

And God said, Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be signs and tokens [of God's provident care], and [to mark] seasons, days, and years, [Genesis 8:22.]

According to the King James Version of the Bible, the word 'signs' is 'oth' in Hebrew. It first appears in the Creation account on the third day (See Genesis 1:14). The Lord Almighty created the sun and the moon for a sign in the heavens. This is the same Hebrew word that is translated as *signs, omen, mark, miracle,* or *token*. This is an indication that God created man to respond to signs for direction and indication.

We are created to follow signs and tokens in matters of great mystery. Even in scientific researches, we arrive at a lot of decisions by following certain signs. It is therefore hypocrisy for any man to claim that he does not believe in signs in the context of seeing them as indications. Whenever God calls a man, He gives him a sign or signs, by which he can move people to faith. When God called Moses, He gave him many signs.

EXODUS 4:8

And it shall come to pass, if they will not believe thee, neither hearken to the voice of the first sign, that they will believe the voice of the latter sign.

God always gives His servants three things;

- 6. A word.
- 7. Speaking signs.
- 8. Judging Signs Sign of Jonah

These are given to move the sons of men to obey. The Bible teaches on God's eternal purpose and plan to save the world from the powers of darkness and to translate us into the kingdom of his dear Son - Jesus Christ. Now this would take two things;

1. Truth

ROMANS 1:16-17

(16) For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

(17) For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.

2. Power

1 CORINTHIANS 2:4-5

(4) And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

(5) That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

The gospel without power is like having light without heat in winter

Indeed, the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes, but the gospel ought to be preached in the demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that the faith of our hearers would not dwell on the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

The gospel must be preached but it must be in demonstration of the Spirit and of power. The righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel from faith to faith. Signs and wonders are part of the gospel; it is what God wants for us. The gospel without signs and wonders is lame. Take the Spirit and the power of God out of the gospel and all you have left is lame philosophy that cannot give life.

Signs Disarm the Powers of Darkness

When the powers of darkness are disarmed, the people yield. In Egypt, each of the signs and wonders that was released was a judgment on one of the powers of darkness in the land.

DEUTERONOMY 4:34

Or hath God assayed to go and take him a nation from the midst of another nation, by temptations, by signs, and by wonders, and by war, and by a mighty hand, and by a stretched out arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?

When God sent Moses to Egypt, Pharaoh was not going to chicken out and just ask Israel to go. Like all other captors, Pharoah will not release his captives, until he is forced to yield. Pharaoh did not let the people of God go until more signs and wonders were done in Egypt.

Jehovah actually told Moses, "I would harden the heart of Pharaoh and then break it with signs and wonders."

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EXODUS 7:3
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And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt.

Signs and wonders are indeed powerful and a bane of success in the mission field. I have been preaching the gospel to the lost, the poor, the sick and the oppressed in many rural and peri-urban communities in Ghana. I can say without an iota of doubt that signs and wonders make the recalcitrant yield to the gospel.

Our gospel is not weak but it is powerful enough to break the front of darkness that confronts us as we go about preaching it to the world. In 2008, our church moved to a new location. The occupants in an adjoining house began to disturb our service. They would play loud music just when I began to teach. Then one day I was moved by the Holy Ghost to declare that God shall give us peace on every side. In less than one month, a grandmother in the house died and the rest of that family had to move.

I did not pray for the death of the woman, but God fixed the situation to give us peace, and praise to God, we had peace.

Do you remember the king of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzer. He was tough, unyielding and arrogant. Indeed, until the Lord drove him into the wild as an animal for seven years, he did not submit to the merciful God. He only yielded after he saw signs in the heavens.

DANIEL 4:1-3 AMP

(1) NEBUCHADNEZZAR THE king, to all people,

nations, and languages that dwell on all the earth: May peace be multiplied to you!

(2) It seemed good to me to show the signs and wonders that the Most High God has performed toward me.

(3) How great are His signs! And how mighty His wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and His dominion is from generation to generation. [Daniel 7:13, 14; Luke 1:31-33.]

Signs Establish the Righteous

In the days of Darius, something happened. The man of God, Daniel, was falsely accused and cast into the lion's den. He however walked in the midst of lions without hurt. The hungry lions did not hurt him. The Lord confirmed that Daniel was a man of faith. When the king saw that the lions did not harm Daniel, he accepted the faith of Daniel. Read portions of the account from the Bible now.

DANIEL 6:19-28 AMP

(19) Then the king arose very early in the morning and went in haste to the den of lions.

(20) And when he came to the den and to Daniel, he cried out in a voice of anguish. The king said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is your God, Whom you serve continually, able to deliver

you from the lions? (21) Then Daniel said to the king, O king, live forever!

(22) My God has sent His angel and has shut the lions' mouths so that they have not hurt me, because I was found innocent and blameless before Him; and also before you, O king, [as you very well know] I have done no harm or wrong. [II Tim. 4:17.]

Praise the Lord!

(23) Then the king was exceedingly glad and commanded that Daniel should be taken up out of the den. So Daniel was taken up out of the den, and no hurt of any kind was found on him because he believed in (relied on, adhered to, and trusted in) his God.

(24) And the king commanded, and those men who had accused Daniel were brought and cast into the den of lions, they, their children, and their wives; and before they ever reached the bottom of the den, the lions had overpowered them and had broken their bones in pieces.

(25) Then King Darius wrote to all peoples, nations, and languages [in his realm] that dwelt in all the earth: May peace be multiplied to you!

(26) I make a decree that in all my royal dominion men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel,

for He is the living God, enduring and steadfast forever, and His kingdom shall not be destroyed and His dominion shall be even to the end [of the world].

(27) He is a Savior and Deliverer, and He works signs and wonders in the heavens and on the earth--He Who has delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

(28) So this [man] Daniel prospered in the reign of Darius and in the reign of Cyrus the Persian.

I see God work a sign in your life that would bring the promotion you need in life in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Your promotion is due, my promotion is due, and the time for us is now. I see God work a work in our day to establish us.

Signs Confirm the Gospel

Anybody at all can claim to be a preacher, but signs and wonders is in fact one thing that gives our gospel expression. Without signs following the preaching, our gospel becomes our word against the claim of the world. When Moses came to Egypt, he said to Pharaoh in Exodus 5:1-2;

"This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'Let my people go, so that they may hold a festival to me in the desert'." Pharaoh said, "Who is the Lord that

I should obey him and let Israel go? I do not know the LORD and I will not let Israel go".

Can you imagine that? Pharaoh had the guts to question the authority of the almighty God - his Creator. Thank God for signs. By the time God was through with this arrogant man, Israel was on her way out of Egypt. God by the hand of Moses, His apostle, God began to release one sign and judgments after the other on Pharaoh. These sign began to confirm that Moses was not full of empty words.

Pharaoh could say that Moses' message was fabricated, but he couldn't say that concerning the signs. Never underestimate the power of signs that accompany the preaching of the gospel. They are so important to laying credence to the claim of the gospel. That is why the devil and false prophets would try to use signs to seduce even the elect.

MATTHEW 24:24

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

Though false Christ and prophets may show great signs and wonders, Hebrews 2 teaches us that it is crucial that we keep a firm grip on what we've heard so that we don't drift off. Indeed if the old message delivered by the angels was valid and nobody got away with anything, do you think we can risk neglecting this latest message, this magnificent salvation? First, it was delivered in person by the Master, then accurately passed on to us by those who heard it from him. All the while God was validating it with gifts through the Holy Spirit, all sorts of signs and miracles, as He saw fit. God didn't put angels in charge of this business of salvation that we're dealing with here.

Mere men, very ordinary men would also preach the gospel. We may not be perfect but in our weakness, God has still chosen us, weak things to confound the strong. He would therefore go with us confirming our message with signs and wonders.

Hebrews 2:4

God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

Signs Embolden Apostles

An apostle is usually the first proponent of a faith, an idea, or a religion. He is an advocate for a truth. Much as human nature is, many of us are weary of any new idea. An apostle must therefore have a proof that confirms the veracity of what he is projecting. Signs therefore are the proofs that accompany the preaching of the gospel. 2 CORINTHIANS 12:12

Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

When threats came up against the church, they prayed for God to stretch forth His hand and work signs and wonders. I pray that the same God who worked with the apostles as they went about preaching would go with us now. May the Lord stretch His mighty hand and work signs in our days too in Jesus' name!

ACTS 4:29-30

(29) And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

(30) By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

Usually the preaching of the gospel faces great opposition and threats from the heathen, which could incite fear and discouragement among a missionary team's members, but the manifestation of signs dispels and allays all fear and discouragement.

Police Interrupts Crusade at Narhman, Accra

In June 2010, I embarked on a healing campaign in some rural communities in Ghana. On the 18th of June 2010, the Trinity Healing Crusade went to a small community in the Abokobi District of the Greater Accra Region of Ghana. On that Friday night as we set up the venue to begin our open-air broadcast, a resident in the community called in the police-military patrol team in the area to stop the crusade.

Just after I mounted the podium to preach, the men in uniform arrived. They were 5 men wielding guns and arms. They came to intimidate us and to stop the crusade that night. This incited a lot of fear among the people. Well, we obtained a police permit the following night and held the campaign. When I arrived the following night, the crowd was not as the day before, but as I mounted the podium and preached God's word with boldness, the people began to gather. I preached and ridiculed the devil that night. The people gathered and God moved.

On that night, we invited the sick and the oppressed, and began to pray for them. Glory to God, the power of God broke loose, many people got slain in the Spirit, and the grounds were charged and electrifying. Significantly, a woman who had been suffering pain as a result of an injury in her spine for eight years was healed. The signs and the miracles indeed brought us great boldness as we continued to the other communities. Praise the Lord!

The church should arise and pray for signs to follow the preaching of the gospel. We should pray that the Lord would stretch forth His hands to heal and that signs and wonders may be done.

Signs are God's Seal of Approval

ACTS 2:22

Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

The Scripture above teaches that signs and wonders are God's way of approving of Christ. Jesus Christ was a man approved of God by signs and wonders among us. Signs reveal God's seal on a man. This is why Christ was approved of God by signs and wonders.

Signs Establish Divine Authority

NEHEMIAH 9:10

And shewedst signs and wonders upon Pharaoh, and on all his servants, and on all the people of his land:

for thou knewest that they dealt proudly against them. So didst thou get thee a name, as it is this day.

There are times when men forget the greatness and power of God. And ungodly men begin to deal proudly with God and His people; it is in times like this that the manifestation of signs remind us of the greatness of God. There have been times when I have been very discouraged in ministry, mainly because ungodly men dealt proudly with me. However as God starts showing His signs, they begin to recognize that indeed my God is awesome.

Signs Liberate People

Many people are operating below their God-given potential. They live under spells of witchcraft and demonic oppression. Sickness, witchcraft, poverty, curses, and oppression have continued to subject many under nonperformance. The working of signs liberates and delivers the lawful captive as well as the prey of the terrible to manifest their full potential.

JEREMIAH 32:20-21 AMP

(20) Who wrought signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, and even to this day [continues to do so], both in Israel and among other men, and made for Yourself a name, as at this day.

(21) And You brought forth Your people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs and wonders, with a strong hand and outstretched arm and with great terror:

How can a sick father take care of his family; how can children in a village or city bedeviled by witchcraft ever break out? The fear, the disillusionment, and the discouragement alone would not motivate the people to work. Somebody must step in and set people free.

Signs Give an Anchor to Faith

Inasmuch as blessed is the man that has not seen but believes, strong is the man that sees something after he has believed. Signs and wonders, especially the demonstration of the Spirit and power, gives an anchor to our faith.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:4-5

(4) And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

(5) That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

Do not let anybody fool you. Signs and wonders are God's handiwork among men to confirm or announce His presence with us.

JOHN 4:48

Then said Jesus unto him, Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe.

CHAPTER 3

Are Signs for Today?

HEBREWS 13:8

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

Whenever the mystery of signs and wonders come up, certain nagging questions arise;

- 1. Are signs a thing of the immediate past?
- 2. Are signs for today?
- 3. Are there false signs?
- 4. How can I tell genuine signs from false signs?

Sometimes, we nag for no reason. You are weary of signs for nothing. Signs are real and for real people. You can make all the noise, but you cannot stop them from manifesting.

Erroneously, many people debunk signs and miraculous workings of God. They claim that signs and wonders are not for today. That is a big lie. Signs are timeless. They are as old as creation and shall continue as far as eternity.

Listen, I cannot exhaust the list of contemporary preachers who worked signs; from Puritans, to Methodists, Presbyterians, Catholics, Pentecostal and Charismatics, etc. God is still at it today, and He is working signs with my life. I believe in signs and wonders. The ministry of signs and wonders will remain useful as long as the preaching of the gospel remains useful.

The Beginning of the Ministry of Signs

Sign are as Old as Creation and God Has Always Worked Signs

I must say that signs are as old as Creation, because that is how far we know from Scripture. In fact, on the third day of Creation, God began to create signs for man. These signs are supposed to guide us in life.

GENESIS 1:14 AMP

And God said, Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night, and let them be signs and tokens [of God's provident care], and [to mark] seasons, days, and years,

God Has Worked Signs from Generation to Generation

From generation to generation, God has worked signs among men. Wherever men lived, God has 36 worked among them. He has showed His great signs. The greatest signs in all the history of mankind were His great works in Egypt.

DANIEL 4:3

How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and his dominion is from generation to generation.

He worked signs and multiplied wonders in Egypt. The Apostle Moses records in Exodus 7:3 that God said,

"And I will harden Pharaoh's heart, and multiply my signs and my wonders in the land of Egypt".

God worked signs, not just in Egypt but also, from nation to nation.

God has terrified nations with signs and wonders. Deuteronomy 4:34 testifies that, "God assayed to go and take him a nation from the midst of another nation, by temptations, by signs, and by wonders, and by war, and by a mighty hand, and by a stretched out arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the LORD your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes?" The following Scriptures tell us of the mighty signs and wonders of God;

DEUTERONOMY 6:22

And the LORD shewed signs and wonders, great and sore, upon Egypt, upon Pharaoh, and upon all his

household, before our eyes:

DEUTERONOMY 7:19

The great temptations which thine eyes saw, and the signs, and the wonders, and the mighty hand, and the stretched out arm, whereby the LORD thy God brought thee out: so shall the LORD thy God do unto all the people of whom thou art afraid.

DEUTERONOMY 26:8

And the LORD brought us forth out of Egypt with a mighty hand, and with an outstretched arm, and with great terribleness, and with signs, and with wonders:

DEUTERONOMY 34:11

In all the signs and the wonders, which the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt to Pharaoh, and to all his servants, and to all his land,

NEHEMIAH 9:10

And shewedst signs and wonders upon Pharaoh, and on all his servants, and on all the people of his land: for thou knewest that they dealt proudly against them. So didst thou get thee a name, as it is this day.

PSALMS 78:43

How he had wrought his signs in Egypt, and his wonders in the field of Zoan:

PSALMS 105:27

They shewed his signs among them, and wonders in the land of Ham.

PSALMS 107:20

He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.

ISAIAH 8:18

Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion.

JEREMIAH 32:20-21

(20) Which hast set signs and wonders in the land of Egypt, even unto this day, and in Israel, and among other men; and hast made thee a name, as at this day;

(21) And hast brought forth thy people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs, and with wonders, and with a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with great terror;

DANIEL 4:2-3

(2) I thought it good to shew the signs and wonders that the high God hath wrought toward me.

(3) How great are his signs! and how mighty are his wonders! his kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and

his dominion is from generation to generation.

DANIEL 6:27

He delivereth and rescueth, and he worketh signs and wonders in heaven and in earth, who hath delivered Daniel from the power of the lions.

Jesus Worked Signs

ACTS 10:38 AMP

How God anointed and consecrated Jesus of Nazareth with the [Holy] Spirit and with strength and ability and power; how He went about doing good and, in particular, curing all who were harassed and oppressed by [the power of] the devil, for God was with Him.

MATTHEW 4:24

And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

MATTHEW 12:15

But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he

healed them all;

MATTHEW 14:14

And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.

MATTHEW 15:30

And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them:

MATTHEW 19:2

And great multitudes followed him; and he healed them there.

MATTHEW 21:14

And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them.

MARK 6:5

And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.

LUKE 4:40

Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed

them.

LUKE 6:17

And he came down with them, and stood in the plain, and the company of his disciples, and a great multitude of people out of all Judaea and Jerusalem, and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases;

LUKE 8:36

They also which saw it told them by what means he that was possessed of the devils was healed.

LUKE 9:11

And the people, when they knew it, followed him: and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing.

LUKE 17:15

And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,

The Apostles Worked Signs

HEBREWS 2:4

God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Are Signs for Today

Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

ACTS 2:43

And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.

ACTS 4:30

By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

ACTS 5:12

And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.

ACTS 7:36

He brought them out, after that he had shewed wonders and signs in the land of Egypt, and in the Red sea, and in the wilderness forty years.

ACTS 14:3

Long time therefore abode they speaking boldly in the Lord, which gave testimony unto the word of his grace, and granted signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

ROMANS 15:19

Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:12

Truly the signs of an apostle were wrought among you in all patience, in signs, and wonders, and mighty deeds.

The Deacons Worked Signs

ACTS 6:8 AMP

Now Stephen, full of grace (divine blessing and favor) and power (strength and ability) worked great wonders and signs (miracles) among the people.

ACTS 8:5-7 AMP

(5) Philip [the deacon, not the apostle] went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Christ (the Messiah) to them [the people]; [Acts 6:5.]

(6) And great crowds of people with one accord listened to and heeded what was said by Philip, as they heard him and watched the miracles and wonders which he kept performing [from time to time]. Are Signs for Today

(7) For foul spirits came out of many who were possessed by them, screaming and shouting with a loud voice, and many who were suffering from palsy or were crippled were restored to health.

The Elders in James' Church Worked Signs

JAMES 5:14 AMP

Is anyone among you sick? He should call in the church elders (the spiritual guides). And they should pray over him, anointing him with oil in the Lord's name.

Are There Lying Signs?

MATTHEW 24:24

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

False Christs and false prophets show great signs to deceive the masses that reject the truth.

2 THESSALONIANS 2:9

Even him, whose coming is after the working of

Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,

REVELATION 13:11-18 NIV

(11) Then I saw another beast, coming out of the earth. He had two horns like a lamb, but he spoke like a dragon.

(12) He exercised all the authority of the first beast on his behalf, and made the earth and its inhabitants worship the first beast, whose fatal wound had been healed.

(13) And he performed great and miraculous signs, even causing fire to come down from heaven to earth in full view of men.

(14) Because of the signs he was given power to do on behalf of the first beast, he deceived the inhabitants of the earth. He ordered them to set up an image in honor of the beast who was wounded by the sword and yet lived.

(15) He was given power to give breath to the image of the first beast, so that it could speak and cause all who refused to worship the image to be killed.

(16) He also forced everyone, small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on his right hand or on his forehead,

(17) so that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name. Are Signs for Today

(18) This calls for wisdom. If anyone has insight, let him calculate the number of the beast, for it is man's number. His number is 666.

What are Genuine Signs?

The word, *'genuine'* refers to something that is authentic, real, and actual. So talking about genuine signs would then refer to signs which come from God.

DEUTERONOMY 13:1-4 AMP

(1) IF A prophet arises among you, or a dreamer of dreams, and gives you a sign or a wonder,

(2) And the sign or the wonder he foretells to you comes to pass, and if he says, Let us go after other gods--gods you have not known--and let us serve them,

(3) You shall not listen to the words of that prophet or to that dreamer of dreams. For the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your [mind and] heart and with your entire being.

(4) You shall walk after the Lord your God and [reverently] fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice, and you shall serve Him and cling to Him. Genuine signs always point to God.

These Signs Shall Follow You

What does it mean to have signs following you? The answer to this question take two forms; the Lord can work signs in your life, or work signs with your life.

- 1. You can be the recipient or object of signs and wonders or
- 2. You can become the worker or agent of signs and wonders.

The best case is to be both; you should be able to believe God to work signs in your life, as well as believe God to work signs with your life.

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MARK 16:15-20
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- (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, 48 Are Signs for Today

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.

The signs follow those who believe, but are worked by those who go forth. Unfortunately, however, the church of God is so much preoccupied with other things and as a result instead of being agent for signs and wonders, many of us are beggars and objects of signs and wonders.

CHAPTER 4

Releasing Signs and Wonders

LUKE 5:15-17 AMP

(15) But so much the more the news spread abroad concerning Him, and great crowds kept coming together to hear [Him] and to be healed by Him of their infirmities.

(16) But He Himself withdrew [in retirement] to the wilderness (desert) and prayed.

(17) One of those days, as He was teaching, there were Pharisees and teachers of the Law sitting by, who had come from every village and town of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was [present] with Him to heal them.

LUKE 6:17 AMP

And Jesus came down with them and took His stand on a level spot, with a great crowd of His disciples and a vast throng of people from all over Judea and Jerusalem and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to listen to Him and to be cured of their diseases-- Concerning the releasing of signs and wonders, the Bible tells us that the people came together because they heard more news about the power of Christ. Though God can work the signs in your private home, it is more expedient to come to church. The faith levels in church are always higher than at home. This helps your own faith.

You could also create a conducive atmosphere in your home or office for the release of signs and wonders. The Bible tells us in;

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LUKE 5:17 AMP
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One of those days, as He was teaching, there were Pharisees and teachers of the Law sitting by, who had come from every village and town of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And the power of the Lord was [present] with Him to heal them.

Always remember that there is an appointed location for every man at every time. Get to that appointed location in time.

The secrets to release signs and wonders into your life and that of others are encoded in the dialogue of Mark 9:14-29. Let us read it;

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MARK 9:14-29 NIV
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(14) When they came to the other disciples, they saw
a large crowd around them and the teachers of the
law arguing with them.
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(15) As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him. (16) What are you arguing with them about? he asked.

(17) A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech.

(18) Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not."

(19) O unbelieving generation, Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me."

(20) So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

(21) Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered.

(22) It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.

(23) 'If you can'? said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes."

(24) Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do

believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

(25) When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."

(26) The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead."

(27) But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

(28) After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"

(29) He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer. "

The three simple keys to releasing signs and wonders are;

- 1. Presence of a minister.
- 2. Teaching of the word.
- 3. Ministering of the grace.

Presence of a Minister

The presence of a prepared minister is very instrumental in the release of signs and wonders. From our Bible passage above, when the man brought his sick son, the disciples could not help much because they were not prepared. They had not spent time meditating on the word, in prayer and fasting. Meditations, prayer, and fasting are master keys to the release of signs and wonders.

There are certain things we cannot deal with unless we have been prepared through meditation, fasting, and prayer. Go back to the text and read it again, it says in verse 28 and 29;

After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"

He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer".

Teaching the Word

The people came to hear Him teaching the truth. The Bible says Jesus was teaching and the power of God was present to heal them. The words of praying men are spirit and they are life.

The teaching of God's word releases faith and prepares the atmosphere for the release of signs and wonders.

The people believed what He taught. He taught them as a man with authority and not as a scribe. You cannot receive signs and wonders unless you are able to believe. Doubt and faithlessness are thieves of the supernatural. One day, after our Lord Jesus had finished teaching, He concluded by saying in;

MATTHEW 13:9-17 AMP

(9) He who has ears [to hear], let him be listening and let him consider and perceive and comprehend by hearing.

(10) Then the disciples came to Him and said, Why do You speak to them in parables?

(11) And He replied to them, To you it has been given to know the secrets and mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given.

(12) For whoever has [spiritual knowledge], to him will more be given and he will be furnished richly so that he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away.

(13) This is the reason that I speak to them in parables: because having the power of seeing, they do not see; and having the power of hearing, they do not hear, nor do they grasp and understand.

(14) In them indeed is the process of fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah, which says: You shall indeed hear and hear but never grasp and understand; and you shall indeed look and look but never see and perceive.

(15) For this nation's heart has grown gross (fat and dull), and their ears heavy and difficult of hearing, and their eyes they have tightly closed, lest they see and perceive with their eyes, and hear and comprehend the sense with their ears, and grasp and understand with their heart, and turn and I should heal them. [Isaiah 6:9, 10.]

(16) But blessed (happy, fortunate, and to be envied) are your eyes because they do see, and your ears because they do hear.

(17) Truly I tell you, many prophets and righteous men [men who were upright and in right standing with God] yearned to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.

Whenever you hear the word, 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22 teaches three things that you must do;

1. Do not put out the fire of the Spirit;

Nod, smile, clap, shout, and stand, do anything, as the spirit moves you. If the spirit moves you to dance please do not quench the spirit, your sign may come as a result.

2. Receive the Word

Do not treat prophetic declarations with contempt. Receive them for edification. Never despise prophecy.

3. Believe to receive;

Faith is the currency that purchases the goodies of the supernatural. If only you can believe then

you will receive deliverance, life, empowerment, discernment, and healing. Jesus said if you can believe then all things are possible to him that believes (See Marks 9:23).

Ministering the Grace

The grace is ministered through discernment, faith declaration and by allowing the Holy Spirit to Work.

Discernment -

Establish the Roots

In our perverse and crooked generation, discernment is one of the most important spiritual gifts. Indeed, things are not the way they appear to be at all. Each one of us can manifest the supernatural if we can discern the roots of the issues.

Nothing just happens. Through interview or the use of the gift of discernment, establish the root of the condition. This helps you to understand the cause of the bondage. This exercise facilitates the process of deliverance. Sometimes we can only find our way back when we understand how we got into the problem in the first place.

Declaration -

Make Declarations with Authority and Faith

Rebuke the spirit or sickness. Act with dominion. Exercise dominion in the name of Jesus and remember the covenant of the blood. Do not pray to the demons or the sickness, just cast them out. Command them to come out that very moment and exercise control. Take charge of the atmosphere. Isaiah 43:26 says, "*put me in remembrance, let us plead together; rehearse thine own cause, that thou mayest be justified*".

Create an atmosphere of faith. It makes spiritual sense to minister in an atmosphere of faith and expectancy. That kind of atmosphere energizes the gift of the grace of God. If you ever want to see God work in your life, then please meditate on the word of God daily. Do not linger on in atmospheres of doubt and unbelief.

Allow the Holy Spirit to Work

Watch for manifestations, and allow the Holy Spirit to complete His work. Act in faith. After making declarations of faith and authority, watch for obvious signs, manifestations, signs and demonstrations of the Spirit.

Manifestations, signs and demonstrations of the

Spirit are usually indicators that the Holy Spirit is at work. There are times when there would not be obvious signs, yet even slight demonstrations are significant indicators.

In the case of the boy in our Scripture passage in Mark 9, we learned that after the spirit had torn him apart, it left him.

The Man Who Barked Like a Dog

In March 2010, our church, Trinity Chapel International (Now HighCity Church) embarked on a 63 days prayer and intercession service. At the time, our Church was in very turbulent times. Many of the workers and pastors which I had trained resigned, and the church was in near crisis.

It was at this time that I remembered the Scripture *"I will build my Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"*. We set out to pray for sixty-three days. On the fifth day, a young man in his thirties attended one of the nights.

He was under serious demonic oppression. He was hallucinating and seeing things, he was virtually speaking nonsense. As the prayer began that day, he was slain in the spirit and began to bark like a dog. He was barking like a dog and crawling like scorpion. He became aggressive and violent, so I instructed some of my associates to take him back and cast the devils out. They struggled with the demons for half an hour and could not cast them out. We postponed the deliverance and counseled him.

As we had appointed, he came back to the meeting the following day and sat in front. That night was our Wednesday Teaching Service, so as I began to preach and declare the word of God, he began to bark like a dog again. Then he started to crawl on his belly as a snake and spewing saliva like a cobra, but I was impressed in my heart to continue the preaching. So I continued preaching and he kept on barking as a dog and crawling like a scorpion on his hands and legs.

Now when it was time to pray, the Lord taught me something very significant. The Lord instructed me according to the story in our Scripture passage quoted above. I then stepped forward towards the man and rebuked the devils to come out of him. Then immediately, he became furious, fuming, and even barking more violently, but the Lord impressed upon me to hold my peace in authority. As I stood over against him, he was torn apart and fell at my feet. He laid there as though he was dead, then after a while he got up. He was free.

This is your day and your season for signs and wonders. The Lord has done it for several people and I know He wants to do it for you too. Only believe and act on your faith.

Go Forth and Preach Everywhere

Indeed, the anointing is not for just decoration. Although the anointing beautifies, it is for an important assignment. Truthfully;

The Gospels were Written Because Jesus Acted;

In Acts 10:38, we learn that after Jesus received the Holy Ghost, he went about doing good. As the Amplified Bible puts it this way;

"how God anointed and consecrated Jesus of Nazareth with the [Holy] Spirit and with strength and ability and power; how He went about doing good and, in particular, curing all who were harassed and oppressed by [the power of] the devil, for God

was with Him".

The Acts of the Apostles were Written Because the Apostles Acted.

Mark 16:19-20 tells us clearly

MARK 16:19-20

(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.

The Apostles acted.

Now It is Your Turn-, Act Now.

Now, we are the epistles being written which men would read, believe and be saved. Let us act now.

JAMES 2:20

But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

The church must step out and turn the nations and the kingdoms of the Earth to God.

In 2 Corinthians 3:1-3, the Apostle Paul teaches this clearly. He wrote to the church and said;

2 CORINTHIANS 3:1-3 AMP

(1) ARE WE starting to commend ourselves again?
 Or we do not, like some [false teachers], need written credentials or letters of recommendation to you or from you, [do we]?

(2) [No] you yourselves are our letter of recommendation (our credentials), written in your hearts, to be known (perceived, recognized) and read by everybody. (3) You show and make obvious that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, not written with ink but with [the] Spirit of [the] living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

Church, our lives are letters and pages of letters being written but not with ink. What are you writing with your life?

The Lord has commissioned the church to go and preach the Gospel. He wants us to spread the good news, the good news of the cross, which is the power of God to save. In Romans 1:16, the Apostle Paul stated clearly that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the power of God to save those who believe. The church of God has the mandate to spread the news that all men need.

We are mandated to go out there and tell every creature that, Jesus is the son of God, born in the flesh to be the Son of Man. That though He was a son, He learnt obedience through the many things He suffered. He was tempted in every way as we are but was without sin. God anointed this same Jesus Christ and He went about doing good. He was crucified under Pontius Pilate, though He knew no sin. He died shamefully on the cross in the place of sinful men.

Truthfully, Jesus Christ died. Tell the world that Jesus was buried, and on the third day, the Father raised Him from the dead. Then He actually went about showing Himself to many witness with many infallible proofs. This is the gospel.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:1-8 AMP

(1) AND NOW let me remind you [since it seems to have escaped you], brethren, of the Gospel (the glad tidings of salvation) which I proclaimed to you, which you welcomed and accepted and upon which your faith rests,

(2) And by which you are saved, if you hold fast and keep firmly what I preached to you, unless you believed at first without effect and all for nothing.

(3) For I passed on to you first of all what I also had received, that Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One) died for our sins in accordance with [what] the Scriptures [foretold], [Isaiah 53:5-12.]

(4) That He was buried, that He arose on the third day as the Scriptures foretold, [Psalm 16:9, 10.]

(5) And [also] that He appeared to Cephas (Peter), then to the Twelve.

(6) Then later He showed Himself to more than five hundred brethren at one time, the majority of whom are still alive, but some have fallen asleep [in death].

(7) Afterward He was seen by James, then by all the apostles (the special messengers),

(8) And last of all He appeared to me also, as to one prematurely and born dead [no better than an

unperfected fetus among living men].

This is the gospel of Jesus Christ, which is in fact, the power of God to save those who believe. But this gospel is not a weak gospel. The gospel is not lame; the gospel is dynamite and explosive. Whenever the gospel is believed and acted upon, it releases the potential and power of God to save and to heal.

The gospel without power is like having light without heat in winter. The gospel is a total package and must be offered as such. The Apostles preached the gospel with the demonstration of the spirit's power. The Bible says *"and they went forth and the Lord working with them"* (Mark 16;20). It is our turn and we have the mandate. This is our day, the day of our Lord, and the day of possibilities.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-5 AMP

 AS FOR myself, brethren, when I came to you, I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony and evidence or mystery and secret of God [concerning what He has done through Christ for the salvation of men] in lofty words of eloquence or human philosophy and wisdom;

(2) For I resolved to know nothing (to be acquainted with nothing, to make a display of the knowledge of nothing, and to be conscious of nothing) among you except Jesus Christ (the Messiah) and Him crucified.

(3) And I was in (passed into a state of) weakness and fear (dread) and great trembling [after I had come] among you.

(4) And my language and my message were not set forth in persuasive (enticing and plausible) words of wisdom, but they were in demonstration of the [Holy] Spirit and power [a proof by the Spirit and power of God, operating on me and stirring in the minds of my hearers the most holy emotions and thus persuading them],

(5) So that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men (human philosophy), but in the power of God.

Beloved, we are mandated, and time is running out. We must go forth and preach the gospel to the ends of the world. He said, *"Go ye into all the world"*. We cannot continue to remain within the four walls of the church; we must step forth and preach the gospel to the lost, and the Lord would go with us. The gospel is like a dynamo, it must be on the move in order to be powerful. As the Church marches forward with the gospel of Jesus, signs and wonders will follow those who believe.

CHAPTER 5

Financing Signs and Wonders

1 CORINTHIANS 9:11

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

One of the greatest concerns of many people who are at ease is whether the grace of God is for sale.

Sometimes I wonder why people who pay hundreds and thousands of dollars for a surgery should have a problem with offering a gift to the servant of God.

The issue is simple, inasmuch as the grace of God is not for sale, the servant of God has expenses to pay.

We shall at this point examine three things;

- 1. How Jesus Christ financed His own ministry of signs and wonders.
- 2. Further teaching on the subject of financing the ministry.
- 3. Why you should give generously to a minister.

How the Lord Financed His Ministry

The Bible teaches us that Jesus Christ financed His ministry of signs and wonders through the giving and ministry of those who had been touched by the power.

LUKE 8:1-3 AMP

(1) SOON AFTERWARD, [Jesus] went on through towns and villages, preaching and bringing the good news (the Gospel) of the kingdom of God. And the Twelve [apostles] were with Him,

(2) And also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had been expelled;

(3) And Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod's household manager; and Susanna; and many others, who ministered to and provided for Him and them out of their property and personal belongings.

Even Jesus, the only Begotten Son of God, did not conjure money from heaven to finance His ministry. God used people who had been blessed by the ministry to supernaturally supply the needs of the mission. In our day, God is still going to use the generous giving of people like you to supernaturally supply the finance of our ministry.

Jesus Christ never begged for money, but He never

lacked. I will never beg for money, and neither would I lack . You should not lack too. Anytime you purchase this book, you have financed the ministry of signs and wonders. It is my prayer that the blessing in giving shall be released upon you. Even as you purpose to sow a faith seed into my ministry, may the Lord empower you to sow and may you reap bountifully in the name of Jesus.

Further Teaching on Financing Signs and Wonders

The receiver of signs and wonders must be the supplier of the bread and provisions of the giver.

The Apostle Paul taught the church on their obligation and responsibility of giving.

The Workman is Worthy of His Wage

Apostle says that those who have received any spiritual blessings are indebted to the channel of the blessing. It is mandatory that after you have received spiritual blessing from those who go forth bearing the gospel, you should supply them with material blessings. It is robbery to receive spiritual blessing without giving materially to support the ministry. ROMANS 15:25-27 AMP

(25) For the present, however, I am going to Jerusalem to bring aid (relief) for the saints (God's people there).

(26) For it has been the good pleasure of Macedonia and Achaia to make some contribution for the poor among the saints of Jerusalem.

(27) They were pleased to do it; and surely they are in debt to them, for if these Gentiles have come to share in their [the Jerusalem Jews'] spiritual blessings, then they ought also to be of service to

them in material blessings.

It is Robbery Not to Give Offerings

It is robbery to receive spiritual blessing and not give material blessing. Though the grace of God is not for sale, the upkeep of the messenger is mandatory. To deny an apostle this privilege is actually to rob him of all he has.

2 CORINTHIANS 11:7-9 AMP

(7) But did I perhaps make a mistake and do you a wrong in debasing and cheapening myself so that you might be exalted and enriched in dignity and honor and happiness by preaching God's Gospel without expense to you?

(8) Other churches I have robbed by accepting [more 70

than their share of] support for my ministry [from them in order] to serve you.

(9) And when I was with you and ran short financially, I did not burden any [of you], for what I lacked was abundantly made up by the brethren who came from Macedonia. So I kept myself from being burdensome to you in any way, and will continue to keep [myself from being so].

So many churches and beneficiaries of the signs and miracles of apostles are robbing the apostles. To receive a sign from a man of God and not give him an offering and support his ministry is robbery. Apostle Paul passionately asked this question by giving reasons why people blessed with a gift should support the gift.

Giving to a Man of God is a Sign of Receiving and Honouring Him

Giving an offering to a man of God is a sure sign that you highly esteem him, as a servant of God. Indeed, no man takes this honor upon himself. Many are called but few are chosen, and yet fewer receive the confirmation of signs and wonders.

HEBREWS 5:1-6 NIV

(1) Every high priest is selected from among men and is appointed to represent them in matters related Walking in Signs and Wonders - Noah Simpe Bediako

to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins.

(2) He is able to deal gently with those who are ignorant and are going astray, since he himself is subject to weakness.

(3) This is why he has to offer sacrifices for his own sins, as well as for the sins of the people.

- (4) No one takes this honor upon himself; he must be called by God, just as Aaron was.
- (5) So Christ also did not take upon himself the glory of becoming a high priest. But God said to him, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father. "
 - (6) And he says in another place, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

Please, by the time the minister is ministering to you, he or she has been through something. That is why God would not take it kindly at all when you despise a man on the field. I have been through something. Space would not allow me to talk about them.

When you receive and honor the ministry of a man you actually receive bountifully the grace on his life.

Giving to a Man of God Guarantees the Supply of All Your Needs

Read this for yourself now

PHILIPPIANS 4:15-19 ESV

(15) And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only.

(16) Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again.

(17) Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit.[3]

(18) I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.

(19) And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

I am not saying this because I need a gift, but because giving to the minister is the surest way to unlimited supply of your needs.

God Expects You to Give to Your Man of God

In his defense for his apostleship, Apostle Paul wrote clearly on the privileges of an apostle. It includes receiving support from those to whom he ministers spiritual blessing. In 1 Corinthians 9:1-15 he wrote that:

1 CORINTHIANS 9:1-15 MSG

(1) And don't tell me that I have no authority to write like this. I'm perfectly free to do this--isn't that obvious? Haven't I been given a job to do? Wasn't I commissioned to this work in a face-to-face meeting with Jesus, our Master? Aren't you yourselves proof of the good work that I've done for the Master?

(2) Even if no one else admits the authority of my commission, you can't deny it. Why, my work with you is living proof of my authority!

(3) I'm not shy in standing up to my critics.

(4) We who are on missionary assignments for God have a right to decent accommodations,

(5) and we have a right to support for us and our families. You don't seem to have raised questions with the other apostles and our Master's brothers and Peter in these matters.

(6) So, why me? Is it just Barnabas and I who have to go it alone and pay our own way?

(7) Are soldiers self-employed? Are gardeners forbidden to eat vegetables from their own gardens? Don't milkmaids get to drink their fill from the pail?

(8) I'm not just sounding off because I'm irritated. This is all written in the scriptural law.

(9) Moses wrote, "Don't muzzle an ox to keep it from eating the grain when it's threshing." Do you think Moses' primary concern was the care of farm animals?

(10) Don't you think his concern extends to us?Of course. Farmers plow and thresh expecting something when the crop comes in.

(11) So if we have planted spiritual seed among you, is it out of line to expect a meal or two from you?

 (12) Others demand plenty from you in these ways.
 Don't we who have never demanded deserve even more? But we're not going to start demanding now what we've always had a perfect right to. Our decision all along has been to put up with anything rather than to get in the way or detract from the Message of Christ.

(13) All I'm concerned with right now is that you not use our decision to take advantage of others, depriving them of what is rightly theirs. You know, don't you, that it's always been taken for granted that those who work in the Temple live off the proceeds of the Temple, and that those who offer Walking in Signs and Wonders - Noah Simpe Bediako

sacrifices at the altar eat their meals from what has been sacrificed?

(14) Along the same lines, the Master directed that those who spread the Message be supported by those who believe the Message.

(15) Still, I want it made clear that I've never gotten anything out of this for myself, and that I'm not writing now to get something. I'd rather die than give anyone ammunition to discredit me or impugn my motives.

However, one thing is clear, that signs and wonders are a need for the time. The gospel without signs and wonders is like having light without heat in winter.

God bless you.

Books by Noah Simpe Bediako

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- 15. Living a Wide Life on the Narrow Path
- 16. Steps to Total Victory
- 17. Finding Love You can Enjoy

Walking in Signs & Wonders

Signs and wonders are supposed to accompany us on a daily basis as children of an Omnipotent God, and it can.

Many have sold their souls to the enemy because they desired supernatural power, but they sought it from the wrong source. This happens because the whole world lies in darkness under the power wickedness because of sin, and the number one weapon of the enemy is deception. So he uses false signs and wonders to entice many until they are killed and destroyed.

Thankfully, Rev. Simpe has unveiled the enemy's devices in this down-to-earth and well written book. Find out how to activate and operate in signs and wonders in your own life, and also in the lives of others, until nothing is impossible for you anymore.

Let *Signs & Wonders* follow your every moment as you read. God bless you!

Noah Simpe Bediako

Reverend Noah Simpe Bediako is the Senior Pastor of HighCity Church, a thriving and fast growing Bible-based church with a mission to gather men unto eternal life.

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