UNDER-TAKERS,
CARE-TAKERS
&
RISK-TAKERS

(Are You An Under-taker,
A Care-taker Or A Risk-taker?)

BY
PASTOR AMOS I. ORIAKHI.
Dedication

this book is dedicated to the
Deborah of Africa & dad, Rev.
Dave, & Pst. Mrs. Rita Lange and
my brother & wife, Andy & Jamie,
missionaries to the Ukraine, all my
relations in America, Butuan, Cebu,
Manila, Europe, Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria,
Sydney, Australia and above all, to my late
crippled grand-ma, Ehibogu (Margaret)
Oriakhi and Dr. Edmund Kwan, May your
hard labour to nurture me, not be in vain.

UNDERTAKERS, CARETAKERS
AND RISK-TAKERS.

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ISBN:

First printed in Nigeria by:
Julimos Publishing House,
A Division Of:
Assurance Of Faith Gospel Outreach
(A. F. G. O)
P. O. Box, 897,
26 Okoloba Road, Effurun,
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This book is dedicated to the Deborah of Africa & dad, Rev. Dave, & Pst. Mrs, Rita Lange land, my brother & wife, Andy & Jamie, missionaries to the Ukraine, all my relations in America, Butuan, Cebu, manila, Europe, Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, Sydney, Australia and above all, to my late crippled grand-ma, Ehibogu (Margaret) Oriakhi and Dr.Edmund Kwan, May your hard labour to nurture me, not be in vain.
Acknowledgment

I sincerely want to thank God for all the people out there who had endured my simplicity & small faith in the face of numerous challenges in life, among whom are my big aunty, Mrs. Agnes Omoifo, Lagos who bought me my first close up (Toothpaste) in life at age nine, my big Bro. Elijah Oriakhi, who sold his Electronics to pay my fees in form two & three.

Redemption Church, (Nation-Wide) & Warri, Delta State, Edo Ministers Ass, Delta State Chapter, all Ministers, Members & Crew of HWC-West Africa, Evang. Famous Idama, Director, Gospel Light. Institute of Reading & Writing, Pst John Tibuloor, Pst. David, all my friends & colleagues in Manila, especially, Pa. & Mama. Lara Manuel & family, Rev. N. Asotie, my sister, Mrs. Army Campbell, my wonderful associate in the U.S. who is a member of my board of trustee and international Representative for A.F.G.O in the United States. My Pastor, Rev. Wilson Inana, Deaconess Maria Edjedegba, Deaconess Felicia Oronigbe, Evang. Joy Edafemuno, Dr.Edmond Kwan, who is my mentor and senior partner in Sydney, Australia, Hon.Solomon Ighrakpata, Rev. Nelson Odudu, and the Word Of Faith Magazine, were the seed for this work was sown, to you all, I salute gallant soldiers.
There are times in our lives when we come face to face with challenges that make us look like Lilliputians before the Goliath of our days.

In the face of today's challenges, we do not have to run like Elisha. Instead, we need to stand and when convinced, takes risk in faith so that we might be able to stand in the evil days.

In this book, the Author, made us to know that we have many great Dr's. Bishops, Rt. & Left Reverend's, Superior and inferior Apostles and too many J.P's, who are not risk takers. Risk-takers cut across male and female gender. Where Barak dread, Deborah dared. Elijah said. “IF I BE A MAN OF GOD” WHO ARE YOU? As a leader, business man, church worker, apprentice, house wife, professional, all believers need to dare the challenges like David and who know, you
may get Goliaths head as a trophy for daring to dare.

Elisha dared Ahaziah and the king sent a captain and fifty men to him and we saw Elisha commanding fire from heaven even though he was not a solder. The bible said “AND FIRE CAME DOWN AND CONSUMED THE CAPTAIN AND HIS FIFTY.”

This is what makes this book to be interesting. It will remove you from the company of the undertakers, out of the boardroom of the caretakers into the company of few men called, risk-takers. As you read this book, unknowingly, you are being enrolled into the rank of the risk-takers.

Don't ask how, just know that, “FOR EVERYONE WHO MUST STEP OUT, MUST FIRST, STEP UP.”

Evang. Ejedokpo Ogaga Lawrence,
Ambrose Alli University,
Ekpoma, Edo state.
Nigeria.
Introduction

The Bible says that God has a plan for your life, a plan to prosper you and to give you hope and a future. (Jer. 29:11). In other words, you have a divine destiny! But whether or not you fulfill your destiny has a lot to do with your outlook on life. Have you ever notice that the men and women, who go out and accomplish great things for God, are not the ones who focus on the past or succumb to complacency? The believers who fulfill their divine destinies are the ones who dare to believe in the dreams that God gave and stepped out in faith to make their dreams come true. I think we could say that every believer falls into one of these categories; Undertakers, Caretakers and Risk-Takers.
Introduction

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takers. The Risk-takers are the ones who can sing this song:

When the Ocean rise and thunder roar,
I will soar with you above the storm, Father
you are king above the flood, I will be still,
And know you are God.

I remembered when I wanted to leave the village, my brother just got married and he lived in one room with my younger brother. I knew I would not be able to get a place to stay, if I go to the town where my elder brother lives. How which that was all my travail, it would had been alright, but my problems were more than that, I did not have any one who will help me raise the transport fare to pay my way to the city.

I did all the calculations I knew and all my survey led to a dead end. The only way out was for me to do menial job for five naira (about five cent) for more than eight hours a day, to raise about one dollar to pay my way to the
city and have some pocket money for the unexpected. I did all menial jobs for close to one month to raise that amount. It was not easy, but there is a saying that when there is a will, there will be way. It was really risky for me. It's my desire as you read this book to make you know that to live in this life, is a risk!

One writer once said, “IN THE MIDST OF LIFE, WE ARE IN DEATH.” I hope you know that the car you enter can bring you to harm or kill you and we still enter our cars today, though; so many of our loved ones had been killed by it. There is an adage in my countryside that says, “If food kills your relative, that night, your next door neighbor will still eat food.” Your house you live can cause you harm, but we still live in our houses. The late Ach-bishop once said, “If it's called sick, it can kill” headache, can kill, fever can kill, malaria can kill, yet, we can get sick today
and we still believe God for tomorrow. It's really true when someone said it's risky not to take a risk. Because things may go wrong, is not enough for us to fold our hands and do nothing, as we see our world go haywire with the decay associated with modern day civilization. We must arise and do something for the sustenance, protection and salvation of family, the world and ourselves.

My people said that there is no way you can go through a village and not see a pregnant woman. In the same way, it then means that there is no way we will go through this generation and not see a deliverer. Please, step out to take some risk in faith like the three Hebrew boys. If we cannot prevent the birds from flying pass our head, we can at least prevent them from building nest on our head. Compatriot, must we because of fear, allow poverty, fear of the unknown and failure ravage our land, community and our family as
if we no longer have a God who answers by fire? Think about what one of the songwriter of old wrote to us in this century, he wrote: Must we go empty handed? Must we meet our savour so?

**NOT ONE SOUL WITH WHICH TO GREET HIM**

Must we empty handed go? He is asking us in this generation? The scripture said, “How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel” So for fear that it's risky, are we saying this scripture will not be fulfilled in our time? A careful study of all successful business men and women today we see on the screen, are men and women who most times decided to take a risk to venture into the murky water of business and they appeared from the other side of great fortune.

If we refuse to take risk in life, how are we sure that when we come face to face with opportunity, we will be able to make good use
of it or haven't you heard that when opportunity comes, it will always come in different form and from a different direction than we hardly expect, this is one main reason why most of us fail in life because we lack the courage to step out in faith and make hay while it shine. We must take risk. I will never forget the risk Abraham took to sacrifice Isaac, the opportunity to know God as “Jehovah Jireh” came as a misfortune and loss but it was the unpredictable way of the visitation of opportunity, always disguised in misfortune. Nothing will be so risky in all my entire life as when I wanted to marry my Jewel of inestimable value.

I fixed my wedding for the 21st - 22nd Nov. 1997, a week to the wedding date, we had no invitation card and two days to the traditional wedding, we had no food, no drink, nothing for the program. I got a used shoe from my choirmaster, Bro Edwin Agoba, who also gave
me one used trouser and jacket for the wedding on Saturday. By Wednesday, two days to the program, I had no dress for the traditional ceremony. Can you believe that my traditional dress was made on the day of my traditional wedding? When it was finished, because it was in a hurry, the dressmaker made the inner wear to become the outerwear and by the time we discovered it, it was too late, I had to wear it like that to the ceremony. It was a risky venture. At twelve O'clock that day, I was running from one place to the other looking for the bride price. I went to the ceremony without the dowry. I got the dowry of my queen at the gate of my in-laws house from somebody, I never invited to my wedding. God brought her to provide me my need because I took a great risk. Since marriage was a good thing, I took a great risk to have it and I got it. You too can get it! All you need to do is get up from the seat of the
undertakers and the comfort of the caretakers and join those who are taking the risk towards good success. Many years ago, we did a fund-raising where we raised about fifteen thousand naira for musical equipment. We have to put the money in the bank because the money was not enough to buy what we wanted, so we kept the money in the bank. That same week, I went for a conference and met some strangers who came to Nigeria and were stranded. I have to bring the ten of them home. I went to the bank and withdrew that money. I used it to add to their transport back to their country. That was a great risk considering my background.

That was how God opened my way to becoming an international preacher. Most risk I have undertaken sometimes seems to look like madness and I thank God it pays to take risk.

AMOS ORIAKHI.
Chapter One

UNDERTAKERS

“Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the price for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

All of us who are mature...
I think we could say that every believer falls into one of three categories; Undertakers, Caretakers and Risk-takers. Of course, there are certain characteristics that go with these categories. First, let's look at the undertaker categories. You do not hear the word “Undertaker” too much these days. Language had been softened and fancied up in the modern day, to help people deal with the harshness of death. We don't have “Undertakers” anymore; we now have today “Funeral home directors.” We don't have hearse anymore. We now have
Ambulance. Yet, any way you put it, death is still death. Believers on undertaker category are on their way to the graveyard, so to speak. They live on memories of yesterday when every-thing was great. They fondly remember past revivals and speak of the events that happened in their church and in their lives. They can't imagine that anything could ever come close to the revivals of yesterday—except heaven. In the mind of the undertakers, everything good is behind them. Today and tomorrow are simply tolerated. There is no excitement, enthusiasm, expectation, or anticipation. There is no vision. They are not reaching out to that, which is in front of them. It is as though; they have had a funeral and buried everything. You might say that undertakers act like the wicked, lazy servant in the parable of the talents in Matthew 25. In this parable, a man divided his future among his servant and then traveled to a far country.
He gave five talents to one servant, two talents to another and one talent to another. The first two servants invested their talents and multiplied them, generating more, but the third servant buried his talent in the ground. (Matt. 25:14-18.) Well, when the master returned, his response to the first two servants were having been found faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: “enter thou into the joy of thy lord” (VV 21-23) two of the servant took their talent and did something with them, so they enjoy increase and multiplication. But the third servant focused on the past and did nothing; yet, even those who receive the little to work with are responsible for doing something with the little they receive. Now if you will do a little study, you will find that this earthly master is a type of Jesus, the master, going away and then coming back to those He had given talents to. Can you see that this
master rewarded those two, who traded with their talents, and not the one who fell into the undertaker's mode? The same way, Jesus is going to reward those who had done something with what they had to work with, not the ones who will bury their talents.

Are you an under-taker? Have you buried your talents, gift, abilities, calling or responsibilities? Have you buried your dreams, your vision or your destiny? As long as something is buried, it will never produce more than what you have, buried.

Undertakers’ focus on how great things used to be and that rob them of how great things can be with God. But focusing on the hurts of the past is another problem that keeps us from having a great future. We all have experience hurts and disappointments. We all sometimes had our dreams crushed and we wonder sometimes for a season, we were disoriented and maybe wandered about
wondering where we were going and what were going to happen. I want you to know that the way you react to disappointment will determine how you will end up. Sometimes, we are so hurt in a relationship that we vow never to love again as long as you live but as you move away from that hurt and move on with your life, you will discover it did not ruin your life, why? Because you decide to move on with your life. Hurts and disappointment come to us in our spiritual life too and we get off track sometimes. It's sad to say that when it happened, too many people bury their vision and dreams when things don't work out the way they thought it should be. Have you not notice that life doesn't always turn out the way we sometimes wish it should? So, let's quit visiting the cemetery where yesterday's dreams are buried and let us move to the empty tomb where tomorrow's vision is resurrected and tomorrow's destiny is born!
Chapter Two

Caretakers

The second categories we must share next are the Caretakers. The believers in this category carefully lay out their plans for the present. They are not bothered by the past and they are not looking to the future. Caretakers are basically interested in the now. They are just holding the fort, so to speak. I want you to know that we should not just be holding fort or holding on, we should be going for God’s best!

Sometimes, the most caretakers are satisfied with good, but best is first place. For example, when it comes to sports, you will hardly remember who came in second
(announcers don't talk about who comes in second.)

After the Olympics, when the television shows invite athletes to be on their talk shows and so forth, they invite the gold winners, the first place people, remember, that the second and third place winners also won medals too, but it seems that no one pays any attention to that. Why can't we transfer that attitude over to the spiritual realm and not be satisfied with good or second best? They sit around with their alms folded and say, “Well, This Is Pretty Good.” We are sometimes complacent, but God wants to pull them by the neck and say, “Get Up! Pretty Good Is Not Enough! You Need To Be The Best!”

The devil has hoodwinked many Christians and rocks them to sleep in the cradle of complacency. If that's where you are, stir your self up! Don't find yourself in the same position Samson found himself. He was
just enjoying life and he became complacent. Then suddenly trials and tribulations came, and he said “Oh, I Will Go In The Power Of God As Before And Shake Myself” but he did not realize that the power of God have departed from him.

“When Delilah Saw That He Had Told Her All His Heart. She Sent And Called For The Lords Of The Philistines, Saying, Come Up Once More, For He Has Told Me All His Heart, So The Lords Of The Philistines Came Up To Her Kness, And Called For A Man And She Said, The Philistines Are Upon You Samson. So He Work Up From His Sleep And Said I Will Go Out As Before, At Other Times, And Shake Myself Free! But He Never Knew That The Lord Had Departed From Him.” (Judges 16:20. NKJV)
Why? Because he became complacement with what he had, instead of moving on to the future. God's people should never be complacement! We should always be moving onward and upward. I will never be content to “Stay Put”. I hope you will not stay put because God is leading us, as individual believers and as the church, into a deeper and higher place. He wants us to take his power and be more productive in this world than we have ever been!

It's true we must learn from the past, but we must not live in the past without having a vision of the future. On the other hand, we can't be so future oriented, that we will neglect the responsibility of the present.

Don't be among those so tied to tomorrow that they are not enjoying today's journey. Our focus can't be exclusively on the past or on the present, there had to be some purpose that motivate us to move forward into the future.
that God has, waiting for us.

The way we must move forward had to do with our vision. Vision is a mental image of a better future, vision is foresight with insight for today that helps you have for-sight to take care of tomorrow. Vision is about progress and moving forward to fulfilling a vision. Vision involves faith and a person of faith is a risk-taker.
Chapter Three

RISK-TAKERS

Paul had success in his life, but he had failures. He did not allow himself to rest on his laurels, nor did he allow himself to wallow in the past failures or misery. “Brothers, I Don't Consider Myself Yet To Have Taken Hold Of It, But One Thing I Do: Forgetting What Is Behind And Straining Toward What Is Ahead, I Toward The Goal To Win The Prize For Which God Has Called Me Heavenward In Christ Jesus.” Each and every one of us must learn to follow Paul's example and press on! (Philippians 3:13-14) “Brethren, I Count Not Myself To Have Apprehended: But This One
**Thing I Do, Forgetting Those Things Which Are Behind, And Reaching Forth Unto Those Things Which Are Before, I Press Toward The Mark For The Prize Of The High Calling Of God In Christ Jesus.”**

Vision becomes reality through the faith that is put into action. Remember the story of the four leprous men in second Kings, chapter 7? They were sitting outside the gate at the entrance to the city. There was a famine in the city and the Arameans army was down the road. If those leprous men had been undertakers, they would have said, “Well, Let's Just Sit Here And See What Happens.” But those men were risk-takers, so they said, “we Are Not Dead Yet, So Lets Go And See What Is Going On In The Camp Of The Arameans.” You See, They Said “If We Stay Here We Die And If We Go There, We Die Also, But Is Better To Take Risk Than Not To.” “now There Were Four Men With Leprosy At The
**Entrance Of The City Gate. They Said To Each Other, Why Stay Here Until We Die?**

“If we say, we'll go into the city, the famine is there, and we will die. If we stay here, we will die. So, let's go over to the camp of the Arameans and surrender, if they spare us, we live, if they kill us, then we die.

At dusk, they got up and went to the camp of the Arameans. When they reached the edge of the camp, not a man was there. For the Lord had caused the Arameans to hear the sound of chariots and horses and a great army, so that they said to one another, look, the King of Israel has hired the Hittite and the Egyptian King to attack us.

So they got up and fled in the duck and abandoned their tents and the camp as it was and ran for their lives.” (2Kings 7:3-7).

The four men got up, went to the enemy's camp and God used them to deliver the whole city! You see, its the-get-up-and-go
attitude that will keep you from living in the past and stagnating in the present! *That Attitude Will Propel You Into The Future, Into The Destiny That God Had For You.*

So many people are content in being under-takers or caretakers, but we should be risk-takers with the power of the Almighty. We need to stir ourselves up so that we are no longer content to sit inside our homes or on the pew, but we must get out and about our fathers business. Some of us talk about faith, but the one I refer to is the one that is fail-safe kind of faith. That is the faith we are cork sure will not fail, honey, are you there, dear friend, faith is not risk-free, according to the late Archbishop, of blessed memory. Sometimes, if not all the times, we have to believe God and step out over the aching void of nothings, with nothing under our feet but, his word and the vision of our destiny that he has impacted unto us.
For example, all the great fathers of faith listed in the book of Hebrews 11, the great hall of fame chapter, took risk. It had never rained in the history of the world, but Noah took a risk. For many years, Noah builds an ark and endured the world's ridicule and laughter. At the end, when they were both dead and gone, he was still singing praises to God. Abraham took a risk and left all that he owned, all that he knew, all that was familiar to him, to go look for a city that God said he was going to show him. I am sure some one asked “Abraham Where Are You Going? He replied “I Don't Know” Some of us would have asked from our sense level that if he doesn't know where he is going, how will he know, when he arrives there. I don't see that as risk free...he left his security, family, home and everything else. I think it's about time some of us get up and begin to move toward the city that God had promised us. When I say city, I do not mean a
place, your city could be whatever it is that you need healing, prosperity and so forth.

Moses, at the age of eighty, left the security of the desert and returned to Egypt where he was wanted for murder to deliver a message to God's people (Exodus 4:20) Was that risk free? David went after a lion; a bear and finally, he went after Goliath, with just a slingshot and a rock. In the natural, was that risk risk-free?

But being a risk-taker, David said “You Come To Me With All Your Battle Implements, But I Come To You In The Name Of The Lord God Jehovah, Whom You Have Defied” (1 SAM.17: 45).

David knew that God's power would always win over every obstacles and every risk! Daniel took a risk by praying to God when he was not supposed to. That led him to share a night with the lion in their mansion. (Dan.6: 6-17).
He opposes the power of his days because his faith was in the power of his God. He knew his destiny and so, was not afraid to take a risk! Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, am sure Shadrach was a Russian, Meshach was from Europe and Abednego was a Negro, from my kinsmen in Africa! They all risk their life by not bowing down to the golden calf King Nebuchadnezzar commanded all the people to worship. While everyone else in the crowd was bowing down to worship, I imagined my senior cousin telling those friends from Europe and Russia not to bow, they remained standing like the Iroko tree, unbending and they said “We Believe God Is Going To Deliver Us” and besides that, the negro said. “Our Commitment Is To God Live Or Die, Sink Or Swim” (Dan. 3:1-18).

Majority of us are committed to God as long as everything is going on fine with us. But it's time we begin to make commitment to
God that no matter what comes our way, we must stick with God!

Sometimes, when we take a risk with God, we don't always get delivered at that very moment, Daniel was not delivered immediately, the three Hebrew boys were not delivered immediately but, if you are willing to take a risk with God, I guaranty you that he will deliver you.

I believe we need to be like this great men of God. They took risks, they stepped out in faith. They did not step out in foolishness, they stepped out in the knowledge of God's character, his faithfulness, not his words only! Risk-takers are not afraid to boldly match into the future to the beat of God's drum, knowing that God will deliver them if they will stay true.

Why am I speaking on the subject: UNDER-TAKERS, CARE-TAKERS OR RISK-TAKERS? It's because God is not
finish with us yet. It's not time to sit down and become complacent. The best is yet to come! We can learn from the past and build on it. We can enjoy today and be productive in it. But let's be risk-takers and fix our gaze on tomorrow with an excitement about what God is preparing us to.
Chapter Four

GROWING IN YOUR PROFESSION AND VOCATION.

In this chapter, we will be talking about how we can equip and enhance our self on all side professionally and vocationally, so as to break through to our destiny in life.

The bible said:

“My People Are Destroyed For Lack Of Knowledge. Because You Have Rejected Knowledge, I Will Also Reject You From Being Priest For Me.” (HOSEA 4:6).

So primarily, if any of us are not fulfilled today, it maybe mainly because we have decided or neglected the place of knowledge.
One thing we all must never forget is this, that within us lies so much untapped abilities and knowing and discovering it will bring us to a great level of fulfillment in life, family and ministry. One great reason for the break down of law and order, youth restiveness and anarchy in the homes of today are because of broken dreams and unfulfilled expectations.

In this century, desire and pleasure had increased. I was with Sister Amy Campbell, who had seen it all as far as the western world is concerned. She jokingly told her friend that whoever wants to live a luxurious life must be ready to pay for it. In today's world, every one wants to get the best from life but not all can pay for the best, just a few can boastfully say today that they are really satisfied with their take home pay. It is worst in this generation were competitions and the industrial revolution had also brought speedy development and continuous research in so
many finish product of today's market. The car you see today suddenly becomes obsolete tomorrow. The same with building and all the good and bad things in the market today.

Each and everyone want to be associated with what is in vogue but our purchasing power is not increasing in proportion with the way industries are bombarding our market.

And yet, God said: “Beloved, I Pray That You May Prosper In All Things And Be In Health, Just As Your Soul Prospers” (3 John. 1:2). I was with my American representative, Sis. Campbell in one of the biggest shopping mall in Asia recently, I also saw the commercial city of Dubai and I discover that what to buy is not a problem, if we just have the purchasing power. Unfortunately, our pocket has only limited us. Most of this limitation arises from lack of knowledge.

When we have knowledge, we will leave the level of I don't know what to do, to doing
what I need do to cause a change.

What positive change do you plan to make out of your life? Many have made no progress because they depend on just their take home pay packet. Many years ago, I heard the late Arch-bishop repeatedly speak to people among whom are professors, that no one in Nigeria will be able to live very comfortably as he will really want, if he live solely on his salary accept he is a thief. I never understood him at that time until now. I sometimes ask myself, why do lecturer sell handout? Why do some teachers sell Provisions at school? Why have product like G.N.L.D, TIANSHI, ROOT and many others being sold more, by professionals who already have a job? I discovered that they are just trying to add one plus one to become two. In the popular Opra Williams film, Night of a thousand Laugh, there was this joke about a young man who was returning from work and
he met a group of people who were watching a circus show. He drew near and notice that one monkey in the center of the gathering, is the center of attraction. Has was determined to watch and see what it was all about.

As he watched, the leader of the group asked everyone present to participate in the show. They all agreed and he said if there is any one in the crowd who can make the monkey laugh? He said there is any one who could make the monkey laugh but just as they were about giving up, suddenly, one haggard looking man suddenly came to the front and said he can. Everyone wondered how this hungry looking man can make a monkey laugh. He was asked to show his talent though many disbelieved him. He sure looked confident of himself. When it was time to make the monkey laugh, he went forward and spoke to the monkey, who instantly started to laugh without any much ado. Everyone was
surprised. The man won the price, the leader of the group again said if there is any man who can make the monkey cry?

Again that same man came forward and moved slowly to the monkey and again whispered to her ears, instantly, the monkey began to cry and refused to stop. The man also won the price. The leader also said the last question will be the hardest and most difficult and who ever is able to answer the question will also win a very big price. Everyone was eager to at least answer this one question. The leader now asked if there is anybody in the crowd who can make the monkey enter her cage and lock herself inside. Everyone murmured that will seem impossible as they wonder what can make a monkey enter and lock himself inside her cage; this same man walked up to the leader of the show and said he can do it.

Everyone watched as he again to walks up
to the monkey and just whispered into the ear. Instantly, like the speed of lightening, the monkey ran into his cage and locked the door.

He was looking fearful like one who had just been miraculously delivered from a predictable disaster. Every one including the leader of the show wondered how such a man could achieve such feat. Many said he used juju and some said he is not a human being. The crowd asked the man after collecting his price, what he told the monkey that made her to begin to laugh. He said he did not say much, just that he told the monkey where he was working. They asked him where and he said, the railway co-operation. He said when he told the monkey where he was working? He began to laugh. They asked him what he said to the monkey that made her to cry. He said nothing only that he told the monkey how much he was being paid and the monkey began to cry. They said they could understand all that because not
even a monkey would want to receive such wages. The man was asked what he told the monkey that made her jump inside her cage and shut the gate?. The man said he did not persuade the monkey. They asked him what he did then. He said he just approach the monkey and told her that there is vacancy in his working place. On hearing that from the man, the monkey quickly jumped inside her cage and shut the door. Who will want to work in railway cooperation with the kind of salary the man mentioned to the monkey? But you see, it was just a joke but it was not just an ordinary joke to me. The monkey refused the offer to work in that organization because he had an alternative that was more rewarding and fulfilling. Think about it. Remember that today trend of business tend to favour those who have some sort of special training. If you are an unskilled labour, your services will be cheap. Even in people's choice of sturdy
today, it sort of favour people who are involve in some training that will make them independent in the future. That monkey had two offers, as an entertainer and as a worker in the railway co-operation. He had a choice, do you? Look at the wife of that prophet who ran to the prophet of God, for help.

When her husband died, she had neither profession nor a vocation to fall back to, other than to a wear the veil of widow-hood. She carried that veil everywhere she goes and expects sympathy from all and sundry.

That should not be you. You are different and you can make a lot of difference in that which your hand finds to do, if only you can just do what the westerners call on the job training. Because that prophet wife refused to be trained and retrained during and after her husband's death, she went through so much degradation; shame and heart break after the death of her husband. She lost her dignity to
the threat of the creditors who were about to exchange her children for the money owed by her late husband. Don't be like the prophet's wife who was satisfied with the tithe and offering that was coming in during the time of her late husband. Let stop casting blames on others for negligence and start to improve on that which the lord had bless us with. Let's take initiatives from all the opportunities that daily unveiled itself to us in various ways and shape. Let's not complain of lack of capital, the know how and inexperience. When there is a will, there will be a way. Let's go down to work and be creative. No one needs academic knowledge to do business as such; neither do you need prior experience. You don't need encouragement from anybody other than your self. One great problem I have notice in Africa, Nigeria, in particular, is the absence of seasonal training among our up coming youth. They just start learning a trade and before they
start knowing the basics, they start looking for money. They don't understand the lesson of Time and Season. Because of this, the knowledge needed to be transferred to the up coming generation, are buried with the Elisha's of this generation. How then can we approach this all-important issue of our days? First, we must realized that we are the cause of our problems or predicaments and stop blaming the witches and wizard who are only after the uninformed and ignoramus. You must identify area that needed adjustment and you know you can improve upon.
Chapter Five

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT.

W e live in a world as Christians were what goes on around us, affect us. We can't run away from the fact that though we are not of the world, we live in the world and are governed by the world's system of government.

“And It Came To Pass In Those Days, That There Went Out A Decree From Ceasar Augustus, That The Entire World Should Be Taxed........and All Went To Be Taxed, Every One Into His Own City. And Joseph Also Went Up
From Galilee, Out Of The City Of Nazareth, Into Judea, Unto The City Of David, Which Is Called Bethlehem, (because He Was Of The House And Lineage Of David) To Be Taxed With Mary His Espoused Wife, Being Great With Child. (LUKE 2:1-5)

So you see, what happened in the country were you live will have positive or negative impact, economically, politically on you. So the issue of saying am a Christian, who is an ignoramus today, became so, because you just want to be so. We now live in the age of technology, were the world had become a global village. When I was growing up, we lived a communal life; things are shared among the poor, the rich and the not so poor.

If there is no food in our house, I can go to my neighbour's house and have my supper. If we had no firewood to cook our meal, we can
that I should update myself first with the required qualification and then ask God to touch my employers for a raise commensurate with my qualification. In today's world, communism, oligarchy, feudalism and monarchy etc. are no longer fancied among the comity of nations. Socialism is only workable in some isolated corners of our world. Its effects are so unnoticeable, that with time, students of history will not remember one example of countries that successfully practiced it and survived among developed, self-sufficient nations of the world. Therefore, the economic drivers of most nations today are all embracing capitalism. Capitalism is the crust of most western countries of the world and it had helped others to develop them and make them productive as a nation. So in a pari-passu, gone are those days of relying on hand-out or left-over, if one truly just beckon to our neighbor's for some and it will be given us for free. I can go to my relation's house without notice and we sometimes, do trade by barter. But today, it's not so. We now live far apart and we now live a life that is only commensurate to our pay packet. Neighbour's can't even recognize each other, as we today, in the name of bringing civilized, build high walls, very high walls, sometimes high as the “Tower Of Babel” to imprison our yesterday's freedom. Those were the days and someone playfully said sometime ago that “that was those days gone by.” When people today pray to God to increase their pay packet and promote them. I have no problem with that, but I have a problem when we ask God to make us directors, when are not qualified to be promoted from steward to chauffeur driver or clerk, in an establishment. I would rather had think that if I desire a raise, first thing demand
that I should update myself first with the required qualification and then ask God to touch my employers for a raise commensurate with my qualification. In today's world, communism, oligarchy, feudalism and monarchy e.t.c are no longer fancied among the comity of nations. Socialism is only workable in some isolated corners of our world. Its effects are so unnoticeable, that with time, student of history will not remember one example of countries that successfully practiced it and survived among developed, self-sufficient nation of the world. Therefore, the economic drivers of most nations today are all embracing capitalism. Capitalism, is the crust of most western countries of the world and it had helped others to develop them and make them productive, as a nation.

So in a pari- pasu, gone are those days of relying on hand-out or left-over, if one truly
want to do meaningful thing for oneself, nation, community and the family. In whatever field of endeavors, in this do-it-your-self-era. We must try to develop ourselves, so as to be abreast with the happenings of new development around us and with us.

We live in a system were we found it difficult to survive with our pay packet, and so, each one need to find other legitimate source of that extra earning to make a difference, no matter how small.

In this chapter, we want to search how we can develop and empower ourselves in this no vacancy system we live and remove our name of the long list of the unemployed people group in our society.

How can this be done? Then, you need to read the K.J.V. of this scripture in Prov.18:1. “Through desire, a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all
"wisdom".

I love the K.J.V. of this verse, it talked about four things a man who desire anything, whether negative or positive, need to do to attain greatness and I think we need to look into some of this eye opener, to see what God would want us to discover from this epistles. The four things he talked about are:

(1) Desire  
(2) Separation  
(3) Seeking  
(4) Intermeddling

We need to search and carefully look into these words for easy assimilation. The first word here is:

(A) DESIRE:

The strong word as explained by An English Cebuano Visayan Dictionary by Rodolfo Cabonce, S.J. Mean the way we wish or long for, craving for,
coveting, and asking for request and a longing for the possession of something. It could be in a way of prayers or a request. One very close word to this compound word is sexual desire in the natural. Before we can risk staking our time and resources to improving our selves for a better return and an all round development. It requires what I call strong desire.

What are your desires in life? Do you desire to earn a better living? Do you desire to be a better pastor? Do you desire to improve on that which you had begun? Do you want to improve on your image and position yourself to have self worth and self-esteem?

I want to say that desire comes from within, not from without. maybe I have to say this to say that desire comes from what you see outside positively or negatively that provoked your internal mechanism to begin to crave for,
covet and wanting to be like what you have seen.

YOU SEE HOW HIS (JACOB) DESIRE HAD CONSUMED HIM INTO TAKING A RISK WITH HIS FATHER IN-LAW.

Here was a young man who desired to be like his father in-law, who had become rich in livestock. It so consume him that nothing else mattered to him anymore in that land. Until our desire gets to that state positively, we may remain in the ladder of wishing continuously for a long time.

It was this desire to have the best and nothing but the best that made Jacob forget the hand labour he went through for seven years to begin again for another seven years of his life, altogether making fourteen years, for the desire of his heart (RACHEAL) “A MAN OUT OF DESIRE”
What about Prince Amnom the son of King David, the bible had a fair sister, whose name was Tamar.

“And Amnon Had A Friend, Who's Name Was Jonadab, The Son Of Shimeah Davids Brother And Jonadab Was A Very Subtile Man And He Said Unto Him, Why Art Thou, Being The King's Son, Lean From Day To Day? Will Thou Not Tell Me? And Amnon Said Unto Him. I Love Tamar, My Brother Absalom's Sister”.

You see what desire can make one become?
One Benin musician, Patrick Idahosa, once asked a question through a song that landed him on a collision course with the monarch of his land many years ago, he asked, “Why Do The Children Of The Obas Go To Farm? “What Is Making The Benin Women Travel
To Italy?” Naira. Though the King banned the music, it sold like hot cake. Why? Because there is great truth in it.

The only man, who refuses to develop and improve himself, is the man who had no drive. Why did David run after Goliath? Because there was this drive for him to prove to those hiding Israelites, that Goliath was an uncircumcised Philistines.

Do you really have a drive in life? If so, what is your drive?

(B) SEPARATION:

According Oxford Advance Learners Dictionary, 6th Edition, it defines separation as the act of separating people or things, to be separate means to disunite, to take away, disconnect, and to withdraw from each other. I wonder at some of us who said we had a drive to be the best. How come we are not separated
from all distractions that could hinder us from achieving our goal in life?

There was a sister in our local church those days, who was our choir- mistress, she finish high school at the same time with some of us. When we will close from the choir practice, we will mill around friends, while she will go strait home to what, we don't know. She was separated from us all, never having time for frivolities nor idleness.

Not long from that time, we discovered that another person was now the ones leading us in the group. When we asked after her, we were told she had gone to school. Three months latter, she came on holiday and her steps changed. She refused to play with us and we were offended. Everyone in our group, gossip her and one day she got to hear about it. She did not stop, her friends changed including her mode of dress and talk. Most of her friends were now people of like mind.
Now, I have come to understand that she did not hate us, but our schedule was just different from hers. When she was thinking of schoolwork, we are thinking of how to play. She will not want to have a carry over, but we don't understand the meaning of carry over. One day, I visited her parent's house and I saw her reading with her two legs in a bucket of water. Her brother told me that she read everyday for four hours.

Today, though I was one of those who gossip her then, I have now seen why she could not just continue to play with us. We can also see from the account of Abraham, who acted promptly and saved the situation from degenerating into chaos, as he maturely separated from lot.

**DO YOU HAVE A LOT AS A FRIEND?**

Your lot could be people around you who don't share the same desire, as you do. They
could also be those who don't see or know were you are going in life. If you want to be a practicing Christian, why must your friends be unbelievers? We must learn from the story of Solomon, who associated with strange women. You should know the story, can't you see that when he associated with good people, he became good and when he began to move with bad people, he also become a negative role model for the people of his days and even today.

Look at the friends of Amnon; you will see that even though he had a bad thought, it took the contribution of his friend to actualize his desire. May we not have Jonadab as a friend.

“And Jonadab Said Unto Him,
Lay Thee Down On Thy Bed,
And Make Thyself Sick: And
When Your Father Cometh To
See Thee, Say Unto Him, I Pray
Thee, Let Tamar Come, And Give Meat, And Dress The Meat In My Sight, That I May See It, And Eat It At Her Hand. So Amnon Lay Down, And Made Himself Sick: And When The King Was Come To See Him, Amnon Said Unto The King, I Pray Thee, Let Tamar My Sister Come, And Make Ne A Couple Cakes In My Sight And That I Might Eat At Her Hand. Then David Sent Home To Tamar Saying, Go Now To Thy Brother Amnon's House And Dress Him Meat. So Tamar Went To Her Brother Amnon House, And He Was Laid Down And She Took A Pan And Pour Them Out Before Him, But He Refuse To Eat And Amon Said, Have Out All Men
From Me And They Went Out Every From Him. And Amnon Said Unto Tamar, Bring The Meat Into The Chamber, That I Amy Eat Of Thine Hand And Tamar Took The Cakes Which She Had Made And Brought Them Into The Chamber To Amnon Her Brother And When She Had Brought Them Unto Him To Eat, He Took Hold Of Her, And Said Unto Her, Come Lie With Me, My Sister.” (2 SAMUEL 13:5-11).

I hope you see why you must separate your self from all those who will become impediment on your way to actualizing your dream?

Amnon later died, you see as long as Samson will not separate from Delilah, he cannot expect to sleep in Delilah lap and wake
up in Abraham's bosom.
All those who have desire must separate themselves from the following:

(1) Idleness
(2) Sleep. A little sleep, a little slumber…
(3) Expirers and be joined to inspirers.
(4) Mean men
(5) People without a goal
(6) People without purpose
(7) People who do not have drive and flair for success
(8) Avoid Hannah’s mate, Peninnah
(9) Avoid the Sad-to-see and far-to-see of this generation

(C) SEEK
It was our master that said, he that seek, shall find. To seek means to look for, to try to achieve something, especially, when using a lot of effort.
Have you a desire? How separated are you from all discourages and all those impossi-
ibilican't around you?

Desire is the main thing, if you have a desire, I will know with the way you will separate yourself and the thing you seek after. Saul was seeking for his father`s sheep that was lost in Israel; he separated himself and went with a friend of like mind. When he was discouraged, it was the servant who encouraged him not to return back from that which he seeks after. I want us to see a great seeker from this scripture:

“Said And when Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and said unto his father, bless me, even me also, my father. And he said, thy brother came with subtlety, and hath taken away thy blessing. And he said, is he not rightly named Jacob? For
he hath supplanted me these two times: he took away my birthright; and, behold now, he hath taken away my blessing. And he said, hast thou not reserved a blessing for me? And Isaac answered and said unto Esau, behold, I have made him thy lord and all his brethren have I given to him for servants. And with corn and wine have I sustained him and what shall I do now unto thee, my son? And Esau said unto his father, hast thou but one blessing, my father? Bless me, even me also my father. And Esau lifted up his voice and wept.” (Gen. 27:34-38)

In this scripture, we saw a shift in Esau's way of thinking. He had traded with all his blessing but he now seek for just one blessing and he was now ready to value it if only he can get it and in Gen.33:9, he got it!
“And Esau said I have enough, my brother; keep what that thou hast unto thyself.”

Saul was one personality I love in his early days; He sought for a lost sheep and got a kingdom. He traveled for three days and wanted to return, his servant asked him to endure, and he did and had contact with Papa Samuel, who asked him to come up.

He separated himself from all others, went and he got the opportunity disguised in that situation, he became a King. The three wise men were also very good examples of true seekers, who though as they seek, entered into the house of Herod; they did not remain long enough for Herod to rob them of the blessing of receiving that which they seek. (MATT.2: 1-2) “Now When Jesus Was Born In Bethlehem Of Judea In Days Of Herod The King, Behold, There Came Wise Men From The East To Jerusalem Saying, Where
Is He That Is Born King Of The Jews? For We Have Seen His Star In The East, And Have Come To Worship Him”

As they watched their flock by night, they were Caretakers to sheep, but they, like the father's of faith in the Hebrew hall of fame, were not tied to yesterday and today, they believed, seek and desire after a better tomorrow and they got it. That was risky. They abandoned their sheep, left all they have ever worked for to seek after “He That Was Born, King Of The Jews.” I have always wondered why are court clerks retired in the same position? Finally, why don't they desire to become Barristers? If there is no desire, a class teacher will retire as a T.C.11 teacher, if he lacked desire, all his or her working life. I knew a man who worked for thirty-five years, he retired as a chief laundry-man and after retirement, he went and picked up appointment again as a night watchman. He
was there for another five years before armed robbers took the undeveloped life from him. This world is filled with people who were born in the “INFERIOR”, raised from the “Interior” but desired a city, whose maker and builder, is God. I have read about some of them in my country, notable among them are Chief Obafemi Awolowo, the Zik of Africa, the late Arch-bishop Benson Idahosa and a host of others. So many of them are formal firewood and newspaper sellers, yet, they rose from grass to grace through the instrumentality of desire, for a change.

A man will live in chains, if he desires no change in life. You can desire a better future, a better accommodation and a better profession. I remembered many years ago, when I lived in a one-room apartment and all I got was what will enter conveniently into that house. One day I just woke up and discovered that all this years, I had been living in “face-me-I-face-u”
kind of one room. No privacy, no comfort and I never saw a well to do neighbor; all of us are just equal in the quality of life we lived. All we think about is how to survive on daily basis. In the evenings, we all gather in the verandah (balcony), some times, with our landlord, as we talk and laugh together. We were all content with life and had no desire to improve on the quality of lives we live- as I also discovered that we were just existing and not living anywhere near the maximum of God's grace and favor upon our lives. Am sure as I look back today, that we weren't desiring a change and if we do, we were just helpless as we endured a life that have no door or window of hope, of a better tomorrow.

One morning, I just discovered that I was no longer comfortable with my condition of life in that slum called “OGUANJA” along Reclamation road, in sapele, Delta State. That day I saw that the water my neighbour used for
bathing was running through the front of my room, though, it had always been like that all the time that neighbour's take their bath, saw it differently that morning, can't tell what came over me.

I just started cursing my room, I said: “I Hate You, You Room, I Hate To Live In You Will Not Live In Me Ant More, From Today, I Cause You. I Desire A Change. I Was Not Born With You And You Were Not Built With Me In Mind Am Not Your Landlord Am Only A Tenant And Today, My Tenancy Had Expired. Am Going To Search For A Better Accommodation And Leave You And This House Alone Don't Look At Me As If Am Your Owner”

I spoke with the Holy Ghost power and with vigor and vitality and the spirit in that house that have made me to be the friend of that one room apartment. I divorced that house in the court of prayers. The walls and the roof of that
house are my witness from that day that I lived in that house but that house never lived in me from that day forward, we became strangers, even though I paid and took great care of her. I started telling everyone how I hated that apartment, as I desired a change in my accommodation. The apartment also began to understand that we are strange bedfellows. We stopped communicating as close friends. We stop doing things in common, for the first time in many years; I started telling everyone that care to listen that am looking for a house. Some of my very close friends sometimes asked me if I had gotten money to pay for a new accommodation. That question I had no answer to. I told them that as far as am concerned, am tired of this apartment as a matter of fact, that apartment was not home but a house of “limitation”.

My very close friend and neighbour, Arthur Onaiwu, who I help to also rent a room
from the same house, asked how long do I think it will take me to save enough for a new house, I said I don't know but all I knew was that apartment is no longer a friend but an enemy of progress.

After all, friendship is not by false but by choice. I cursed the day I rented that apartment. After about a month, I discovered that though I packed into that apartment willingly, that apartment was not ready to release me without a contest, so I started to avoid the house itself. I was only sleeping in that house. I will leave in the morning and slipped in like a thief in the night, when the entire roof, piece of cursed furniture, and the few wretched cooking utensils had all fallen asleep. I became a stranger to that apartment. When will all this desire come to manifestations, I don't know but I just desired a better accommodation for myself.
One day, I was in the church when I heard that one of the brothers Engineer Odaque, working in one of the Government institutions had been given a raise and given a bigger apartment with four boys-quarters he was complaining that the building itself was too big for him and his family and then, the boys quarter. He was actually telling my pastor that since he's always at work, his wife also being a teacher, teaching in one of the public school and the children are always in schools, every weekdays, that the house will be too lonely and deserted when they all left the house. He was saying something like: how which somebody will like to come and help them stay in one of the four room boy's quarter, at least to help them look after the house when they are not around.

It was like I did not hear him well as I was eavesdropping on them. I because agitated to the point; I almost ran into the discussion, but
had to restrain myself from interrupting the conversation. I waited till they finished and I approached the Brother and told him of my desire and how the apartment I lived in had become the lot against my progress, he said if I can manage the boys quarters because the rooms are separate but each room have a kitchen, toilet (water-system), free electricity (meaning, no more light bills). He said the duplex and the boys quarter will be with the company's security guard and a security officers will keep me company if am at home. Right there and then, I told him I will go and think about it and bring him feed back because he think I may not accept the offer since the place is in the reservation area of town and I will need transport to come to town and do my shopping.

When I left him, I was wandering what he means by shopping and transportations because all those things are not part of my
had to restrain myself from interrupting the conversation. I waited till they finished and I approached the Brother and told him of my desire and how the apartment I lived in had become the lot against my progress, he said if I can manage the boys quarters because the rooms are separate but each room have a kitchen, toilet (water-system), free electricity (meaning, no more light bills). He said the duplex and the boys quarter will be with the company's security guard and a security officers will keep me company if am at home. Right there and then, I told him I will go and think about it and bring him feed back because he think I may not accept the offer since the place is in the reservation area of town and I will need transport to come to town and do my shopping.

When I left him, I was wandering what he means by shopping and transportations because all those things are not part of my budget since I was born into this world. I pinched my self if what am hearing is really true; I seem to feel the pain, meaning I was not dreaming. It was like God is turning round the affliction of Israel and if was a dream; I prayed never to wake up from it.

I was risen back to reality when I arrived home to tell my friend Arthur, my co-tenant that I have gotten a room down town, at the reservation area, when suddenly, I saw that old wicked and wretched formal apartment of the formal me, still waiting like a rejected, unwanted house wife, who had refused to returned to sender.

Within one week, I packed into the two rooms because my properties all entered the one room which was twelve by twelve (the former was ten by twelve) and I still had two rooms left. The man called me and said if the boy's quarter will be too lonely for me, because it's far from the main duplex, I should
look for a Christian unmarried brother who will share with me.

I went to town that I have a two for rent and that was how I became, landlord and caretaker.

One person I admire her for-sight and sense of judgment, is Rebecca, she took risk many of our young ladies today will hardly take. The bible said: “So They Called Rebekah And Said To Her, Will You Go With This Man? And She Said, I Will Go. So They Sent Away Rebekah Their Sister And Her Nurse, And Abraham's Servant And His Men. (GEN.24:57-59)”

What a risk to be undertaken by a woman of faith? She did not know the man but she took a leap of faith and landed on the gate of grace.

Though today, we may not be faced with similar situations, but we are faced with various challenges that required same
response of faith mixed with same degree of risk. She desired a good thing, better than what her land could offer and she got it.

**INTERMEDDLING:**

I called this a mixture of things that do not go together. I was in a city were I was opportune to meet with my sister, Army Campbell, now in the U.S. She got her visa, a day after I met her and we went to the Cebu Hilton to celebrate the great thanksgiving. Before the thanksgiving dinner, I asked her what her original field of study was, she replied that she read Education and worked in Saudi Arabia, where she met her American husband. They got married and she lived with him in America before she moved to Asia with her four kids.

She knew she will want to be involved in Mission and she will want to build a church in her place of origin. She desired to be
financially independent though even if she is married to an America.

You know what she did? She went and enrolled in a Nursing school for four years. I mean school again after graduation with a degree. She already had four kids! Today, she just passed her board exams, got her visas for herself and her four kids and also a well-paid job in the U.S.

I wanted to know why she branched off from Education and she said that Nursing pay more in the U.S, than Education. I admire her good sense of judgment. She intermingles with all legitimate knowledge. The scripture says:

“...Brethren, whatever things are true, whatever is noble, whatever are just, whatever things are of good report, if there be any virtue and if there be anything praise worthy, meditate on these things. (Phil.4: 8, NKJV.)
There are some of us who are in ministry and yet, what we do is not able to feed us now. We are almost becoming like beggars and destitute. Am not saying you should go and work *(READ MY HAND-BOOK ON: TENT MAKING IN THE 21ST CENTURY)*. But if you once had a profession before you came into ministry, what would make your children and family die of hunger if you are not always in the church 24 hours of the day?

I know some friends that watch an average of \( \frac{3}{4} \) movies a day and each movie sometimes, run for 2 hours.

There are some of us who has one profession and over time, the pay is not able to sustain us, why not intermingle with other profitable venture?

There is no way here that we will round up this chapter without reference to Paul who was a lawyer, an apostle and tent-builder.
I will want you also to remember David who was a shepherd, singer, dancer, writer and King. In each stage of his life, we discovered that he was able to fall back to something profitable and that can put food on his table. He was not a shepherd all his life, he was not also a singer all his life, and he was not in the army for too long, just as he was not a dancer for too long. Someone said the other day that life is in stages and men are in sizes.

In what ever stage you find yourself, its better to be very prepared and equipped for all “Things to work together” intermingle with drivers, develop to become a tailor and if you are a tailor, don't be in that stage for too long, grow to become a fashion designer.

I was watching a woman who was the oldest Obioma (local tailor) in Nigeria. She was already in the business before Nigeria got her independence. She said when she was young, she use to do her trade in exchange for
foodstuff. Till today, still carries her machine on her shoulder and still work round the city looking for people that will amend torn or used cloths.

She is more that forty years on the trade, but she has no shop of her own, no working address, no email, no phone number and she can't communicate in the language of today, she can only communicate in the local dialect. If you are a hair platter, learn how to do weaving, setting and washing and other hair do, women of today are used to carrying the world of yesterday, into the life of today.

The development of transportation today, the development and growth of the financial market of today, the development of the telecommunication sector, the improvements of the international travel, in today's world.

The development and provision of free and available qualitative education in, this millennium.
The spread of all the available correspondence courses all over the continent. The much publicized and available skilled acquisition program of every local state and national government.

The world becoming a global village in our days. Why did you think all this happened in your time? So that you will become inexcusable today because, if you do, the people of yesteryears will laugh at you.

If you already have a profession, try your best to have at least, a vocation of your own. I remembered one of my friends in one of the institution in my country. He was in school, but before he went, he was working in the marketing department of a garment factory.

He was not a fashion designer, but he can take your measurement to the factory and within two days, your dress will be ready. When he thought he had made and saved enough money for his further studies, he
resigns and went to school. Alas! Not long after third section, he ran out of his savings. He had no one to run to other than his formal vocation.

He started going round campus to collect orders from his mates during classes' hostels and campus fellowships and in his last section; he had employed twelve boys who now made the dress for his client.

Till today, he still runs that business on campus even though he had graduated and bows a lecturer in that same school.

I was a polymer producer before I went to school; I never study that profession anywhere or in any school. I learnt it when I was working with the Delta Packaging Company. Within five months, I become a loom operator. In that company, I was doing shift and when am on day shift, during the day, I was doing an apprentice job as a sewing machine mechanic.
While I was in class two in college, I was an established tailor. I learnt it during the morning time since my school was doing the afternoon section system for us student. While I was not a pastor, I did a course and I possessed a certificate from the child evangelism fellowship from America. I learnt printing when I was already doing well in ministry. I did not have to learn driving and I have a valid licensed from my country and am about going for my international licensed, not because I want to be driver, but occasion might demand that I used some of those skills not day.

The other time I was doing my first book work, I knew how mush I paid for it to be typed and arranged. How I which you will see how those involved, delayed the job, in the various section of production.

But in less than one month of the first production of my first book titled: impact-full,
I am writing the second and third book. I have done the first one in less than two weeks. I am doing both the typing and arrangement of that work titled marriage of Strange Bed-fellow and Undertakers; Caretakers and Risk-takers.

I am about to join those writers who produce their work by themselves. To be able to do this, I had to spend money and time to learn so many things in the computer. I had to learn how to type, do spacing, arrangement and save my job unlike before, I used to save my work in a disc-ket now, I have bought a pen-drive to do my storage.

Apart from being a pastor, I represent so many international bodies in various capacities in my spare time. There was a time; I had to do conductor for one of my member, Elder Emma, just to be able to earn some few kobo. There was a time I bought a panel van and I used it as a taxi for so many years. I hope you have not forgotten that I am also a
professional pounded yam pounder for three and half years.

Please, don't miss-understand me. Am not saying you should become jack of all trade but master of none, no, you just make sure you have a back up that is all. You may not make use of it today but a day may come and you will have need of it.

My wife and I were in one country some few years ago and we rented a car for about four days. The renter seeing that we were foreigners wanted to skin us of every available extra he could get from my queen and me. He said we have to pay for some one to drive my queenly wife and me, so I told him not to worry. I became the driver in a country I have never driven before.

As a matter of fact, on the last day of the conference, I drove my guest from the United States to the airport, which was about four hour away from the venue, and when I was
coming from the airport, I used the car to pick some passengers for me not to be lonely. Men, I made some money out of that drive, from the airport.

And if as at the time I came back to my country, if I bought some gift for you as a present, would you not take it?

The Bible had this to say about Jesus, John and Samuel; “And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature and in favour, with God and men”

Samuel was not born a prophet; it was his mother that sent him to live with Prophet Eli. Maybe he was sent to school and when he returned, he will have an exemplary life, but he was asked to do one specific assignment make sure the light in the temple don't go off in the night and he did it very well that God became please with the way he used his talent. Am sure he improved to become not just a temple servant but was servant who took over
from his master. His excellent spirit can be attested to. He was not born into priest-hood, but he developed into that office and left it better than he met it by establishing the school of the prophet's sons of the future prophet in the school of the prophets.

Can you see how he went through a transition of development in his lifetime, in each stage, he was well prepared. He was a houseboy; a temple servant, a temple worker, a prophet, a theologian and proprietor in his days unlike that late prophet who died in debt and his children were about to be taking into slavery. They had that bottle of oil in their house, but they lack the know how to use it to turn things around during the stage of lack and want.

Finally, before we bring this chapter to a close, I want you to remember that “There is Dignity in Labour.”
Chapter Six

THE GREATNESS IN SMALL BEGINNING

“For who hath despised the day of small things? For they shall rejoice and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbel with those seven, they are the eyes of the lord, which run to and fro through the whole earth. (Zach. 4:10)

In every small beginning lies the seed of greatness. It is true that many do not realize the greatness in every small beginning and so don't see reasons to take risk.

The scripture teaches: “Though thy
beginning was small, yet thy latter end should greatly increase.” (Job 8:7)

Countless Christians hesitate to take risk because they can't see the greatness in the beginning of their great career. All great career begin in small ways, Abraham took a great risk by taking his child for sacrifice.

STIRRING THE NEST.

Recently, I was with Pastor Jhun Beverly in Osmen a Ext, in Cebu. He taught me in detail, the risk taken by the mother eagle in their baby eaglet how to fly. He said the Eagle build her nest on thorns.

She collects various thorns together to build her nest and carpet them with soft material before the arrival of her baby. When the baby arrived, she nursed them inside the nest. As the baby grows up, the mother begins to take for ways to teach her baby Eaglet how to fly. The baby eagles like so many people
always resist the training and the risk because of the comfort Zone that they enjoy inside the better, not knowing of the best beside them. As long as those baby Eaglet dread the risk involve, they never fly and enjoyed the privileges, new discoveries and opportunities that lies in the horizon. Thank God the mother Eagle will never let go, but begin to dismantle the soft covering that covers the nest. When the nest become uncomfortable, the baby eagle will still be comfortable in her discomfort.

The mother will then push the baby to the edge of the nest. As the mother pushed her to the edge of the nest, she is pushed down and began to fall, the mother watches from a distance and catches her from two meters to the ground. What a risk?

Among the Asian countries I have visited,
the small Island of the Philippines proves more challenging to me. It is a risk going to that Island.

As I left Dubai, the emirate flight had seven hundred and seventy seven passengers. As I took my seat, about seventeen passengers protested and asked for a change of seat. It was so risky; I was the only black man on that flight. About thirty passengers covered their noses. I felt like dying. Everywhere I went, I saw discrimination of the worst order, among the people.

Only the believers accepted me. Some of the passengers were those kidnapped in Nigeria. They had just been released and were returning home. I saw them discussing and pointing at me. I was their reference point. As those former kidnapped passengers recounted their ordeal, others who came from other countries and were transiting, were making inquiry from those kidnapped of their
experience. I knew I was not safe on that flight.

Most of those who dared to speak with me apart from the believers think majority of Nigerians are kidnappers. Thank God for the believers. It was a risky trip and yet I am ready to return back to that country. I have great friends in America, London and so many other countries, but I discover great friends, partners and a great father in that poor country. As at the time I visited that small Island, some of their kidnapped citizens were still not released.

The risky journey to that country as at the time most of their citizens were being kidnapped in my country lies the beginning of my calling.

It's a tiny mustard seed that brought a mighty tree forth from that first trip, I met an Apostle, Dr. Edmund Kwan, who had been used of God to change my life and ministry.
Jesus began his ministry as a carpenter.

“Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of Juda, and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him. (Mark 6:3).

The people of his days were offended at him but his submission and obedience to that small career brought him to the greatest ministry ever undertaking by man.

Ruth's career began as a helper to a frustrated woman. Aaron began his career by holding the hands of Moses. David began his career by playing instruments for a depraved and demented King. The great military General, Joshua began his career as a servant to Moses. Moses was above eighty years old and yet this servant of God, saw great career in serving an old prophet. Elisha began his career by pouring water into the hands of his master, Elijah. “For Though Thy Beginning Be
Small, Yet Thy Latter End Should Greatly Increase” (Job 8:27).
… THE ROAD OF FAITH

“Without faith it is impossible to please God” (Hebrews 11:6)

The writer of Hebrews inform us of the importance of faith, it's important for us all to also note that so many writers have written so much on the subject “Faith”.

My intention is not to teach on the subject of faith but to open our understanding with an opener to the importance of faith.

The writer of Hebrew said that all can walk with God and I know you want to walk with God. The writer said that is not the issue. It's easy to walk with God. Illiterate can walk with God.
The educated can walk with GOD.
The lame can walk with God.
The poor can walk with God.
The barren can walk with God.
The skilled and unskilled worker can walk with God.
The handicapped can walk with God.
The lepers can walk with God.
The old can walk with God.
The young can walk with God.
The widow can walk with God.

Hebrews 11: 6, states that the issue is not who can walk with God but who had gotten what it takes to walk with God.

The book of Hebrews 11:6, is one major “Impossiblican't” I have seen in scripture. There are many great men and woman who walk with God in the old and New Testament, some were more qualified and others were less qualified when compared to you. We were told in this scripture how they were able to accomplish such a task. Each and everyone listed in the “hall of fame” accomplished all their tasked for God, by
The other day, I forgot, I wanted to ask father Noah, how he started the ship building project? I wanted to ask him if he has ever seen water before he started the ship construction. I wonder what his reply would be! I think it would be like this, “my son, I had never seen rain, not even flood, nor cloud but what I know is that once God said it, I believe it.”

Noah builds that Ark with great risk, he spent most of his productive years on that project. What would have happened after he finish building the Ark and there was no rain?

“The most accesible road to breakthrough is faith.” Today, Noah is dead and his Ark is buried in the ancient time of history but the story is not so much as about the Ark but about the response of Noah to God's instruction by faith.

In one of my missionary tour to the biggest continent of the world, I was in one of their Z00 one Sunday afternoon with Pst.Jhun Sayson and when I came out of that Z00, I knew better, the
story of Daniel spending the night in the Lion's den.

With all the animals locked in their cages, I would never want to do a night vigil in a Z00 even if all the animals are in a lock up cage. But we were told Daniel did not just sleep in a Z00 but amazingly shared the lion's apartment with them. How? By faith.

What is this Faith?

According to oxford-advanced learners Dictionary, faith is the ability to trust in somebody's ability or knowledge; is the trust that somebody will do what he or she had promised. I want you to understand that the person being referred to here is God. To walk with God, is to walk by faith and it's risky to so walk. A close look into the faith of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, shows that their faith walk, is risk walk. One thing about their taking risk by walking by faith is that as we act, God act. When men work, man work; when man pray by faith, God work! We respond to Him by faith and He respond to us for faith. Faith is so vital that God required
every one to have it before they can walk together. Faith is a fertile ground in which God grows His plants and trees. God equip and plant in any man's qualities, which is admired in all ages. Little men and women take on a stature by faith in Christ. This faith stature enable them to have zest, a grip on life and tackle difficulties with determination and great confidence. With faith, you now see it a common thing to perform beyond your natural capacity. When Jesus said to those fishermen on the Sea of Galilee “COME FOLLOW ME AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN” By faith, they acted and switched direction. They were risk takers and they got elevation. When that young boy gave his Lunch pack to Jesus that was a great risk. He lost his lunch pack. People must have concluded that he was a loser but, he was not a loser, as you can see from the scripture.

“When They Had All Had Enough To Eat, He Said To His Disciples, Gather The Pieces That Are Left Over. Let Nothing Be Wasted. So They Gathered Them And Filled Twelve
Every one to have it before they can walk together.

Faith is a fertile ground in which God grows His plants and trees. God equip and plant in any man’s qualities, which is admired in all ages. Little men and women take on a stature by faith in Christ. This faith stature enable them to have zest, a grip on life and tackle difficulties with determination. With faith, you now see it a common thing to perform beyond your natural capacity. When Jesus said to those fishermen on the Sea of Galilee “COME FOLLOW ME AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERMEN OF MEN”.

By faith, they acted and switched direction. They were risk takers and they got elevation. When that young boy gave his lunch pack to Jesus that was a great risk. He lost his lunch pack. People must have concluded that he was a loser but, he was not a loser, as you can see from the scripture. “When They Had All Had Enough To Eat, He Said To His Disciples, Gather The Pieces That Are Left Over. Let Nothing Be Wasted. So They Gathered Them And Filled Twelve Baskets With The Pieces Of The Five Barley Loaves Left Over By Those Who Have Eaten” (Lk.6:12-13.)

This young boy took a risk with his lunch pack and got twelve basket-full as he was elevated just by that act of faith. When Peter risked his life by stepping on water, he broked the law of gravity. When the woman with the issue of blood risked the scorn of the crowd, she contacted power. All this people and so many others that were not mention here due to space, are all the ones the Bible called “The Great Crowd Of Witnesses”.

“Therefore, Since We Are Surrounded By Such A Cloud Of Witnesses, Let Us Throw Off Everything That Hinders…….. (Heb.12:1)

Were faith is involve, risk is also involve. Many though, have not understood what lasting joy and eternal value lies within our reach, when we respond in faith (though risky). By changing direction for God to give us divine elevation in life. Can you meditate on this scenario;
“A Certain Ruler Asked Him, Good Teacher, What Must I Do To Inherit Eternal Life? Why Do You Call Me Good? Jesus Answered. No One Is Good Except God Alone. You Know The Commandment: Do Not Commit Adultery, Do Not Murder, Do Not Steal, Do Not Murder, And Do Not Give False Testimony, Honour Your Father And Mother. All This I Have Kept Since I Was A Boy, He Said. When Jesus Heard This, He Said To Him, You Still Lack One Thing, Sell Everything You Have And Give To The Poor And You Will Have Treasure In Heaven. Then Come Follow Me, When He Heard This, He Became Very Sad, Because He Was A Man Of Great Wealth” (Luke 18:15-23).

One thing that we must understand, is that faith is not just to make us risk takers only when it concern material things of this passing world faith is not becoming a gold digger, though, God who made all the physical wealth, is not against
wealth, but those whose God is gold and silver can expect no help from above. They will not be able to become risk takers. The bible spoke about men who went after the pursuit of pleasure” Hedonism (Gr. Hedonic), thus.

“That Which Fell Among Thorns Are They, Which When They Have Heard, Go Forth, And Are Choked With Cares And Riches And Pleasure (Gr. Hedonon) Of This Life And Bring No Fruit To Perfection” (Luke 8:14).

The same plain words address us in James 4:3, “When You Ask, You Do Not Receive Because You Ask With Wrong Motives, That You May Spend What You Get On Your Pleasures” we must understand that a life aim of riches is stupid because at the end, we can't take it (riches) with us. It will only bring eternal elevation, if we follow Christ directions. “seek First The Kingdom Of God And His Righteousness And All These Things Shall Be Added To You” (matt.6:33),
Someone rightly said, Jesus never commended their faith. We talk of believers with great faith but some event inspired them and also encourage them. They took their opportunity, change their attitude and became risk takers. God honour such a holy resolve.

Jesus commended one or two for their great faith but not one of them arrived at that happy position by a long and arduous process. They met Jesus. That was all and enough. Ever increasing faith as one of our father's state truthfully, is that kind of faith that a little child trust on his parent more as he grows older.

“THE JUST LIVE BY FAITH” (Gal.3:11)
One of our fathers said, faith involves taking a chance, or it would not be faith. I sincerely believe that taking a chance (risk) For God is not a gamble. God is faithful and sure. This chance is taken based on the confidence anticipation based on the knowledge of who God is. Peter knew what Jesus was like and obeyed him when He took a risk based on the instruction of Jesus and he walked on water. Faith is to act on what we know,
expecting God to be to us what we know He is. When we “risk” everything on God, He proves some things about Himself.
Chapter Eight

RISK IT BY FAITH

You have to know that faith goes with risk. I will like to introduce to you men who individually and sometimes collectively decided to take risk by faith.

(1) ABRAHAM.

"Abraham Believe God, And God Counted It To Him As Righteousness And He Became A Friend Of God"

“(James 2:23)

Can you imagine the kind of risk Abraham took to reach that position. He took his son to a mountain to slaughter in blind trust
and in obedience and in obedience to God's word. His son asks him and said “Father, Here Is The Fire And The Wood But Were Is The Lamb For The Sacrifice?” Abraham responded by saying “GOD SHALL PROVIDE HIMSELF, A LAMB.”

In Genesis 12, he was called to come out of his comfort zone, into the unknown and he responded, taking the risk to search for a city, which maker and builder is God.

(2) JACOB

I want you to picture Jacob, as he took the risk and wrestled with God. He made up his mind to risk all in one night for a change for a better tomorrow. He took a risk that elevated him from Jacob to Izra-el. “the Man Ask Him, What Is Your Name? Jacob He Answered. Then, The Man Said, Your Name Will No Longer Be Jacob But Israel, Because You Have Struggled With God And With Men
And Have Overcome” (Genesis 32:27-28). He took a risk for a change. He said “I will not let you go, unless you bless me” (VERSE 26). That man could have harmed him. He threw his all into this contest for a change and it worked. I remembered how I got a great breakthrough that changed my life dramatically. I will share it with you here. I attended a conference some years ago and at the close of one of the sections in the night, one of the ministers went round to inform us that there was a fraudster outside who said he came for the conference from far but had no place to stay for the night because according to him, he could not see the person who invited him. When I heard the information, I knew and had heard most times, how such people could turn out to be fraudsters and thieves. Their antics is that they try to get into your apartment, before then, they will arrange with their gang to be on standby and when they go to some certain
And Have Overcome” (Genesis 32:27-28).

He Took A Risk For A Change. He Said “I Will Not Let You Go, Unless You Bless Me” (VERSE 26). That man could have harmed him. He threw his all into this contest for a change and it worked. I remembered how I got a great break through that changed my life dramatically. I will share it with you here. I attended a conference some years ago and at the close of one of the section in the night, one of the minister went round to inform us that there was a fraudster outside who said he came for the conference from far but had no place to stay for the night because according to him, he could not see the person who invited him. When I heard the information, I knew and had heard most times, how such people could turn out to be fraudsters and thieves. Their antics is that they try to get into your apartment, before then, they will arrange with their gang to be on standby and when they go to some certain gathering, they will disguised as being helpless and stranded. If an unsuspecting visitor fall to their schemes and take them home, they will behave very well till the dead of the night, when everyone must have slept, then, they will open the door for their gang members to gain entry into your home. With this piece of information, I would never think I would ever entertain any stranger into my home. At that time, my wife was in the university, which means I was alone in the house, which would have made it impossible for me to accept this stranger. As I walked pass this stranger from Adam, something told me to take the risk, which I did. That dangerous risk I took that night brought me the breakthrough that lead me into the new dimension of Samaria AND “THE OUTMOST PART OF THE EARTH” ministry God gave me today.
(3) GIDEON

“And What More Shall I Say I Do Not Have Time To Tell Of About Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel And The Prophet, Who Through Faith Conquered Kingdoms, Administered Justice And Gained What Was Promised, Who Shut The Mouth Of Lions, Quenched The Fury Of The Flames, And Escaped The Edge Of The Sword, Whose Weakness Was Turn To Strength, And Who Became Powerful In Battle And Routed Foreign Armies. Women Received Their Back Their Dead, Raised To Life Again Others Were Tortured And Refused To Be Released, So That They Might Gain A Better Resurrection.” (Hebrew 11:32-35).

Gideon was a frustrated young son of a
local chief; he risked it to become a national hero. Though he had and started with shaky faith, God himself nurtured Gideon's faith. He took a great risk by facing an invading army 500 times bigger than his unarmed men and put to flight, the armies of aliens.

There was time that I was invited to minister in one church, during that period; I was in dare need for money to meet a particular need. I went to that meeting, not knowing how that need will be met.

I still recollect that it was on Saturday, and by Monday, if anything does not happened, I will be in soup. I left my home for that preaching engagement with a heavy burden. I need to pay my bill on Monday. It's just that doing much, it had to do with my accommodation at that time, it was thirty Six thousand Naira. That is $300 only. On Saturday morning, as I step out of my house, I was only having one thousand naira, both in
heaven and on earth. That rent was like the big stone on the tomb of Jesus. You will remember that when the Mary's wanted to go, very early in the morning to anoint the body of Jesus, there was an impediment on their way. Like those faithless women, my burden was “Who Will Help Roll Away The Financial Stone On My Way.”

I looked toward the four corner of the earth and could not see any ray of hope. As I walk to that meeting to preach, I ponder on that song, that says; *I look up to the mountain, to the hill's I turn my eyes, who will come to help me, when I found myself too high. The Lord who made the heaven, and the earth will hear my cry, he will come and help me, for he will not let me down.*

*He will not let me down; he will not let me down. He's never weary and he will not let down, he will not let down, He'll not let me down, he is never weary and he will not let me*
As I ponder on those words tears filled my eyes and suddenly, I realized I was closed to the church where I was invited to preach. I quickly adjusted and brightened up my physical appearance as I entered into the premises. During my ministration, I mean as I was preaching, I heard a voice telling me to obey Him and see the salvation of His. I knew how God speaks to me instantly, I knew what he was saying, and He said I should minister to somebody. I asked, who? He said the drummer needs one thousand Naira now and if the drummer can't get that money today Saturday that the message am speaking on now will be meaningless. I quickly reminded him, in case he had forgotten that on Monday, I need to pay my accommodation bill and if he had forgotten, I still needed Thirty five thousand to pay for my rent on Monday. I heard Him say I should obey Him now and he will take care of that need in my life. I remember the scripture
that says “The just shall lived by faith” in this particular case, from all indication, it was a temptation to me and also very risky. I saw my self, face to face, in a double tragedy. I struggled for a while, by trying to concentrate on my preaching but each time, tried to suppress that voice, I loose concentration. Then, one thousand Naira, was less than $10, but to me at that time, was more than $1,000. After much ado, I surrendered the money to the drummer who could not believe his eyes. He actually testified that he needed that money that very day and it was such burden in his heart. When I left that meeting, I was now poorer than I went but, there was this joy that came into my heart that I was able to meet someone's need. That same evening, some body told me that there was suppose to be a live recording of the hidden with Christ concluding section in one hotel. The person who was bill to feature just can't make it as he
was indispose. I was asked to go and I accepted. I went with my wife and Rev. James Chukwu. He is still alive today as my living witness. That Sunday, I went to that recording section and my wife and I were interviewed. I noticed that the producer of the program was always crying each time I speak. I was wandering why she was crying. At the end of my section, the producer told all in that room that God spoke to her to give me Thirty six thousand Naira. She went into her hotel room and gave me the money cash. I took a risk on Saturday morning. I got a blessing on Sunday evening, I thank God that I took that risk! I took a risk to meet the need of some one else and God met my need with some one else. “FOR WITH THE SAME MEASURE YOU USE, IT WILL MEASURED BACK TO YOU” (Luke 6:38). God have all power and that is all that matter. It follows that if we obey his command, he will meet our human
need. The power breakthrough for the Ephesians was a faith breakthrough in realization of what was theirs already in Christ. We too must take it by faith, not through merit by the labors of prayer. “That The God Of Our Lord Jesus Christ, The Father Of Glory, May Give You The Spirit Of Wisdom And Revelation In The Knowledge Of Him, The Eyes Of Your Under Standing Being Enlightened; That You May Know What Is The Hope Of His Calling, What Are The Riches Of The Glory Of His Inheritance In The Saints And What Is The Exceeding Greatness Of His Power Toward Us Who Believe” (Eph 1:17-19). Faith is a leap into the light, not into the darkness. It is out of the unknown into the known, out of not knowing Christ Jesus into knowing Him. Taking a risk in faith is like a child standing where it is not safe but without any fear because the father is waiting to catch him. The child falls on
purpose to be caught by the father.

Every day, we exercise trust as we take risk physically, we trust in countless things, sometimes, new and unfamiliar people, food, chairs, gadgets and everything around us in the natural. We don't stand to say, “Now Have I Enough Faith To Enter A Bus” yet, it's a risk to get on a bus, and you can't trust the expertise of the driver, the brake and so on. “Can I Sit Quietly Trusting This Driver?” we don't think of that, we just trust all the way. The only reason we can't take risk is due to lack of faith in our 'father who art in heaven'.

“Now It Happened On A Certain Day, As He Was Teaching, That There Were Pharisees And Teachers Of Every Town Of Galilee, Judea And Jerusalem. And The Power Of The Lord Was Present To Heal Them. Then Behold, Men Brought On A Bed A Man Who Was Paralyzed, Whom They Sought To Bring In And Lay Before Him. And When
They Could Not Find How They Might Bring Him In, Because Of The Crowd With, They Went Up On The House Top And Let Him Down With His Bed Through The Tiling Into The Midst Before Jesus. When He Saw (the Risk And Trust Has On Him) Faith, He Said To Him Man Your Sins Are Forgiven You.” (Luke 5:17-20)

I hope you are not surprise that am not concentrating on the sick man, but on the four risk taker.

Where they carpenters?
Where they roof climbers?
Where they social workers?
Where they medics or Para-medics?

No they were just risk takers nothing more, nothing less. Obviously, many of those people milling around Jesus all had physical or spiritual troubles and “The Power Of The Lord Was Present For Him To Heal The Sick” None of all those undertakers, care-
takers were delivered of their physical or spiritual troubles.

Then suddenly as they were taking care and doing undertaking for one another's unbelief, there appeared four risk-takers who carried a paralyzed man on a stretcher and because they could not get through the crowd, they went up the outside stairs of the flat rooted house, pulled apart the rooting sheet. Remember that Jesus was not the owner of that house, the paralyzed man also was not the owner, neither was any of his relation, the owner. The house was not owned by the four risks takers, but …… are you still standing there? Their eye was on Jesus and his word was playing in their eye simultaneously "seek ye first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and everything will (add up) be added unto you" As Jesus teach those care-takers to look up and also take a risk (in faith) and be healed since, "The Power Of The Lord
Was Present For Him To Heal The Sick” As they pulled apart the covering of that house, they lowered the man down right in front of Jesus, seeing their faith, Jesus restored the health of the man. It was a double break, through the roof and also through the unbelief of the crowd, which kept them from reaching Christ. What happened there happen all the time. When you take risk and something happened, it breaks through the unbelief of the world.

Look at the lepers? Nobody believed them until they under took a risky venture. “now There Were Four Leprous Men At The Entrance Of The Gate; And They Said To One Another, Why Are We Sitting Here Until We Die? If We Say, We Will Enter The City, The Famine Is In The City, And We Shall Die There. And If We Sit Here, We Die Also. Now Therefore, Come, Let Us Surrender To The Army Of Syrians, If They Keep Us Alive, We
Was Present For Him To Heal The Sick”

As they pulled apart the covering of that house, they lowered the man down right in front of Jesus, seeing their faith, Jesus restored the health of the man. It was a double break, through the roof and also through the unbelief of the crowd, which kept them from reaching Christ. What happened there happen all the time. When you take risk and something happened, it breaks through the unbelief of the world.

Look at the lepers? Nobody believed them until they undertook a risky venture. “now There Were Four Leprous Men At The Entrance Of The Gate; And They Said To One Another, Why Are We Sitting Here Until We Die? If We Say, We Will Enter The City, The Famine Is In The City, And We Shall Die There. And If We Sit Here, We Die Also. Now Therefore, Come, Let Us Surrender To The Army Of Syrians, If They Keep Us Alive, We Shall Live, And If They Kill Us, We Shall Only Die. And They Arose At Twilight To Go To The Camp Of The Syrians, And When They Had Come To The Outskirts Of The Syrian Camp, To Their Greatest Surprise No One Was There, For The Lord Had Caused The Army Of Syrians To Hear The Noise Of Chariots And The Noise Of Horses-the Noise Of A Great Army So They Said To One Another, Look The King Of Israel Has Hired Against Us The King Of Hittites And The Kings Of The Egyptians Attack Us. Therefore, They Arose And Fled At Twilight And Left The Camp Intact Their Tent, Their Horses And Their Donkeys-a They Fled For Their Lives……….. Then They Said One Another, We Are Not Doing Right (by Being A Care-takers Or Undertakers). This Day Is The Day Of Good News And We Remain Silent (state Of Being Inactive Or Not Being Impactful.) If We Wait Until Morning, Light,
Some Punishment Will Come Upon Us. Now Therefore, Come Let Us Go And Tell The King House Hold. So They Went…” (2 Kings 7:3-10).

They were not even sure they will make it. It's like someone falling from an aircraft without a parachute. Don't be like some people who just have their faith in life. They believe that life will treat them kindly, that is not risk. Don't you know that the vast universe is hostile to human life? We live in this kind of bubble in the vacuum of space on a planet full of life in a lifeless void. Our preservation is an act of God. Life should be for us a daily miracle because if we don't daily, live in miracles, we will live in obstacles.

There are many who shrink from undertaking the work the master gives them to do. Others feel they are not worthy; they have no skill or power for the delicate duty. But to all our timid, shrinking and withdrawing, the
master's gentle, yet urgent word is “Step Out And Do Take A Risk”
Chapter Nine

DESTROYED FOR GREATER USEFULNESS

Timidity and fear is not from God. What is most surprising in Africa is the way we fear to lose our life. So many people place much value on this visible fragile life that is transiting. They forget to know that “LIFE IS NOT IN DURATION, BUT IN DONATION”

According to our Lord's teaching, we can make of our life by losing a soul for his sake, is saving it. There is a lower self that must be trampled down and trampled to death by the higher self. It will take a risk-taker to break the
Alabaster box for the oil to break out and fill the house. It will take risk to crush the flower before the perfumed can be made. The wheat must be grounded before it can become bread to feed the hungry. It's so in life whole, unbruised, unbroken men, who refuse to step out in faith and take risk are of but little use. True living is really a succession of battles in which those who step out in faith, become the better, who triumph over the worst, the spirit over the flesh. We can never become truly useful and helpful to others until we learn this lesson from the teaching of Christ. “FOR WHOSOEVER WOULD SVE HIS LIFE SHALL LOSE IT, BUT WHOSE EVER SHALL LOSE HIS LIFE FOR MY SAKE, THE SAME SHALL SAVE IT” (Luke 9:24). Your life may never become the great blessing to the world, the way it was meant to be until this law of self-sacrifice, faith and risk-taking become our heart-principle.
“DESTROYED FOR GREATER USEFULNESS” can you imagine this scenario: A huge tree stands tall and beautiful in its majesty. The ornamental tree cast cool shade and under the branches the children play, among its bough the birds sing. One day, the woodman comes with his axe and the tree is cut down. As the woodman work on, the tree quivers in all its branches under the woodman's blow as you hear the tree crying, “I AM BEING DESTROYED.” So it cry until the large tree crashes to the ground. The children are sad because they could not play any more beneath the broad branches, the birds fly away sorrowfully because they can no longer nest and sing amid the summer foliage. But if we follow the history of that tree, you will find out that it is cut out into board and built into a beautiful cottage where human hearts find their happy nest. It's also used in making majestic organs that leads the
worship of a congregation. The losing of its life was the saving of it. It died that it may become far more useful. This is a simple illustration of the law that applies also in human life. We must die to be useful. To be truly a blessing, Jesus our lord put this truth in a simple parable when he said “THE SEED MUST FALL INTO THE EARTH AND DIE THAT IT MAY BEAR FRUITS.” What can be more illustrative, Christ own cross, is the highest illustration of this truth. When He undertook that risky venture, His friends said He wasted His precious life but, was that life wasted? We must get the same spirit in us, if we would become in any real sense a blessing to the world. We must take the risk, not waiting for the risk to come to us, we must die to live. It's risky but, we must loose our life to save it. We must lay self on the alter of love, in other to glorify God and do well, even though mingled with self. We all must
know this that it is only when self is sacrificed, burned on the alter of consecration and consumed in the hot flamed of love, that our work becomes really our best. A fit offering to be made to our king.

“The Men Who Had Leprosy Reached The Edge Of The Camp And Entered One Of The Tents. They Ate And Drank And Carried Away Silver, Gold And Clothes And Went Off And Hid Them. They Returned And Entered Another Tent And They Took Some Things From It And Hid Them Also. And They Said To Each Other We Are Not Doing Right. This Is A Day Of Good News And We Are Keeping It To Ourselves. If We Wait Until Daylight, Punishment Will Over Take Us. Let Us Go At Once And Report This To The Royal Palace” (2 kings 7:8-9) can you see the school of thought of these four leprous men? We must follow suit also. We don't have a fear that in making such sacrifice, such renunciation and
annihilation of self, we may loose ourselves. God will remember every deed of love and forgetting of self, every emptying out of life. Though we work in the most obscure places where no human tongue shall ever voice our praises, still there are records kept and some day, rich and glorious rewards will be given.

“During The Time Modechai Was Sitting At The Kings Gate, Bigthana And Teresh, Two Of The Kings Officer Who Guarded The Door Way, Became Angry And Conspired To Assassinate King Xerxes But Modecai Found Out About The Plot And Told Queen Esther, Who In Turn Reported It To The King, Giving Credit To Modecai.” (Esther 2:21-22)

The credit given to Modecai was temporary and it was not able to remove him from the gate of his career into his rightful place of impact. The next scripture proves that God's praise is better then that of men. “On
That Night, The King Could Not Sleep…” (Esther 6:1) This is the opening picture of when God begins to reward a risk-taker.

“When Haman Entered, The King Asked Him, What Should Be Done For The Man The King Delights To Honour? So He Answered The King, For The Man The King Delight To Honour, Have Them Bring A Royal Robe The King Has Worn And A Horse The King Has Ridden, One With A Royal Crest Placed On Its Head. Then Let The Robe And Horse Be Entrusted To One Of The Kings Most Noble Princes. Let Them Robe The Man The King Delight To Honour And Lead Him On The Horse Through The City Streets, Proclaiming Before Him, This Is What Is Done For The Man The King Delight To Honour. Go At Once, The King Commanded Human. Get The Robe And The Horse And Do Just As You Have Suggested For Modecai, The Jew, Who Sits At The
"King's Gate. Do Not Neglect Anything You Have Recommended." (Esther 7:7-10)

Mary's ointment in John 12 was considered wasted when she broke the vase and poured it upon her lord. What a risk! But suppose she had refused to take the risk and left the ointments in the unbroken vase, what remembrance would it have had then? Would it have had any mention in the gospel pages? Would her deed of carefully keeping the ointment have been told over the entire world? With the one man “GRAB ALL” mentality of this century, “Wealth Accumulation” of this generation and “Blessed Insurance” of our days that seems better than “Blessed Assurance” of the kingdom, don't you think it made more sense further to have kept that ointment and not take the risk? Yet she stepped out and like Mary in the book of John poured out her ointments to the lord. “Early On The First Day Of The Week, While It Was Still
Dark. Mary Magdalene Went To The Tomb....” (John 20:1). She took the vase, broke it and poured it out, lost it, sacrificed it and now, the perfumed fills all the earth. We may keep our life if we will, carefully preserving it from waste, but we shall have no reward, no honour from it in the end. But if we empty it out in loving service, we all shall make it a tasting blessing to the world. From the realm of the spirit, I can assure you that we all shall be remembered forever. Let each and every one, measure our life by loss instead of gain not by the wine we drank but by the wine powered forth. I hope you know that love is sacrifice, because the old book says’s “WHOSOEVER SUFFERS MOST HATH MOST TO GIVE”.

Chapter Ten.

UNRECOGNIZED OPPORTUNITY


On the dial of a clock, in the palace of Napoleon at Malmaison, the maker wrote this word “NON NESCIT REVERTI”. It simply means: “It Does Not Know How To Go Backward”. So it is with all great clock of time. You can never be able to turn back the hand of the clock. It never can be turn backward. Every moment comes to us but once. Whatever you make of them, you must make as those moment pass because they will never come back to us again. Privilege gives
birth to responsibility. We shall give account to God for all that he sends to us by the great divine hands of the passing hours and that which we refuse or neglect to receive “THEY ARE WASTED AND ARE ADDED TO OUR DEBT.” As regard opportunity, let's be matured. Maturity is not measured by one's learning, but by one's life-style. In becoming a risk-takers, let's be matured in discovering and making use of all the opportunity the mystic hand of God thrust on our path-way. I want you to know that the real problem of man is how to take what the hour brings our way. Anyone who takes such risk always will fulfill God's plan for his life. The difference in men is not in the opportunities that come, but in their use of their opportunities. I know so many people who fail to make much of their life, charge their failure to the lack of opportunities. They look at people who are doing beautiful things or great and noble
birth to responsibility. We shall give account to God for all that he sends to us by the great divine hands of the passing hours and that which we refuse or neglect to receive "THEY ARE WASTED AND ARE ADDED TO OUR DEBT."

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returned from that trip as the state co-ordinator of that great institution. While others saw it, read it and throw it away, I saw it as an opportunity thrust my way by the mystic hand of God. Today, that school is training men and women in ministry. I went to Ghana and met a friend who was running a bible school with only two students. I returned home and used the knowledge I got from understudying that friend and his two students to open a training school in my small local church with only three students. Out of the three one could not finish the certificate course, but today we have close to 7 students in the diploma class. When I was in the village, I was not going to school, but I had a friend, Obote Orukpe, who was in class one in high school. One day I asked that I followed him to his school. At least, so I can know and see how the school looks like. On getting there, I stood by the window while lectures
were going on. The C.R.K teacher saw me and asked me why am not inside the class? I told him why and he asked me in and offer to pay my term fee for that year. So many people wait for opportunities, wondering why they never come to help, when in reality they have been passing by us day after day unrecognized and most times, we neglect and reject them. Sometime ago, I read of an artist who long sought for a strong piece of wood to carve a Madonna. He sought for it for a long time and was about to give up in despair, leaving the vision of his life unrealized. One day, he dreamt that he was directed to shape the figure from a log of oak, which was destine for the fire. He obeyed the command and he produced from the log of common firewood, a masterpiece. In the same way, many people wait for great and brilliant opportunities to do great and beautiful things of which they dream, while through all the plain, ordinary
days, the very opportunities they required for such ideals lie close to them in the simplest and most familiar passing events and in the most common circumstances. They wait to find Iron, Iroko and strong wood to come Madonna's, while far more lovely Madonna's than they dream of are hidden in the common logs oak they burn in their open fire place or thread upon with their feet in the wood yard. In the story of the boy with five barley loaves of bread and two small fishes, in John 6:9, “HERE IS A BOY WITH FIVE SMALL BARLEY LOAVES AND TWO SMALL FISHES, BUT HOW FAR WILL THEY GO AMONG SO MANY?” (You can get the full detailed of this account from my book, “IMPACT-FULL.”) It goes to show that opportunities come to all. Every life is full of them. The trouble with some people is that they do not make any thing out of them, while we have them and at the very next moment,
that opportunity is gone, never to return. Many of us go through life sighing for opportunities. We sometimes wish that we have this or that gift, place or position and we go on telling all that care to listened, how we could have done this or that for the lord. Then another man comes along with similar means, chances and circumstances and achieved great results and win for himself medals. One writer said, “THE SECRET IS IN THE MAN AND NOT IN HIS ENVIRONMENT.” The material of life which one man has despised and spurned as unworthy of him, as having in them no charmed secret of success, another man is forever picking up out of the dust and with such, achieving brilliant success.

Some one wrote that “MEN THAT ARE ALERT AND EAGER, ARE WANTED, MEN WITH HEROIC HEARTS AND DETERMINATION ARE HARD TO SEE AND THEY USE THE MOST
OPPORTUNITIES THAT LIE EVERYWHERE IN THE MOST ORDINARY LIVES?” There is one thing to do to get all the possibilities of attainment and achievement out of life. We all must train ourselves to take what every moment bring to us of privilege and truly, many people also had this feeling that God had some definite purpose in creating them and they would want to know what that definite purpose is all about. Some others would like to know how they could learn this divine thought for their life. I want you to know that the answer is very simple. God is ready to reveal to us, plan for our lives, but he make his revelation known as we go on showing each moment, one little fragment of his purpose. No wonder Dr. Faber said, “THE SUREST METHOD OF AIMING AT KNOWLEDGE OF GOD'S ETERNAL PURPOSES ABOUT US IS TO BE FOUND IN THE RIGHT USE OF THE
PRESENT MOMENT. EACH HOUR COMES WITH SOME LITTLE FRAGMENT OF GOD'S WILL FASTENED UPON ITS BACK.” we have nothing to do therefore, except with privilege and duty of the one hour, one second and one minute of each passing day. We may not need to look at our life as a whole, we may not have to carry the burden of a whole year, if we grasp well, the meaning of one little fragment of time immediately present and do instantly all the duty and take all the privileges, that one hour present or brings. In summary, I would want you to know that missing privileges and neglecting duties, will make years scarred, blemished and make life at last, like a moth-eaten garment. “AND IT CAME TO PASS WHEN MOSES CAME DOWN FROM MOUNT SINAI WITH THE TWO TABLET OF THE TESTIMONY IN MOSES HAND, WHEN HE CAME
DOWN FROM THE MOUNT, THAT MOSES KNEW NOT THAT THE SKIN OF HIS FACE SHOW BY REASON OF HIS SPEAKING WITH HIM.” (Ex.34: 29).

Finally, as we take risk for the lord, we must be ready to be transfigured through his presence, “For Us to Be Conformed To The Image Of His Son”. We are not to wait for death to transform us; the work should begin at once and the responsibility is ours. The sculptor takes the blackened marbles blocks and hews it into a beautiful form. The marble is passive in his hands and does nothing, but submits to being cut down and polished as he wills. But, we are not passive and insensate Marble; we have a part in the fashioning of our lives into spiritual risk-takers with spiritual holiness. We will never become like Christ without our own desires and effort.
Chapter Eleven.

GOING FOR THE DOUBLE PORTION

“A Man Is Not A Man Without Strength.”

Author.

“And So It Was, When They Had Crossed Over, That Elisha Said To Elisha, Ask! What May I Do For You, Before I Am Taken Away From You? Elisha Said; Please Let A Double Portion Of Your Spirit Be Upon Me. So He Said, You Have Asked A Hard Thing. Nevertheless, If You See Me When Am Taken From You, It Shall Be So For You, But If Not, It Shall Not Be So” (2 kings 2:9-10)

Elisha asked for a double portion of Elijah's prophetic power as written in the book of Deuteronomy. “If A Man Had Two Wives But
Loves One And Not The Other, And Both Have Borne Him Children And The Mother Of His Oldest Son Is The Wife He Does Not Love, He May Not Give A Larger Inheritance To His Younger Son, The Son Of The Wife He Loves, He Must Give The Customary Double Portion To His Oldest Son, Who Is The Beginning Of His Strength And Who Owns The Rights Of A First Born Son, Even Though He Is The Son Of The Wife His Father Does Not Love.” (Deut. 21:15-17)

This chapter helps explain Elisha's request. According to custom, the firstborn son received a double share of the father's inheritance. He was asking to be Elijah's heir or successor; the one who would continue Elijah's work as a leader of the prophets. Elisha asked for twice as much power as Elijah had. This was bold request, but God granted it, why? Because Elisha's motives were pure. His main goal was not to be better
or more powerful than Elijah, but to accomplish more for God. He decided and settled for the double portion and it was so. The record shows that Elijah experience thirty-two miracles-double, the number.

There are a lot of people who went the extra mile to achieve greatness. Moses, Joseph, Elisha and all those written in the book of Hebrew 11, and Acts of the Apostles, all did more for God because they dare to do so for God. Then, if that is so, it goes to say that if you also can dare ask for his double portion, you can also receive. If you can ask for it and believe it, you can receive it.
Chapter Twelve.

FRESH OIL

or you to be able get double for all your trouble you must be filled with fresh oil. There are so many people who are driving their life all day, weeks, month or even years who are filled with dirty, old and expired oil. “Not That We Are Sufficient Of Our Selves But Our Sufficiency Is From God Who Also Made Us Sufficient As Ministers Of The New Covenant, Not Of The Letter But Of The Spirit, For The Letters Killeth, But The Spirit Gives Life.” (2cor.3; 5-6) we operate under dirty oil, if we operate under the letter, the law and our five senses. We need to flow with the spirit. The heroes of
faith, moved with the spirit and they risked their lives to save themselves and their nation.

1. We need fresh oil.
   A. When we find the place of taking risk for doing great things for the lord difficult.
   B. When we find the place of prayer difficult. Remember Jesus in the Mount of Olives.
   C. When you find the place of study difficult. Remember, Daniel understood by books.
   D. When you find the place of change difficult.
   E. When you begin to think of quitting.
   F. When you take delight in becoming under takers and caretakers, instead of risk-takers.

2. We need fresh oil when our implements become blunt. “If The Axe Is Dull, And The One Does Not Sharpen The Edge, Then He Must Use More Strength, But Wisdom Brings Success.” (Eccl. 10:10).
There are some who have a dull faith. To sharpen your implement is the process of re-organizing, re-positioning and rearranging for better result. It's the process of making something better for higher productivity.

Jabez is used to workings with the God of his mother, for him to improve; he changed and removed his eyes from his mother's God, to the God of Israel. You must know that if a new car carry old engine oil, that car may sound good, but overtime, the engine will develop fault.

For this to happened:

A. You must improve on your dream. Remember that before your life can improve. (Joseph)
B. Have a desire
C. Separate yourself from all those called lot.
D. Admire those with similar calling or carrier.
E. Sow seed.
THE ROAD TO DOUBLE PORTION.

Its Only When You get up from the way of the undertakers and from the sit of caretakers, into the acts of risk takers, that you will be able to turn yourself from zero to surplus.

“IN ALL (LEGAL) LABOUR, THERE IS PROFIT…” (Proverbs 14:23) “BLESS BE THE LORD MY ROCK, WHO TRAINS MY HANDS FOR WAR, AND MY FINGER FOR BATTLE.” (Psalm 144:1). There are lots of people who lost their engine due to their negative attitude in life. Everyone aiming for the double in life must develop the following:

1. **GERMINATE**

   For any plant to germinate, it will need water, light and good soil. You need to take risk positively or else, before you reach your destination, your car will loose it engines.
2. **STRUGGLE FOR SPACE**
   Every tree will always grow toward the direction of light.

3. **OCCUPY SPACE**
   Joseph became prime minister in Egypt and Jabez got a street named after him.

4. Have right attitude to labour.


6. Know your season like the sons of Isacher.

7. Be prayerful

8. Have a teachable spirit.

9. Watch out for opportunities that the Lord brings in your way.

10. Avoid any risk that will take you to Herod's house or else, you star will disappear. No wise man can see his star from Herod's house.

   "**Now After Jesus Was Born In Bethlehem Of Judea In The Days Of Herod The King,**
Behold, Wise Men From The East Came To Jerusalem, Saying, Where Is He Who Has Been Born King Of The Jews? For We Have Seen His Stars In The East And Have Come To Worship Him” (Matthew 2:1-2).

They saw the star and came through great risk to worship him, but when they looked for the star in Herod's house, they could not see it there. That goes to show that it will not be worth the risk in Herod's house. Samson risks it to Delilah's lap, and he thought he would wake up in Abraham bosom. In case you are in doubt, you can ask our uncle, Uncle Reuben, Ammon and Jonah. If you are not satisfied, you can ask Micah, Saul's daughter, to tell you her experience. “WE NEED FRESH OIL EACH DAY.” To get constant supply of fresh oil, we need to:

1. Wait on God. Only those who wait on God that will not run out of fresh oil.
2. Take risk especially when on divine
assignment, because the assignment God have not given you, he will not give you the grace.

3. Stay with the word of God (Joshua 1:8).

4. Stay clean; stay fit spiritually, physically, mentally, and in all way possible.

5. Pursue new ideas daily through sturdy, on the job training and personal effort.
Prayer For Salvation

If this book has blessed your life and you want to invite Jesus Christ into your life as your Lord and Saviour, say this prayer below:

“O Lord God almighty, I come to you in the name of your son Jesus, I believe you sent Him to save me from my Sin, I come to you today confessing that I'm a Sinner and I ask for forgiveness through the blood of your only son, Christ Jesus. I ask Jesus to come into my life to be the Lord and Saviour of my life. I receive eternal life into my Body, Spirit and Soul. According to your word in Romans 10:9, “That if thou shall confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shall be saved,” I declare this day that I am saved; I am born again; I am a child of God! I now have Christ dwelling in me; therefore, greater is He
that is in me than he that is in the world! (1 John 4:4). Hallelujah! I now walk in the new Life I found in Christ Jesus.
Amen!
Congratulations! You are now a child of God. To receive more information on how you can grow as a Christian, please refer to any of the contacts below:

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