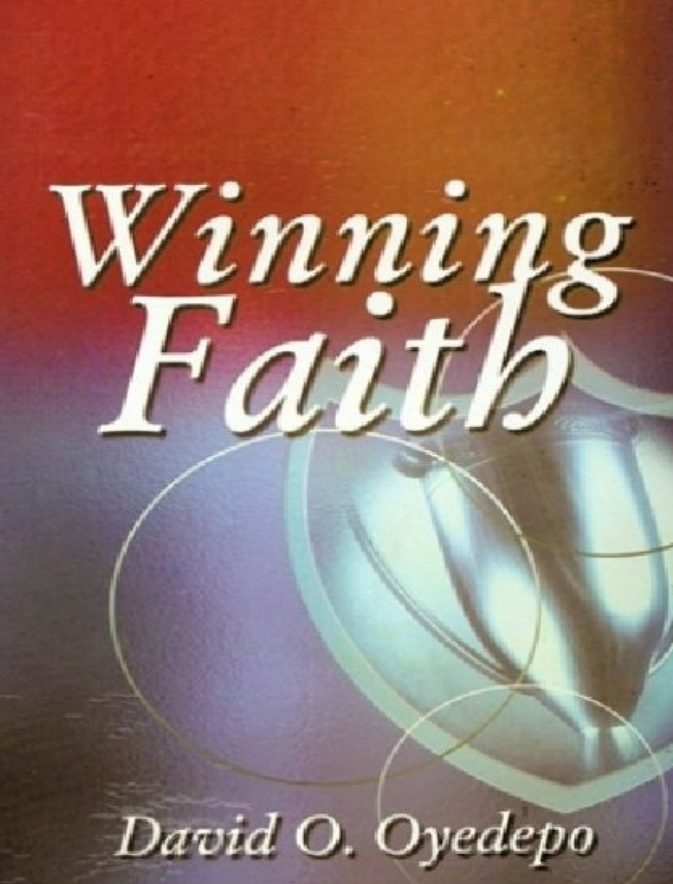


Winning Faith

The background of the cover features a gradient from dark red at the top to a deep purple at the bottom. On the right side, there is a large, metallic, reflective sphere. Overlaid on this sphere and the background are several thin, white, overlapping circles of varying sizes, creating a geometric, mandala-like pattern.

David O. Oyedepo

WINNING FAITH

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*All Scripture quotations are from
the King James Version of the Bible,
except otherwise stated.*

Introduction

“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints”

- Jude 3

Why should we contend for the faith that was once delivered to the saints?

The reason is simply because faith is the devil's number one target in every battle against the saints.

Jesus said to Simon Peter,

“Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for thee; **that thy faith fail not**: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.”

Luke 22:31-32

Why is Satan after our faith?

It is our only guarantee for victory in every battle of life.

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

1 John 5:4

We also understand from scriptures that faith is our strong hold against all the fiery darts of the wicked one. Paul

said,

“above all, taking the shield of faith wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.”

Eph. 6:16

This is why the subject of faith can not be over emphasized and the body of Christ will need to be properly grounded in the word of faith. We need to recognize that faith is the very substance of Christianity. - Acts 6:7

‘...and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.’

In this reference, the word faith is used for the Christian experience of conversion. This helps to further establish the all important nature of this subject.

Think of the following;

We are saved by Faith (Eph. 2:8)

We stand by Faith (2Cor. 1:24)

We walk by Faith (2Cor. 5:7)

We are healed by Faith (Matt.

9:27-29)

We overcome by Faith (1John 5:4)

And we live by Faith

(Hab.2:4; Rom.1:17; Gal.3:11)

“Now the just shall live by faith;
but if any man draw back, my soul
shall have no pleasure in him”

Heb. 10:38

If we only live by faith then it means we are dead without faith. This is the reason for this book. This book is put together to help the understanding of the reader, the meaning, the source

and the operation of the ever winning weapon called faith.

Come along with me for a unique experience as you go through this piece.

Chapter 1 - AMAZING WORTH OF FAITH

What is faith worth? It's a spiritual force but what does it weigh, how much value does it carry, what does faith have to offer? And as we explore this, I'll like you to be open-hearted because in the course of reading, things will begin to happen.

Faith is that device through which you can lay hold on what God can do. Faith is the spiritual vital link between man and God so that man can realize what God can do. That's what it is.

What is Faith Worth?

Faith is an asset of inestimable value. It is worth everything that one can ever desire in life.

Firstly, we understand that **faith ushers us into our glorious destiny.**

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

(Rom. 8:29-30).

The above scripture simply implies that a glorious destiny begins with redemption. i.e. salvation of our soul.

We all believe that destiny begins with redemption.

On the other hand, we are told that we are saved by grace through faith.

Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

(Eph. 2:8).

That means faith is what ushers you into destiny because destiny begins with redemption. Outside of Christ, you are living your life to chance, you are not a child of destiny until you have come to Christ. Destiny begins with redemption and redemption is only

made possible by faith for we are saved by grace through faith and that not of our own, it is the gift of God.

Secondly, another worth of faith is that, **faith is your covenant access into His righteousness.** This is explained in the book of Romans,

But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets;

Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

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

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ

Jesus:

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

To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith

(Rom. 3:21-27).

The righteousness of God only becomes a reality by faith. Faith is worth your redemption in Christ and at the same time faith is worth your

access to His righteousness.

The righteousness of God is the security of every man's destiny. When that righteousness is not at work destiny is at a risk.

Faith is also worth your access to divine nature. The following two scriptures bring this fact out clearly,

Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth

(Mk. 9:23).

Secondly,

And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible

(Mk. 10:27).

From the two scriptures above, we can conclude that Jesus said that if thou canst believe all things are possible to him that believeth. When faith is at work a believer no longer operates within natural limits but is translated into a divine realm. Faith is worth your translation from the human realm to the divine realm where you function in the very class of God; commanding results after the order of God.

You will recall how they said about Paul and Barnabas, the gods have come down to us in the likeness of men because they were operating above the human realm (Acts 14:1) the faith of God.

Faith connects you with the flow

of divine virtue which supernaturally enhances your natural value.

Someone testified that while he was reading the book *Satan Get Lost* he discovered that he shares the same nature with God and faith immediately came alive in him. This in turn activated the healing virtue and his stammering tongue was loosed so that he began to speak fluently. Jesus said to the woman with the issue of blood who was healed after touching Him, *'Thy faith has made thee whole'* (Lk. 8:40-48).

When that woman came on the faith line, virtue came through and her value was enhanced, she was made whole.

Faith is worth the manifestation of signs and wonders:

And these signs shall follow them that believe...

(Mk. 16:17a).

When faith comes alive, it puts the believer in command of signs and wonders.

A sign is the evidence of God at work. When faith is at work, you get God on the line at will.

Faith also guarantees total victory,

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

1 John 5:4

Every problem in this world answers to the authority of faith. Every situation and circumstances of life must answer to the authority of Bible faith. Faith is worth your total victory in the conflicts of life. Faith can rewrite your story any day, any time.

There is no doubt about the will of God. He said,

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

(3 Jhn. 2).

God has come that you might have life and have it more abundantly. God is not playing games, He is not behind the failures you are going through, He is not the author of the frustrations

around you, don't let the devil deceive you like he deceived Job. Job thought it was God and he spent most of his time suffering under ignorance but we read in our Bible that Satan went forth and smote Job, not God, God didn't smite him.

If Job knew this the first day that would be the end of Satan's attack. God said my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hos. 4:6). If God is behind your trouble why are you calling Him to remove it? He went about healing all them that were oppressed of the devil, not oppressed by God.

Without a reaction based on truth, there cannot be triumph. I want a Holy

reaction stirred up within against everything that is not of God.

Faith guarantees your total protection in this wicked world. The Bible says we are kept by the power of God through faith (1 Pet. 1:5). Therefore, faith is worth your eternal security. How? The answer is in Paul's letter to the Ephesians:

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked
Eph. 6:16

Faith is worth your eternal security as you journey through this wicked world.

Faith guarantees your total health. Two blind men came to Jesus

crying, and Jesus said,

And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou son of David, have mercy on us.

And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord.

Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you.
(Matt. 9:27-29).

Faith is worth your total health.

Another worth of faith is that, **faith always sees the unseen and celebrates the invisible.**

By faith he forsook Egypt, not

fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible

Heb. 11:27

Faith always celebrates the reality of the future. Faith guarantees ever-flowing joy, joy unspeakable, full of glory, making you look like crazy, but that is creating the correct environment for divine intervention.

The more lively you are, the more faith you are operating in. It is the level of your faith that determines the level of your joy.

Again, faith guarantees the ever-abiding presence of God. In the book of Daniel, the three Hebrew boys, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego were thrown in the fiery furnace but came

out unhurt (Dan.3). Later, Daniel was thrown in the den of hungry lions and he came out unhurt (Dan. 5). One unique thing that characterized both events was divine presence. The Bible says through faith they quenched the fiery furnace.

In the case of Daniel, he said God had sent His angel to shut the mouth of lions that they did him no harm. Divine presence. Through faith they quenched the furnace of fire, they stopped the mouth of the lions (Heb. 11:33, 34). When you are operating in Bible faith you carry divine presence with you naturally and do you know what that means? At His presence the mountains flow down, obstacles melt wherever

you step into.

When Israel went out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language;

Judah was his sanctuary, and Israel his dominion.

The sea saw it, and fled: Jordan was driven back.

The mountains skipped like rams, and the little hills like lambs.

What ailed thee, O thou sea, that thou fleddest? thou Jordan, that thou wast driven back?

Ye mountains, that ye skipped like rams; and ye little hills, like lambs?

Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob

(Ps. 114:1-7).

Every time faith is in place, divine presence is provoked and when you provoke divine presence you level out the mountain because no mountain can stand before Him.

Faith is the guarantee for answers to your prayers. *“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed”* (Jms. 1:5, 6). Faith is the guarantee for answers to your prayers. Jesus said,

whatever you desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them and ye

shall have them

(Mk. 11:24,).

Prayer is not answered on the number of hours you pray, your posture in prayer or even your crying.

How many hours you stay in prayer is not a function of your spirituality, in most cases, it's a function of your ignorance.

Jesus' prayers were very short and effectual. Somebody died; He said, Father I thank you for you have heard me, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth. Jesus said, 'they think that by their much speaking they shall be heard. That means the volume of your prayer is not a factor in determining your answers. *Believe that*

ye receive them and ye shall have them.
That means faith is the guarantee for answers to your prayers.

Finally, **faith guarantees a heaven on earth lifestyle.**

But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (that is, to bring Christ down from above:)

Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach.

That if thou shalt confess with thy

mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him

Rom. 10:6-12

Jesus came to show us what heaven looks like. He came out of heaven to show us the heavenly lifestyle that we lost in the first Adam so as to bring us back into it.

He came to make the kingdom of heaven a reality on the earth and the word of faith in your heart and through your mouth is what makes heaven on earth a reality. That is you are out of heaven, living on earth displaying heavenly immunities, the kind that Jesus carried.

Whatever you can't find in Christ, the Word of faith forbids it to be found in your life.

Look again at those values we have stated: faith guarantees your carrying the divine nature; faith guarantees you divine presence; it links you up with divine virtue.

Total health, eternal security, put you in command of signs and wonders,

grants you access to joy unspeakable in the midst of conflicts, access to redemption, access to His righteousness, everything points to the fact that your destiny is at the mercy of your faith. Everything about you and I is determined by faith.

Knowing all these values of faith will help you understand and appreciate its all important relevance to your destiny. One hundred and twenty days of fasting is no substitute for faith, don't kill yourself. Without faith is it impossible to move God and he that cometh to God must believe (Heb. 11:6). Faith is a must for God to move.

I came across this testimony in an

article written by Don Basham in the New Wine Magazine July 1982 edition, "I once received a letter of testimony from a young housewife who had had polio and been on crutches for six years. She had been sitting in her laundry room reading "face up with a miracle." Without realizing God had touched her as she read, she got up, walked over to the washing machine and was emptying it out before she realized she had left her crutches behind. The Lord had healed her, as she sat in the chair reading the book."

Now it is time for your own miracle, faith puts you in command of signs and wonders and whatever will take God only requires a sign. A sign is

an evidence of God at work. That means whatever can't stand God can't stand a sign from above. Faith guarantees your total victory, faith guarantees your total health and your total security of your destiny.

This is the victory that overcomes the world even our faith. He said taking the shield of faith to quench all the fiery darts of the devil. I'll like you to go in the heat of this reaction and think of whatever is contrary to your total victory, total health, whatever is contrary to signs and wonders, that is making you live in regret, stagnation and frustration. I'll like you to focus on them now and begin to bring them down in the name of Jesus Christ. Faith

makes you smarter than your challenges. Faith sees challenges as stepping stones and not stumbling blocks. Whatever is possible with God is possible with faith.

IT IS ALL ABOUT FAITH, NOT LUCK

There is no devil in hell that can challenge the authority of Bible based faith. Once faith is at work, every devil bows. When you are confronted with any challenge, take the shield of faith required to deal with that situation, confront it and conquer it. Go to the treasure house of God, take the appropriate instrument of faith required to deal with that situation, and you will surely overcome.

Life does not answer to luck but to light. The Bible says it is to you according to your faith not according to your luck. To walk in the supernatural, you must employ the supernatural faith.

Can you imagine Jesus cursed a fig tree and it died! That is the supernatural at work. Jesus commanded the supernatural throughout His earthly journey. If you want to command the same order of miracles, you must be ready to have a deep insight in the word of God. You too can calm the storm, raise the dead, curse the devil; it's all in your level of faith. If you want to display the supernatural, leave the realm of Little

faith, grow into Great faith, that is the supernatural level of faith, and that is what commands signs, wonders and miracles!

The creative faith leads to creative miracles. You can do mighty works, you can command the miraculous, it all depends on your level of faith. Jesus operated on a supernatural level of faith, that was why He commanded the supernatural.

Supernatural faith puts you in total control in the midst of conflict when you stand on the word of God through the enabling of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit opens you up to the word of God and your faith creates your world. Although the things are not there, you

can bring them there.

When you operate the supernatural faith, you are supernaturally reinforced on the inside and you begin to produce according to your command. The Spirit of God searches all things, even the deep things of God. He enables you to get unusual insight, that will deliver, unusual results. Supernatural faith comes by the enabling of the Holy Spirit, granting you access into unusual depth in the things of God. You can study your way into Great faith, but it will require the supernatural help of the Holy Spirit to operate in the realm supernatural faith.

One great day, the Holy Spirit revealed to me my authority, over

sickness and disease. He told me God has life in Him because by one breath, He brought the whole of man alive. One breath gave birth to the flesh, bones, marrow, blood, water and all the organs of the body; the lungs, the kidneys, the heart. Everything was put in place by one breath, and since I have the life of the Father in me, I can bring anything to life. I never read it in any book in my life, the Holy Spirit, supernaturally came to open the chapter of supernatural manifestation to me. The following day after I got this revelation, a little boy who had polio was brought to me. I took the hospital report, I squeezed it and threw it away. "That's not relevant, I have the

answer”, I said. I took the leg of the boy, and breathed on it and I said, “It is over”. They later brought the boy to the Church and he was jumping about on the altar. Thank God polio is gone.

Chapter 2 - WHAT IS FAITH?

Before I define faith, it is important that you understand these basic facts about it. Faith is a universal currency; it delivers at the same rate in every nation of the earth. It has the same purchasing power all over the world. Everything about God and everything about your destiny has to do with faith. Faith is the foundation for the fulfillment of every vision, and the key for the realization of every mission, dream and purpose.

Without faith it is impossible to

move God and Jesus said, without Him, you can do nothing (John 15:5). It's very important to understand that without faith, you are bound to fail because;

Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.

It is vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: for so he giveth his beloved sleep.

Ps. 127:1-2

Without faith we cannot get at God, and without God, according to scriptures, we can do nothing, our building is bound to fall. Therefore, without faith, there is no future. Faith

is it! It is faith that makes all the difference

See how God's word places faith in relation to other virtues:

And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;

And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;

And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Pet. 1:5-8

He said, *giving all diligence add to your faith...* we don't add faith to anything, you add everything else to faith. Faith is the baseline for fulfillment in every area of life. Absolute faith equals absolute victory. Why? Because faith commits God's integrity and when God is committed, the deed is done.

Victory becomes a way of life when faith is actively at work. We have to be delivered from the belief system of the world, which promulgates faith in dreams and faith in self. "Have a vision, believe in yourself, you'll accomplish it!" they say. This philosophy can be most destructive. It doesn't work that way in God's

kingdom. Paul the apostle said, we are the circumcision that worships God in spirit, we rejoice in Christ Jesus, and we have no confidence in the flesh (Philip. 3:3). *Faith is a demonstration of confidence in God not confidence in self. The Bible says;*

Thus saith the Lord; cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord.

For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited.

Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is.

For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit

Jer. 17:5-8

That is the difference between the belief system of the world and the belief system of the kingdom. Faith in God is what makes the journey of life great. Every outstanding thing in the kingdom of God is a direct product of faith in God.

Have you ever realized that every test, is a test of faith? The Bible says that, *The trying of your faith...* (James

1:3). Every test that we will ever confront in our journey is a test of faith to find out if you are depending on yourself or you are depending on God; wether you are looking up to God, looking to yourself or looking around. If every test is a test of faith then you need a fight of faith to go through. As Paul said,

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

1 Tim. 6:12

Without faith, you are bound to fail. We are told in scriptures that God tested Abraham, and at the end of it, He said, *“now I know that thou fearest me”*

(Gen. 22:1).

Remember also that when Satan came against Peter, Jesus said “I’ve prayed for you that thy faith faileth not” (Lk. 22:32). That means, without faith, you and I don’t have a future and I believe that is why this book is in your hands: for God to teach you the steps to take towards the realization of your desires!

WHAT THEN IS FAITH?

In my view, faith is not a philosophical fact; it is a spiritual force. Faith is not a psychological force, it is a supernatural force. Faith is not an intellectual fact; faith is a spiritual force. Faith is living force drawn from the living Word to produce living proofs. You will recall the woman with the issue of blood as narrated in Luke 8:43-48, how she went forth and touched the hem of the garment of Jesus and was made whole. You will also note that Jesus knew in Himself that virtue had gone out of Him. When He asked who touched Him, the woman came out trembling

for fear but Jesus said to her “daughter, thy faith had made thee whole.”

You will notice that this woman drew virtue from the living word, which produced a living proof in her body and the flow of blood starched.

But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.

Matt. 9:22

Therefore, faith can be defined as a living force drawn from the living Word to produce living proofs. Every time you come to a point of faith on any truth of scriptures, virtue is transmitted from the Word into your

mortal being, to produce a living proof, validating the content of that scripture in your life.

Furthermore, we have always thought that faith is just believing God. No! Remember the Bible says, even the devil also believes and shivers! Therefore, faith is not just believing God. Look at the life of Abraham who stands out as an example of faith that works. God said to him:

...Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee:

And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a

blessing:

And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

After this, we read that, *And Abram departed...* (Gen. 12:1-4). No excuses, Abraham departed without delay. Later on, God said to him, “I want to establish a covenant between you and me. You will circumcise every male born in your home, and the bible said the same day, Abraham used a stone to circumcise himself and his sons (Gen. 17). The same day! A few chapters after this, God said to Abraham,

Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee

into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.

And Abraham rose up early in the morning...

Gen. 22:2-3

Therefore, faith is not just believing God, faith is obeying *God*, to *prove that you believe* Him, so as to commit him to perform His word. Everybody believes God for abundance, but how many people are obeying God for abundance? Everybody is believing God for Divine health, but how many people are obeying the demands of the scriptures for divine health?

Obedience was the stronghold of

Abraham's faith. When you obey the truth, because the scripture cannot be broken, God is committed to perform. God has demonstrated His commitment to the obedience of faith in my own life. At one time, God said to me, "As you pastor this one church (talking about our church in Lagos) the world will become your parish, for I have ordained you to serve your generation." We had a facility before we moved to our new location, but here was God saying to me, I must pastor only one church and this property we owned was very beautiful and could no more accommodate the crowd. The only large enough parcel of land was far into the bush. It was so far away, that even

when I was being taken there for the first time, I said, Never! God himself understands enough Geography, to know that this won't work. As I stood there to thank God for all the trouble the people had taken to locate this property, God said "this is the place" before I even finished. How can this be the place? But I heard God say very clearly, "This is the place!" The distance was about 40 kilometres away from the old church. With reliable means of transportation available, far from everybody, yet God said that was the place. Then I thought it must be for the future. My plan was to get our church members who are farmers, to get ready to take up the land for their

farming, so that whenever we are ready, we will give them notice to have our land back. But God said no, it was now.

We moved into the place, contrary to every church growth principle under heaven. Under three weeks everybody had moved to the new place. I mean everybody. Everybody! How they got there, only God could tell. You could imagine that by 6am in the morning, people were already at the new location for a 9am service, on their own, by their own means, and at their own cost. At the same time, the church income increased. We were far from the city, far from everybody, but close to God. It does not matter where God tells you

to go, if it is God, that's where to go. Where you are is not your problem, your stand with God has been your obstacle. It was in that bush that I saw for the first time in my life, about 3,000 people gave their lives to Christ in a church service. It was another Pentecost indeed, right inside the bush. You see it is proved here again that faith is not just believing God, it is obeying God to prove that you believe Him so as to commit Him to perform His word.

You must have discovered at this point that faith is no cheap talk, faith is hard work. After God instructed us to move to the new location, I had to study the wilderness ministry of Jesus

from the gospels. I discovered He was constantly away out of the city yet how multitudes kept running after Him to hear Him. They were always there to hear Him, and to be healed of their diseases. I believe that because He has not changed, He will do it again. I came to a point of faith - Lord, if that is what you have said, that's where am going, and whatever happened when you were in the wilderness will happen again now and so we moved. This is very important! No wonder the Word says, study to show yourself approved unto God, as a workman that will not be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth (2 Tim. 2:15).

We understand from scriptures that

the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed (1Sam. 2:3).

This implies that God watches your actions to determine His intervention. There was a barren woman named Hannah in the Bible. She went to Shiloh and prayed fervently. Then the high priest came around and said to her, “Your petitions are granted,” we are told she went home and took bread and her countenance was no more sad. Subsequently, the Bible records that God visited her, and she brought forth a son, by the name Samuel (1 Sam. 1:20). Hannah put up an acceptable behaviour for God to intervene.

Therefore, faith is not just believing God, faith is behaving the

Word of God so as to become the will of God. Concerning God's word, there are things to obey and there are things to behave. For example, it is God's will for me to prosper and be in health and Joy is a scriptural therapy for health:

A merry heart doeth good like a medicine, but a broken spirit drieth the bones

Prov. 17:22

A man's spirit shall sustain his infirmity, but a broken spirit who can bear?

Prov. 18:14

So if you want to become God's will which is divine health, then you must behave God's word in this regard which is joy.

You can't be healthy, no matter how much you confess God's word, if you are not joyful. A merry heart services the body, the lungs, the liver, the blood, etc, like a medicine. This is very vital, very crucial, very important! Faith is behaving God's word.

The bible said about Abraham, that he did not stagger at God's promise through unbelief, being fully persuaded that what God had promised, He was also able to perform (Rom. 4:20-21). To be fully persuaded means that you have reasoned through. "If God said so, then He should be able to do so, because of this that He did the other time and so on and so forth. I am now convinced, based on these reasons that

what God said, He will do, He is able to do.” Did you get that? That is why I said earlier on that, faith is no cheap talk, faith is hard work. You have to reason with God, among other things.

Faith is reasoning with God in His word to determine your steps in this world so as to have your desires delivered.

We need a lot of meditation to access the deep things of God. I was meditating one day on the great creation story, and I came to a point where I saw that God moulded clay, breathed into that clay and man became a living soul. Then something occurred to me. One breath made man a living soul, so every organ in man's body

came out of that one breath - the kidney, the lungs, the liver, the heart, the blood, the water, there was no water in the clay! There were no lungs moulded, it was just one block and one breath created everything that creates a man. And Jesus said in John chapter 5 as The Father has life in Himself, so its given to the Son to have life in Himself, and the Son can quicken whomsoever He will (vs 26). And I heard the Son say to me as the Father has sent me, even so send I you. But I had a problem. I was taught in school, that when I breathe out, what comes out is carbon dioxide and I found out from God's word that what is coming out of me is life, not carbon dioxide.

Just as the truth dawned on me, the child of one of our staff was rushed to me, who was diagnosed as having Polio. It was the same morning I was in this deep meditation on the breath of life and I was very conscious of this fact, so that when they brought the little boy to me, I smiled and I said, this must be the reason why the Holy Spirit took me through that deep thing today. I grabbed the boy's legs and said to God you don't have a big problem here, this is not clay, this is flesh already, so to perfect it is a cheaper job than to create flesh out of clay.

I took the two legs and breathed on them, and I said thank you Jesus. The following Sunday, the boy was running

around the platform. Ever since then, whenever anyone is brought to me with HIV, and we had a track record of many in our outreaches around Africa, I speak that Word to them, that there is life in me by the breath of God Himself, and that life was what created every organ of the body. Every time that can put it right if any thing is wrong there, and they open their mouth and I breath into them and HIV virus dies. Every time that is done the supernatural happens. Therefore, faith is reasoning with God in His word, to determine your steps in this world, so as to have your desires delivered.

Faith is not a theological subject, rather, faith is a mystery. He said

holding the mystery of faith in a pure conscience (1 Tim. 3:9). A mystery connotes God's secret concealed in scriptures. So faith involves divine secrets and when we understand divine secrets, it become easy to flow to operate in faith.

Faith is seeing it the way God sees it and you see as far as your eyes can see, it shall be given to you. For instance, I am aware that Christ has raised me up together with Him and has made me to sit together with Him in heavenly places. Now where is this place? Ephesians says,

Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in

this world, but also in that which is to come

Eph. 1:21

I saw the picture of being far above and that mentality has helped me against any struggle with demonic people. I am not at the same level with them, you so I can't be struggling with them. That's what God says, and I see it with Him and as I walk in the consciousness of it, I have unusual victory.

The problem with many believers is ignorance. Until you begin to see the way God sees, you may remain stranded for life. Satan is not your only problem. There is no mountain anywhere, every man's ignorance is his

mountain. The entrance of His word gives light, and that light shines in darkness, and darkness comprehended it not (Ps. 119:130; John 1:5). Whenever you get at the appropriate Word, you keep the devil permanently under your feet. There is a level of light you possess that before you will say, "Come out of him", every demonic person will be set free. Jesus had that experience and you can have it too. See it the way God sees it, so that you can keep commanding the same order of results that He commanded.

What you believe determines what you become. As many as believe... Faith is essentially a spiritual converter, it converts the Word to

power.

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.

Rom. 1:16

It is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believes. Therefore, faith again can be defined as the power point that enables us to become what we have believed.

I found out one truth early in ministry, I found that God is no respecter of persons, but in every nation, including Nigeria, everyone that fears Him and walks uprightly, is accepted with Him (Acts 10:34-35).

God is no respecter of colour, God is no respecter of race, God is only a respecter of His Word. Now, that turned me on! That turned me on! And let me say with all humility, everything done in our mission today, is done using indigenous technology, indigenous funding, indigenous everything! Because I found that truth and I began to walk in the reality of it.

The second scripture I found that is tied to it, said now I know that there is no difference between the Jews and the Greeks, the same Lord over all, is rich unto all that call upon him, (Rom. 10:12). From those revelations I came to understand that prosperity is not a citizen of any nation but the Lord over

all is rich unto all that call upon Him.

You are not disadvantaged, you are not underprivileged, all you need is brighter light, and that's what God is passing across to you in this book, may you take full advantage of it.

Faith is not an intellectual fact, faith is a spiritual force, what you believe, determines how you behave, and how you behave determines what you become. Faith is the covenant trigger for the release of the supernatural (Lk. 1:45). We have to get back to base, we have to go back to begin at the beginning, giving all diligence, **add to you faith**. And Paul said, *above all, taking the shield of faith*. Faith is above all! (Eph 6:16). I

know you have the whole armour of God, but above all, take the shield of faith.

Let me conclude at this point by summarizing my definition of faith this way, I see faith as a spiritual power point, that translates mortality into immortality, exchanges the natural, for the supernatural, and translates the human into the divine realm. Why do I say that?

Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth

Mark 9:23

If you can believe, your status is supernaturally changed, you are now able to handle what only God can

handle. Therefore, he that believeth is no longer just man, he is no longer just natural, he has become supernatural.

Chapter 3 - IT'S A GREAT PROFESSION

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

Heb. 10:23

Faith is not just a mere confession; faith is a great profession. Faith is not just saying what God says; faith is doing what God says. Faith is not faith until it is professed!

Your faith must go beyond confession; it must grow to the level where you begin to act it. The great profession of faith is all about what

you do, not what you say. Your faith is strengthened by your action, without action, faith is dead!

Faith is the wisdom of God in operation, and the wisdom of God is in putting the word of God to work. Doing what God says in His word is wisdom and that is graphically painted in the gospel of Matthew,

Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.

And everyone that heareth these

sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand:

And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.

Matt. 7:24-27

Wisdom is in doing the Word. And it only takes faith to make this happen. Without faith, you can never be motivated to do the word of God.

Therefore, faith can be defined as the wisdom of God in action.

The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools.

Prov. 3:35

And when you are operating in

wisdom, you will have the promises of the Father fulfilled in your life. The Bible says, the wise shall inherit glory. So, when you do what the Lord says in faith, you are sure of a glorious end.

When faith is at work, glory is the end product. That means, the more faith you operate in, the more glory you experience. The more you do what God says, the more of His glory you command. So, don't reduce faith to mere confession, faith is a profession. That's why the Bible says holding fast the profession of your faith unto the end, for faithful is He that has promised (Hebrews 10:23). Hold fast unto your profession to the end, not your confession, for faithful is He that

has promised.

Please understand that faith is all about accepting scriptural responsibility for the result you desire. Faith is doing what God says, no matter how foolish it may appear, after all, faith is the ‘foolishness’ of God, programmed for the greatness of whosoever believes.

Ezekiel was not just a mere ‘confessor’ of faith; he was a great professor of faith. Let’s see what made him one: God told Ezekiel to prophesy unto some bones in the valley of dry bones, and he wasn’t standing there saying, “I know God can make these bones live again”, he actually professed faith by prophesying to the dry bones.

Let's see what happened: God said to him, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And Ezekiel answered, "Thou knowest." And God said to him, "Prophecy son of man, prophecy to the dry bones". And Ezekiel said; "And I prophesied as I was commanded and there was a noise and a movement among dry bones and as I beheld, flesh covered them, and skin covered the flesh and they became dead bodies in the valley. And God said prophecy to the winds. And as I prophesied, breath came upon them and there arose a mighty host unto God." This in my view is a graphic demonstration of the great confession of faith in the vision of Ezekiel.

You will also recall that when Jesus went to the wedding at Cana of Galilee and wine was finished and they met Mary, “We have no wine, we are in trouble, shame is here.” And Mary preached one of the greatest messages in the world, “Whatever He tells you to do, do it!” She didn’t say whatever He tells you to do say it! She said do it! Do it! Faith is in doing, it is not just in saying!

Doing is the anchor of faith – Whatever He tells you to do, do it! It is doing that makes faith produce! Faith is no mere confession; faith is a great profession. The people at the marriage in Cana of Galilee were not confessing, “We have wine.” They actually filled

the water pots with water and the Master said, "Take a cup of it and give it to the governor of the feast." And the governor said "Why have you kept this better wine till now?"

I like you to understand that faith is not an ordinary confession, many have stopped at confession, that is why they are victims of frustration! Today, the charismatic body has reduced faith to mere confession. Many have confessed, without obeying, no wonder they have never had a breakthrough.

In James chapter 2 verses 14 to 22, we have a powerful analysis of this subject. James said,

What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and

have not works? Can faith save him?

If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food,

And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?

Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

But wilt thou know, O vain man,

that faith without works is dead?

Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar?

Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect?

Did you see that? When faith is limited to mere confession, it is a dead faith. And dead faith will produce dead result, because like begets like. Faith is no mere confession; faith is a great profession.

The woman with the issue of blood in Matthew chapter 9 verses 20 to 22 said in her heart, “If I may but touch the hem of His garment, I would be made whole”. But she didn’t just stop

at mere saying it in her heart, she actually proceeded to do it. She touched the hem of Jesus' garment and she was made whole! If she was there confessing "I am healed", and never reached out to touch Jesus, she would never have been healed! Faith is not only in saying, it is in both saying and doing!

Faith is obedience to the word of God. Faith is not psychology, faith is not tactics, faith is raw obedience to the raw commandments of God. But the good news is that His commandments are not grievous. They are not designed to punish you; His commandments are designed to polish you, to make you shine.

I have not been going around saying “I have money”, I’ve been busy doing what makes a man have money. I have applied myself to the demands of the covenant of abundance, which is not limited to giving alone; it answers to giving and working. Working is the channel through which God blesses you. God says He will bless the work of your hands, not just the talk of your mouth.

I don’t care how hard you confess, if you are not a diligent worker, you are not a candidate for His blessings. Proverbs chapter 22 verse 29 says “Seeth thou a man diligent (skillful) in his business, he shall stand before kings, he shall not stand before mean

men.” Seeth thou a man diligent in his business, a man who is giving his best to his assignment, he shall stand before kings he shall not stand before mean men. To stay on your job, is to stay in command, and to be committed to your assignment is to be distinguished! Without working, you are not guaranteed of the future.

ABRAHAM, OUR GREAT EXAMPLE!

God spoke to Abraham, “Take thy son, thy only son, Isaac and I will show you a mountain where you will sacrifice him.” And the Bible recorded that, by faith, Abraham, when he was tested of God, took Isaac and was looking out for the mountain that God had spoken to him about, to sacrifice his only begotten son. That is faith! Abraham heard from the Lord and he wasn’t confessing it, he was doing it!

Faith is no cheap talk, faith is hard work. I want you to imagine the sweat

upon Abraham's face when he was climbing the mountain, taking his only begotten son along to kill. The stress of climbing is one, the pain of going to sacrifice his only begotten son is another. And for three days, he was going, he had more than enough room to change his mind, but he never did, he got there, grabbed his son which was another hard work, and tried to kill him, that was some nerve! Old man grabbing his son to kill! The son won't watch you kill him, the son was struggling to escape! He pressed the leg of the son, tied it with rope, pressed the hand tight and took a knife from his pocket. That's no cheap talk friend! That's hard work of a strange order.

Abraham was not a confessor of faith, Abraham was a professor of faith. Abraham never spoke to Sarah about his plot to sacrifice Isaac, because if he did, Sarah perhaps would have murdered Abraham himself. So, he secretly took the boy, his knife and some wood and headed for the mountains to kill the child of promise. So, Abraham wasn't just chanting God's words, he was doing God's words.

Let me tell you, merely confessing the Scripture is a waste of time! Stop confessing the Scriptures, start professing it! Abraham didn't become a father of faith just by confessing the Word, he was professing the Word.

Many have confessed the Word to a point that they are now confused! Others have confessed and are now confounded! It is important to note again that faith is no cheap talk, faith is hard work. Do you know how Abraham ended his journey? He was old and well stricken in age and the Lord had blessed him in all things (Genesis 24:1). Wonderful isn't it? If you also want to end your earthly journey like that, then you must do like Abraham did!

ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY

Let me tell you, obedience will destroy every satanic opposition in your own affairs. For your victory to be established, your obedience to the word of God must be in place. There are things you must never think. And there are things you must never say for your glorious destiny to be put in place. You must accept the discipline of the faith. The disciplines of the faith! I knew we were going to have an ever growing church because the Lord said to me, "My son, keep sowing the seed, and as the grass grows, the sheep will come for it. And keep the grass green and the

sheep will lie down there for he makes me to lie down in green pastures.” And in the parable of the sower, the seed is the word of God. They won’t have anywhere else to go, for He maketh me to lie down on green grass, green pasture. Now that is not a promise, that is a responsibility. “My son, this church will grow, as long as you are committed to sowing the seed of life into the lives of men, keep watering it, and as the pasture remains green, all the sheep will lie down there.” Since then, I have committed myself to preaching nothing but the Word. Today, we have in this ministry, great men and women who have been here for two decades. Some have been here

since inception, with delight, not with force or tricks. If I hadn't accepted responsibility, we would not have had a growing and healthy church today. Thank God I accepted responsibility.

Accepting responsibility is what makes it happen! Take responsibility in your walk with God. Enoch walked with God and was not because God took him. Enoch took responsibility to walk with God, and this made his way please the Lord. When you also walk with the Lord, your way will please the Lord, and when your way pleases the Lord, He will make even your enemies to be at peace with you.

What is God asking you to do next? Accept responsibility and do it, it is in

doing it that your next phase of glory lies! Get delighted, get excited; God is not a taskmaster; He is a loving Father. He wants to turn you to the envy of your world, therefore, accept responsibility now!

I like you to receive grace for delightsome compliance with the commandments of God. Everyone of God's commandment is for your benefit. All scripture is given by the inspiration of God and it is for the profitability of mankind.

As you begin to obey God's word, I see God dazing you with immeasurable blessings!

Chapter 4 - UNDERSTANDING IS IT!

In this chapter, we'll be looking at the source of faith and the access to faith. It's one thing to know what you are looking for it's another thing to know where it can be found and it's another thing to know how to get it. We've found out what faith is. Now, where do we find faith? And what does it take to access it?

We've heard from God's word that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God (Rom. 10:17). The only source of real faith is the word of

God. Now we know where it is found but what then does it take to access it? The principal access to faith in God's word is **Understanding**. The Bible says in Proverbs 4:7,

Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. Understanding is the guaranteed access to faith in the word of God. We need to recognize the power of understanding in the school of faith. Understanding is the master key to faith in God's word.

You will recall how the Holy Ghost told Philip to join himself to the chariot of the Ethiopian eunuch. Philip met this man reading from Isaiah chapter 53 and he asked him one

simple question:

“Understandest thou what thou readeſt?”

Do you understand what you are reading? You know what it is but do you understand it? And you remember the reſponſe of the humble man.

Then Philip took him up and immediately his understanding opened and he came across a certain water and the man asked, “Here is water, is anything forbidding me from being baptized?” Philip replied, “If thou believe thou mayeſt”. And the Ethiopian ſaid, “I believe!” (Acts 8:26-38). You can't doubt what you understand.

Now let me come to biblical

perspective of what understanding means. Understanding is being able to see what God is saying. If I show you a white handkerchief, will you believe that it's a white handkerchief? Now why will you believe this? It is because you can see it. No man in his right mind ever doubts what he can see. Therefore, when you get to a point when you can see what God is saying, faith automatically comes alive. This is very important, you don't have to practice how to confess God's word, you begin to speak it naturally because you have seen it. As the apostles said when challenged, we cannot but speak those things we have heard and have seen (Acts. 4:20). Under pressure you

may drop what you have heard but no matter the pressure you can't doubt what you've seen. Understanding is being able to see what God is saying and when you are able to see, that is the end of doubt. No wonder David prayed,

Open thou mine eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of thy law.

Ps. 119:18

You can't see the wonders in the Word except by the opening of the eyes of your understanding. These wonders are packaged in letters, it takes the opening of the eyes of your understanding to see the wonders within the letters. When you see into the wonders then you stop wandering and you become a wonder!

Imagine a friend explaining something to you and a time comes you look like someone who is lost. Then he explains again and as he keeps at it suddenly you voice out; 'Oh I see, I see, I see.' You were hearing it before but it didn't make any sense, then suddenly you saw! That is what understanding is all about.

You also remember what the Bible records that when Jesus came out from the grave in the gospel of Luke,

And, behold, two of them went that same day to a village called Emmaus, which was from Jerusalem about threescore furlongs.

And they talked together of all these things which had happened.

And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them.

But their eyes were holden that they should not know him

Lk. 24:13–16

Their eyes were withheld, so they could not know Jesus. He was with them, just like you have the Bible in your hand and you are suffering all forms of afflictions yet the answer is in the book that is in your hands. Later on, Jesus walked with them and they could not know him.

And it came to pass, as he sat at meat with them, he took bread, and blessed it, and brake, and gave to them.

And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight

(Verse 30-31).

Their eyes were holden in verse 16, and their eyes were opened in verse 31. They were not physically blind but their understanding was darkened. The same way God is in the midst of His church today but many can't see Him.

Now look at verse 45,

...then opened He their understanding.

That gives an understanding of the fact that their eyes were holden. Their eyes were opened simply means their understanding came alive.

Then opened He their

understanding that they might understand the scriptures.

When you truly begin to understand the scriptures you are on your way to earning an outstanding future.

Every outstanding result begins with understanding because you can't understand it and not believe it and you cannot believe it and not become it. God's words says it is to you according to your faith (Matt. 9:29). Thus, what you believe determines what you become.

It's so interesting. Faith becomes automatic when understanding comes alive. You are no longer doubting; is He there, is He not there, you are consistently consistent because you

have seen it.

You have heard it, you have seen it so it becomes impossible to doubt it. No one ever doubts what he sees, so, your faith is at the mercy of your understanding. When you are void of understanding you are as good as dead.

The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead.

Prov. 21:16

Also, we are told that the just shall live by faith and without understanding there cannot be faith (Rom. 1:17). Understanding is very crucial to you and I in our walk with God. Without understanding we are no better than dead.

Everything about your life and destiny is packaged in that book called the Bible. It is your understanding that opens up those things chapter by chapter. Without understanding you are stranded, without understanding you are grounded because there is no access to faith without understanding.

With spiritual understanding you are gunning for an outstanding destiny no matter what the devil may be doing against you. God said my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge (Hos. 4:6). It also says, My people are gone into captivity because they have no knowledge (Isa. 5:13). And Jesus also said, you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free and by

knowledge shall my just one be delivered (John 8:32; Prov. 11:9). So, if you want true freedom then you will need insight into God's word.

What is understanding? Understanding can be defined as possessing a working knowledge of the word of God. Not just knowing it but knowing how it works, knowing what it takes for it to deliver, that's understanding. Knowing what it takes for it to deliver, that's understanding.

When confronted with the challenge of feeding 5000 men (minus women and children), the Bible said

Jesus Himself knew what He would do

(John 6:6).

He didn't just know what is written, He knew what He will do and I suppose what He did in that whole episode was the application of Psalm 67:1-7

Let the people praise thee, O God; let all the people praise thee. Then shall the earth yield her increase; and God, even our own God, shall bless us. God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

Jesus knew that for God to cause the earth to yield what you desire, you have to praise Him. So, He lifted up His hands and gave thanks and when He gave thanks the bread and fish multiplied (John 6:1-13). He didn't only know what was written, He knew how to make it deliver. So, the ministry

of Jesus had its foundation in understanding:

And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers

Lk. 2:47

That is, possessing a working knowledge of the truth. That's understanding.

No one succeeds by accident, no accident is a success, everything that is working well must be working on principles. And what are mysteries? They are the principles of the kingdom embedded in scriptures, and unfolded to mankind for victorious living.

Faith will remain fake without understanding. It will be there when

things are normal and when you are really confronted, you may begin to look elsewhere.

Spiritual understanding will earn you an outstanding destiny in Christ. Comparing spiritual things with spiritual not mixing up with earthly things; that's what we are talking about.

CHANNELS OF UNDERSTANDING

How do we get to walk in the realm of understanding? What does it take to walk into dimensions of understanding? What are the ways to spiritual understanding?

Meditation

The first channel of understanding in scriptures is called meditation.

In the prophetic writings of David in the Psalms, this is what he says

about meditation:

O how I love thy law! it is my meditation all the day.

Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me.

I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation.

I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts

Ps. 119:97-100

Understanding comes through the channel of meditation.

Meditation can be defined as thinking through God's word on a subject matter for details. Why did He say this? What does it stand for? What

has it to offer me? Every scripture carries a definite profit. All scriptures is given by the inspiration of God and all scripture is profitable (2 Tim. 3:16).

We learnt from the book of Hebrews that the word preached “did not profit them not being mixed with faith in them that heard it” (Heb. 4:2). So, every word of God is designed for profiting.

God’s word also says,
meditate upon these things, give thyself wholly to them that thy profit may appear unto all

1 Tim. 4:15

Every scripture carries amazing profiting and this profiting can only be accessed through spiritual

understanding and one of the channels through which you encounter that is meditation. Thinking through a subject matter for details so you can maximize its values. Every scripture carries definite values.

Paul said give attendance to reading, to exhortation and to doctrines. And He said it's not enough but meditate upon them. Don't just let them drop on you without knowing what they stand for, grind them so as to squeeze the juice out of them in order to maximize their values.

Therefore, meditation can be defined as a mental grinding process of the truth for the purpose of squeezing the treasures out of them. We need

meditation time, not just intercessions and supplications. We need meditations to bring out what we need to do for God's word to deliver.

Somebody asked me some years back, 'What do you do with your time?' I said, I read and I think. I read and I think more, far more than I do any other thing. And in the process of pondering on the truth, amazing lights begin to beam at me that helps me to know which step to take to get to where I'm going.

The wisest man that ever lived in Bible history by name Solomon, engaged this channel of meditation for the wisdom that he possesses. Ecclesiastes 1:13, 16, 17,

And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all things... I communed with mine own heart... And I gave my heart to know wisdom...

You have been bombarding heaven with intercessions and supplications there is nothing wrong with them but until you do your part, God is not committed.

Meditation is, giving your heart to seek and to search out what is God saying. “Asking what is He saying for me to do and what do these things stand for?”

Meditation is a missing art today in the body of Christ and we need to get back to it. Isaac went out to the field to

meditate there, so it has to be consciously programmed (Gen. 24:63). Understanding comes via meditation.

Supplications

The second channel through which we contact understanding is Prayers. One of the most wicked demand ever asked in this world was asked by a king in Daniel chapter 2, who dreamt a dream but forgot what it was. Then he decreed that if the wise men in his domain don't tell him the dream and its interpretation, he will kill all of them. That is the most wicked demand under the sun. You dreamt, I wasn't in your

home, I didn't sleep on the same bed with you and then I must tell you the dream that even you have forgotten! In those days, the king had the power to kill and to make alive, so, they were all ready to die. It was a very difficult problem. It was the most wicked question that was ever asked. But Daniel spoke to the Eunuch, 'Give us time, we'll tell the king the dream and the interpretation thereof.' Then he told his three colleagues; Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and they prayed. We are told the result of that prayer later:

Then Daniel went to his house, and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions:

That they would desire mercies of the God of heaven concerning this secret; that Daniel and his fellows should not perish with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven.

Dan. 2:17-19

When you pray, ask, “Lord what is it? What must I do at this point to come out of here?” “What are you requiring me to do?” “What is it that I have missed out of that you intend for me to do?”

No matter what it is, you can access understanding through the prayer altar. If any man lacks wisdom, let him ask

of God who gives it liberally without calling anyone a fool.

If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him

Jms. 1:5

The reason we are not having breakthroughs is because we have not seen it. You can't see it God's way and refuse to go along.

You can't understand God and not go for Him. You can't understand the truth and reject it. What you reject is a proof of what you are yet to understand. How can you see peace and choose trouble? How can you see life and choose death? How can you see

abundance and choose poverty? It's not possible!

It's interesting to know that no temptation ever comes your way but such as is common to man (1 Cor. 10:13). You don't have a special problem, you are a victim of special ignorance.

I may not know where you are now and what you are going through but I'm glad to let you know, there's a way out for you!

Human guides

The third channel through which we contact understanding is through

human guides. I know quite a number of proud people will have a problem with that. There are some things you may never get through meditation and may never contact through supplication; you will have to listen to some men to find it. Let us look again at the story of the Ethiopian eunuch referred to earlier. When Philip asked him if he understood what he was reading, he said,

And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him

Acts 8:31

The Bible says,

Wherefore he saith, When he

ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men

Eph. 4:8

I want you to please take note of this, these human guides communicate through various media - books, videos, CDs, internet, television, radio, etc. He gave us these men for the perfecting of the understanding of the saints. They are people placed in the body of Christ to help you and I up to fulfil God's divine plan for our lives.

Now Daniel was a supernaturally gifted man, God gave him wisdom and skill in all learning and wisdom, yet the Bible records,

I Daniel understood by books

Dan. 9:2

If you are a leader and you are not a reader, you will soon be deposed. Every successful leader is a notable reader; it is by rubbing your little mind with greater minds that your little mind develops. Without such human guides, my life would have been totally shapeless. I'm a beneficiary of the ministry of human guides in the school of understanding.

It does not matter what you know, but there is much more that you don't know than all you have ever known. I remember I read a book Oswald J. Smith, *The Man God Uses* in 1976. The book gave me a clear understanding of the values and the virtues of dedication.

The same year, I read a book by T. L. Osborn titled 'The Purpose of Pentecost' which helped me to see the picture of the Holy Spirit as a personality. I didn't understand Him as a person before, I saw Him as the tongues that we speak, I saw Him as feelings, but I saw Him for the first time as a person through the ministry of T. L. Osborn in his book. When I saw Him as a person that talks and directs, I was filled with joy.

I was preaching prosperity before I understood it! I saw the promise so I kept telling people that God desires them to prosper and be in health but I didn't understand it. So, when I was attacked for preaching prosperity I

soft-pedaled because there was no strong enough a foundation.

Then I took Kenneth and Gloria Copeland books titled 'The Law of Prosperity' and 'God's Will is Prosperity' respectively and went on a three day retreat. It in Gloria Copeland's book I saw what I needed, something broke loose on my inside. No matter how hard you meditate, no matter how hard you pray, there are certain things that will require a human guide to get you into, you need to get in there.

Life is all about being open to learn. If you are not open to learn you will soon lose your life. There is so much in God; we are searching the

unsearchable. So, if someone has found something, link up with them. You can't ignore them, they are there, powerful people, men and women, sent to perfect our understanding so we can fulfill our destiny.

You have to willingly receive these guides or they cannot communicate to you. The Ethiopian eunuch desired that Philip should come into the chariot. And Philip began from the same scripture, he didn't open any other one and this guide guided him through darkness into light. And that same day the Ethiopian eunuch stepped out of hell into heaven.

Think of the man called Paul the Apostle, he was a bundle of revelations

but not just through meditation and intercession, Paul was a bookworm. In his letter to Timothy he wrote,

The cloke that I left at Troas with Carpus, when thou comest, bring with thee, and the books, but especially the parchments

2 Tim. 4:13

Paul broke forth into unusual revelations by attending to the ministry of human guides.

Whatever truth you have found remains your personal asset, so don't close up to human guides.

The Ministry of the Holy Ghost

I'm sure you must be surprised that I'm putting this one the last. The ministry of the Holy Spirit.

If you shut down on the first three, the Holy Spirit is helpless in communicating to you. The Holy Spirit is a helper, so He helps you in those three areas to maximize your input. That's what He does mainly.

Jesus said,

But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you

John 14:26

You will agree with me that there

are certain things you have read at home but as you go to church and the pastor opens up the same scripture, the Holy Ghost opens you up to deeper dimensions. This is why when you close up to the ministry of human guides, the Holy Ghost is helpless in helping you.

When I read the books I was referring to, it was the Holy Ghost who helped my understanding of what they were saying, others have read the same book perhaps and never saw what He helped me to see but He wouldn't read those books for me, I had to read them.

Also, when you are meditating, He's the one who helps to keep you on track. Similarly, when you're praying,

we are told,

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

Rom. 8:26

I know not what I should pray for as I ought, it is the Spirit himself that intercedes for me with groaning which cannot be uttered. The Holy Ghost has a specific and unique ministry of helps. He's principally your helper.

Jesus put it this way,

Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

John 16:11-13

The Holy Spirit shows you things to come and He guides you towards it. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is so vital, but He is helpless without your input.

The Bible said in prophecy,
the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; And shall make

him of quick understanding...

Isa. 11:1-2

What the Holy Spirit does is to enhance our understanding through all the channels earlier discussed.

Understanding is not a dormant process; it's an active process that has to be employed by every believer.

I believe now that you know that faith will remain fake without genuine spiritual understanding and spiritual understanding comes in four main ways; meditation, supplication, ministry of human guides and the direct ministry of the Holy Spirit. That's how to operate the winning faith, this is how to operate the overcomers' faith.

Chapter 5 - ENGAGE THE FORCE OF HOPE

In Hebrews chapter 11 verse 1, faith is defined as the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Did you notice the word HOPE? Hope is a strong force in the workings of faith. Without hope, faith becomes impotent, but many have completely relegated the place of hope in the subject of faith.

Without hope faith can't work. It is what you hope for that faith delivers. Faith is a spiritual force that provides practical evidence for what you hope

for. Faith gives substance to hope. In human reproduction, the woman has the egg, but without the sperm fertilizing it, a child cannot be born. In the same vein, if hope is not fertilized by faith, a miracle is never born.

When hope is dead, faith becomes impotent. Where hope does not exist, faith is helpless. We can therefore say hope is the wife of faith and their offspring is called good report! Faith is the husband of hope and when a man 'knows' his wife, (like in biblical terms), a child is born! When faith knows hope, a good report is born.

You must first have hope before you can say you have faith. If you don't have hope, that means your faith is

completely dead. It is hope first and then faith follows. Faith spiritually fertilizes your hope into reality. This implies if you can't see anything coming, nothing can ever come. If hope is not on ground, what then do you want to use faith for? Having faith without hope, is a sheer waste of time.

Many have lost their hope and they begin to claim faith – that makes no sense. You can't claim you have faith when you have no hope, never! If you have lost your hope, you have lost your faith as well.

Anytime you see a man saying negative things: “Things are not working, business is not moving”, that man has lost his hope, and there is no

basis for his faith to work.

I want you to appreciate the place of hope in the workings of faith.

If you have been experiencing business stagnation and you think you have been operating in faith, check your hope level, it must be dead.

STOP BEING HOPELESS

Your country is not the reason why your business is not working, it is you. You have already concluded it can't work, so how will it work? You just can't see it work, you have made up your mind about it even before you start it, that is the reason why you are meeting closed doors everywhere, wake up, the prevailing circumstances is not the reason why your business is not working, it is the state of your heart towards your business.

When you are hopeless, you become spiritually helpless. God can't reach out to the hopeless, because He

can't find faith in his heart that will lead to divine help.

Your hopeless state is your most helpless state. Quite a number of people still think that hope is an enemy of faith. This is not true. Rather, hope is a vital companion of faith. Without a union between hope and faith, good report is never born.

Hope simply means expectation and expectation as I have often said is the mother of manifestation, without expectation, signs and wonders cannot be wrought.

It is expectation that sets the pace for all supernatural manifestations. When there is no expectation, a miracle is never in view. When you have no

expectation on a matter, that implies that you have considered it an impossible case and a closed matter. But that cannot be right because we are told that with God all things are possible.

No matter how strong your faith is, you still need hope to have good reports. Have you ever seen some heavy weight wrestlers before? They usually have highly developed muscles, possessing unusual strength yet in spite of their weight and size, they still need a woman to make babies.

There is no giant under heaven that will ever succeed to produce a child without having a woman. No matter how strong your faith, when your hope

is dead, your faith is worthless.

It takes hope for you to have value for information. No matter how much you preach to a man who considers his case closed, it won't move him; to him you are only wasting your precious time. Your sermon doesn't make any meaning to him. And if faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God, how will he have faith when he has refused to hear the word of God? When you are totally hopeless, you don't hear anything, so faith can't come! And when faith can't come, miracles can't come!

For instance, someone who has thrown in the towel, in his academics and has lost all hope of an academic

breakthrough. No matter what teaching you may share with him about his having the mind of Christ and the same order of wisdom that David had, it will be a waste of time. Why? Because hopelessness devalues information, even the word of God.

What faith does is to empower your hope to become a reality. Just like a man empowers a woman to become pregnant, so faith empowers your hope to deliver realities.

Every hopeless step you take, makes you to become increasingly helpless. Hopelessness reduces faith to mere confession and you know faith is not just mere confession, faith is a great profession. The Bible says

Abraham believed in hope.

(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

Rom. 4:17-18

AS FAR AS YOUR EYES CAN SEE

As I said in an earlier chapter, God will not deliver to you beyond what you can see and your hope determines how far you can see. God said to Abraham;

Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward:

For all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed forever.

Genesis 13:14-15

As far as your eyes can see, that

was what God said and that is exactly what you will see if you believe.

Whatever you cannot see ahead of you, your faith is not qualified to deliver into your hands. Whatever you cannot see, God is not committed to give to you, the strength of Abraham's faith lay in his ability to see far. Paul rendered it most graphically in Romans chapter 4 verses 17 and 18:

(As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,) before him whom he believed, even God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.

Who against hope believed in hope, that he might become the father of

many nations, according to that which was spoken, So shall thy seed be.

Even when he had no reason to hope, because the situation was clearly hopeless, yet he was still hopeful.

I want you to see beyond your immediate circumstances, your body notwithstanding, what you see about it is what will ultimately come to you. If God says you are healed, then see your healing, the condition of your body notwithstanding. Abraham didn't consider the deadness of Sarah's womb, he still believed that one day he was going to have a son by Sarah because God had promised. Stop considering the negative circumstances around you. Since God says whatever you lay your

hands upon shall prosper, believe God, ignore the economic situation and allow God to bless you and make you a blessing. Oh yes! God can. He said He is the one that gives you power to get wealth (Deuteronomy 8:18). Therefore, relax, God is committed to blessing you.

Let me assure you that what God has promised, He is also able to perform. God cannot deny Himself. Look beyond the corner where you are. Hope is busy focusing on the future, and faith is busy bringing it to the present. Hope looks at the future and faith brings it to the present. Hope says, this is the future I can see and faith says I will bring it now.

If you are hopeless, you are eternally helpless. What you cannot see, faith cannot deliver. I saw us buying our own private jet and we eventually did! What is it? What do you need? Just see it and you can have it! I saw in my Bible that if you diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord your God, and observe to do what He tells you to do, He would set you up on high, above all nations of the earth. So, there is adequate provision to position me above all nations because I have seen it. What have you seen about yourself from the word of God? You must see it to have it. See yourself as the head and not the tail and you will become one with time. See yourself as

an employer of labour and you will soon become one. You will eventually become what you see. Where you are now is not your end, it is just a stepping-stone to where you are going.

In those days of travelling by public transport I could see me driving my own car. I didn't have the money but I could see it ahead of me. If you can see it, you'll get it!

Let your hope rise again, begin to see beyond your now, take a step of faith forward and dominate your world.

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