"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it"

[Matthew 16:18 K]V]

Influencing Your World with Light

THE OCTOPUS CHURCH

HOW GOD BUILDS US INTO AN INVINCIBLE CHURCH

NOAH SIMPE BEDIAKO

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HighCity Media & Publication



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

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HighCity Media & Publications
P. O. Box AJ 194 Alajo
Accra North, Ghana

Phone Number: (+233) 27 424 4361; 27 862 2627; 24 372 9899

Website: https://highcity.org; https://simpebediako.com

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Introduction

In this book, I will be discussing God's program to build His church, the Octopus Church. I will be focusing on the role of the ordinary believer in the building process, and how God builds up ordinary men and women into a spiritual house where spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God are offered.

You are the Light of the World

The whole world lies in darkness, and if you want to influence your world with light, the first truth you must understand is that you are the light of the world. The Church and the Christian are the only light of the world.

MATTHEW 5:14-16

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

- (15) Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.
- (16) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

You are the World's only Example

You are the only example to your world. Don't think that there are others with you. You are the

light of the world.

What it means is that if the world has not seen light before, then they should look at you.

To say that you are the light of the world, is in fact to say that if Christ were to be on earth today, He would do the things you do, and do them just like you have been doing them. Whether you are aware of this or not, you are by your life telling the rest of the world that if Christ had married, He would have treated His wife in the exact same way in which you treat your wife.

You are telling the rest of the world, by your life, that if Christ was a member of your church, He would come to Church at the time you have been coming to church.

You Have Been Ignited to Shine

You have been ignited by the truth of God's word and by His Spirit to shine. There is a spark of light in your heart that must shine to give light to your world.

You must therefore let the little light in you shine. Don't worry about the darkness, just determine to let your little light shine before men. Your light is not for yourself alone, but for the people in your world.

You Must Stand on the Foundation of the Church – the Candlestick

If you are the light of the world, then you are a city on a hill. And remember that a city on a hill cannot be hidden. Your life is therefore an epistle being read by all men.

This means that you cannot operate independent of the church. When men light a candle, they place it on a candlestick, which is a type of the Church. In other words, the candlestick represents the church.

You cannot influence your world with light, unless you remember that the candlestick (the church) on which you are positioned is a spiritual organism; a spiritual organism which God is still building. Take a look at this

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profound statement which Jesus made in the gospels;

MATTHEW 16:16-19

- And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.
- (17) And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.
- (18) And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
 - (19) And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

God has a program to build a church that Hell cannot prevail against. God has only one business doing on earth today. His business is to build you into an invincible church, against whom the gates of hell cannot prevail. He is building us up into an organism that hinders,

opposes, and restrains Hell.

The anointing, the gifts of ministry, the gifts of the Spirit, the signs that follow us as believers, and every other grace which God has given us is to work towards the completion of this all-important task. God's primary work on earth today is to seek out the lost sheep, to gather them unto Himself in folds, and to build them up.

He said "I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against the church". What then is a church? And what are the gates of hell? If God will build His church, what exactly is He going to build?

In answering these questions; when God says He will build His church, He is referring to you. You are the lively stone that God is separating and preparing, with which to build that spiritual house out of which spiritual sacrifices acceptable to Him would be offered. You are a member of that invincible church that God is building.

Indeed, a church is made up of the individuals. So a church is not built by music, programs,

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money or media, but with people; people with an unflagging commitment and loyalty to the cause of Christ.

A CHURCH IS A GATHERING OF PEOPLE WHO ARE CALLED AND HAVE CROSSED-OVER FROM DARKNESS AND DEATH TO LIGHT AND LIFE BY PASSOVER TO TAKE-OVER

Just as Moses did, you must crossover by Passover to take-over.

HEBREWS 11:27-28

By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.

(28) Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood, lest he that destroyed the firstborn should touch them.

A CHURCH IS A SPIRITUAL HOUSE WITH ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, BUILT FROM LIVELY STONES, WITH CHRIST AS THE CORNER STONE, TO OFFER SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES ACCEPTABLE TO GOD BY JESUS CHRIST

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1 PETER 2:5

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

A CHURCH IS A GROUP OF PEOPLE, USUALLY A MINIMUM OF 2 OR 3, COMMITTED AND LOYAL TO THE WORSHIP, THE WORDS, AND THE WORKS OF GOD THROUGH CHRIST JESUS.

A careful study of the Scriptures reveals that when God looks at us He sees the individual organism. Therefore, the strength of the church depends on the individual members that make up the church. God is therefore committed to building every single individual.

Why is God building up the church? God is building up the church for four simple reasons. He wants to **equip**, **edify**, and **empower** us, so that we may;

- 1. Offer spiritual sacrifices.
- 2. Crash the gates of hell.
- 3. Reign in life by one, Christ Jesus.
- 4. Influence our world.

A CHURCH IS BUILT FROM ORDINARY PEOPLE, ON THE FOUNDATION OF CHRIST AND APOSTLES AND PROPHETS

The church is a storm-proof but not storm-free spiritual house, built upon Christ as the corner stone, and apostles and prophets as a foundation. It is also built with the maimed, the lame, the blind, the poor, other ordinary people compelled from the highways and hedges. These people are then raised to offer the sacrifices of the Lord, to fight the gates of hell, to reign in life by one – Christ Jesus, and to influence the world around them.

The church is made up of a company of ordinary people that God is rebuilding. We may not be perfect, but God wants to use us. We are no longer sinners but the righteousness and the workmanship of God, created in Christ Jesus to walk in good works which He has prepared for us. We may be struggling with sinful habits which we have formed over the years, but we are still the righteousness of God. Without the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we are nothing. All of us are ordinary people.

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The Lord builds His church by empowering ordinary believers who have a revelation of the Christ by His Spirit, He approves of them by signs, wonders and miracles as they step forth to make other **disciples**. The following passages throw more light on this rebuilding process;

ACTS 1:8

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

MATTHEW 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

- (19) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
- (20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.

 Amen.

MARK 16:15-20

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world,

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and preach the gospel to every creature.

- (16) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.
 - (17) And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;
 - (18) They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.
- (19) So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.
- (20) And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

So as you can see, these laborers are ordinary people. Your pastors like every other pastor, evangelist, apostle, prophet or teacher, is an ordinary man who has the following;

- 1. A clear revelation of the Christ (See Matthew 16:16-18).
- 2. An anointing of the Holy Spirit and power

ACTS 10:38

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

See also Acts 1:8

3. A desire to step out into the highways and hedges to compel people to come in by all means possible

LUKE 14:21-23

So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind.

- (22) And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.
- (23) And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

See also Matthew 28:18-20

4. A commitment to walk with decorum, ethics, and faithfulness.

You Have a Role to Play in Building the Octopus Church

Every believer has a role to play in the building of the octopus. It is the fundamental calling and responsibility of the saints. The ordinary believer ought to be;

- 1. Ignited or reached.
- 2. Mentored steadily.
- 3. Maturing healthily.
- 4. Producing more cells and tentacles.

Ignited - Reached

According to Matthew 10:1-15, to have been reached is to believe the word of God. You are reached the very moment you believe in the Christ-centered vision of discipling the world.

Mentored - Following

This involves the process of learning from other disciples as we all follow Christ together.

This stage is very important because this is where you are rebuilt, or made storm-proof. Rebuilding is the process of getting grounded in your following or imitation of Christ (See 1 Peter 2:5). God will build His church into a storm-proof spiritual house full of a company of royal priests who offer sacrifices that are acceptable to Him, through Christ Jesus.

GOD INTENDS TO BUILD US INTO A STORM-PROOF BUT NOT STORM FREE SPIRITUAL HOUSE.

This is because as long as we are in this world, we will have some troubles, but those troubles are not meant to topple us. You cannot have a storm-free life, but you can definitely have a storm-proof life. The secrets to having a storm-proof life are to be;

1. Grounded in the word of God.

LUKE 6:46-49

And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?

- (47) Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like:
- (48) He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.
- (49) But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.

2. Grounded in faith.

HFBRFWS 4:2

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

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1 JOHN 5:4-5

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

- (5) Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?
- 3. Grounded in a local church.

ACTS 2:42-47

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

- (43) And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.
- (44) And all that believed were together, and had all things common;
- (45) And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.
- (46) And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,
- (47) Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily

such as should be saved.

Ministering - Fishing

The process of rebuilding continues to the level where you are deployed to make disciples of others. This is the point of getting to obey the Lord's great commission;

MATTHEW 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

- (19) Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:
- (20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world.

 Amen.

Apostle Paul expounds on how the Lord uses us to fulfill His command in his epistle to the church at Ephesus;

EPHESIANS 4:11-18

(11) And he gave some, apostles; and some,

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- prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
- (12) For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:
- (13) Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:
- (14) That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;
- (15) But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:
- (16) From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.
 - (17) This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind,

(18) Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:

Anyone can disciple others once they make the sincere decision to follow Christ. There are three necessary skills you need in order to minister;

1. Preparing the banquet:

You prepare yourself through prayer, study and waiting on the Lord and on your ministry. You must learn how to prepare your meeting place and the meeting itself.

- 2. Socializing: Reach out, interact, visitation
- 3. **Ministering:** Teach the word and heal the sick

Just like how a biological organism is made up of basic units of cells, the basic unit of the church is the individual members. You produce more cells when you learn to;

1. Unite with other believers:

Become one with other members of the church.

- 2. **Go** to the highways and hedges to share the Good news:
- 3. **Preach and teach** the word (See Matthew 28:18-20)
- 4. Heal the sick and the oppressed

MATTHEW 10:1, 7-8

And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

- (7) And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand.
 - (8) Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.
- 5. **Gather** those who believe and are willing to continue steadfastly in the faith;

LUKE 14:15-24

And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God.

(16) Then said he unto him, A certain man made

a great supper, and bade many:

- (17) And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready.
- (18) And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused.
- (19) And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused.
 - (20) And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.
- (21) So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the hlind
 - (22) And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room.
- (23) And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.

(24) For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.

See also Acts 2:40-42

Maturing - Fellowshipping

We shall now discuss the importance of belonging and being committed to small groups in church. Fundamentally, you must understand that God rebuilds us through the ministry of His shepherds, the ministry of His Spirit, and the ministry of the saints.

THE MINISTRY OF THE SHEPHERD

Take a look at the following Scripture passages

ACTS 20:32

And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.

1 CORINTHIANS 3:5-17

Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but

- ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?
 - (6) I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.
- (7) So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.
 - (8) Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.
 - (9) For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.
- (10) According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon.

 But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.
 - (11) For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
- (12) Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;
- (13) Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's

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work of what sort it is.

- (14) If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.
- (15) If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.
- (16) Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?
- (17) If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

In summary, the ministry of the shepherds involve the following;

- 1. Planting
- 2. Watering
- 3. Working
- 4. Warning; Preaching
- 5. Prophesying; This involves teaching and exhortation
- 6. Following up and caring
- 7. Watching and counseling

THE MINISTRY OF THE SPIRIT

The ministry of the Spirit involves the manifestations of signs, wonders, miracles, and power.

1 CORINTHIANS 2:4

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

THE MINISTRY OF SAINTS

Take another look at Acts 2:42-47 and Acts 14:21-23 and notice how we ought to continue in faith and in spiritual sacrifices;

Acts 2:42-47

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

- (43) And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.
- (44) And all that believed were together, and had all things common;

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- (45) And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.
- (46) And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,
- (47) Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

ACTS 14:21-23

And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch,

- (22) Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.
- (23) And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.

Believing His Word

John 1:12-14 says "to them that believe He gave them power to become the sons of God". You must believe "to the saving of your soul" (Hebrews 10:39)

Imitating His Character

When Jesus was on earth, He said He was the light of the world, then in Matthew 5:14-16, He called us the light of the world. We are to imitate Christ. The difference between us and unbelievers is that we strive to show forth our best behaviour and confess our wrongs to God and to the church, but unbelievers and hypocrites strive to cover up their wrongs, and accuse others of doing the same thing.

Offering Spiritual Sacrifices

The Church is full of spiritual sacrifices of obedience, fellowship, communion, praying, fasting, giving, sharing, eating, and praising, offered by a company of priests who are raised out of ordinary people. We are a sacrifice offering company of royal priests. We offer sacrifices in the temple and from house to house. The following keywords characterize the manner in which we offer our sacrifices;

1. CONSISTENT;

"And they continued steadfastly" (See Acts 2:42-47)

2. GLADNESS AND SINGLENESS OF HEART;

We offer our sacrifices with gladness and singleness of heart in unity with other brethren;

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-4

If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,

- (2) Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.
 - (3) Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

(4) Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

3. FAVOUR:

Having favour with God and the people because we are ministers of peace.

ACTS 2:46-47

And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,

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

CHAPTER 3

You Have the Spirit, the Sheepfold, and the Shepherd

JOHN 14:18

I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

You are God's business on earth today. You may not feel that God is close by but you are not left alone. Although the Lord Jesus is on the right hand side of the Father in Heaven, you are still not left comfortless. God is building His church. He is building us, but not in a vacuum. God works through His agents to build you into an invincible church. He works on us through His;

- Spirit
- Shepherds
- Sheepfolds

This is the three-fold agency of God on earth by which He is building us into a strong force. Through these agents of transformation, God is raising an end time army who will locate, resist and destroy all the works of darkness.

You Have the Holy Spirit

JOHN 14:16-18

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

- (17) Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.
- (18) I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

God has not left us comfortless; He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee of greater things to come. In building us into an invisible force, God has appointed His Spirit over us to succor and help us.

The Holy Spirit Sought and Brought Us Home to the Sheepfold as the Lost Sheep

JOHN 10:16

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

We used to be lost in the wild and the jungle of this world, but the Spirit of God sought and brought us in. He brought us in to enjoy the fullness of life.

The Holy Spirit Empowers the Shepherds Who are Appointed to Feed Us by God's Voice and Spirit

Look at what God said in the book of Jeremiah;

JEREMIAH 23:3-4

And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.

(4) And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD.

Apostle Paul also tells us the purpose of God's ministry gifts to the church;

EPHESIANS 4:12

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

How does all this happen? You might ask; it happens by the ministration of the Word of God;

LUKE 4:4

And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.

The Holy Spirit Cleans and Shears Us -Prunes the Branches

JOHN 15:1-3

I am the true vine, and my Father is the

husbandman.

- (2) Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.
 - (3) Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

The Spirit of Truth removes everything that hinders our productivity from our lives. The Holy Spirit helps us in our infirmity.

ROMANS 8:26

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

The Holy Spirit Removes all Parasites and Pests from Our Lives - Purging Out

JOHN 15:1-3

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

(2) Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

(3) Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.

There are certain things that fight your productivity from without. These are parasites and pests. The Holy Spirit cuts them all off our lives.

God Gave You a Shepherd over Your Life

God has ordained shepherds over your life, and given them responsibilities all geared towards building you up. The following keys will help you to enjoy the maximum benefit from your shepherds;

1. Remember Those Who Bear Rule over You and Follow Their Faith

The Scriptures clearly tell us this;

HEBREWS 13:7

Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of their convergation.

2. Obey Those Who Bear Rule over You

Obeying our pastors makes them effective in their work of shepherding us;

HFBRFWS 13:17

Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

Your Sheepfold has Got Your Back

The larger church has a responsibility in helping to build you up into invincible Christian. The church is the back bone of the believer.

You Must Join the Sheepfold

Notice how those who believed the message of the gospel were immediately added to the church. That we are told their number tells us that there was even some kind of official record on them. You must join a church properly. ACTS 2:40-41

And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

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

You Must Be Committed and Loyal to Church Meetings

Even in the early church, some people had a habit of swerving church services, but if you want to mature into an invincible Christian, then you must be committed to church services.

HEBREWS 10:25

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

A church properly is constituted when a minimum of 2 or 3 people are gathered in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The quorum of 2 or 3 possess all the spiritual powers to act in

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the stead of God to the extent of even stripping a person of his right to be a child of God. Never underestimate the power of a church service. Take a look at this passage of Scripture;

MATTHEW 18:15-20

Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.

- (16) But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established.
 - (17) And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglects to hear the church, let him be unto thee as a heathen man and a publican.
- (18) Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.
- (19) Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

(20) For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

Continue in the Practice of Faith

ACTS 2:42-47

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

- (43) And fear came upon every soul: and many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.
 - (44) And all that believed were together, and had all things common;
- (45) And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need.
- (46) And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,
 - (47) Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.

To end this chapter, the church builds when we

create a culture of;

- Continuing stedfastly in the shepherd's doctrine, prayers, fellowship and breaking of bread.
- Uniting in brotherly love.
- Giving to the cause of Christ, the church and to welfare.
- Praising God always.
- Eating our bread with gladness and singleness of heart.
- Seeking peace and pursuing it. This is how we obtain favour with people and win them.

You Can Offer Spiritual Sacrifices

You are called to offer sacrifices. This is one of the primary responsibilities of the saints. We are to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable unto God by Christ Jesus.

1 PETER 2:5

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

Gathering together as a church is for the sole purpose of seeking God and offering sacrifices acceptable to Him by Jesus Christ. In so doing, He adds unto us all other things;

MATTHEW 6:31-34

Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal

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shall we be clothed?

- (32) (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.
- (33) But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.
- (34) Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

Remember that your best is yet to come. Your beginning may be small but your latter end shall greatly increase, so keep working on your maturity.

JOB 8:7

Though thy beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase.

There are times when we could be intimidated by the success of other people. But the truth is, there will always be someone who is apparently doing better than you. Just remember that much as we were not born on the same day or at the same time, we will all not shine equally.

YOU CAN OFFER SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES

Someone was building his house before you were born, and they might be dying by the time you are building your house.

So don't worry yourself about who has the largest church now, or who is driving the latest car in town today or building the nicest mansion in your neighbourhood. At your set time, God will make all things beautiful. You must however be growing as you anticipate your set time.

Your dream will not die but your pace of growth will determine how fast your dream grows. God has called us out and has made us into lively stones, and He's building us into a spiritual house within which spiritual sacrifices are offered.

You are called to offer prayers, praises, your substances, and fellowship. You are called to offer sacrifices of fastings and intercessions.

I am called, and I am the workmanship of God created in Christ Jesus. I will not let the dream die. I will offer spiritual sacrifices all the days of my life. I have a dream to touch many lives with

my sacrifices. Heavens will accept my sacrifices and give me favor in return, but according to the book of Galatians, I must grow;

GALATIANS 4:1-3

Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;

- (2) But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father.
- (3) Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:

Preparing to Offer Sacrifices

Now let us take a look at how Apostle Paul taught Timothy how to grow, and be able to offer spiritual sacrifices.

1 TIMOTHY 4:12-16

Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

(13) Till I come, give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine.

YOU CAN OFFER SPIRITUAL SACRIFICES

- (14) Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.
 - (15) Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all.
- (16) Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

Let no Man Despise Thy Newness

Turn away from those who despise you because you are young in the faith or in the ministry.

Do Not Despise Your Small Things

ZECHARIAH 4:10

For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth.

Be Faithful to Small Things

LUKE 16:10

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

Be an Example to the Believers

Be an example to those who believe in the same things as you do. Be an example in word, lifestyle, love, spirit, faith, and in purity.

Arise; show forth your good works, because you have the spotlight now. The challenge for many Christians is how they can show forth their good works so that men may see without being hypocrites.

THE DIFFERENCE IN STRIVING TO SHOW FORTH YOUR GOOD WORKS AND BEING A HYPOCRITE IS IN HOW YOU TREAT OTHERS WHEN THEY GO WRONG.

Show forth your good works no matter how little they may seem. Show forth your little results, knowing that your end shall surely be great.

Give Attention to the Word

Give attention to reading, exhortation and doctrine. Spend time in the word. I have written this book and many others all to help you. Spend time digesting them, and men will begin to see what you gained from following the Lord.

Do Not Neglect Your Gift

In preparing yourself to offer acceptable spiritual sacrifices, it is important for you to recognize that you have some potential within you, which you received from the Lord when hands were laid on you. You must stir it up.

Keep Working on Your Dream

Keep working on your dream to affect your world with the light of God, and your profiting will show.

You Can Crash the Gates of Hell

You are called and commissioned to destroy the works of darkness. In other words, you have dominion over the gates of Hell.

What are the Gates of Hell?

Hell has gates, serpents, scorpions and all powers.

LUKE 10:19

Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

1. THE FIRST GATE OF HELL IS THE SERPENTS, WHICH REPRESENTS THE SHARPNESS OF VISION, SLY CUNNINGNESS, ARTFUL MALICE, AND SEDUCTIVE DELUSION OF THE DEVIL.

Perhaps, this is the largest of all the Gates of Hell.

YOU CAN CRASH THE GATES OF HELL

This is the lure, lust and deception of the devil, which is craftily engaged to draw the saints, and to malign the church.

2. THE SECOND GATE OF HELL IS THE SCORPION, WHICH REPRESENTS THE STING, OPPRESSIONS, HURT AND INTIMIDATION OF THE DEVIL.

Christ has however assured us that the sting of the devil may destroy as far as the body and not the soul, but God's sting is mightier.

3. THE THIRD GATE OF HELL REPRESENTS THE POWER OF DARKNESS.

These includes principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness in high places. These powers wrestle against the saints.

EPHESIANS 6:12

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

You are being built up to thread upon serpents, scorpions, and all powers of the enemy. The Lord Jesus said in Luke 10:19 that "I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the powers of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." Blessed be the name of the Lord for what the Scripture says in 2 Corinthians 10;

2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-6

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh:

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

So God is in the business of building a church (members of the church) to thread on the artful malice, on the ferocious sting, and on all the power of darkness.

Crashing the Gates of Hell

How then do we crash the Gates of Hell? Take another look at this Scripture;

2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-6

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

This verse is saying that even though we walk in the flesh and order our steps in the flesh, there is another power that fights us which is spiritual. So our war is not after the flesh.

We go to the market, mall, school, office, and other places physically. If we want to survive there, then we must be conscious of the fact that the war is spiritual.

Remember always that we have weapons that are made available by God and through God, to the "... pulling down of strongholds; casting down imaginations; and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God ..." If we are going to crash all the powers of the Gates of Hell, then we must do the following;

Be Strong in the Lord

Ephesians 6:10

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

Ensure that you are always strengthened in the Lord, and not in yourself, because the arm of flesh will fail you.

Put on the Whole Armour of God

EPHESIANS 6:11

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

YOU CAN CRASH THE GATES OF HELL

Take a look at this passage in the American Standard Version of the Bible;

EPHESIANS 6:12-20 ASV

For our wrestling is not against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world-rulers of this darkness, against the spiritual [hosts] of wickedness in the heavenly [places].

- (13) Wherefore take up the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and, having done all, to stand.
- (14) Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness,
 - (15) and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
- (16) withal taking up the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the evil [one].
 - (17) And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:
- (18) with all prayer and supplication praying at all seasons in the Spirit, and watching thereunto in all perseverance and supplication for all the

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saints,

- (19) And on my behalf, that utterance may be given unto me in opening my mouth, to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel,
- (20) for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

Stand in Battle to Withstand

The following Scriptures clearly show us the need to take a stand to withstand until our enemy is totally defeated.

EPHESIANS 6:14

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

JAMES 4:7-8

- Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.
- (8) Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.

Overcome the Enemy

REVELATION 12:11

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

ROMANS 8:36-39

As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

- (37) Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.
- (38) For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,
 - (39) Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

You Can Reign in Life by One - Christ Jesus

ROMANS 5:17

For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)

I see God building you up into a leader to command power in the sphere of life. You are supposed to reign in life.

I remember how in January 2012, we gathered to discover the mysteries of enjoying the fullness of life in our quarterly Enjoying the Fullness Convention. In this meeting the Spirit of the Lord made certain profound statements to us. We learnt according to John 10:1-10 that Christ came that we might have life and have it more abundantly.

JOHN 10:1-10

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

- (2) But he that entereth in by the door is the sheep.
- (3) To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.
- (4) And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.
- (5) And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.
- (6) This parable spake Jesus unto them: but they understood not what things they were which he spake unto them.
- (7) Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.
- (8) All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.
- (9) I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find

pasture.

(10) The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

It is clear that God wants us to have the best life possible. God wants us to have a life of sufficiency. God wants us to walk in life and in abundance. The Lord said "I am the door: by me if any man enters in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture. The thief cometh not, but to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly." You just have to keep the keys to enjoying the fullness of life.

You Have to Follow the Shepherd

JOHN 10:9-10

I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

(10) The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

You will discover pretty soon that per time and space, everyman is led, controlled, and influenced by either the Holy Spirit of God or by the evil spirit of the enemy

The Holy Spirit leads men into the narrow path of life and helps us to serve God, whilst evil spirits control people and lead them unto the broad path of sin and pain, which leads to death and worship of Satan. This is why there are always constant wars within you, and contradicting desires and emotions that fight to be expressed.

The Bible says in Ephesians 2:1-3 that;

And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

(2) Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

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(3) Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

So there is clearly a spirit that is at work in the children of disobedience. There is however another spirit that leads the children of God; this is the Spirit of God.

ROMANS 8:14

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

We should therefore be careful what spirit leads and influences us. Remember that even a prominent man of God like Apostle Peter spoke by both the Holy Spirit and an evil Spirit. He spoke by the Spirit of God that Jesus Christ was the messiah, and then just a few minutes afterwards, he tried to convince Christ from dying on the cross.

What is leading you now? Are you led by the Holy Spirit to help others to serve God, or are

you being used by an evil spirit to seduce them? You will reign in life if you can follow the voice of the Shepherd.

You Must Stay Passionate About Life

If you are going to reign in life, then you must stay passionate about life without having to sell your soul.

3 JOHN 1:2

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

God wants you to be saved, healthy, and wealthy. God wants you to be passionate about abundance, but not to the detriment of the saving of your soul. Be passionate but don't sell your soul.

Now let us learn the secrets to remain passionate about life without selling our souls from the book of Ecclesiastes 9;

Learn that Life Goes Beyond Possessions

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.

The quality of your life is not determined by how many things you possess, but by how much you can be content with.

Learn How to Be Content

Contentment is an attitude that must be cultivated. Apostle Paul learnt how to both live in abundance and in scarcity.

PHILIPPIANS 4:11-13

Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

(12) I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

(13) I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

He learnt to live in both scarcity and abundance. The Wisdom of Solomon teaches that you should:

1. EAT YOUR BREAD WITH JOY AND DRINK YOUR WINE WITH A MERRY HEART

ECCLESIASTES 9:7

Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works.

2. GROOM WITH INTEGRITY AND ANOINTING

ECCLESIASTES 9:8

Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment.

3. LOVE YOUR WIFE WITH JOY; THAT IS YOUR PORTION IN LIFE.

ECCLESIASTES 9:9

Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.

4. WORK WITH MIGHT ON WHAT YOUR HANDS HAVE FOUND TO DO

ECCLESIASTES 9:10

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

Learn to Rely on Providence

Providence in this context is the guidance, protection, and support of God. It takes time and chance to win in life. Indeed, "the race is not to swift nor the battle to the strong but time and chance happens to them all" (See Ecclesiastes 9:11).

Learn to Find Significance the Right Way

Your significance in life should come from the contribution that your life makes to the lives of

other people, and not in the kind of clothes you wear, the car you drive, the house you live in, or any such thing.

More important however, you must remember that it takes opportunity, wisdom and wealth to make significant impact.

Refuse to Strip for any Man

EXODUS 32:25, 35

And when Moses saw that the people were naked; (for Aaron had made them naked unto their shame among their enemies:)

(35) And the LORD plagued the people, because they made the calf, which Aaron made.

God wants to cloth you with;

- 1. Salvation for justification.
- 2. Light for righteousness:

ROMANS 13:11-14

And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

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- (12) The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.
- (13) Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.
- (14) But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

3. Glory for favor:

2 CORINTHIANS 3:18

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

- 4. Armour for welfare (See Ephesians 6:11-18)
- 5. Anointing for service

ACTS 10:38

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

JOHN 14:17

Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Beneath these things lies the stinking flesh, which is corrupt and weak in nature.

The truth is that the enemy wants to strip you of your salvation, light, glory, armour, and anointing, and leave you spiritually naked and vulnerable to his attacks. There is a crafty and smart enemy out there who works through people, things, and situations to access our lives. The enemy will try to seduce, provoke, pressurize, and intimidate you.

This is the reason why you have to fight the enemy to your last blood. Fight and resist him.

You Can Surf the Miracle Wave

The miracle wave is important to making an impact in your time. The preaching of the gospel without power is like sharing light to stranded traveler without giving them heat. Though they need the light at night, the cold winter night in the street without heat could be devastating.

This is why Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 2:1-4 that their preaching of the apostle did not come to the people with enticing words of a man's wisdom, but with the demonstration of the Spirit and power of God. So that the faith of their hearers would not dwell on the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

Mark 15:20 teaches that the apostles stepped out to preach everywhere, and the Lord worked with them by mighty signs and miracles. You can also surf on this the miracle wave. It simply begins with a careful study of the scriptures.

Study What Jesus Christ Began to Do and to Teach

Acts 1:1-3 teaches that the gospel are a complete account of what Jesus began to teach and to do. In summary, we learn that He prepared, traveled, recruited, deployed, commanded, and still works with those who obey Him.

ACTS 1:1-3

The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach,

- (2) Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen:
- (3) To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God:

He spent countless hours praying, fasting and studying. He went to all cities and

villages preaching, working miracles, having compassion on the multitudes because they were like scattered sheep without a shepherd;

MATTHEW 9:32-34

- As they went out, behold, they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil.
- (33) And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marvelled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel.
- (34) But the Pharisees said, He casteth out devils through the prince of the devils.

He called some people to be with Him;

MATTHFW 10:1-4

And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

- (2) Now the names of the twelve apostles are these; The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother;
 - (3) Philip, and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the publican; James the son of

- Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus;
- (4) Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed him.

MARK 3:13-19

And he goeth up into a mountain, and calleth unto him whom he would: and they came unto him.

- (14) And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach,
- (15) And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:
 - (16) And Simon he surnamed Peter;
 - (17) And James the son of Zebedee, and John the brother of James; and he surnamed them Boanerges, which is, The sons of thunder:
- (18) And Andrew, and Philip, and Bartholomew, and Matthew, and Thomas, and James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus, and Simon the Canaanite,
- (19) And Judas Iscariot, which also betrayed him: and they went into an house.

LUKE 6:12-16

- (12) And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.
- (13) And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles;
- (14) Simon, (whom he also named Peter,) and Andrew his brother, James and John, Philip and Bartholomew,
 - (15) Matthew and Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon called Zelotes,
- (16) And Judas the brother of James, and Judas Iscariot, which also was the traitor.

He sent them to preach and work miracles;

MATTHEW 20:5-15

- (5) Again he went out about the sixth and ninth hour, and did likewise.
 - (6) And about the eleventh hour he went out, and found others standing idle, and saith unto them, Why stand ye here all the day idle?
- (7) They say unto him, Because no man hath hired us. He saith unto them, Go ye also into the

- vineyard; and whatsoever is right, that shall ye receive.
- (8) So when even was come, the lord of the vineyard saith unto his steward, Call the labourers, and give them their hire, beginning from the last unto the first.
- (9) And when they came that were hired about the eleventh hour, they received every man a penny.
- (10) But when the first came, they supposed that they should have received more; and they likewise received every man a penny.
 - (11) And when they had received it, they murmured against the goodman of the house,
- (12) Saying, These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day.
 - (13) But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny?
 - (14) Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee.
 - (15) Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?

MARK 6:7-13

- And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;
- (8) And commanded them that they should take nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse:
- (9) But be shod with sandals; and not put on two coats.
- (10) And he said unto them, In what place soever ye enter into an house, there abide till ye depart from that place.
- (11) And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.
- (12) And they went out, and preached that men should repent.
 - (13) And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them.

LUKE 9:1-6

Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

- (2) And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.
- (3) And he said unto them, Take nothing for your journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece.
 - (4) And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart.
- (5) And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them.
 - (6) And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing every where.

He expected certain worthy people to support. He commanded His disciples to go and preach, and see signs following;

MARK 16:15-19

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

- (16) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.
 - (17) And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;
- (18) They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.
- (19) So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

He worked with those who obey;

MARK 16:20

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

Study How the Apostle Went About It

They waited, obeyed and unusual signs followed them;

ACTS 4:29-31

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

ACTS 5:12-16

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.

- (13) And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them.
 - (14) And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.)
 - (15) Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.
- (16) There came also a multitude out of the cities

round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.

ACTS 8:4-8

Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.

- (5) Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.
- (6) And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.
- (7) For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.
 - (8) And there was great joy in that city.

ACTS 19:8-12

And he went into the synagogue, and spake boldly for the space of three months, disputing and persuading the things concerning the kingdom of God.

(9) But when divers were hardened, and believed not, but spake evil of that way before the

multitude, he departed from them, and separated the disciples, disputing daily in the school of one Tyrannus.

- (10) And this continued by the space of two years; so that all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.
 - (11) And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul:
- (12) So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.
- 1. The Book of Acts is the record of the results of the apostles' obedience.
- 2. The First Epistle of John teaches that the letters, Romans to Jude, are an exposition on what Christ taught.

1 JOHN 1:1-5

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

(2) (For the life was manifested, and we have

- seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)
 - (3) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.
- (4) And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.
- (5) This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.
- 3. The Book of Revelation is a revelation on things that are yet to come.

REVELATION 1:1-3

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

- (2) Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.
- (3) Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things

which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

The Bible says that;

- They spent hours upon hours waiting on the Lord.
- They stepped out and preached everywhere.
- Certain women followed and supported the ministry from their own resources.
- Those who were touched testified.
- Others brought their sick and oppressed to hear and be healed
- Their gatherings were charged with humility, prayer, obedience and hunger.

Study the Life and Teachings of Some Modern Fathers of the Faith

The life and works of the church in every age is an epistle of the people that lived then. 2 Timothy 4:13 teaches how the apostle Paul owned such writings.

Engage in the Practice of Those Things

We can also do what they did and get the same results;

2 TIMOTHY 2:2

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.

PHILIPPIANS 4:9

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

From all these Scripture accounts, we learn that;

NO MAN CAN CREATE THE MIRACLE WAVE, RATHER GOD SENDS THE WINDS OF THE SPIRIT AND POWER TO DRIVE PREACHING AND MISSIONS;

The miracle wave comes to confirm the messages. Every miracle is a parable manifested, and every parable is a miracle explained.

AS LONG AS WE TESTIFY OF CHRIST, GOD WILL CONTINUE IN THE BUSINESS OF CREATING MIRACLE WAVES

God still creates miracle waves, and its manifestation;

- 1. Gives foundation to the faith of our hearers.
- 2. Discomfits the powers of darkness
- 3. Liberates the church.

You can surf the miracle wave

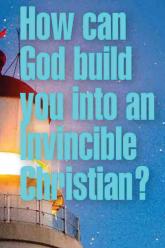
You can surf the miracle wave right now and at any other time. Just;

- 1. Wait on the Lord.
- 2. Believe His Word.
- 3. Hunger for Him.

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YOU ARE THE WORLD'S ONLY HOPE

Growth and advancement is the will of God for every one of His children. In this book, Rev. Simpe shares God's program to build His church - *The Octopus Church* - by focussing on the role of the ordinary believer in the building process, and how God builds up ordinary men and women into a spiritual house where spiritual sacrifices that are acceptable to God are offered.

"GOD'S PRIMARY WORK ON EARTH TODAY IS TO SEEK OUT THE LOST SHEEP, TO GATHER THEM UNTO HIMSELF IN FOLDS, AND TO BUILD THEM UP"

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.

He was originally trained as a Civil Engineer at Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi - Ghana, and obtained a Masters Degree in Water Supply and Environmental Sanitation, also from KNUST.

He is married to his wife, Pastor Sandra and they are blessed with three children; Daniel, Judah-Joel and Michelle.



This ebook version is published by HighCity Media & Publication, and is available at; **simpebediako.com** E-mail: highcityinfo@gmail.com

