



# How Old are You ?

NOT FOR  
**SALE**

**CASEY 'GBENGA  
ADELEYE**

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**A Critical Question to Fulfilling Your Purpose**

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**Casey 'Gbenga Adeleye**

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## **DEDICATION**

*This book is dedicated to  
the loving memory of late  
High Chief (Engr.)  
**Perry Olufemi Adeleye, Sr;**  
a father indeed.*



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**A**lways grateful to my beloved Sister, Ibukun Olasemi – Emiola [IBK], for your unwavering support, prayers and editing this work. Thank you for making yourself available for God's use.

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# CONTENTS

Dedication	
Acknowledgement	
Introduction	– A Rude Inquiry
Chapter One	– Life As A Cradle
Chapter Two	– A Leap Into The Life of Jacob
Chapter Three	– Does The Birthright Make A Difference?
Chapter Four	– Does God Make Effort in Correcting Our Mistakes Early?
Chapter Five	– Pause
Chapter Six	– God, the Big Factor in Destiny
Chapter Seven	– Where Are You Going?
Chapter Eight	–Night Cometh
Chapter Nine	– Debugging: Fixing Errors in Your Life
Chapter Ten	– Learn To Be Alone
Chapter Eleven	– The Fear of the Unknown
Chapter Twelve	– The Mandate
Chapter Thirteen	– Grey Hairs: Signs of Glory
Chapter Fourteen	– Preparation, Performance and Prize
Chapter Fifteen	– Do You Want To Be Young in Your Old Age?
A Final Note	





## INTRODUCTION

### A RUDE INQUIRY

What if I ask as a matter of gesture, how old are you? Would you find my greeting as a kind word or an insult? Well, you may not know me; therefore that greeting would not have been the best in every sense of it. But imagine if you haven't seen your parents for a very long time and you decided to pay them a surprise visit either in the village or wherever they live. Peradventure, you still have a cousin or a relative who has sighted you while coming; such a person rushed to your dad or mum, announcing brother A is around. Do not forget you have not seen them for some time now, then when you finally enter the house, you prostrate or kneel down to greet them; what you are expecting is a warm embrace and excitement that their son or daughter is back. But you get none of that, your dad, pause for a while, call you by name and ask, "How old are you?" What would be your reaction? I don't think you will be happy, never! For such a gesture is never a form of greetings. You will hate such a reception with passion and many people will do as if it is a rude form of inquiry.

It is an insulting inquest which comes with a sorrowful heart and results in shame. However, this book attempts to ask you such a ridiculous question, "How old are you?" But this time around it is not to ridicule you, only to help you think about how to manage your life properly and achieve greatness so as to avoid this foolish question at a critical stage later in life. Therefore, for whatever level of years you have attained on earth, I, most sincerely congratulate you for what you have achieved. It means you actually stand at a particular age and a

special season on which you command certain respect no matter how little.

However, in quick retrospect, can the quantity of your achievements in life be compared to the number of days you have spent on earth? If we put your achievements and your age on a life scale, how will you fair? Do your achievements outweigh the number of years you have spent here on earth? If yes, I salute you; else, look out for a big mirror, take a proper look at yourself and ask, “How old am I? What have I done so far with my life? What have I achieved? What impacts have I made? Answer these questions and many more that come to your mind effectively immediately. Then, proceed cautiously on your journey, begin to take concrete, implementable and trackable action to actualize the dream heaven has for you; otherwise a big question is waiting for you at a critical junction in this journey of life.

Most sincerely I pray, “*You will not use grey hair to answer foolish question(s) in the name of Jesus our Lord and Saviour, Amen.*” Hey! Listen, do not be deceived. This prayer is never enough unless you take necessary actions and right steps now while it is day, for night comes when no man can work. Grey hair is a sign of old age, the Bible called it, a crown of glory. However, attaining old age is one thing, being happy and fulfilled at old age is another. Two things wait for a man at old age, regret or satisfaction. If you will be satisfied with life in your old age or regret, it depends on the steps you are taking today, what you are doing with your life now. Merely shouting amen to the prayer earlier said will never be enough to be fulfilled at the end of your days or journey on earth; you will need to take necessary steps, act

positively, and have right attitudes and godly direction (as God prescribed) to fulfill purpose. This book is written as a reminder to x-ray your life so as to put it in proper and right perspective.

*“Whether by  
grave mistake  
or genuine intention,  
a purpose  
is giving birth to  
when a child is born.”*

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **LIFE AS A CRADLE**

Life is a great teacher, unfair and unimaginable; it makes every man leave untold, painful and regrettable lessons behind even though men do not really understand life in the first instance. When a child is born it cries, for the new environment is strange from the one it is used to at least for the past nine months in its mother's womb. While it cries, people around the baby rejoice and congratulate its parents, for the joy that a man is born into the world. Every man or woman that lighted upon this world shared in this experience and began to grow, and hope for what this new environment brings.

You do not know or have control over the environment you are born into and for about two decades your life is under tutelage. To your parents, a child is born; but to God, Heaven and powers that be; a purpose, a nation is born. The divine purpose or destiny was what God knew to be born and what He is typically interested in. This purpose is also of the same interest to principalities and powers on earth. Only few parents actually understand that it is the purpose they are asking for when they pray for fruitfulness in marriage, some parents do say, I gave birth to him by mistake. However, whether by grave mistake or genuine intention, a purpose is giving birth to when a child is born.

When Rebecca experienced a delay in child bearing which eventually she overcame, but before she overcame she went to God in prayers to enquire why the babies in her womb struggled. The answer she got from God was shocking, the Lord said:

***“TWO NATIONS are in thy womb,  
and two manner of people  
shall be separated from thy bowels;  
and the one people shall be stronger  
than the other people;  
and the elder shall serve the younger.”***

– Genesis 25:23

Therefore, when a child is born, a purpose is born. A particular 'government' is placed upon every life, to dominate or to be dominated. Jacob, though the youngest, was born to rule over his elder brother. Prophet Isaiah prophesied long before Jesus was born, he said:

***“For unto us a child is born,  
unto us a Son is given:  
and the government shall be upon  
his shoulder: and his name shall  
be called Wonderful, Counsellor,  
The mighty God,  
The everlasting Father,  
The Prince of Peace.***

***Of the increase of his government  
and peace there shall be no end,  
upon the throne of David,  
and upon his kingdom,  
to order it, and to establish it  
with judgment and with justice***

***from henceforth even forever.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts  
will perform this.”***

*-Isaiah 9:6, 7*

Even though a child was born, a son is given; there is also a government, that is an empowered assignment upon the shoulders of such a life, even though he was but a child. How do the names Heaven gave to Jesus in the Scripture above reflect the names you bear today? God only named the purpose and not the circumstance such as the house or the place where such a child is born. God only named the child by what He would become; a lot of parents have derailed the purpose of God for their children by the names they gave to them. Some parents named circumstances, not purpose like that of the mother of Jabez in 1 Chronicle 4:9.

What names do you bear, does it speak about your future or speaks about your yesterday? You cannot gain speed going backward. Your name cannot be talking about the past while you are rushing to the future, you need to sit down now, rethink and settle the matter of name and purpose once and for all.

***“You cannot gain speed  
going backward.”***



## AGE DOES NOT MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

In short, destiny or purpose can be abandoned, stopped, exchanged, miscarried, stained, disfigured, spoiled, stolen or realized by one's circumstance, environment, principalities, powers, lifestyle, behaviours or attitudes. As a child grows and proceeds in the journey of life, most often at this very early years he equates age with achievement (he does not know anything about life yet) but as time goes by, if all things are not equal or go as planned, age that he once saw as an achievement in his childhood days and something to celebrate will soon become a yardstick for sorrow and pain.

If you ask a child how old he is, he tends to quickly tell because age is but nothing to him; but ask an adult the same question; you will see his reaction or experience his wrath especially when there is nothing to show for the life he has spent on earth. And if his achievement is not equal to his age, this brings great sorrow and regrets which can lead to misunderstanding between him and whoever asks such a question.

The most critical, important and relevant question that can push anyone to be his or her best and spur him or her to achieve his or her goal(s) in life is an inquiry that puts a question mark on one's age or years. This is a kind of question that makes one reflect on his past and present situation. Moses, the great man of God prayed in the Book of Psalm 90 verse 12 when he x-rayed the life of a man. He told God to,

***“...teach us to number our days,  
that we may apply  
our hearts unto wisdom.”***

He realized that man's days are few, whether he has so much to achieve or not. Man's life is like a tale that is told when he has great vision to pursue but he is limited with resources and opportunities whereas age is telling on him, old age is setting in.

Moses understood the implication of counting our age by years, a year is three hundred and sixty-five (365) days and he knew the implication that many people who count their age in years live only once in three hundred and sixty-five days. But the one that counts his age in days, lives every day and makes each day count, by this such live three hundred and sixty-five times in a year and have three hundred sixty-five days experience to share when the time comes – a great wisdom to apply our hearts unto.

### **PUTTING AGE IN PROPER PERSPECTIVES**

In Psalm 90:10, Moses put age in precise perspectives:

*“Our days may come to  
seventy years, or eighty,  
if our strength endures;  
yet the best of them  
are but trouble and sorrow,  
for they quickly pass,  
and we fly away.” (NIV)*

Moses' prayers in Psalm 90 are very profound in which every man born of a woman must make the same his or her anchor prayers and Scriptures. Moses realized man's days are numbered and if he is not

satisfied early, he will live to regret it at a later time. Men are like grass which grows up, in the morning it flourishes, grows up in the afternoon; and in the evening, it is cut down and withers.

For man to fulfill his days, he needs help right early in life, if not, like Moses said, his days will be full of afflictions, evil, troubles and sorrow. Why would Moses put his mind to this? For Moses, he was born under a harsh condition, trained under a mixed environment (born by a Hebrew woman, trained by the Egyptians. He was privileged to attend the best school at that particular time but have to gain work experience in the desert). And according to the plan of God, he was supposed to have become a leader and lead his people out of bondage at the age of fifty (50) years but this did not materialize until he was eighty (80) years old; that was a thirty years delay which was not according to God's plan.

At age 40, he killed an Egyptian, ten years before his appointed time and the time God set for him to start fulfilling purpose. This was the first mistake that prolonged his journey, calling and ministry. For his people according to the Word of God, the Israelites were supposed to spend only four hundred (400) years in the land of bondage, but they ended up spending an extra thirty (30) years. He was called at eighty and he reigned for forty years, when he was about entering into his destiny, to lead his people without stress into the land that flows with milk and honey, he died.

Assuming he had those extra forty years he spent in the house of Jethro, he would have entered the Promised Land with more strength at eighty. For at age forty, he would have received the call and divine

empowerment and peradventure he may have entered Canaan at eighty years old if God so desired that the Israelites must enter the Promised Land after forty years. He would have been the one to divide the land to the Israelites and their stories would have been different and better than what we read today. If you go by his prayers in Psalm 90 verse 10, that man's years are only seventy except by reason of strength, he can live up to eighty years. If you go by this, as at the time that God called him he was already behind his time if not for the mercies of God.

The question the Almighty God asked him was, “What's that in your hand?” Somebody at that age who was supposed to have led his people out of Egypt to the Promised Land was still shepherding another man's flock at the backside of the desert, he was forty years behind in achievements. The only thing Moses at age eighty equalled to was the rod in his hands. At this time, he was supposed to have led God's people to the Land of Promised, but he was still tending sheep somewhere in between. Yes, his rod was supposed to lead people and perform wonders, but at this time, it was only directing ordinary sheep. Thank goodness, it was God that Moses encountered, not Pharaoh. If it was Pharaoh that Moses encountered at the back side of the desert, he would have asked, “How old are you that you are still shepherding the flock of your in-law at this age and stage of your life?”

In fulfilling your days, there are three important questions you need to critically answer: one, who are you? Two, who are you? And last, who are you? And the most important question that can help you answer these questions correctly, and catalyze your person into achieving

your purpose right now is, “How old are you?” For age put a question mark on your person, your total being and your existence.

God was a bit mild in his approach to Moses; He only asked him, “What is that in his hand? If it were to be an earthly parent that has invested heavily in Moses and now he is tending another man's sheep with no income whatsoever, the question would have been different. Such a child at this age would have heard 'the message of his life' that is, the child would have received a stern rebuke from his parents, a kind of rebuke that would make the child not be able to eat or sleep for many days after that experience. Parents want their wards to succeed in time so as to reap what they have sown. But for Moses, he was a fugitive for forty years. Invariably, God was sending a proverb to Moses to have asked him what was in his hand. The implication of the question is, “Is that what you are supposed to be doing by now? Why are you behaving like a child? If he was not that careful, the next question might have been, how old are you Moses that you are behaving foolishly at the back of the desert. To drive home this issue of age, let us look at another character in the Bible who got a question mark on his age at a particular point in time.

***“You can be in a place of power, influence and affluence,  
and still not in your purpose.”***

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **A LEAP INTO THE LIFE OF JACOB**

Pharaoh put on the same kind of attitude as a parent would, having invested heavily on his child and the child did not perform, when he met with Jacob. He did not have the same privilege Moses enjoyed, and Pharaoh gave it to Jacob in a hard way. Though he was not his parent, Pharaoh asked a typical question a purposeful parent would have asked when his ward is behaving less than his age. He wanted to know who Jacob was and so he asked him a very profound, fundamental, unforgettable question on a day Jacob was reuniting with his beloved son, at his old age.

On this occasion, Jacob used his grey hairs and old age to answer a foolish question. Jacob was a wonderful character in the Bible that anyone who wishes to be fulfilled in life needs to study early. He was actually a great man purely on the account of God's mercies and covenant.

Towards the tail end of his life, he got an invitation to visit Egypt; one, to escape the ravaging famine, and two, to finally meet his beloved son whom he was told and made to believe died a long time ago. At this time, one can conclude that Jacob had fulfilled purpose, he wanted one wife, he had four, and he had designed his life to have only two children, but ended up having twelve and fifty-seven grandchildren without counting maidservants, silver, gold, cattle and other valuables.

To anybody that saw Jacob at this time, he was a fulfilled personality, but little did they know that Jacob was not yet fulfilled and that his life was full of regrets, though he looked successful on the outside. Was it his intention to marry four wives? No! He messed up his life when he neglected the Will of God which made his life miserable and painful, in addition to the fact that he took off so late in life, and thought he could gain the whole world by collecting his brother's birthright.

By virtue of Joseph's breakthrough and elevation in the land of Egypt, Jacob had an opportunity to visit Egypt in grand style, a wagon was sent to pick him up and he arrived in Egypt with joy only to meet the greatest question that brought his past failures to fore. If you do not want regret in your life at a later date you must make frantic efforts to do that which is right, strive to know the Will of God for your life now, what you are cut out for, who and what you are and pursue it vigorously, get needed skills and education, acquire knowledge about God and follow His instructions. By this, you may be able to avoid such a foolish question that can bring out tears from your eyes and make you cry bitterly in your later years.

***Read Genesis 47:1, 7-9:***

***“Then Joseph came and told Pharaoh, and said,  
My father and my brethren, and their flocks,  
and their herds, and all that they have,  
are come out of the land of Canaan; and,  
behold, they are in the land of Goshen....  
And Joseph brought in Jacob his father,  
and set him before Pharaoh:***

*and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.  
And Pharaoh said unto Jacob,  
How old art thou?  
And Jacob said unto Pharaoh,  
The days of the years of my pilgrimage  
are an hundred and thirty years:  
few and evil have the days  
of the years of my life been,  
and have NOT attained  
unto the days of the years of the  
life of my fathers  
in the days of their pilgrimage.*

Indeed, there are people you need to meet at every critical junction of your life. The person Jacob met last in his lifetime (Pharaoh) was supposed to be the kind of person he should have first encountered on his journey earlier rather than him, meeting Laban, his wicked, cunning and shrewd uncle.

What an honour! Jacob was standing in the presence of a king; he can now be counted among the king's friends and also a father to the Prime Minister. He has arrived and can now deal with Laban for all the years of humiliation. Now, Joseph introduced his father to Pharaoh and instead of them exchanging pleasantries; the first word Pharaoh uttered to Jacob was too heavy on a man like Jacob, an elderly man for that matter.

*To a child, age is an achievement.*



Pharaoh asked Jacob, “How old are you?” (Genesis 47:8) Ha! Why Pharaoh? What came over this king, that he looked an elderly man like Jacob in the face, someone he was meeting for the first time, the father of his prime minister for that matter and asked him such a ridiculous question, “How old are you?” Did Pharaoh observe anything in Jacob's life that made him ask such a ridiculous question? I guess so and he was indeed right by asking such a question. Some of us need this kind of a person to be around in our lives if truly we want to succeed greatly and genuinely in this life. We need this kind of a person who will put pressure on our lives to make it better, not people that want to pamper or misuse us.

How old are you is never a form of greeting. There has never been a time when knowing someone's age becomes a form of salutation. Jacob and Pharaoh were meeting for the first time, though Joseph had informed Pharaoh about his family and some of his brethren had met with him earlier on. When Pharaoh saw Jacob, he was supposed to welcome him and possibly asked, “How are you? Or, how are you doing? But what came out of Pharaoh to Jacob was a big surprise. He asked Jacob, “How old are you? How did the word, 'old' find it way into Pharaoh's words? What could have made Pharaoh to ask such a question was unknown, but Jacob's responses confirmed the fear of Pharaoh. A critical look at his responses show Jacob was not satisfied about life and his responses to Pharaoh's thought-provoking question were full of regrets.

*And Pharaoh said unto Jacob,  
How old art thou?  
And Jacob said unto Pharaoh,  
The days of the years of my pilgrimage  
are an hundred and thirty years:  
few and evil have the days  
of the years of my life been,  
and have NOT attained  
unto the days of the years of the  
life of my fathers  
in the days of their pilgrimage. - Genesis 47:8-9*

Even before someone asks a child how old he is, he must first smile, ask for his name, before proceeding to ask the little boy, how old is he, which in the nature of a child he may quickly answer, I am five years old or whatever. To a child, age is an achievement. To him, it is a mark of honour to reveal his age; he does not have anything to lose. “Mark my age with my look, I am still doing better”, says the child. But ask an adult such a question, you are in for a bigger challenge.

Asking an adult his age is not an accolade, it is a sign of disrespect. If you are an adult and find yourself in such a position, your reaction would be like challenging the person. Hey! What do you mean? Am I your mate? Especially when the person who asked the question is your junior, it is possible you pick up a quarrel with him, for such a question look idiotic to ask an adult. That was the situation Jacob found himself when Pharaoh asked him the very first time they met, How old is he? What a scene!

Pharaoh's question was profound although not suitable for the occasion, but Jacob understood the in-depth and motive behind the question. He understood what Pharaoh meant, “Why is it that I am too old for my age?” How come I became like this with resources available at my disposal? Three personalities that changed his life were Laban, God and Pharaoh (not in order of importance).

What was that thing that pushed Pharaoh to greet Jacob in such a manner? It seems Jacob was too old for his age, Pharaoh already knew his occupation; he had earlier asked his children and shepherding is not a difficult profession, so what made the life of Jacob to be like this, Pharaoh asked. Apart from Jacob encountered with God to and fro Padanaram, another significant event that defined his life was that of him meeting Pharaoh in the Palace.

### **COMMON SIGN OF FAILURE**

If Jacob stopped at mentioning his age to Pharaoh, it would have been more appreciated and he could have been termed a fulfilled man; but in his response he compared his life with that of his fore-fathers, which was a mark of failure. Let me quickly sound this note of warning to you, any man that compares his life or achievements with that of others is already a failure. You do not have to compare yourself with anyone; comparison is not a measurement for success. The only yardstick to measure one's achievement in life is God and the blueprint (purpose) He (God) has given to you. His Will as it is written in Heaven, that which He needs you to accomplish for Him here on earth. Anything outside this is ungodly and a mark of failure on one's life. You do not have to compare yourself with anybody; you are either a success or

failure on your own terms, not on anybody's terms, conditions or achievements.

Did Abraham and Isaac give birth to twelve children? They only gave birth to one son or two and Jacob, gave birth to eleven sons and one daughter. Therefore, it will be proper to look at the life of Jacob, Isaac and Abraham closely since he made reference to them. Did he have the same privilege as they had? How did they overcome their lives' challenges? Did they have any problem at all? What made Jacob's life different or difficult from that of Abraham and Isaac? At what point did he miss it? What were his errors and mistakes? Did God come to his rescue at any critical point? Did he obey God like his forefathers? How did he spend his life? What made his pilgrimage, his sojourn on earth full of troubles and sorrow?

## **X-RAYING THE LIFE AND TIMES OF ABRAHAM AND ISAAC**

To know more about Abraham and Jacob read the Book of Genesis, the first book of the Holy Scripture. But in this book, I shall give a summary of life and times of Abraham and Isaac, Jacob's forefathers. Abraham was the grandfather of Jacob; he gave birth to Isaac at the age of ninety-nine years. He came with the "Idea of God", in Genesis 12. He was the first man God spoke to after the flood, he was already settled and suddenly he told his family members, God spoke to me. He said I should leave you people to a land flowing with milk and honey. He would make me a father of many nations and I shall become a blessing.

I believe Abraham's family members would have wondered, they might have said “Abraham, who did you say speak to you?” God! He responded. Which God? Where is He? Where is He living? Because Abraham woke up one day to hear a voice, leave your father's house to an unknown land and he totally believed. At 75 years, he did not have a child of his own and Somebody whom no one has seen came to him to tell him, “I will make you a father of many nations”. I believe his nephews will say, Abraham, are you sick? Do you know what you were doing at all? Our father set on a journey to Canaan and into the land of Haran we came and you said, somebody said you should leave this place. To where? Such was the condition Abraham found himself. But against all odds, Abraham departed, he obeyed God's voice.

Likewise, Isaac wanted to go to Egypt when famine came upon the land, the Lord appeared unto him and said, “Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father (Read Genesis 26).

God had not yet fulfilled His promise fully to Abraham, remember, He promised to make Abraham the father of many nations but Abraham only gave birth to Isaac (by Promise) and Ishmael (by mistake). Now, there was famine in the same land where God promised Abraham that it is a land that flows with milk and honey. Abraham's son, Isaac wanted to flee and here, God appeared to him. In all of this, Isaac still obeyed God; he stayed behind and planted in the same land. In the same year, he had a great harvest and became very great until a whole

nation began to envy him. Isaac lived quietly in the land, married his wife Rebecca through Abraham's chief servant, Eliezer and after twenty years of marriage and through prayers gave birth to a set of twin, Esau and Jacob.

### **DID JACOB DO BETTER THAN HIS FATHERS?**

But how about Jacob, did he obey God like his forefathers? When he collected his brother's birthright, Esau wanted to kill and destroy him. His parents said to him, flee to Padanaram, there he fled unto (Read Genesis 28). Jacob had forgotten that he was born to fulfill purpose, that there was a prophecy which he came to fulfill, he never understood and he was only living his life anyhow. How would collecting his brother's birthright help his life? If not for God, Jacob would have lost his life and stopped his destiny by his own hand, thinking he was smart.

Isaac and Rebecca had to warn and give Jacob an instruction to leave the city if he did not want to lose his life. Jacob left Beersheba unto Haran and on his way, he decided to rest at a particular place, there he saw a dream. Remember, God did not appear unto Abraham and Isaac in person, they all heard a voice. But for Jacob, he dreamt, he saw a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on the Ladder. *"And, behold, the LORD stood above the Ladder, and said, I am the LORD God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac: the land whereon thou lies, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed" (see Genesis 28).*

This event was supposed to be the beginning of a glorious destiny for Jacob, at least to get his life right; but it became the beginning of a troubled life for him. He had the same privilege with his forefathers, they grabbed theirs and obeyed God instantly, but he forfeited it and chose to disobey God. Here are God's promises unto Jacob:

**“I will give you the land that  
you are lying on now. I will give  
this land to you and to your children.  
You will have as many descendants  
as there are particles of dust on the earth.  
They will spread east and west, north and south.  
All the families on earth will be  
blessed because of you and your descendants.  
I am with you, and I will protect you  
everywhere you go. I will bring  
you back to this land.  
I will not leave you until  
I have done what I have promised.”**

– Genesis 28:13-15 (ERV)

What else did Jacob want? What did he want God to do or promise him again? Many people had wanted God to speak to them, but here Jacob received great favour from God without paying a dime, but his attitude and response were contrary to the Promise.

**“Then Jacob woke up and said,  
"I know that the LORD is in this place,  
but I did not know He was here  
until I slept." Jacob was afraid and said,  
"This is a very great place.  
This is the house of God.  
This is the gate to heaven."  
Jacob got up very early in the morning.  
He took the rock he had slept on  
and set it up on its edge.  
Then he poured oil on the rock.  
In this way he made it a memorial to God.  
The name of that place was Luz,  
but Jacob named it Bethel.  
Then Jacob made a promise.  
He said, "If God will be with me, and if  
he will protect me on this trip,  
and if he gives me food to eat  
and clothes to wear, and if I return  
in peace to my father's house—if he  
does all these things—then  
the LORD will be my God."**

– Genesis 28:16-21

Unbelievable, God promised Jacob with everything He had, but Jacob misplaced his priority, he reduced God to “if”. Somebody promised you heaven and earth and it is sure He will do it. But Jacob began to misfire, he said, this place is a great place, the house of God, the



gateway to heaven. He set up stones, poured oil on it and renamed the place. But does this show that he had obeyed God? No! He never accepted the Will of God, he never climbed the Ladder, and he did not understand the Will and Purpose of God for his life at the beginning. The Bible says, ***“Then Jacob went on his journey, and came into the land of the people of the east” - Genesis 29:1.*** It is one thing to know about God; it is another thing to obey Him. He left the presence of God, and travelled on his own journey. He travelled far apart from God and paid dearly for it.

### **DID JACOB AIM WRONG?**

If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do, so say the Book of Psalm? At his place of encounter, Jacob ignored God and therefore, deserved to be abandoned. He missed it on his way to Padanaram; we shall explore this place further soon. When his forefathers heard God, they obeyed instantly and fulfilled their years with no regret whatsoever, but Jacob who had a great privilege of seeing God in a dream, he lacked understanding about God, disobeyed Him by not following His instructions, and he had cause to answer foolish question at his old age. It was a pity and a big lesson that Jacob learnt in a bitter way hence his response to Pharaoh in Genesis 47:9,

***“The days of the years of my pilgrimage  
are an hundred and thirty years:  
few and evil have the days  
of the years of my life been,  
and have not attained unto the days  
of the years of the life of my fathers  
in the days of their pilgrimage.”***

## **IS THERE TIME FOR EVERYTHING?**

Ecclesiastes made us understand that there is time for everything and season for every purpose on earth (Ecclesiastes 3:1). The seasons of life come in three phases, the morning time; this is the time between when you were born and possibly between the ages of twenty-five to thirty years. The afternoon time can be when you are in your late twenties and late forties, while the evening time according to Prophet Moses can be early fifties to seventies or eighties, all by the grace of God (See Ecclesiastes 12 and Psalm 90).

These seasons have their importance and peculiarities. The early years as described above are an essential and critical period of one's life that must not be toyed or joked with. Whatever you do at this first stage of life determines the success of the next stage. Failure at this stage may negatively affect the second stage. It will take God for one to catch up if one misuses the first stage of one's life.

***“The earlier a man discovers  
the reasons for his season and living,  
the better he takes positive actions to fulfill it.”***

At an early age, it is important you go to school, get education, acquire a skill, and pick a meaningful career. You should have discovered a meaningful purpose for yourself and start working on how to fulfill it. Your purpose is your assignment here on earth and it is important you take time to sit, plan and prepare for the task ahead of you. It is crucial that you do not joke with this period of life, as it is a major foundation to any great accomplishment you are going to have in life.

The earlier a man discovers the reasons for his season and living, the better he takes positive actions to fulfill it. When you discover your purpose or dream, you will realize there is no time on your part to fulfill it, you will have more tasks to perform and also realize you are limited by time and strength.

The second season serves as the continuation of the first phase. It is the most active part of one's life. Errors committed during the first phase of life can be corrected during the second phase. You might have an understanding about life at this stage; therefore, perseverance, determination, diligence, and dedication to one's life, vision and purpose are needed to become great in life. You cannot afford to misstep at this critical stage, you must get it right and be wise so as to correct the past and redirect your future.

In this season, you would have developed your dreams and taken steps to fulfill them. You should have gotten a job or start a business and settle down. All what you need to enjoy in your later years must be prepared like ants preparing their foods in the summer, during this period.

You must also have begun a meaningful career, creating profitable incomes for yourselves. The course you studied, the skill acquired and all you have learnt should have given you a significant income here. What you do here determines whether you will be satisfied with life or regret it in your old age.

Reaching age fifty and above which happens to be your evening time, at this stage, you are preparing for a time of rest. Here you cease from much labour and stress, even if you want to labour and run, here your strength is small. This is a stage dedicated to fully harvest your commitment, dedication and contribution to work, career, family, and society. What you have used your first two stages for; here is the harvest time.

This is where you begin to reap all that you have sown. If you did not get life right in the first and second stage, one might begin to answer foolish questions even from one's own children. Questions like, "Dad/Mum, why did you give birth to us when you know you cannot take good care of us? Some ridiculous questions that can send someone to his early grave if care is not taken. I urge you to use your time well, to fulfil your purpose, to serve God early, carry your yoke in your youth, prepare and work towards meaningful life and living early enough.

### **JACOB'S PREPARATION FOR LIFE**

Jacob took off late and never thought of working, he was used to a pampered life. Always at home, relaxed, resting when he had not covered a distance and eating. He left home on instruction, not on his volition; circumstances made him take unnecessary flight. He would have been killed and destroyed totally if not for the early warning by his parents. It was not what he wants to become that made him leave, but the consequence of his actions. The consequences of lack of early preparation on his part actually waited for him and he got it in full dose. We will consider his journey in the next chapter.

*“Any man can do anything anyhow,  
spend their life the way they like,  
but not a man  
God delights to honour.”*

## CHAPTER THREE

### DOES THE BIRTHRIGHT MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Jacob was not there when God told his mother; *“Two nations are in your womb, and two manners of people shall be separated from your bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger” - Genesis 25:23*. Why did he now think that collecting Esau's birthright will make him fulfill God's purpose for his life? God does not need the help of anybody to fulfill whatever He promised. He can bring it to pass at any time He so wishes, but Jacob would not cut that school of thought. He believed he could do things his way. He was conceived by prayer and delivered by prophecy, but Jacob wanted to make it in life by prank. Collecting his brother's birthright did not make him the head of Isaac's household, for he was nowhere to be found throughout his father's lifetime.

There is no shortcut to fulfilling God's purpose on earth, it is either you do it God's way or you do it your way. Doing it your way will orchestrate an occasion where you stand in front of your Pharaoh answering foolish questions that might bring regrets. A life that God is interested in must learn how to wait on God, any man can do anything anyhow, spend their life the way they like, but not a man God delights to honour, he must follow God's way, conditions, principles and statues.

Jacob thought by collecting Esau's birthright, he would take over their father's inheritance. His mind was on the will, when Isaac died, Oh! I will be the one calling the shot. I will be in charge controlling all the

cattle, the maidservants and wealth; he had forgotten that what God wanted to give to him is beyond taking over his father's inheritance. God wanted to give him what Adam lost in the Garden of Eden, the Key to the Kingdom, but he was busy chasing Esau's birthright, what a misplaced priority! This is how many of God's children behave today; many people out there think they can run their lives the way they like, they think they do not need God, therefore, in running their lives, they have recklessly ruined it instead.

### **BEFORE YOU PRAY AWAY YOUR PHARAOH**

If no Pharaoh is standing in front of such to tell them the words they will never forget in their lives, their conscience is pricking and telling them they have ruined their lives. Many people that are rushing to church today for deliverance are their own problems, they are the source of their life's challenges. If God opens their eyes to see, they will understand where they have missed it. It is not witches, wizards or family background that is troubling the majority of them; they are the ones troubling their existence.

***“If you check the story of Jacob carefully you will never see where the birthrights add any value to his life.”***

How do you think you can fulfill God's purpose when you are the one who chose that profession, that course alone and now there is a problem and you are asking God to help you? He will help you but on His own terms and conditions. He will tell you, you must leave this

Padanaram. The birthright you collected by fraudulent means, you must return. It will never pay you to cheat your way to your destiny; you will not even reach there on your own terms.

You might have benefited from public account, maybe your office is to execute a contract and you join them to siphon the money, thereafter, you built goodly houses, bought cars and you are even sending your children to school and then you go to church to testify to God's goodness, which is your own making, I tell you, one day you will appear in front of your Pharaoh (if you indeed made it) and answer foolish questions with grey hair if you do not repent. I pray it will not be your portion, but prayer alone is never enough.

***“Stealing can only boost one's ego; it will never give him or her edge in life.”***

Who owned the sod pottage Jacob was cooking? The bread and beans belonged to Isaac and Esau too, Esau, a foolish man did not know that by right, that pottage belonged to him; he foolishly paid and foolishly cried thereafter. That is by the way.

It is good for a child of God to know his right in God and in society. That is why you must continue to live in the Spirit, study to show yourself approved and act with courage and confidence. Jacob thought collecting the birthright would make him settle down properly in his father's house, he did not know that collecting his elder brother's birthright would make him take flight to an unknown destination. One thing I need to bring to your notice is this, for a man to fulfill his destiny he must know that he is on a journey of destiny. Jacob's response to



Pharaoh's question meant, had I known I would not have done it. He did it and paid dearly for it. He had to run away from his own house to a strange country. If you check the story of Jacob carefully you will never see where the birthrights add any value to his life. Stealing can only boost one's ego; it will never give him or her edge in life.

As a person, whenever you hear a prophecy that says, “God will bless you”. What actually comes to your mind are material blessings; cars, houses, good things, right?. Whereas God might be talking about something money can't buy like health, long life and grace to mention but few. Your family birthright will add little or no value to you, what can give you great advantage in life is your birth in God, being born again; coming to Christ and confessing Him as your Lord and Saviour. If you seek Him and His Kingdom, every other thing will be added to you as your birth package.

Jacob took advantage of the helplessness of his brother, he saw his brother fainting, instead of him to help Esau; he seized the occasion to obtain what did not belong to him. God is watching. This was Jacob's first mistake in life. Just check his life, he confessed in the presence of Pharaoh and his family, in a strange land.

## **ONE MISTAKE DESERVES ANOTHER**

***“Any error not corrected early  
will terrorize in the near future.”***

Isaac would not cut the deal between Jacob and Esau, this particular day, he called on his eldest son, he desired his game. While Esau left to get his father's venison; Rebecca overheard Isaac and she called on Jacob to design another means of providing venison and take the same to Isaac. Jacob thought he was smart and wise; he listened to his mother, disguised himself and took phony venison to his father (Read Genesis 27).

At this time, the eyes of Isaac were dimmed, not able to see clearly; therefore, he understood by voice. When Jacob brought the savoury meat, he heard the voice of Jacob who pretended to be Esau. If not that Rebecca covered Jacob with goatskin, Isaac would have discovered it was Jacob, because Esau was a hairy man. Before Esau could return, Jacob had collected his brother's blessings and deceived their father. Jacob was a cunning man, he thought he could get anything by crook, he collected his brother's birthright, now his blessings; not only that, and he had become a deceiver too. Any error not corrected early will terrorize in the near future. If any man is not ready to correct his mistake at the right time, he too will become a mistake sooner or later.

Every mistake one makes is a seed taking into the future. If you make any mistake now, correct it immediately. Rebecca acted as if she was God. Yes, she heard the prophecy; God told her about the future of her children but to think that she had capacity to bring the prophecy to pass was one reason why Rebecca called on Jacob to deceive his father. She never knew she was sowing trouble into the life of her beloved son.

Parents must be extremely careful not to derail the plan of God for their children, they must train and bring up the child(ren) committed to their care by God in His fear. If you help your children to cheat their way to success, when the repercussions come, nobody will be there to share in your burden. Leave everything to God, yours is to give your wards needed education, orientation and training. Pray for them where necessary and guide them with experience and do not lead them astray. Rebecca did this but was not there to witness the future of her dear son; she died before Jacob could return home.

Jacob and his mother believed taking Esau's blessings would make him to fulfil God's prophecy in Genesis 25:23. He indeed collected it but could not walk in it. Jacob did not know that there is time for everything, his father asked, how come you arrived so quickly? Isaac knew it takes ample time to game and prepare it, but Jacob and his mother wanted to be faster than God. They thought they did, but only to a great disaster. His brother would deal with him and he meant to kill and destroy Jacob since he had supplanted him twice.

#### **THE GOING OF AMAN**

**“And Isaac called Jacob, and blessed him,  
and charged him, and said unto him,  
Thou shalt not take a wife  
of the daughters of Canaan.  
Arise, go to Padanaram, to the house  
of Bethuel thy mother's father;  
and take thee a wife from thence  
of the daughters of Laban thy mother's brother.”**

– Genesis 28:1, 2

When a young man is growing, it is highly difficult to advise him especially on things he thinks he has experience on; it is a herculean task to want to advise a youth against his wishes. Many people regret their actions and inactions today; they wish they could have another opportunity. Many people will behave differently with the information, knowledge and experience possessed by them today if they do have another opportunity about life. Assuming you are asked to go back to your twelve years with the information at your disposal today, I believe you will behave better and shape your destiny properly to reflect God's purpose, vision and plan for your life. You still have the opportunity now, correct that which needs correction.

*A life lived according to  
the written code of God  
should be the ultimate aim of  
every man or woman living on earth.*

Anyway, every man has his own regret and it is a pity no one has the opportunity to go back to his past, but while we do not need to focus on the past and what we have lost, today is still part of yesterday. You can use today to correct yesterday and shape the future irrespective of what you have done or the mistake you have made. Every second counts and you must begin to play in reality the life that you view in the spirit. You do not have to behave like Jacob who thought he could achieve the purpose of God by collecting his brother's birthright and taking his blessing.

A whole lot of people with great wealth, mansions, cars and what have you are still living outside their purpose. One may have a Masters Degree or Doctor of Philosophy, but does it reflect one's Will as it is written in Heaven? A life lived according to the written code of God should be the ultimate aim of every man or woman living on earth.

Anything short of this, whether you own mansions in every city of the world, or you are president of a nation, if it is not in line with the purpose of God, it is just a wasted life. It is either you live to regret it in this life or the world to come. While I advise all to make an effort to know what is written of them in the Will, you must know that the process counts as well. Knowing your goal is one thing, the process to achieve your goal is much more important to God. You might be a governor or a managing director, how you achieve it or how you get there matter most to God.

Jacob received the blessings of his father twice in twenty-four hours, but I thought his father said to Esau that his brother (Jacob) had collected all the blessings, how come he had another one to bless Jacob with? The truth is every man that wants to fulfill his number of days and matter where necessary in life should be careful and cherish every word of his or her parents. In Genesis 27:36, Esau bitterly looked out for Isaac's blessings, he asked,

**“Hast thou not reserved  
a blessing for me?”**

But thereafter, Isaac called Jacob and blessed him again when he wanted to send Jacob away to Padanaram and to avoid his death by his brother. You will think these blessings will begin to work in the life of Jacob, but not at all. You cannot build your life around lies and expect the grace of God to work in your life. You might be under grace, if you are not truthful, the prayer prayed for you under special anointing might not work if you fail to repent from your sins or amend your ways.

### **BE CAREFUL NOT TO DERAILED GOD'S PLAN**

Parents, whether biological or spiritual, should be extremely careful not to derail the plan of God for the lives God keeps in their custody no matter the action or inaction of their subjects. If Christianity frowns at abortion much more parents should desist from derailing the destinies of their children, leave everything to God instead, but guide the child in the way that no limitation is created for such in the future.

***“If any man is living his life like Jacob,  
to leave education behind,  
leave skill acquisition or knowledge  
and jump into marriage,  
nobody would tell such a person at a later date that he  
has taken a wrong step.”***

Jacob's mother, unknown to her, was the main actor and contributor to why Jacob wasted twenty solid years of his life. It was an excuse for Jacob to go to Padanaram to take a wife and the charge given to him by Isaac to go the same way in choosing a wife. It was just a decoy, the real

issue they both sent Jacob away from home was to escape the evil intention of his brother on the account of him deceitfully taking his brother's blessings.

They thought they could preserve Jacob's destiny by crook but God does not walk that way, no one can help Him. If taking a wife was the chief purpose of going to Padanaram, one should ask father Isaac whether he travelled that far to take his wife or whether Rebecca actually saw Isaac before she said, I do.

A young man must be very careful, not just to journey for love, but for a life of purpose. Life is not about having a girlfriend or boyfriend; life must be lived to fulfill God's Will here on earth. Jacob travelled to go and marry, what was his occupation? What particular thing did anybody know him for that he was taking a flight to marriage? If any man is living his life like Jacob, to leave education behind, leave skill acquisition or knowledge and jump into marriage, nobody would tell such a person at a later date that he has taken a wrong step. Such a young man or woman must answer foolish questions from his own Pharaoh.

But then such individuals would be thinking, it is one witch or wizard in his father's house that is behind his challenge not knowing that he was the cause of his or her misfortune in life. God has given every man the life He wants him to live. You must follow the principle of life and not mistake one for another. No one can tell what the repercussions will be, but it is dangerous; life will be more stressful, it will be a thing to struggle for. Take each step at once towards finding out your God

given purpose in life and fulfilling it.

As Jacob left for Padanaram, he began a journey that would derail his destiny, it was as if Jacob was supposed to go to point A but was now heading to point B. God did not promise Jacob Padanaram, He only promised Canaan. So with all the blessings and charges received from Isaac, Jacob would amount to nothing without God.

With all the tithing and the goodwill, if one is not yielded to God and follows His path, such will amount to nothing. You can make a name for yourself, enjoy life and become the toast of town, when God's book is open and all that you suppose to do and become does not correspond with your today, then expect to only hear, “Cast the unprofitable servant unto outer darkness” because it is as if you buried God's gift when you walk contrary from His original plan. Indeed, Jacob travelled to Padanaram and that was the beginning of his trouble.



## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **DOES GOD MAKE EFFORT IN CORRECTING OUR MISTAKES EARLY?**

Every man is on a journey of fulfilment or regret whether he is aware or not. And God surely makes efforts to intervene in our matters, to correct our mistakes if we will listen to Him early. The problem is, do we really listen? God can come in different forms to speak to us, you may hear a voice speaking to you on your way to work or church (wherever), or you listen to messages, read the Bible or nature calling your attention. Anyhow, God speaks but the problem is, most of us do not listen and some do not know He exists.

***“It is dangerous for a man not to take off early in life, it is equally a disaster for a man not to be in God's will for his life and walk towards it early in life.”***

For Jacob, God came to him in the form of a dream. This is the first time Jacob had a dream and the very first time he slept outside his father's house. He was on his own now and must fend for himself, he had not slept on the floor before but now reality was setting in. He was on a journey, life begins at forty, goes the saying but for Jacob, life begins at seventy plus, for Jacob was not a small boy when this incident happened. Already in Genesis 26:34, Esau was forty years old and had two wives, therefore, it suffices to say that before this junction in his life as recorded in Genesis 28 verse 10 Jacob had not been responsible for anything. He could not call anything his achievement except the birthright he deceitfully collected and the blessings he stole.

It is dangerous for a man not to take off early in life, it is equally a disaster for a man not to be in God's will for his life and walk towards it early in life. Just like what we read about Jacob in the Bible. If you do not take off in time, there might be hiccups somewhere later as your journey on in life. In verse 10 of Genesis 28, the Bible says, “He lighted upon a certain place”.

Beloved, there is a certain place you come that God will use the occasion to speak to you or correct your mistake, don't you ever miss the place. You must set upon a certain place where the dew of Heaven will fall on you and you come to your senses like the prodigal son so that you can retrace your steps back to your destiny and the Will of God for your life. Failure not to understand your season and time will make you answer the foolish question at old age.

Notice that the Bible says, in Genesis chapter 28:11 that,

**“And he lighted upon a certain place,  
and tarried there all night,  
because the sun was set...”**

God appeared to Jacob to reset his sun that was set, this was his personal sun though it looked like a normal daytime sun. And he dreamt, behold, God set up a ladder upon the earth which the top reached towards the Heaven to bring Jacob up so as to correct his already battered destiny. For why would God set up a ladder for a man to bring him to Himself if there is no purpose for it?

The Bible said the Angels ascended and descended using the ladder, not that they fly, but they were climbing to bring Jacob up to God and to encourage him to climb but he never did. Jacob saw an opportunity of a lifetime, but he never used it. Are you like Jacob who will never make use of the opportunity at his disposal or who will never be sensitive to God and the opportunities he provided in achieving His will for your life? Someone said, the word, poor means Passing Opportunities over Repeatedly. You become poor by looking down on opportunity or not taking it up, recognizing or managing one. Jacob took opportunities to correct his destiny for granted; he did not come to God in time.

In the meantime, God has presented opportunity to you through this book to come to Him and correct your battered future, there is a ladder of grace which is Jesus, and He is knocking on the door of your heart to come to you. He specializes in correcting destiny and He wants you to come to Him if you are sensitive enough, you will take up this opportunity. He has finished the work of grace and your salvation on the Cross of Calvary. He came, suffered and died for you so that you will not suffer anymore. Will you come to Him? Do not be like Jacob who was presented with enormous grace, but never took it. Come to Jesus today, He said,

**“Come unto me,  
all ye that labour and are heavy laden,  
and I will give you rest.”**

– Matthew 11:28

Any man that is heavy laden and not Heaven laden have caged his or her destiny; somebody that is supposed to be a prime minister is now a prisoner, that's two different destinies. His original will is that he will become a prime minister, but the destiny he is living now is being a prisoner. Such a person needs to go to Jesus and climb that ladder of grace. Jesus said, come, He wants to give you rest. He has promised that the day you come to Him, your heavy burden shall be taken away off thy shoulder, and your yoke off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing - Isa 10:27. Please come to God today through Jesus Christ, let Him correct your destiny and alter your journey for good.

Though Jacob would not climb the Ladder, God still pronounced His promises on him. God said to him:

**And, behold, the LORD stood above it,  
and said, I am the LORD God of  
Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac:  
the land whereon thou liest,  
to thee will I give it (1),  
and to thy seed (2);  
And thy seed shall be as  
the dust of the earth (3),  
and thou shalt spread abroad to the west,  
and to the east, and to the north,  
and to the south (4):  
and in thee and in thy seed shall  
all the families of the earth be blessed (5).**

**And, behold, I am with thee (6),  
and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest (7),  
and will bring thee again into this land (8);  
for I will not leave thee (9),  
until I have done that  
which I have spoken to thee of.”**

- Genesis 28:13-15

God promised Jacob so much and you would think somebody who did everything possible to deceitfully collect his brother's blessings from his father would be quick to grab God's blessings and promises when he saw one. But not Jacob, he did not understand spiritual matters, no father or mother to push him to recognize that where he laid was a holy ground and that the One who is talking, is the Father of all fathers. God gave Jacob nine great promises in this passage, you would think that he would grab it with open hands and run with it, not Jacob. Truly Jacob was God's beloved and God would do everything Heavenly possible to bless him because of Abraham, His friend and Isaac. But this Jacob wanted everything in his own way.

When he woke up from his sleep, Jacob was only describing the place; he did not remember all the promises of God. He said, if God will be with me when He (God) had already said He would be with him. If God will give me bread to eat, raiment to wear then He would make God his God. Jacob, what was your problem? God had promised you all of these blessings, yet you are still praying for it. Here Jacob prayed amiss, he never climbed the Ladder and did not accept the promises of God. He was only describing the place, wasting his anointing unnecessarily.

Read Genesis 28:16–22,

**And Jacob awaked out of his sleep,  
and he said, Surely the LORD is in this place;  
and I knew it not. And he was afraid,  
and said, How dreadful is this place!  
this is none other but the house of God,  
and this is the gate of heaven.**

**And Jacob rose up early in the morning,  
and took the stone that  
he had put for his pillows,  
and set it up for a pillar,  
and poured oil upon the top of it.**

**And he called the name of that place Bethel:  
but the name of that city was  
called Luz at the first. And Jacob**

**vowed a vow, saying,  
If God will be with me,  
and will keep me in this way that I go,  
and will give me bread to eat,  
and raiment to put on,**

**So that I come again to my father's  
house in peace; then shall the LORD  
be my God: And this stone,  
which I have set for a pillar,  
shall be God's house:**

**and of all that thou shalt give me  
I will surely give the tenth unto thee.**

In Genesis 28:15, God had already said to Jacob He would be with him and keep him in all the places he wanted to go and bring him safely back home. God continues, “For I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of.” But because Jacob had missed the promised, listen to his prayers: “If God will be with me, and will keep me in this way that I go, and will give me bread to eat, and raiment to put on, So that I come again to my father's house in peace; **then** shall the LORD be my God: and this stone, which I have set for a pillar, shall be God's house: and of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth unto thee.”

God said he had blessed him, but he was praying the prayer God had already answered. Our problem as believers may be that we do not hold on to God's word and never understand the Word of God. Many believers are holding Bibles, going for Bible studies regularly but have yet to encounter the Word of God. The earlier you know the Word of God is the answer to all your prayers, the better.

***“Many believers are holding Bibles,  
going for Bible studies regularly  
but have yet to encounter the Word of God.”***

God had already told Jacob He will be with him and keep him, but was saying, “if God”. Because he had set out his mind to go on his journey, all what God said was nothing to him. According to Jacob, God will never be his God until He gives him what to eat and what to wear. Are you not going to church or serving God because of what to eat and what to put on? It is an irony that many believers have turned churches

to welfare houses and orphanages, many goes to churches where they will get food and jobs because of hunger and unemployment, pretending to love God and His works. Alas! They have never seen or understood the Word of God, even though they carry Bibles all around. It is what to eat and what to wear, they are busy looking for. Life is more than food and raiment; you must settle the real issue why you are on earth in the first place, before anything else.

Jacob prayed to God; "God, it is when you bless me with food and raiment that you can be my Father." Now that I am struggling, you cannot be my God; that was the implication of Jacob's prayers if you read this passage very carefully. God cannot have his all except ten percent as if God is hungry and needs his money. God was not looking for tithe and offering from Jacob, God was looking for Jacob himself. God had created nations in him but Jacob is seeing bread and raiment. Many of us have removed God from our journey hence when we pray there is no answer. We have centred our prayers on miracles whereas we are the miracle carriers, many people do not understand to seek before getting the addition hence they struggle in life.

We never pray to know the heart of God, we never ask for what God wants concerning our matters. We go to prayer meetings, to mountains and to even disturb our pastors with our challenges. We never climbed the ladder of grace when God was calling hence the reason why we are spending years in that situation. I pray that God opens your eyes to see what God wants you to see and do what He expects of you in time, for time is of great essence and it is the measuring instrument of destiny.



## **JACOB WENT ON HIS OWN JOURNEY**

The Word of God is God and His Word created all things, in Him (the Word of God) we live, we move and have our being (Acts 17:28). This was the same Word that came to Jacob to bring him into his destiny, from his utterances after this encounter, it is understood that Jacob did not comprehend what the Word of God actually was. He said, surely the Lord was in this place and he knew not and he began to set up stones to call it the place of God. He never climbed the ladder (his destiny); he did not understand the promises and left on his journey contrary to the Will of God for his life (Genesis 29:1):

*“Then Jacob went on his journey,  
and came into the land of  
the people of the east.”*

God told Jacob to come up but where did he come into? Unto the people of the east, you will see which one is better either from entering God's purpose or entering one's own purpose (ambition). Jacob postponed his divine, original destiny (as it is in Heaven); he entered into Padanaram.

Any man that behaves like Jacob will surely and one day answers the foolish question with gray hair. Jacob never entered this strange land with a covenant like Eleazar the chief servant to Abraham, his forefather did. When Eleazar was asked to go bring a wife for Jacob's father, Isaac; he went there with a covenant and he prayed to God to prosper his journey, but not Jacob. This Jacob was full of himself, he knew everything, and he would later injure himself.

Jacob's case looks like that of many of us today; we think we can achieve anything on our own. Many people are cutting corners to achieve their plans today; they commit adultery, fornication and theft all to meet their demands. Stealing, robbing, kidnapping, and all forms of atrocities and criminalities are routes many young people take, thinking they can fulfill God's destiny.

The kind of attitudes and behaviours of some youths showed that God is not involved in their journey. They cannot say, this is what God wants me to do. God is saying come, Jacob misplaced where God was talking to him as the house of God forgetting what He (God) wanted to do. Buying a car, building a house and all of the good things may be in the plan of God for your life but are you not achieving it in your own way, by your own strength, and not through God?

I am here to let you know that even Jacob achieved all those but none of it entered into the Promised Land with him, he entered his divine destiny as a Person with Disability. The wife he wasted over twenty years of his life to marry died prematurely on the way (even in his journey). Jacob's son never rose until after twenty years. You can imagine a man that started late in life, wasted another twenty years of his life, tell me how he would not answer foolish questions.

If you do not have more years to waste, today is the right day, now is the acceptable time to turn to God and climb your own ladder of destiny. There is one thing to achieve your goals, there is another to receive the glory of God over your life, for the glory of God makes the difference. You will do well to hide yourself somewhere and receive

the plan of God for your life or go back to what God wanted you to do. It is dangerous for you to know the plan of God for your life and not work in it. Such a journey leads to a disastrous end. The worst thing about living this kind of life is, you are not only going to cause trouble for yourself, people that your destiny is waiting for will be affected and you will make life's journey difficult for them.

There is nothing you can become apart from what the Word of the Lord says, you might think but I am prospering, I am an achiever, just wait and see. You will soon realize that the Almighty is “God Over Destinies (GOD)”. His promise to you today is to arise and shine, for your light is come and His glory has risen upon you. But if you do not arise to your destiny, how will your light shine and how will the king come to your brightness?

Like Jacob, many people are yet to come to the light of God's word. They refuse to come to Jesus, believing that they are prospering, so why do they need God. Very soon, they will soon understand. So before it is too late, come to Christ today so that you can fulfil your divine destiny. God wants you to become a car dealer, but because you are driving one car around, you thought you have arrived, you are not in the plan of God; you are in Padanaram.

Notice, the very first persons Jacob met were shepherds, God was still telling him, young man, you must work but Jacob would not listen. He eventually met Rachael; Rachael would later take Jacob to his father Laban, the master of the land, but before that, Jacob had grabbed Rachael to kiss her. After all, my mission here is to get a wife and here

is a beautiful damsel, Jacob grabbed her to kiss, he never paid dowry, even before introduction; it was after he had kissed Rachael that he began his introduction. This man Jacob was heading towards a fall.

Jacob stayed with Laban for one month and the latter asked him since he had started working for Laban for a month, he asked for what he would collect as wages. “And Laban said to him, “Surely thou art my bone and my flesh. And he abode with him the space of a month” - Genesis 29:14.

Jacob had been a deceiver for years; now he has met his master in Laban he never knew. A man that his future will be great and people will be proud of will learn from history and from what is written concerning him. Jacob had forgotten how long he took his forefather's servant to bring his mother into marriage; it was only twenty four hours. He had spent thirty days now, nothing, not even the Rachael he kissed. Are you saying this type of person should not answer the foolish question? Definitely, he must and he will.

***“A man that his future will be great  
and people will be proud of  
will learn from history and from  
what is written concerning him.”***

But Jacob negotiated the birthright from his brother, how come now he did not know how to negotiate with Laban? He said to Laban, I will serve you for your daughter Rachael for seven years. What a bride price! Jacob never learnt the tradition of the land, he was ignorant.

Isaac, his father, did not serve for a second before he got Rebecca to wife. How come you want to serve for seven years apart from the thirty days you have served to get a wife? What a fool! This man was ignorant about many things, but he thought he was smarter and wiser in his own eyes. He would one day regret his action, he would answer foolish question from his pharaoh.

Laban would deal seriously with him, he did not know anything. He negotiated for Rachael and he never knew that in the land they do not give out the younger daughter in marriage except the eldest married first. Laban played along with him, do not worry so say, Laban; I will give Rachael to you in marriage after seven years. Any man that will not enter into God's promise for his life, and thought he is wise in his own eyes will one day serve his mates.

The Bible says,

***“And Jacob served seven years  
for Rachel; and they seemed  
unto him but a few days,  
for the love he had to her”.***

– Genesis 29:20

Thereafter, he requested for his wife Rachael, but unknown to him Laban packaged Leah at night. In the morning, Laban called a feast for Rachael but at night he changed it to Leah. But come to think of it, did Jacob not know that it was Leah they gave unto him in marriage? Jacob had kissed Rachael before, and they see each other every day.

The voice of Leah is not the same with that of Rachael, at least before anything that night; there would be a kind of discussion between the two newly wedded couple. But you see, Jacob too thought he was wiser, he played along to get Leah and the next day, he asked for Rachael. He wanted to collect double for one. He never knew that in Padanaram, they are masters of the game, deception is in their blood, and they have all the time and are ready to waste Jacob time.

Laban was not Esau, Laban was born and bred in Padanaram, he did not care about anyone, all what he wanted was to get wealth at all cost; he did not care if he crushed anybody to get what he wanted. Padanaram is a place of no destiny fulfilment, it is a place where powers that be frustrate one's glory; it is a place where destinies are captured, caged and destroyed. May you never find your place in Padanaram, many lives are in Padanaram today, they have been caged and they are already living another man's destiny. Jacob instead of him to reject Leah the same night, he kept silent and slept with her till the next day. I could guess he knew it was not Rachael that same night, he thought he could deceive Laban the way he deceived his father.

The next morning, Jacob was furious, he said to Laban, "You have tricked me. I worked hard for you so that I could marry Rachel. Why did you trick me?" Laban said, "In our country we do not allow the younger daughters to marry before the older ones. Continue for the full week of the marriage ceremony, and I will also give you Rachel to marry. But you must serve me another seven years" - Genesis 29:25–27. What! Seven years? A seven year is equal to two thousand, five hundred and fifty-five days. Who does that? To marry one woman?

Jacob actually did. He would answer for it one day. Waiting for a woman you love to marry her is not a sin, but wasting your time on a woman without doing anything else is foolishness. How can you make a woman your occupation? Is that your destiny?

I hope you are getting the reason why Pharaoh asked Jacob, “How old he was?” And with the answer that Jacob gave, he did not suppose to serve for a second, now he had served for seven years thirty days and did not get what he was looking for, instead of Rachael, he got Leah. By this virtue, Jacob's destiny has been changed, with his marriage to Leah, he was never Jacob. For the love that he had for Rachael, he served for another seven year, making fourteen years and thirty days that he had spent in Padanaram.

***Do you know that somebody  
who just wants to use you  
will not think about whom you are or what become of  
you?***

Remember, Jacob was asked to go pick a wife, now he had two. Laban finally gave Jacob the love of his life. But would Jacob take his deformed destiny now and return to his father? No! This guy was stubborn; instead he got his wives' maidservants as wives too. Jacob was looking for one wife and got four, what a destiny!

He would not allow the promises of God to come to pass; rather, he went on his own journey according to Genesis 29:1. Assuming he understood and accepted God's mandate, he would have accepted

Leah, packed his belongings and left Padanaram. But not Jacob, he meeting Laban on his own knowledge and family trust was his greatest mistake. Laban never asked Jacob how old he was. Do you know that somebody who just wants to use you will not think about whom you are or what becomes of you? All that he or she is concerned with is what you can offer. And that was how Jacob started with Laban, he worked freely in Laban business for thirty days and the man saw potential in Jacob and caught on it.

Jacob ended up marrying four wives, only him; anybody cutting Jacob's marriage is only looking for trouble. If Laban really loved Jacob, what he was supposed to do was to inform Jacob, look, young man, we do not give the eldest in marriage before the younger, then Jacob would know whether to go for Leah or find his own way, but he was deceived. You can now see how Jacob was paying with his dear destiny, he was not just reaping what he sowed when he stole Esau's birthright, he was also getting his cup full for deceiving his father.

If you read the account of Jacob in the Book of Genesis you will pity him, he was now being tossed around by women and he thought he was enjoying. He married two sisters and their handmaidens, the wife that he loved and used fourteen good years of his life in labour for was equally childless.

***“If the name Jacob  
has been working for him, why would God change it?”***



Jacob continued working for Laban and he later confessed that Laban changed his wages ten times; he spent a good twenty years in this strange land. Come to think of it, where was Esau he ran away from? Will he meet his parents at home again? Jacob now in his nineties, he hasn't entered into the Will of God for his life. The journey that was supposed to take him not more than twenty hours took him more than twenty years to accomplish. May you never neglect God's will for your life.

Jacob was never going to be the same again and he was never Jacob because he left the plan of God for Padanaram. He postponed God's rising on him, the sun that set on him in Genesis 28:11 which was supposed to rise within twelve hours never rose until after twenty years (see Genesis 32:31). He wasted the best part of his life and would have never recovered if not for the help of God. If the name Jacob has been working for him, why would God change it?

***“Why would a man who had things in abundance now fight with an angel for God's blessings?”***

If Jacob was indeed in his destiny, the Angel he fought with would not have any reason to change his name. Why would a man who had things in abundance now fight with an angel for God's blessings? At this point, Jacob knew that he had wasted his time and was never a fulfilling man. He was living under a dark space, he was blind to his destiny and the power that be, had changed his destiny. He was only Jacob in the physical realm, but in the spiritual realm, he was just a mere container, he had no value at all.

## **SO WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN PADANARAM?**

Many people today have not yet understood the things of God and how He works. Many people desire the gifts rather than the Giver and lots in the world want His acts and not His Person or Way. In addition to this, many people think they can buy God with their tithe, offering and sacrificial giving when the sources of such money are shady. Many people are in church to enjoy God's grace, thinking their deeds and services will cover their sins, as they want to continue in their sinful way and never come to repentance. Such are in Padanaram where Laban is waiting for their Jacob (destiny). They will pay dearly until they return to God, because this Laban will not look at them with the eyes of mercy. He is a cunning man, he knows how to get things from a man who does not want to do and live in the will of God. Laban acted like the Devil, understand this, if a man is not in God's will, he is in that of the Devil.

Satan will satisfy him with every good thing of life and his victim will never know that the Devil just wants to waste his time and invariably his destiny. Imagine, you got a contract to farm about a hundred hectares of land, you mobilize to site, get all the necessary machinery and tools including labourers and when you are done with the project, it is then you discover you are on a wrong project site. Where do you want to start from? You can imagine the huge investment on a wrong land and the amount of time, energy and resources wasted, such is the case of a man who is on a wrong path to destiny, by the time he realizes he has missed it and it might be too late.

God in His infinite mercies called unto Jacob, maybe due to His love for His fathers and covenant relationship He had with Abraham. He revealed the blueprint of how Jacob's future will be to him but he never understood nor pondered on it for a second.

***“Padanaram is NOT a paradise;  
it is Destiny Haram”.***

Immediately, he woke up from his sleep, the next thing he did was to erect stones and called it the house of God. Is God not everywhere or is He living in a house built with stones? Many people behave like Jacob today; they have never heard from God and yet ventured into whatever profession they are doing. Maybe they only saw God's beeping, they never waited to hear what He (God) wanted to say, before you say jack, you will hear such people say; 'don't you know I have a call of God upon my life?' Well done, Mr. the Called! Very soon you will realize that the call you heard was to warn you and not to call you into any service. It is a pity; many people have lost God long ago. Like Jacob they left God in Luz where they renamed Bethel, thinking that the place is the place where God lives instead of seeing it as a place where God came to reveal their destinies to them.

Padanaram is NOT a paradise; it is “Destiny Haram”. Take a look at what usually happens in Padanaram when the one with divine mandate misses his way to the land. From the account of Jacob, the very first thing he did was to grab Rachael and kiss her. It is strange, Jacob was meeting somebody for the first time and the next thing to do is to begin to kiss a stranger, even before Jacob revealed his identity, he and

Rachel had gone deep in kissing each other. It is not him; it is because he was in a strange land, a land that consumes one's destiny. Let me tell you, such relationships do not last. Such people will soon regret it.

It is impossible to take the right step in the wrong location, speed in the wrong direction is called disaster; Padanaram is a land of mistakes, a place where one can lose his destiny. The very first mistake Jacob made was to kiss Rachael. In Genesis 24 when Abraham sent his chief servant to go and pick a wife from the same Padanaram, before Elieazar entered this same city, he prayed a targeted prayer unto God of his master but do you remember Jacob's prayer, "If God will give me bread to eat and raiment to wear." He had forgotten the message of his father Isaac to go and pick a wife, and the divine destiny God had in store for him.

A servant prayed and did his assignment in twenty hours; a son played for twenty years, Jacob prayed amiss, began to kiss and missed his destiny for over twenty years. He chose his wife by himself, not by God. Beloved, your present location, where you are now, is it by God's instruction or your own intention? Wherever you are and that job you are doing, can you boldly claim that it is God that sent you to the land or ask you to be doing the job?

There may be a well of water to cut the favour of the people and the city may be given to you, these are what you want at the initial stage. But a time will come when the situation will not be the same and you will begin to question your existence in the land or on the job. You cannot reside in Padanaram and fulfil God's destiny, you must go out. SIN

simply means, “Simple Instruction Neglected”. Therefore, if you have neglected God's instruction, do not just regret it, repent and go back to God. There is a need for you to come to your senses in time and not waste your time like Jacob did. Do not forget the time of life, it is in phases.

***“You cannot grow more than  
the people you associate with.”***

Many people ordinarily would not do certain things, but sometimes it is strange to see them do what they do not love at all. There are some people who do not like fornicating but unknown to them they just do it. There are people who hate adultery with passion but will never know when they find themselves on the internet watching pornography. It is strange. And it is because they are not in their right location. When you are living in the land the Almighty God divinely allocated to you and you are living in His will as laid in the Book written of you in Heaven, you will live a godly life no matter what others are doing in Padanaram.

However, if you are not in your right location, as you are kissing Rachael, you will be dating Leah and have more than enough concubines, girlfriends, or boyfriends. Gradually you are going apart, gradually, you are missing your destiny, if you stay in that ungodly location. Location matters in the life of a man; where you were born, the city you are living in and the kind of people you live with matter a lot and amount to what you will become in life. You cannot grow more than the people you associate with, to become otherwise is to think beyond their level or imagine beyond your environment.

It is NOT too late to come out of your Padanaram. For a man with divine destiny, Padanaram is not the right place to be. Anything can be your Padanaram, it may be the course you are studying or the work you are doing; it may also be a woman or a man you wish to marry like Jacob and/or the house you are living in. It may even be your birthplace; it may be your working place. Pray to God to open your eyes and reveal to you the real you, that which in God's original plan for your life. May you find God's purpose and fulfil His Will in Jesus name. No matter how nice or kind you are in Padanaram, you will never be spared with their evil agenda. May God in His infinite mercies make a way of escape for you. Amen!

Haven't you noticed in your life that no matter the efforts you are putting into your business or anything you are doing, the results are not corresponding to the efforts. Do take a deeper look today, consider your ways and check if you are living in Padanaram or not. If you discover your location, you will get your allocation. Whatever God wants to make through your life, it will never come to pass in Padanaram because it was not God's intention for you to live there. Approach God today, ask for His direction, and pray to Him to lead you in the way you should go. If you are living in the plan and will of God, a little one of yours shall become a thousand (Isaiah 60:22). May you live in the plan of God for your life.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### PAUSE

Can you take a moment off this book? Set this book apart for some minutes, reflect on your life from cradle till now and find out how you have been living. What do you set out for in life? Was there any time you were told about God or His will? What dream have you had? Can you still have time with your parents to ask relevant questions pertaining to your life? If a man does not know where he is going, he should be able to know where is coming from. Not knowing where you are going to and where you are coming from is a great disaster which makes one answer foolish questions in his old age.

Everything may look hopeful but there is a need to check properly. You might have dreamt beautifully but dreams do not become reality if one does not work it out. You might have a goal in life, but if there is no plan or steps to achieve the goal, it is just a mere dream. Do not take life like a child who thinks age is an achievement. You must be serious with your life. Therefore, pause, reflect, write, ask, seek, know and then rise up to your feet and follow the steps.

Jacob had no time to pause and reflect on his life, it took him several years to come to a platform of reflection. Until it was late, he did not ask the question, “When shall I provide for my own house?” – Genesis 30:30. You cannot just be living life anyhow, life must be planned for. One step missed at a phase may cause a great hindrance to the second or third phase of one's life. No matter who you are or what level or position you are now you can become what God wants you to become,

have what He wants you to have and be doing what He wants you to be doing. But you need to pause, look at the people around you.

Check the lives your parents lived and are living presently, what lesson can you derive from it? Examine critically the life of people you loved or hate, what can you say about them? Can you ask them critical questions such as, "If you are given a chance at life again, will you be happy to live the same way you live?" Do not just take a 'Yes', 'No' for an answer. Follow it up with some explanation. If such a person answers a yes or no, let him give reasons why he thinks he is happy or not in life by the way he has lived his life. Do not forget to write down important points. There are great lessons to pick up. Honest answers will guide you on the steps to take.

The reason why you need to pause is to redirect your life if you are in the wrong lane or have enough confidence to push through if you are on the right track. Information has a way of reinforcing our beliefs and strength. You can only walk successfully in what is written of you and if you do not have access to such information, one may live another man's life. Information and revelation are critical to life's journey. If you know the secrets of life, life will be smooth. Fulfilling purpose in life is all about knowing the secrets behind every result. What is hidden produces what is in the open. Anything you see has a code, a set of instructions that make it happen. Life also is coded in secrecy, it is in mystery and you will need the wisdom of God to gain access. Such was what Jacob missed early in his days. You will not miss your destiny and position in life.



***“Personal fulfilment is comparing what you have achieved with resources available to you.”***

Assuming that you are given an opportunity to go back to your early years with the same information, experience, training, education and orientation you have today, I am double sure you will perform better in life and there are some things you will never want to repeat. Have a reflection. What sort of friends do you keep that you do not necessarily need? What sorts of life are you living that you need to drop and pick up a better one? You must look at your physical, spiritual, material, marital and financial life to see if there is indeed progress. If not, there is a need to retreat.

Pause, consider your ways and have a better approach to life. Peradventure, you are still in your early years, listen to me carefully, there is a story behind every man you see on the street. You need to sit up no matter your background and find a way for yourself. You may have your excuses, do not take that road, for the road of excuses lead only to one place called failure. You may learn from people around you but note that you are not heading in the same direction and you do not have the same platform. Having a rich father does not translate to a rich life. You can be better and great on your own terms, so do not compare yourself to others when you are looking at achievements in life. Personal fulfilment is comparing what you have achieved with resources available to you.

## NO EQUAL PLATFORM

*The LORD said to her,  
"The leaders of two nations are in your body.  
Two nations will come from you,  
and they will be divided.  
One of them will be stronger,  
and the older will serve the younger."*

- Genesis 25:23

By now, you have known that in life, there is no equal platform. Before Jacob and Esau were born, one was loved and the other was hated. They are yet to see the light of the day and yet have different platforms to operate from. I have no this or that, that's why my life is this or that is just an excuse. Your background, the place you were born, the parents that gave birth to you, your environment are what made a platform for you.

So while you live in affluence because of what your parents have done before you were born, there are other people out there who have less than what you have. The good news is, the platform is just the beginning, never a final station. You will find the truth about life first and foremost by the life God wants you to live. At this point, if you are not of age you need to go back to your parents and enquire about your purpose in life; but if you are an adult, you need to go to God in prayer to get your Will as it is written in heaven.

Whether you are of age or not, you will do well, if you still have your parents around to tell you what they know about you when you were a child or before you were born. The good thing about this is, it will reinforce whatever God tells you and give you great confidence to pursue the will of God. Begin life's journey from there.

***“Learning is an event;  
it is what happens when you  
come across information needed  
for your progress in life.”***

Education is the second truth you will have to share as a platform. Learning is an event; it is what happens when you come across information needed for your progress in life. It is not about cramming a whole textbook or passing an examination, it is about knowledge received. Therefore, I will urge you to take education seriously. Go to school, stay in the classroom, respect your teachers, grab all that you need. Learn from your parents, obey them in all things, go to Sunday school too, and learn from your counsellors.

You will need as much information as possible, knowing that there is a destiny, a future waiting for you. If one plus one is not making sense to you now, it will make sense to you in the future. The good thing about having education is not just to teach you about today, but also teach you about the future. Most of what you are learning in the lecture room may not be relevant to you now, but much more important to your future. You will soon realize.

If the unfortunate happen and there is no money to pursue your education in a four-walled classroom, never mind. Education is not just about that, we learn daily and there are different platforms to learn and pick knowledge for life. Skill acquisition is one of them. Note this; academic education does not necessarily translate to a good life. What brings good life is awareness about the information you receive from your teachers, the one you read yourself, the one you are getting from your parents and people around and how relevant it is to your future.

***“The card of tomorrow is in your hands,  
play and place it well.”***

So if you are not acquiring knowledge from a school, go to a skill acquisition centre to grab a skill. Yes, in today's information, knowledge and entrepreneurial economy, you need both but if you are not getting formal education because you cannot afford it. You can get it when you acquire a skill and later when you are making money from your skill, you can head back to school. The point to note is, there is a future ahead and you must do everything possible to fulfill this. If you have access to a device (mobile phone, smartphone or laptop) and the Internet, you have endless opportunities. Acquire a skill and develop your potential via online tutorials, lectures, videos and free certifications.

If you do not want to answer foolish questions at your old age, get a skill or get an education now. Achievement in life is based on the resources at your disposal. Never mind if some of your mates ride cars to school and you trek long distances, there is a tomorrow and it is in

your hands. The card of tomorrow is in your hands, play and place it well. What I want you to know is, life is a serious teacher and you must become a great master to enjoy it. Will you teach life a lesson or it teaches you? The ball is in your court.

In pausing, at this stage, you must find purpose. It is critical and necessary, you may even have to leave all that you are doing if need be, to find purpose in life. Jacob had been living with his parents over the years, he never had time to pause and reflect on his life. You can imagine a man having all the time to cook porridge that could convince a man to sell his birthright but have no time to think about his future. Joseph at age seventeen already knew what would happen in his future. Jacob was more than sixty years old when he was still busy cooking porridge. He did not have a wife to cook for him, he did not have a future to plan for and therefore, his parents must do the planning for him.

While he was travelling on his parents' instruction, God intercepted his journey, gave him an opportunity to pause, the Bible says,

***“And he lighted upon a certain place,  
and tarried there all night,  
because the sun was set;  
and he took of the stones of that place,  
and put them for his pillows,  
and lay down in that place to sleep.”***

- Genesis 28:11

The destiny of a man who fails to 'light upon a certain place' to reflect on his life and take a purpose will be derailed, abused or stopped. For the fact that things are working properly for you now does not mean you are in the purpose and plan of God for your life. Problem is not a problem at the beginning, everything looks normal but give the same situation time, then one knows he has a problem. Then secretly one will be finding answers to foolish questions. The time to listen to foolish questions can be used today to find right answers for your journey in life. At this critical junction, you need God, you need all the right advice, education and proper guidance as well as honest counselling to be on a right track of destiny.

## CHAPTER SIX

### GOD - THE BIG FACTOR IN DESTINY

*“Many of us only know the God  
introduced to us by someone  
but yet to have a personal  
experience with Him”*

Many of us only know the God introduced to us by someone but yet to have a personal experience with Him. You may have different versions of the Bible; it does not mean you know God. God is not somebody you can ignore. Someone can be introduced to you at an occasion; it does not mean you know His person. You only have his name and probably know about what He has done, but to think you know God by mere introduction is a mere ruse. The only way you can know any man is through constant relationships, the same goes for knowing God. You do not know a man on the account of self-introduction but by constant study, fellowship and relationship.

You may exchange contact with someone after being introduced, but if there is no constant follow up or relationship thereafter, you know not the man. But when you call your new friend regularly, chat often and attend occasions together; you may by then know the man. Many people only know God by mere introduction; they may not have any relationship with Him at all. Knowing God is beyond scrambling through the Bible, the Holy Bible can only introduce God to you, but studying, meditating and applying the same God's Word would bring intimacy between you and God which will help you to experience God

in reality. It is important, you must experience God in reality; therefore, knowing God requires personal efforts, constant fellowship and communication as often as possible.

Activity is not a relationship. You need a personal encounter with God, what is described to you in the Bible, you must experience in reality. When God told Abram to leave his father's house to a land, He (God) would show him; at that moment Abram only had God's introduction, he had not known Him. But at a later stage, he was even interceding for the people of Sodom and Gomorrah; Abraham had come into the knowledge of God. You do not just know God by an activity, you know God by constant relationship.

***“The blessings in walking  
with the God you know  
outweigh the blessings in  
walking with the God introduced  
to you by books or anybody.”***

There is a difference between walking with the God introduced to you and the God you personally know or encounter. In fact, the blessings in walking with the God you know outweigh the blessings in walking with the God introduced to you by books or anybody. When Job personally encountered the God he was introduced to, he exclaimed:



***“In the past I heard about you,  
but now I have seen you with my own eyes.  
And I am ashamed of myself.  
I am so sorry.  
As I sit in the dust and ashes,  
I promise to change my heart and my life.”***  
- Job 42:5-6

Before God met Jacob at this critical junction of his life, he never had a relationship with God and I am sure, he would have heard about the God of Abraham, only introduction, no encounter. The same God came to introduce Himself to Jacob and Jacob had to light upon a certain place. He needed to sit down at a junction in his life so as to get to know God. There is a bus stop where you need to wait to get God's introduction. At some point, you need to come of age and consciously leave the God that was introduced to you so you can get to know God personally for yourself.

You might be following your parents to church every Sunday, attend Sunday school classes, be in children or youth church on Sunday, attend weekly activities; those are just ways God is being introduced to you. They are like a place where Jacob lighted because his sun set. I do not think the sun that set upon Jacob was the natural sun, no! It was actually the sun of his destiny that set. You must be able to come of age from the God preached to you to the God you have reached out to. When you consciously come to the knowledge of God and you believe He exists based on your personal encounter and evidence of His existence, there and then your Sun of Destiny can rise and shine.

Many people have claimed Isaiah 60 verse 1 many times but the Word has not worked for them because the word, “Arise” in that passage is not what you do unconsciously, it is what you do based on what you know, the power and person behind the Word you hear. If you know the God who asks you to “Arise, Shine”, and you hear Him yourself, it will not be difficult for you to shine.

Many Samaritans believed in Jesus because the woman who had encountered with Him told them, but at some points they said to the woman:

***“Now we believe,  
not because of thy saying:  
for we have heard Him ourselves,  
and know that this is indeed the Christ,  
the Saviour of the world.”***

– John 4:42

To receive your divine purpose from God you must come to the God you personally know. What you are doing presently should be according to your encounter with God. There was a God, Saul (who later became Paul the Apostle) knew, he had been told about God, for I know God commanded the Israelites to teach their children His laws, statues and commandments (Deuteronomy 4:9-10).

So Saul knew the Law, not the Lord, he was a teacher of the law and he thought he knew God, he was therefore persecuting the church. He only knew in part and not all of God, at some point after he had

performed so many miracles; he cried out that I may know Him (God). If after Paul gave his life to Christ and performed many miracles, travelled to cities of the world to establish many churches, even in the house of Caesar and still cried out to know God, who are you to sit still and not cry out for more of God?.

Saul studied the Law but did not come to the knowledge of God until the Lord encountered him on his way to Damascus. The two followers of Jesus left Jerusalem to Emmaus confused after the death of the One they called their Master, even though they saw the miracles performed by Jesus, they never encountered the Lord, they were sheer followers, not genuine disciples. They knew Jesus from afar but never came to the understanding and knowledge of the Word and Christ. He took Jesus a day's journey to travel with them and break bread with them before they could come to His knowledge and became His real disciples (Read Luke 24:13-35).

***“You may have different versions  
of the Bible; but not the same  
as having the Word of God.”***

Likewise, the Pharisees and the Jews persecuted Jesus and His disciples; they too thought they knew God. The high priests, the Sadducees and the Scribes in the Bible, thought they knew God as well. Any time Jesus expounded the Word of God to them or whenever He claimed that God was His Father, they all rebuked Him because they all operated under the message they preached to them, not the message they encountered. You may have different versions of the

Bible; it is not the same as having the Word of God. If you do not want to answer foolish questions at your old age, know God now.

For every man that comes to this world, there is a specific assignment that God wants him/her to do for Him. Jacob encountered the God that was preached to Him but did not recognize Him when such came to his life at a particular junction. Remember, his sun has set. What can a man do when working in darkness? I guess nothing. Jesus said,

***“I must work the works of Him  
that sent me, while it is day:  
the night cometh,  
when no man can work.”***

- John 9:4

The time when you are putting your best and have little or no result is the best time for you to pause and run after God to ask for what He wants you to do with your life. Even if it is God that told you to stay in the land, if things are not working as expected, that is the time to go to Him for reassurance or a new assignment. For Jacob, God came to Him, but he did not come to a relationship with God, he was lost in the God preached to him. God wanted to give him divine purpose but he travelled on his own journey (Genesis 29:1).

Are you too on God's journey or your own? Any man that does not want to answer foolish questions in his old age must travel in the journey set by God. You must collect a divine ticket before you can board the flight of destiny. Failure to do so will make one travel on his

own journey and enable him to answer foolish questions where he is supposed to be highly honoured.

God is God in His own class; He cannot be compared with any other. Do you really know Him? When you say God is the King of kings and Lord of lords; what does it really mean? It does NOT just mean He is King over all the earthly kings, it means God is King in His own class. When you compare God with lesser gods, it is like comparing 'Bugatti La Voiture Noire' with other cars, this one is a car in its own class, check its price, speed (450km/h), interior and the likes. A one Bugatti is as if you have 80 Mercedes Benz AMG S 65 Sedan (2020 model) in your convoy or you drive 464 Toyota Prado (2020 Model) at once. God is more than any god. He is incomparable.

As you are travelling in the journey of life, stop calculating God with your brain so that you can be easily satisfied. God is still God without your permission. He is to be feared and referenced, He says, "I am the Lord your God, beside me no one else (Isaiah 43:11; 44:6). Who and what are you bowing to? What is it that represents God in your life? None is incomparable, none can ever replace God. A David cannot be compared with a Goliath, but what was behind each of them made one to rise and the other to fall. So who is behind you? Do you really know the God you serve? Do you really have God behind you? The owner of a company may not KNOW his employees yet all the employees work for him. Never serve the God of your parents alone, desire to know God yourself. Ask Him to reintroduce Himself to you and take you on a journey in order for you to know Him.

God is Governor Over Destinies (GOD). He created the entire universe; He owns you and your existence. He revealed Himself to the Israelites in different ways, showed Himself to Saul and changed his name to Paul. Samuel who slept in God's temple day and night did not get to know God until when God called unto him. You can be in the presence of God and not be present in His presence. You can be a Methuselah in the church and never come to the knowledge of God. Having a vision and running a vision is not the same, you may have an idea of God and never come to His knowledge.

You can sing His praise and lead choruses during praise time and never realise the One you praised. The very first step for a genuine believer is the desire to know Him. Christ said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. The only way to the Father is through Jesus Christ" (John 14:6). You can equally know Him through His acts in the Bible, your environment, testimonies from other brethren and visitation to various sites to see His creations. In all of these, you must know God, personally.

## CHAPTER SEVEN

### WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

Every road leads to a destination. There are signs and symbols that give direction placed at every critical point in cities, towns and villages. Each and everyone leave their places to arrive at different destinations. Where you are presently is someone's destination. Your starting point is somebody's destination. Your destination is someone's starting point. Decision precedes direction and destinations determine direction. Likewise, your direction determines your destination. Destination, decision and direction are the key ingredients if you want to live a fulfilled life.

Have you noticed that in the morning when you are leaving your house to your office, on your way, you see people going toward the direction you are coming from? Your daily bread is somewhere else while theirs is where you are leaving. Definitely, all of us have destinations, whether we reach our destinations or not is another thing entirely. To reach your destination, you must first know where you are and why you are where you are. The question now is, “Where are you? Do you know you are on a journey? If you know, then, where are you in the journey of life? You must know the junction you are in whether it is your final destination, starting point or wrong bus stop.

Let's learn some vital lessons from Hagar, Sarah's maid. She took a flight from the presence of her mistress because of arrogance and pride (see Genesis 16:1-6). To God, Abraham's house was her final

destination but pride shifted her to the wilderness. Hagar took a flight to no destination; she walked NOT in the way of the Lord.

Can you imagine, a traveller leaving his house to the airport, on getting to the counter, he tells the attendant, please sell me a ticket and the sales attendant asks, to where? And he said, to anywhere. Such a man is the greatest fool of all time. No man should take off in life without having a destination, but the funniest thing is, many people are already embarking on the journey of life without a defined destination. Hagar was the very first fool. She did not prepare for life.

***And the angel of the LORD  
found her by a fountain of water  
in the wilderness,  
by the fountain in the way to Shur.  
And he said, Hagar, Sarai's maid,  
whence camest thou? and  
whither wilt thou go? And she said,  
I flee from the face of my mistress Sarai.***

- Genesis 16:8

The Angel of the Lord caught up with her in the desert and asked, "Why are you here? Where are you going?" Hear Hagar, "I flee from the face of my mistress Sarah." From this encounter, you will understand that Hagar did not know where she was going and could not even explain why she was where she was. Are you one of the people who cannot explain where they are and why they are where they are? If you are such a person, you do not have a chance in life. It is



better to ask God to caught up with you now at this junction. It is suicidal, painful and disastrous to NOT know where you are heading to in life.

Beloved, you need direction. Ask God for direction. You cannot live your life aimlessly. Wandering about the desert of life can lead to frustration, untimely death, and unfulfilled purpose. You need direction, I need one. A man that has no destination is not only dangerous to the society, but also a disaster waiting to happen. Your prayer this day should be, Lord, give me direction.

Many people today are painfully enjoying the reward of lack of patience and pride which made them leave their master in haste. Many businesses and ministries would have blossomed if they did not leave their master untimely. Many young people would have been the best the world has ever seen if they did not drop out or quit early enough. A two or three year skill acquisition or apprenticeship program is NOT too much if you know where you are going. Alas! You see young men and women demonstrating foolishness, not well cooked in the vocation and profession they chose. So is the person of Hagar whom her mistress loved so much, even trust with her matrimonial bed.

Have you ever seen a woman who trusts her friend with her husband? No! But Sarah did with Hagar, but Hagar failed her lesson, mismanaged the relationship and ran away. There is no pleasure without pressure, but many people are looking for shortcuts today to attain greatness. There is time for everything and if you come before your time, you will disappear. Take necessary and needed lessons while it is day, night comes, if one fails to pick up his or her lessons

now, one will look for such opportunity with tears and not find. Be wise!

Why are you here? Have you ever asked yourself, why am I here? Or why am I like this? Where you are now, is it by divine leading or you just decided it on your own? If where you are presently is NOT by God's leading, you will soon pay dearly for it. The office you are working in, the house you are living or the business you are doing, if it is not by God, it is suffering and hardship waiting in disguise.

When next you see Brother Jacob Isaac (of Genesis), ask him the consequence of not being where God wants one to be. You must know the reason why you are where you are. Hagar could not explain. The Angel asked, "Where are you coming from and where are you going?" She could not answer. Many people are failing this same test today, they do not know where they are going or coming from, aiming at life like a headless chicken.

Some years ago, I shepherded a new branch of our church; a young woman came to me and this she did regularly for prayers. On this particular day, she came and said, "Pastor, I had gotten a place for my business. I am now selling fried yam, soft drinks and pure water, come and pray for me." Immediately, I carried my bell and Bible and made my way to her shop. On getting there, I noticed that somebody was already selling the same items beside her. I was thinking what the intention of this woman was when she thought of this business before now; I waived it, prayed, congratulated her and left.

It was not too long thereafter that she came again. This time, she said, “Pastor, please pray for me, there is no sales in my new shop. I am suffering; there is nothing to eat at home”. There and then, I asked her, who told you to start the business you ventured into? Did you know that somebody was doing the same business you ventured into before you rented the shop? She said, “I realized the woman was making money from the business and I said, let me do it too”.

I told her, “I know that the woman will deal with you, with whatever she has. It was not God that led you into the business, so whatever you experienced from such ignorance, bear it”. I told her, “Go, look for another place to sell your fried yam or stop selling fried yam, be selling only soft drinks and water to complement the woman's business, add snacks to yours and you will see changes in your life. You do not need any prayer, what you need is wisdom and direction”. That was the end of her battle and struggle.

***“Intention alone does not lead to  
a desired destination.”***

Where are you going, really? Are you heading in the right direction? Hagar left her destination, wandering in the desert by the fountain. It is possible to be living in affluence today, things may be rosy and cosy at the junction you are, but if it is not where you suppose to be, you will surely pay the price heavily one day. A life without a vision is nothing more than a mirage. You think you are already there but you do not exist at all. Sarah was trying to give Hagar direction in life but the latter (Hagar) was visionless, directionless and futureless. Intention alone

does not lead to a desired destination, please note.

Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, revealed the uselessness of life when it is lived on the wrong paths, he explored every type of pleasure, activity, and every type of path. Having intelligence means you know things. Having wisdom means you know what to do in various situations. You can be smart without being wise. The road you are travelling on determines where you will end up. The directions you face determine what will face you. Your direction, not your intention, determines your destination. When it comes to the rest of our lives, whether it is our family life, financial life, our marital life, the way we raise our kids, our health, or our career life, this same principle applies. In every area of life, my direction, not my intention, determines my destination. For university bound students, for choosing a mate, for choosing friends, for work or play – what is your direction?

As a student, if you want good grades but do not study, what happens? You get bad grades! Solomon was standing at a window, looking down at the street. He saw a young man walking the streets heading in the direction of a specific woman's home, he knew who this woman was, and he knew she was married. And, apparently, he knew that her husband was out of town and that she would be prowling around the street corner, looking for prey. There was a marked contrast between what this man was expecting to experience and what Solomon knew was in his future. Why? Because the older, wiser man understood from experience where this path would lead to.

The man was preoccupied with what he believed would be an exciting event—a night of passion. But Solomon knew better. This night was not an isolated event disconnected from all the other events in this young man's life. This night was a step down a path. A path, like all paths, that leads somewhere. This particular path had a predictable destination. He was led astray, all at once he followed her like an ox going to the slaughter, like a deer stepping into a noose till an arrow pierces his liver, like a bird darting into a snare, little knowing it will cost him his life. One can never arrive at the right destination if he or she follows a wrong path.

Do you set out for a right destination in life, every person does, but the reality is not the same with their good intention. For instance, if a single lady should say, “I want to meet and one day marry a Christian who is fervent for God, but then she dates whoever asks her out, as long as he is cute, do you think her intention would be realised? If a man says, “I want a great financial future” and so he runs over other people to get his money, what do you think will become of him? If a married woman says, “I want to have a great relationship with my husband” but she makes the children her priority over him, will her intention be realised? If a husband says, “I want my kids to respect me as they grow up” and then he openly flirts with other women in the community, will his children respect him? If a young Christian says, “I want to develop a deep and lasting intimacy with God”, he gets up every morning and browses social media, will he develop an intimacy with God? If a working man says, “I want to grow old and invest the latter years of my life in my grandchildren”, but then he neglects his health, will that happen? All these are intentions and if not backed up

by actions in the right direction would not be realised.

Also, if a couple says, “We want our children to develop a personal relationship with God and choose friends who are doing the same”, but then they skip church every weekend or sleep in and watch football that intention would not be realised. If a newlyweds determine to be financially secure by the time they reach their parents' age but then adopt a lifestyle sustained by debt, such intention would not be realised. Also, a university student who intends to graduate with first class but neglects his studies will not realise his or her goal. Just like the naive young man in Solomon's story, the paths people choose eventually bring them to a destination that is entirely different from the one they intended. If you desire to remain faithful to your spouse, you do not linger in an online chat room with members of the opposite sex; that is not how to effectively pastimes. Such actions are pathways to a different destination from the one intended. They lead somewhere. As I have already said, it is much easier to see these dynamics at work in other people than it is in us. Take a minute to think about your life and let me ask you this: Are there disconnects in your life? Are there discrepancies between what you desire in your heart and what you are doing with your life, the path you are on? Is there alignment between your intentions and your direction?

If you have ever gotten lost while driving (and who hasn't?), you know that if you backtrack far enough, you can usually get your bearings and be on your way. Worst case, you have wasted a few minutes or hours. But when you get lost in life, you cannot backtrack, it's done and it is lost. When you get lost in life, you do not waste minutes or hours. You

can waste an entire season of your life. The principle of the path is operating in your life every minute of every day. You are currently on a financial path of some kind. You are on a relational path. You are continuing down a moral path, an ethical path, an entertainment path, a spiritual path. And each of these paths has a destination. Your direction, not your intentions, determines your destination. What direction are you heading today? Solomon says, “Get wisdom”.

### **THE ANGEL PLACED ON YOUR PATH**

When you pray for destiny helpers, what actually comes to mind? To see a Spirit Being in white attire spreading out his two wings? No, it may not happen that way. Not until you exhaust the angels already placed on your path, you can never see any other Angel from God. God had already placed some people on your path to direct your steps and tow you inline to His will. The prayer to pray therefore is that God should reveal to you the right angels to fulfil your destiny. There are people who are to guide and guard you; they include your parents, teachers, pastors and guardians, people who know more than you, it also includes the successful people in your area of business, vocation or profession. These people may not be perfect, but they are there to direct your path.

When I entered into the senior secondary school, my aunt whom I lived with around that time took me to one of her neighbours, an English teacher who occasionally comes to visit his family then. When we got to his house, my aunt said, “Sir, this your son will be sitting for his final examination soon, he needs your help”. The man looked at me, smiled and just entered his room, brought out a pocket-size

Oxford Dictionary, and gave it to me to always read. Within me, I said, but my aunt brought me here so that this man can organize extra classes for me. Why is he now giving me a dictionary? Even though I occasionally read the dictionary, I did not see any reason at that time to study it very well. It was several years later that I got to know the value of reading and studying a dictionary and then I understood the message the man had tried to pass across to me then. An African proverb says, "What an elderly man sees while sitting, a young man cannot see while standing".

No matter who you are, you need a mentor. You may not know the value of the people placed on your path today, but sooner or later you will understand the reason(s). Hagar already lost her own mentor in Sarah, if not that the Angel of God caught her beside a fountain and asked her to go back and submit to her mistress, until then the promise did not come. Solomon knew the end of that young man but the latter did not deem it fit to seek the King's Counsel; he looked down on his wisdom. Assuming that he familiarized himself with Solomon, he would have known that the road he was walking on, Solomon had already walked there one thousand times and knew how it would always end.

Joshua was mentored by Moses, he became his successor. Wherever you are in life, there are some people who are already ahead of you, you do not need to fight them, you only need to associate yourself and court their friendship. If you do, your journey will be smooth and they will be able to guide you to reach your desired goal.



But many of us are too proud to submit to our mentors; after all, I am a graduate, some people may say. Maybe your mentor does not even have a car, but you are riding one and you think what can he offer? Beloved, there are secrets to life and where you are heading to, somebody has already been there and come back. So, go look for a mentor and if possible, live with them, work for them for free, and by this, you will have the opportunity to observe their ways of life and get access to their secrets for successful living.

## CHAPTER EIGHT

### NIGHT COMETH

What you are using your morning and afternoon seasons to do determines how you will spend your night time. So, before you say you will say, 'I have no pleasure in them', find a place to think about your journey in life so far. Jesus said, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work," John 9:4. The night time will surely come for everyone, it is certain and as long as the day breaks, there must surely be a night time. Work while it is day therefore; never use your morning to play. What you are using your morning to plant is the harvest you are going to reap at night.

This is the time to run, it is time to fly; on the street, you will see some elderly people on the road begging or going to farm to make ends meet. I do not say it is their fault nor do I blame them for whatever they might be going through. But when you see an elderly woman or man on the road, what comes to your mind? When a dead man is being washed before interment, as they carry the corpse up to be washed, the lifeless head will shift to one side, meaning, it is going to be your turn.

So, when you see elderly people on the road, what should come to your mind should be, 'it is going to be my turn one day'. Before I talk about where you will spend your eternity, let me ask you how and where you will spend your old age? The Bible says,

***“O that they were wise,  
that they understood this,  
that they would consider  
their latter end!”***

- Deuteronomy. 32:29

You will be forever wise if you use your today to think about your end and rise up to your responsibilities.

The great Preacher concluded, He said, “Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth when evil days come not.” Know your God now before you will need Him. When God calls unto some people, they ignore, thinking they do not need Him. What do they need from God, nothing. Business is booming, life is rosy and things are moving fine. But when evil days come, just one event, everything is crashed, they run to church and pray unnecessary prayers.

Even though God is merciful, He is also a jealous God. "He will tell His messengers, 'leave that man there, we have been calling him for a very long time now and he was nowhere to be found. He did not even look at our side, but now he has come by himself. 'See, man of God, do not let us lose him again. We may not see him anymore if we do what he wants in time.'" This is one reason why a whole lot of people spend so much time on a spot, because while it was well with them, they never thought about coming to God.

Are you being preached to today and you think the preacher is a fraudster or it is because they need your tithe and offering? You say, “It

is because of tithe and offering, that they always knock at my door”. Let me warn you, night comes when no man can work. A time is coming when you may not even hear the sound of the grounding machine close to you. A time is coming when you will need the help of another person to lead you on the road you formerly sped on. Think about it today!

It is understandable if a man cannot see well at a very good old age, but it is absurd and improper for a young man to become blind early in life. It is totally wrong and undesirable if a man cannot see his vision, his purpose and has no plan for life. There was a case of a man born blind in the Bible, unto this family, a man was born with no purpose in life; he was blind from the womb. He had no control over life; his world has been shut down and can never be reckoned with so far he was blind.

Many people today live their lives as if they were born blind; If you asked, “Where are you going?” They cannot tell. If you probe further to hear what plan they have for themselves, they cannot tell you in clear terms, only that they know where they are going. But, they do not know the road to their destination, they are blind from the womb, blind to opportunities and possibilities and they will soon go early to the tomb with their blindness, if they did not affect other people with Achromatopsia, a rare, inherited vision disorder in which a person has little or no ability to see colour. People with achromatopsia also commonly experience some vision loss, especially in bright light, to which they are extremely sensitive.

***“A man who does  
not know where he is going  
will be ignored.”***

Jesus' disciples asked Him, "this man that is moving forward with no progress, is it his fault or that of his parents?" A man who does not know where he is going will be ignored; no man will ever want to associate with him. Whose fault? Before you blame anyone or curse your background, let me lay the blame solely on your doorstep, it is purely your fault. You caused it, you allowed it and you want it that way; if not, you would have done something about it. When you have no eyes, you have no family support and no friends to carry you; don't you have a mouth to cry unto God? Don't you know that God is a Sovereign God and can use any situation to His glory?

You are in that position because you first fail to recognise it, you are in that state of mind because you did not see clearly and you are in that position because you have misplaced your priority. You thought you needed the world, but actually what you need is the Word. The world was made by the Word including you, so how come you think you can make it in the world without the Word?

Your level and state are to the glory of God, you are in that situation because God wants to manifest His glory in your life, but you must recognize Him. You must see God clearly and rightly. If you come to Jesus today He will not only repair your life, He will give you a brand NEW life. “Verily, verily, I say unto you today, you must be born again”, He said. You might be born blind, in iniquities, but Someone

who will give birth to you in a New Way, by Spirit and with Water is right in front of you, knocking at the door of your heart. He spat on the ground to make clay and anointed the blind man's eyes. But He asked him to go and wash. You need a washing, whatever state you are, you must be washed in the blood of Jesus Christ, and you need a New Name, a brand New Identity.

You need light; Jesus is the Light that lights all men who come into the world. Therefore, if you receive this light, and as long as you are in the world, you are the light to all men. Others may doubt your new identity, but you will surely know and confirm to them indeed, that “I am he”. You can then realize and recognize your destiny and what to do to fulfill them.

#### **REALIZING YOUR DESTINY**

*“For it was little which  
thou hadst before I came,  
and it is now increased unto a multitude;  
and the LORD hath blessed thee  
since my coming: and now when shall I provide  
for mine own house also?”*

- Genesis 30:30

Jacob finally came to his senses like the prodigal son in Luke chapter 15. He asked a thought provoking question, “When would I provide for my own house?” Jacob's query is not even a matter of how, but of when. When a man realizes he has wasted his precious time achieving nothing, he by himself must ask foolish questions. Looking at who Jacob was supposed to become at this time compared to what he had,

one will understand that Jacob was indeed in hardship. Hardship is not the absence of money, but lack of ideas and opportunities, in which one can make use of his abilities to fulfill his mandate. When a man does not come to his senses early enough, he will answer foolish questions, eat foolishly and end his life miserably, if there are no interventions.

***“When a man realizes he has wasted  
his precious time achieving nothing.  
He by himself must ask foolish questions.”***

At any time such a man comes to his senses, let him quickly go back to God and settle the matter of his salvation first and foremost. Having worked out his salvation, such a man would realize he has the shortest time at his disposal to fulfill what God has in store for him. It is therefore highly important for a man to come to God's vision and purpose for his life early in life. When you go to God you will realize the great and enormous potentials he has deposited in you. When you compare such to the available time you have based on Moses' admonition in Psalm 90, you will be a bit sad, looking at what impacts you need to make at the shortest, remaining time of yours. The good news is our lives are in the Hands of God; He determines our lives and reigns. Whether you have long years or not, that does not matter. Jesus only lived for a few years on earth, but He is still reigning. You can make impacts within the shortest period of time. Time is no excuse to God, He lives in eternity and He can grant you more time if He desires.

But the Devil knows, hence his dealing with young people at their youthful age. The devil will use every means to blindfold young ones

to their purposes, until there is no time for them to fulfill it, except God intervenes and shows mercy. For many young people, it is too late to recover the lost ground, hence a lot of people carry regret into their adulthood and suffer the consequences.

For Daniel, he purposed in his heart when he was a youth and found God's purpose for his life in a strange land early enough. Daniel served as President General for up to about four kings in Babylon; the seat of world powers as at then. Early rising leads to early satisfaction. If you know what you know today in your youth you will be better off, far beyond the level you are today. For Jacob, he took off too late in life and spent his hay days in a strange land thinking he was enjoying life. Assuming Jacob had another opportunity to live life again when Pharaoh asked him the question, there were so many things Jacob would never repeat, hence his responses in Genesis 47:9. But the irony of life is, “we all have only one chance to live life”.

Until Jacob sat down to watch his life and asked life-changing questions, heaven did not come to his aid. Until you question things around you, everything will remain the same. There is no right direction, if you fail to make a good decision, and a good decision will never come until you ask yourself the right question. Jacob was mesmerized at a place he was supposed to call home. Many battles you face in life usually have their origin from a place you call home, the people you love, the places you live or had lived, the people you trusted with your life and from friends you share your successes and failures with. Many people are not attaining greatness or reaching their goals in life because of the battles confronting them from home.



Imagine Laban, an uncle to Jacob changing his wages many times. May God save you from such wicked uncles.

Under twenty-four hours Jacob was supposed to have achieved his goal of getting a wife, but the wicked one would not allow Jacob's destiny to come to pass. Anybody can be like Laban to you, watch out for people that you are useful to, especially people that you are useful to who do not have the fear of God, some of them may be behind your stagnation in life. Jeremiah lamented in Lamentation Chapter 3 verse 27, “It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth”. The question to ask is, “Who prepared the yoke?” Or where is the yoke coming from? For a young man who is just starting his life to start carrying yokes? The truth is, “life is a yoke”. Every man born of a woman is born unto trouble. Where the problem may come from, you may not know; but if you look critically, most life's problems come from within, from your immediate environment and from your association.

The main purpose of the enemy is to steal, kill and destroy. Problems do not look like problems at the initial stage. To be on top of life's game, never stop questioning events around you. You can find solutions via prayers, positive and critical thinking, reading, exposing yourself beyond your environment, talking to a Spirit-filled mentor who can guide you rightly and above all, test every spirit whether they are of God. And for a man to be able to test every spirit, he must have a right Spirit, having the indwelling and fellowship of the Holy Spirit ahead of time, before you need Him. The Bible says, “He (the Holy Spirit) shall guide you into all truth – John 16:13. The problem today is

many people do not have access to the truth about their lives. They also neglect the One who brings them into all truth, the Holy Spirit.

It was God who saved Jacob from Laban, if not; he would have died miserably in Padanaram. Remember, Laban did not care about his sister, Rebecca anymore; he never asked Jacob about his God and what he wanted to become in life; all that concerned Laban was to use Jacob. Men will always want to pay you salary, what they think you deserve and not your wages, what you think you deserve, whereas they know you deserve more. In this life, shine your eyes and be alert, no matter the level you are presently, you can still make it. The beginning of your breakthrough is to check your environment and question things around you, the friends you keep, the people you love, the places you go to often and many more. In the school of destiny fulfilment, everybody is a suspect. To unlock yourself from the prison of life depends on what you do with your time, resources, energy, the friends you keep, the God you know and the instructions that back your life up.

## **YOU NEED GOD**

As I wrote earlier, you cannot fulfill destiny by operating under the God introduced to you alone; you must operate in the God you know. Any man that neglects God, does so at his own peril. Each and everyone needs God to function in our purpose. God is a seeker, He loves fellowshiping with His own, He always makes Himself available to people. God came to Jacob on his way to Padanaram, He asked Jacob to come to Him but the man Jacob did not understand, he had not come to the understanding of the God he was introduced to by his parents.

God came to him and he ignorantly ignored Him and went on his own journey. Many people believe they have their own personal mission to accomplish, but the truth is every man on earth came to fulfill God's will. It now depends on which side you approach God with. If one faithfully comes to His will, one will fulfill God's will for good and if otherwise, such will find his own will leading him to eternal damnation or he finding fetish means to support his own mission.

God was not telling Jacob not to go to Padanaram; He only wanted him to go there with "Him". Assuming Jacob realized his need for God, God may have granted him favour to go to Padanaram, get his wife under twenty-four hours and still meet his brother Esau without the latter carrying out his evil intention. But the person and character of Jacob would not allow him; he believed he had the skill to have his way at all times.

***“It is impossible to ignore  
God and not fear the devil.”***

He was a trickster and this attitude brought him to the level where God met him and instead of him yielding to God, he was thinking he can cajole God. God said "come, climb and shine"; he said, "if God will give me bread then I will come, climb and shine". He never shone, his days and life on earth were full of trouble, sorrows and evil hence his regret in the presence of Pharaoh. Any man that fails to recognize God in time, will in the future spend his days in regret. Much and greater works can be accomplished with God for such a life who embrace Him early enough. He was too smart for God and until God punctured his

smartness, Jacob would have never mattered.

It is impossible to ignore God and not fear the devil; any man that ignores God will fear the Devil. After twenty years, Jacob still lived in fear because of his brother Esau. When he got to the territory of Esau, he sent emissaries to him. Here you will understand that indeed Jacob had wasted his time in Padanaram and why he was full of sorrows and pains in the palace. Esau had become a lord, imagine, somebody who cried to get just one blessing from his father and the father said there was nothing left, he has now become the lord of the land. He had made it before Jacob returned. The same man who had no blessing had become principality and power in the land. Within twenty years, he had achieved the same things Jacob was struggling for in Padanaram. What a pity! Sometimes, it is not God that delays us, we delay ourselves by thinking that we are matured enough to take decisions for our lives and run it the way we like.

When Jacob heard that Esau was on his way to meet him, he was greatly afraid and he quickly divided his inheritance, he divided it unknown to those groups of people that they were planned for destruction. Jacob was looking for a way of escape peradventure Esau decided to get revenge. But when a man's ways please the Lord, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him – Proverbs 16:7. Jacob had no God beside him, so he had every reason to be afraid. Jacob planned his own escape from Esau to the point that he sent his own family, wives and children for destruction.

Eventually, he met Esau but before now he had set aside two hundred she goats, twenty he goats, two hundred ewes, twenty rams, thirty camels with their colts, forty kine, and ten bulls, twenty she asses, and ten foals to appease Esau and when they embraced each others, Esau asked, “What meanest thou by all this drove which I met? And he said, these are to find grace in the sight of my lord. And Esau said, “I have enough, my brother; keep that thou hast unto thyself.” - Genesis 33:8-9. All that Jacob thought he had to appease his brother was not equal to what his brother had. It was a great insult for the sons of this world to be better than the children of God. Solomon said it was evil that he saw in Ecclesiastes 10:7,

***“I have seen servants upon horses,  
and princes walking as  
servants upon the earth”***

The implication of Jacob meeting his brother Esau was, Esau came with four hundred mighty men, how many men were with Jacob as at that time? Only a few! Esau had broken every curse and broken new grounds before Jacob came. He had more than enough. He told Jacob whatever you think you have, I have it in abundance. You who claimed my birthright, my blessings, I am more blessed than you. But do not forget that all this happened to Jacob because he thought he did not need God. Imagine someone travels out of the country for twenty years and when he returns, all his mates have achieved everything he thinks he is coming home with. What would be his reaction?

For any man who thinks he does not need God, let him travel to the land that flows with milk and honey, he will come back to realize he has ruined his life. Let such a person ask the prodigal son. Do you still think you do not need God and you want to achieve your purpose in life? Ask Jacob! For you not to answer foolish questions in your old age, it is better to recognize God and make Him the first in your life today now.

### **JACOB AND HIS STRUGGLE WITH GOD**

You will think Jacob did not need God anymore, but the God he neglected to go on his own journey, he would still come to fight and struggle with. Whatever that is valuable to your life but you ignore, you will still come to struggle for it in the future. It is as if a child said to himself, I do not need education, such a child will come to regret it later in the future and struggle to get it. Jacob's refusal to come to God made him experience unprecedented and unimaginable events in Padanaram. He entered the Padanaram without God, he almost left with nothing.

At some point, the God he neglected had to come to his aid out of mercy and covenant with his forefathers. God did not rescue Jacob from Padanaram because Jacob knew Him personally; God only showed him His compassion. When God presented Himself again to him on his way back to Canaan, Jacob grabbed it with his two hands, the Angel of God wanted to leave, Jacob said, I will not let you go unless You bless me. It became a struggle, the Angel had to touch the hollow of his thigh, his name was changed and he got his destiny back, but this time as a person with disability.

*And Jacob was left alone;  
and there wrestled a man with him  
until the breaking of the day.  
And when he saw that he prevailed  
not against him,  
he touched the hollow of his thigh;  
and the hollow of Jacob's thigh  
was out of joint, as he wrestled with him.  
And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh.  
And he said, I will not let thee go,  
except thou bless me.  
And he said unto him, What is thy name?  
And he said, Jacob. And he said,  
Thy name shall be called no more Jacob,  
but Israel: for as a prince hast thou  
power with God and with men,  
and hast prevailed.*

- Genesis 32:24-29

You can imagine, Jacob was now begging for God's blessing, but when God called unto him in Genesis 28, God promised him His blessings on a platter of Gold but Jacob refused to go to God. But I wonder sometimes, before Jacob encountered God again, I thought he was blessed, why was he struggling with God asking Him to bless him? Was Jacob having four wives, twelve children, sons and daughter, menservants, maidservants, cattle, rams and gold, not a blessing?

I thought Jacob was blessed; the truth is Jacob had realized that all the gains he made in Padanaram were not the real blessing God was talking about. He had realized that collecting his brother's birthright was not the blessing. Deceiving his father to collect his brother's blessings was not the blessing. Kissing Rachael before he paid his dowry was not the blessing, sleeping with Leah before asking for his real wife (Rachael) was not the blessing and having to look out for ways to get his wages from Laban was not the real blessing. He knew he had lost something, he was in the same lane of God's Covenant like that of His forefathers Abraham and Isaac, and he had to fight for it. When he was wrestling with the Angel God sent, Jacob was asking for his real destiny, God's original plan and purpose for his life and his Will as it was written in Heaven.

Well, for Jacob, it is better for him to enter his destiny as a person with disability; but for you, Jacob's story was written in order for you not to make the same mistake Jacob made. You cannot achieve anything without God and you cannot have a safe and prosperous journey on this earth without the person, presence and power of God at your disposal. It is suicidal to travel the journey of this wicked world without God.

When Jacob's family saw him the following morning, he was not complete, not balanced. He was now using a walking stick. What he was supposed to do with honour some twenty years ago, he now did, losing the hollow of his thigh. As at the time Esau came, if he was to go to physical combat with Esau, Jacob stood no chance at all. But because he had found God and embraced Him, the battle was won, so



Esau and the four hundred men had no choice than to look at Jacob with the eyes of mercy. Many of God's children lose grace, opportunities and walk where they are supposed to ride because they neglected God long ago.

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

- Galatians 4:1

## **NOW THE SUN SHINES**

God lives in eternity but controls time and season. Indeed, the matter of destiny is more than having birthright or having father's blessings; it is having God's backup. It is having the light of God, His presence overshadowing one's life all the time. You must understand your season and time and you must be able to know that life carries its own light. No man comes to the world without God's glory, without his stars. There is a Light that lights upon every man that comes to this world. John talking about Jesus Christ as the Word of God said,

*“That was the true Light,  
which lighteth every man that '  
cometh into the world.*

- John 1:9

So for any man that fails to walk under this light by coming to God, such will spend his days in darkness. He might be sleeping and waking

up every day, be busy in his business, making gains in his dealing and getting promotions at work. Such a person does not translate to fulfilling God's mandate or walking under the light of Heaven. Do you notice this in the life of Jacob? Everybody thought Jacob was walking under the normal light, morning, afternoon and night but the light of destiny is not the same with natural lights of sun and moon. In Genesis 28 verse 11 when Jacob went out from Beersheba, and went toward Haran, you will notice that the Bible says,

*And he lighted upon a certain place,  
and tarried there all night,  
because the sun was set;  
and he took of the stones of that place,  
and put them for his pillows,  
and lay down in that place to sleep.”*

You will think it was a normal, natural sun that would rise the following morning that set in that verse, but actually, it was indeed Jacob Sun of destiny that set. The Sun of destiny did not rise with him when he woke up from his sleep the following day because Jacob neglected God, hence all what he did in Padanaram was just a waste of time, an avoidable mistake and the men of the world had to teach him a lesson of his life. But in Genesis chapter 32 verses 31 after Jacob had found God and his destiny in God, something happened. Read,

*“And as he passed over Penuel  
the sun rose upon him,  
and he halted upon his thigh.”*

The Sun of Destiny rose upon him, Jacob was not aware that he had been operating under a dark cloud in the last twenty years until now. What can one achieve under a dark atmosphere? Nothing! One tumble in his house when suddenly there is no light and maybe he is looking for a power switch or his phone, ordinarily what one finds when there is light, he will now be perambulating here and there to find it in the dark. Jacob had found God, his light of destiny had been switched on and he had entered into his destiny but not without a scratch. His deed of twenty years ago was waiting for him in the morning, but when he got into the morning of his new destiny, he had a new identity, a new name, for the Angel of God had to change his name; he received mercy from his brother Esau, the very reason why he ran away from home twenty years ago.

It was after this encounter that Jacob was able to settle down and purchase his first land; he is now living his dream and destiny,

*“And he bought a parcel of a field,  
where he had spread his tent,  
at the hand of the children of Hamor,  
Shechem's father,  
for an hundred pieces of money.  
And he erected there an altar,  
and called it Elelohe-Israel.”  
(Genesis 33:19-20)*

Notice the name Jacob gave to the land he purchased, ElELOHE-ISRAEL. If Jacob died before this time, he would have had no name and remembrance. So when you are asked to come to God, nobody is asking you to come and carry any burden but to come into your destiny fully. That is the essence of the messages you hear, calling you to Christ. Note, a call to Christ is a call to destiny fulfilment. For the fact that you bought a car or gained promotion at work does not mean you are in your destiny or that God is with you. You can only know you have God with you when you start the journey, the job or whatever you are involved in with God. You need God and the earlier you know that, the better. You need God so as to fulfill your real destiny, your Will as it is written in Heaven.

By this time that Jacob purchased this land from Shechem's father, Esau his brother had already become a lord in the land of Seir, the country of Edom. Esau had become a nation as God said to their mother in Genesis chapter 25 verses 23,

***“...Two nations are in thy womb,  
and two manner of people  
shall be separated from thy bowels;  
and the one people shall be stronger  
than the other people;  
and the elder shall serve the younger.”***

Jacob's regret in the palace was not because he did not have land, wives or children in abundance, but because he did not enter his real destiny (God's original plan) early enough. Twenty year was too much for a

man to waste; he used his youthful age the way heaven did not sanction. Abraham got to know God at age seventy-five and within twenty-four years he had already gotten all that he needed from God and became God's friends. Isaac at a tender age had already come to the knowledge of God when he was to be sacrificed. All the stories about Abraham and Isaac in the Bible were about them and their God but for Jacob, it was about him and his sojourn in a strange land, Padanaram until God intervened.

## **CHAPTER NINE**

### **DEBUGGING – FIXING ERRORS IN YOUR LIFE**

Debugging is a process of locating and fixing errors in computer programming. Imagine as a programmer, you have invested your time in achieving a goal like writing a program (a set of instructions for computer to perform a task) and when you run the program and it does not give you what you want or the program thrown up errors, the process to find and fix the errors is called debugging.

***“ERRORS not CORRECTED today  
will TERRORISE you tomorrow.”***

If one's life is not working as planned or life is not giving you what you demand or deserve, then it is time to sit down and look out for where the errors come from and fix it. Debug your destiny. In other words, a bug is a virus that must be purged, if one must live a healthy life. If you are looking for results or achieving your goals as it is written in heaven, you must purge every form of error or virus in your life. Whatever errors you failed to correct today will terrorise you tomorrow.

It is better for one to look into his or her life critically and check where he or she has fallen. Where have you neglected God's or life's instructions which have affected you? You must debug it in the process of life. Jacob discovered his own very late in life, where he was supposed to share his testimonies with pride and honour, he exclaimed his errors. He answered a foolish question with his grey hairs.

Errors in Jacob's life are many and it is important to know that all errors come with consequences. Though, there is no situation that God cannot manage or turn around, but you must know that failure to follow instructions leads to destruction. Jacob thought he was enjoying life and things were working in his favour; first by collecting his brother's birthright. He thought because I was told I shall be the head, and then let me by the virtue of this porridge collect what belonged to me that is in the possession of my brother.

He collected his brother's birthright and did not stop there, he went ahead to deceive his father to collect his brother's blessings. As if these were not enough, Jacob neglected his will when God appeared to him in a dream; he went on his own journey. Jacob went ahead to kiss Rachael even when he was yet to pay her bride price. Due to the fact that Jacob was not wise, he did not deliver on his father's instruction to get a wife. Instead, he entered into a labour agreement with his uncle, what he was supposed to get free of charge, he paid seven years wages for it.

You must know that errors uncorrected lead to many errors. Instead of Jacob waiting till the morning to inform Laban about his surcharged, he went ahead, slept with Leah and pretended as if he did not know until the morning. He was told to go get a wife, he ended up getting four. What his children did to him when he became born again was enough for him to regret his life. His children would not spare Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country who forcefully took Dinah (Leah's daughter), lay with her and defiled her (Genesis 34:2).

When Hamor and Shechem his son came begging for forgiveness, the children of Israel deceitfully brought Hamor, Shechem and the entire land into an unholy covenant and on the third day, Simeon and Levi, the brothers of Leah killed all the male children in the land, carried their daughters and wives as captives.

The same children of Jacob sold their brother into slavery and would bring Jacob into many years of sorrow and pains. His firstborn Reuben committed uncleanness with his father's wife, to the great reproach of the family, to which he ought to have been an ornament. The wife (Rachael) that he spent his entire life to marry in Padanaram did not get to the Promised Land with him; she died on the way during the process of childbirth.

During this debugging phase, your goal is to find errors, so you should try everything you can think of that might "break" your destiny. The Psalmist says, "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do? The righteous would not mind what it will cost him to go back to the foundation and fix the error(s). The consequences of errors in one's destiny are huge and irreparable; therefore, you must have a relationship with the Holy Spirit so as to be saved from the spirit of errors and mistakes. You must be determined to find and fix errors in your life before it is too late.

Most times, what causes error in one's life is disobedient to instructions, lack of instructions or ignorance. You cannot be in the wrong lane and expect to fulfill your destiny. Are you on the right track or in the right place to fulfill your destiny? No amount of effort made in



a wrong location will result in destiny fulfilment as planned by God.

Where are you presently, who asked you to be there? What are you doing presently, who asked you to do it? God or your own instinct? The course you studied in school, the job you are doing, the person you married, the business you are dying for, the school you took your children to, the church you are worshipping at and the house or location you reside; who gave you instruction? Or is it by your own initiative? And you expect things to work out; you expect to be a voice in the presence of your Pharaoh?

If you come in contact with your Pharaoh and he asks you, how old are you? What will be your reaction? Will you be proud to tell him about your achievements or will you be saddened, regretting your years on earth? It was the Covenant relationship between God and Abraham that saved Jacob. What will save you too? Is it your lack of commitment to the things of God or your sincerity in skipping quiet time or morning devotion? Or is it your lack of respect to authority and people older than you? What will God lay His hands on to save you?

***“Our problem is not whether  
we have the Bible; our problem  
is whether we have  
the Word of God.”***

### **ARE YOU LIVING YOUR HEAVENLY WILL?**

A will is not read until after the death of the deceased. But why he is still on earth, he and somebody, possibly the executor of the will or a

lawyer knows about the beneficiaries of the will and what is accrued to them. The beneficiaries do not know what their father or mother has earmarked for them after their death. Most times, what the beneficiaries of a will get depend on the relationship and kind of attitudes, such as those displaced to the deceased while on earth. Being a first born does not guarantee a huge benefit in a father's will; it depends on how responsible such a first born is and his relationship with the father while he was on earth.

Does the child obey the instructions of his father while on earth? This plays a great role in how a child benefits from his father. Therefore, you can only get what is written of you by obeying the one who has access to your heavenly will. You fulfill your destiny by becoming obedient to heavenly instruction. Anything contrary to this will make one play out of his destiny. A child of God or any man that wants to fulfill his destiny must look up to God for instructions and for the next line of actions. If one is wiser to think he can run his own life the way he likes, he will ruin such life eventually.

It is not that such a life will not get material blessing, he may build houses, buy cars, give birth to children and many more, but when it comes to fulfilling destiny such may be missed out. For our lives are not contained in the abundance of things possessed. When it comes to destiny fulfilment, it is all about the impact you make for God while on earth and not what you acquire to self. How many people have you affected and how many people did you bring to God? How many people need not to struggle like you before they achieve their purposes in life? That's the essence of fulfilling God's mandate while on earth.

Salvation is one thing; it is to be worked out. Giving one's life to Christ is the beginning to an unending journey. When you give your life to Christ, what else? You are to listen to the Holy Spirit, read your Bible, living godly and obey constant instructions for living according to God's word. Paul said, you are no longer under a schoolmaster, you are now in Christ. In whom you now live, move, and have your being (Acts 17:28). Our problem is not whether we have the Bible; our problem is whether we have the Word of God. Our problem is not whether we are born again or have faith in God, our problem is lack of instructions or disobedience to godly instructions after we might have given our lives to Christ.

***“Instructions keep, save,  
deliver and give great results  
but lack of it leads to destruction.”***

Some people are struggling today not because they do not have a location, but because they do not have instructions that back up their location. The instruction to Jacob was to come up and climb the ladder, but what was his attitude, he did not climb, he woke up, turned the place to an altar and went on his own journey (Genesis 29:1). He paid dearly for it. What he was supposed to get within twenty-four hours, he paid with his life and when he was called to give an account in a way, he did not like how he lived his life. You will not use your gray hair to answer foolish questions in Jesus name, Amen.

Instructions keep, save, deliver and give great results but lack of it leads to destruction. There is a way God wants you to live your life.

There is a place God wants you to be per time. There is an assignment God wants you to do per time. That is why the Bible says,

***“To everything there is a season,  
and a time to every purpose under the heaven:  
A time to be born, and a time to die;  
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is  
planted;  
a time to break down, and a time to build up;  
A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones  
together;  
a time to keep, and a time to cast away;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;***

- Ecclesiastes 3

Assuming one is now plucking when he is supposed to be planting or he is using the time to keep casting away, what will happen? Such a life will struggle, that is what happens to a whole lot of people on earth. Your problem may be lack of instruction, if you know what to do you will be better off than that position you are occupying presently. Many people misbehave because they disobey instruction or they do not have it at all. By instruction, you eat the best of the land and by disobedient, one becomes witchcraft.

Samuel the great Prophet of God jabbed King Saul when the latter disobeyed God's instruction. He said to him, “Which pleases the LORD more: burnt offerings and sacrifices or obeying His commands? It is better to obey the LORD than to offer sacrifices to

Him. It is better to listen to Him than to offer the fat from rams. Refusing to obey is as bad as the sin of sorcery. Being stubborn and doing what you want is like the sin of worshiping idols. You refused to obey the LORD'S command, so He now refuses to accept you as king." –I Samuel 15:22-23 (ERV).

Saul would have fulfilled the will of God and have obtained all the blessings pertaining to it forever, but for disobedience to godly instruction, he lost the kingdom forever. Because Saul rejected God's command, the Lord rejected Saul as king. Beloved to you today, there is room for true repentance, if you can forsake your ways and come back to God in total obedience, He will accept you back and you will fulfill your destiny. When a preacher says, "Repent, for tomorrow may be too late". Many people think the preacher is talking about the next twenty-four, well, they may be right but obviously, that tomorrow may mean years later when you have no strength anymore, when you do not have energy to redress your mistakes. You have the opportunity to turn to God now; do not be like Jacob who entered into his destiny as a person with disability.

Proverbs chapter 4 verse 13 says, "Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life." If there is anything you should desire more in life, it is godly instruction. Instruction from God, in which you wake up every morning, in your quiet time and you hear Him speak to you. You can hear instructions when you stay in His presence. There is a specific instruction that your life needs. No one will be able to tell you except you receive it directly from God. We are talking about life here and you need those instructions as street lights

to lighten your way.

***“For the commandment is a lamp;  
and the law is light;  
and reproofs of instruction are the way of life.”***

- Proverbs 6:23

When you keep instruction, you are in the way of life and prosperity. To be happy at the end of life, becoming fulfilled, you must buy not only instruction, but also wisdom and truth early in life, (Proverbs 23:23).

## **CHAPTER TEN**

### **LEARN TO BE ALONE**

A man of destiny must learn how to be alone. Forgetting oneself somewhere or being alone without minding any other thing is not abandonment, rather, it is a tool for reviving the soul. You will operate at the level of information (natural news) when you company with the multitude, when you make being alone one of your strategies, you will receive divine revelation to aid your journey. It is not what people tell you that matters, it is what you see when you are alone. The Bible says, “The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth His handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge” (Psalms 19:1, 2). The question to ask is, “How many people are seeing the glory of God or His handiwork and how many people heard the day's speech or received the night's knowledge?”

Indeed, Jacob took off late in life, he left Beersheba around age seventy and there has not been any time that the Bible recorded about Jacob being alone until Genesis 28, and when he was alone for the first time in his entire life, Heaven called unto him. The reason why many people may answer foolish questions in their old age is not because God was not speaking to them, but because they learnt not to be alone. The race of this life is personal, the man Jacob was a twin, his other brother was Esau; to let us understand that this life's journey is a personal race and it requires personal effort with God to become and fulfill His will for our lives.

At first, Jacob made light of his first encounter with God, but he would not want to miss the second chance in Genesis 32. He held on unto the Angel of God and said, I will not let you go unless you bless me. When you are desperate in the presence of God, you will get what you deserve and demand for. Create an atmosphere of being alone with God and with yourself; think about your life, journey and everything about you. When you do not have time to think alone, the time to rise will never be available. What made the difference between when Jacob fled and the time after he had met with his brother Esau, was just that he was alone with God. You can settle a lot of life's challenges by being alone; with yourself and with God.

When you separate yourself for a while, you get refreshed. When one surrounds oneself with people who drain one's energy and strength, one will not be productive. Jacob would love to make Laban happy; I will serve you for seven years. He had never thought about time and season. A man who creates time alone will never alter such a statement. For he will know that seven years are too much to labour for just a woman, when he can win such a woman within hours. Constant interaction with people and reading their emotions can be mentally draining. You need time to reflect on your life and not process what people say, feel or think about you, you need to turn your focus inwards.

When you constantly keep people's company, you will always love to make compromises in order to find solutions that the entire group can enjoy and sometimes it may negate your principles. And unfortunately, the values you placed a high premium on may be



trampled upon by other people. Learn to be alone and make the right friends you need. Environment and circumstance should not dictate the kind of friendship you keep, your vision should determine that. Why do you keep company with the people who are not going in your direction?

Too much association can affect your productivity, it will make you in need of people's validation and acceptance; if you want to succeed in life, people's opinion does not count, so why wait for people's validation about your persons and characters. Jacob was distracted by Rachael's beauty; he ended up in the bosom and belly of Leah and their maidservants. Time spent alone can be some of the most productive time in your life - mostly because there are fewer distractions, and you can just put your head down and get to work.

Life is filled with relationships, and most relationships only last when both people are kept happy. And that can turn into a draining job, depending on whom that relationship is with. Once you are alone, the only person's happiness you have to worry about in that moment is your own. You can treat yourself to things that make you happy, but may have upset someone else. Also, when you are alone, you do not have to apologize for anything, and that takes a lot of pressure out of most situations. You get to stop second guessing everything you say, or every move you make because you are afraid someone else is going to be offended, or saddened, and angered by what you feel or say.

When you start to spend more time alone, you will learn to trust your instincts and make decisions without needing any third party's validation. Jesus enjoyed being alone while He was on earth, six times Jesus chose solitude over people, not because He did not like people, He came to the world to save the people, but for Him to achieve His purpose, He occasionally stepped aside to commune with His Father and stayed alone. There are so many things people lose because they do not learn to be alone, when many people go for a retreat they usually surround themselves with gadgets, devices and be on social media. If any man listens to two different voices at the same, such will hear, live and listen in confusion.

***“All of humanity's problems stem  
from man's inability to sit  
quietly in a room alone.”***

- Blaise Pascal (1623–1662)

For Christ, “the wilderness” or “desolate place” often became his temporarily consecrated place. He regularly escaped the noise and frenzy of His environment to be alone with His Father, after his fame spread everywhere (Mark 1:28), and the whole city was gathered together at the door (Mark 1:33), Jesus took a remarkable step. He slipped away the following morning to restore his soul in “secret conversation” with his Father: Rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. (Mark 1:35). Being alone gives you an opportunity to get instructions and gain direction from God. Jacob was a shepherd like

David, but both are different because of the way each spent their 'alone time'. What songs did Jacob write in his over twenty-one years of his shepherding? but David learnt everything about his God when he was alone in the desert. The former stood in the palace, while the latter reigned in the palace.

## CHAPTER ELEVEN

### THE FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN

For the fact that many people do not know the future, has made them go beyond God to do some silly things. When Rebecca, the sister of Laban the Syrian was pregnant and the babies in her womb struggled, she said, "If it is well, why am I this way?" And she went to inquire of the LORD. And the LORD said to her,

*"Two nations are in your womb,  
and two kinds of people shall be  
separated from your belly.  
And the one people shall be stronger  
than the other people,  
the older shall serve the younger."*

- Genesis 25:23

When God speaks about His promises to men, people tend to do things in their own way, because many people do not constitute the habit of being alone with God, receiving His instructions and directions. They will say, after all, God has spoken. But, many people fail many times to ask God for specific instructions when He speaks to them. Once they pray and hear God says I will do this or that, the next thing is to be out there shouting the promises of God without getting from God the strategy to bring it to pass.

*“Every effort you make  
without God will take you  
far away from your destiny.”*

Rebecca the mother of Esau and Jacob wanted to fulfill God's promises by herself; she had heard that the older shall serve the younger and by this she loved the younger more and would do anything in her capacity as a mother to bring the promises of God to pass in the life of Jacob. And peradventure maybe out of love she had told Jacob, the Lord said, your brother would serve you. So she used every trick to get Isaac's blessings for Jacob and Jacob used every means to collect the birthright from Esau, but that was not what God was talking about. With all that Jacob and his mother collected, what did they amount to? Nothing! If it is by birthright and father's blessing, Jacob should not have served for a day in Padanaram, but he laboured for good twenty years, if not for God, it would have been in vain.

I have seen many believers in offices and ministries whose desires are to grab whatever they can; there is no file they cannot make money from. Without you giving them money, they will not treat your file. There was a time when I had applications in three government ministries and agencies; the behaviour of officers I met in those three agencies was nothing to write home about. You will understand that there is a culture of corruption in the land. Apparently, maybe they have received one prophecy or the other, now they must bring it to pass by themselves. God does not work that way, there is no effort you make without God that can help you to fulfill your real destiny. In fact, every effort you make without God will take you far away from your destiny.

Every man is innocent when he comes into this world, but the world itself is not innocent, it has been cursed already before you came and there is a ruler who always delights in stealing, destroying and killing what you are bringing from heaven. When you are born, you are placed in the custody of your parents. If such parents have the true knowledge of God, they will train you in the path of God, otherwise, such a child has taken a deeper journey into obscurity. So what you need to find first in life is God. I asked someone about his relationship with God, my question was, "Have you given your life to Christ?" He answered in the affirmative. But when I asked further what he wanted to do with Christ? He could not answer me. The truth is you cannot prosper much in the God preached to you; you can only prosper more in the God you know yourself. So first you need to find God and His Kingdom.

You must know what Heaven wants you to do in life. You must be able to pray this prayer at your young age, "Lord, what do you want me to do in life?" Many of us have taken steps we should not have taken in the first place because we do not understand life. When people around us ask what we want to become, we answer, I want to become this or that. But the truth remains that only God knows what a man can become. You dare not be forced into becoming anything that Heaven did not put in your will. Jacob wanted to become Esau, he collected his birthright, his mother wanted him to collect Esau's blessings, who told her that whatever blessings Isaac placed on Esau would materialize. A man hated by God, what sort of blessing would erase the hatred. When it is God that supervises someone's challenges in life, such a one is doomed for life.

Many people have taken wrong steps in life, married whom they are not suppose to marry, went on a journey they should not have embarked upon in the first place. Today, they are answering foolish questions; they are a shadow of themselves. We must use our quiet time to know God and ask God for what to do per time as well as the direction and instruction needed for our lives. But today, men pray all manner of prayers to validate their own ambition hence they receive little for their many prayers. If the blessings of God are by earthly blessings, Esau was far better by the time Jacob returned. You can imagine begging somebody with truckloads of cattle and yet the person refused to collect and telling you I have more than enough.

But God was not talking about earthly blessing when He spoke to Rebecca and likewise, He was not talking about earthly blessing when He met Jacob on his way to Padanaram. He was talking about divine covenant, everlasting, eternal blessings, the ones that outlast Jacob and his generation. The promises that God was talking about extended to us today but Jacob was ignorant. And so because he did not know what would happen later in life, he wanted to collect all the belongings of his father after death when God's promises for Jacob were not only about the land of Beersheba, but also the entire world. Everything that will happen after Jacob and things that would happen in the world to come was what God promised him in Genesis 28. The reason why we remain small is because of our short-sightedness when it comes to the promises of God.

The fear of the unknown has left many stranded because they journeyed unto the land promised not by God. In today's world, it is

becoming old fashioned to pray for whom to marry. They will say you must open your eyes to see who to marry, even when you have seen whom to marry, is it not common sense or wisdom to go to God and say, Lord, I have seen someone to marry, should I go ahead? Some people have married beauty and have ended up in the belly of a lion. Many people missteps in life because they did not take their boarding pass from God.

When I was a young boy, I lived in an ungodly environment, ungodly in the sense that many people around me were serving one god or the other; I was like Jacob, a quiet young boy living in tents. I could recollect a series of events. But there were people that did come to one of the houses opposite our shop to check what the future holds for them. I have a frontage where I used to sit after school, so I used to see people going into the house to check their destinies. It was a young girl, a virgin who used to look into one small white olden days plate and she sees people's future and what they will become later on in life. Though I do not have the consciousness to ask her to help me check what the future holds, but, one thing I know is that all of us will become something in life. My belief is, if you know what the future holds for you and do nothing about it, it is worse than not even knowing it at all. It is only God that can tell you what you will become. By the time God met Jacob on his way back home, he had already become something else, not what God wanted him to become.

Assuming that he had fulfilled what God intended for him, God would not have needed to change his name. By that encounter, God had to correct all his past errors and bring him into his destiny, but this time,



disabled. Well, it is better to enter God's Kingdom with one eye rather than not to even enter at all. It is important to know that this physical body and strength will fail one day. The preacher warns, he said, "Remember now, thy Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come, and the years of old age draw near, when you shall say, "I have no pleasure in them." –Ecclesiastes 12:1.

Remember your Creator while you are young, before the time comes when the sun and the moon and the stars become dark to you—before problems come again and again like one storm after another. You still have a clear vision now, and then it is not that the sun will be dark or your eyes will not be open; it will be open but you will not see the sun clearly as it is shining because your eyes will be weak. A time is coming when you will not have pleasure in things that give you pleasure again.

At that time your arms will lose their strength. Your legs will become weak and bent. Your teeth will fall out, and you will not be able to chew your food. Your eyes will not see clearly. You will become hard of hearing, not because people are not talking. You will not hear the noise in the streets, not because people are not shouting. Even the stone grinding your grain will seem quiet to you, even if they bring a milling factory to your backyard, you will not hear the sound of it.. You will not be able to hear the women singing. And even the sound of a bird singing will wake you early in the morning because you will not be able to sleep. Now that you have the strength, why can't you pursue God, get your destiny and pursue it before it is too late. In the Palace of God, He will one day ask you what you have done with life, talents,

opportunities and skills He has endowed you with. Do not forget building a house or having a car does not equate with God's covenant.

If you fail to come to the knowledge of God now, then and hereafter, you will be afraid of high places. You will be afraid of tripping over every small thing in your path. Your hair will become white like the flowers on an almond tree. You will drag yourself along like a grasshopper when you walk. You will lose your desire, and then you will go to your eternal home. The mourners will gather in the streets as they carry your body to the grave. So remember your Creator while you are young, before the silver rope snaps and the golden bowl is crushed like a jar broken at the well, like a stone cover on a well that breaks and falls in. Everything will become so meaningless. The Teacher says that it is all a waste of time like Jacob, said in Genesis 47:9, "...few and evil have the days of the years of my life been".

Rather than patronizing witchdoctors to know your future, run to God who knows the future and who can reveal it to you in a dream, He revealed Himself to Jacob in a dream, He gave a future to Joseph through a dream. So what you want to pay a witchdoctor to do for you, just ordinary dreams can give you while you sleep. The problem with men is, they were never with God and when they need Him, they want Him to answer them immediately. God is not like that. He wants a relationship with you. He is not going to demand anything from you except that you have time together daily to chat and converse. He will love to bring you into the future hence you need God while you are young. Joseph did not just appear in the palace; he prepared himself and came to the knowledge of God early enough.

You cannot be going on a wrong journey and expect the blessing of God to work for you, it will never happen. Did Isaac's blessings work for Jacob when he went on his journey? No, because God's promises supersede earthly blessings; there is a place for parental blessings and there is a place for God's covenant. The essence of this book is to make you look for the Will of God for your life, your real and original destiny, and if you have made a mistake, to go back to God to correct your errors, though the ground no longer holds, God can still work things out of your every mistake as He did for Jacob.

Building a house, buying a car will be easy for a man who knows and has come into the knowledge of his destiny ahead of time. Knowing the will of God or being in your destiny does not rule out suffering, it is one of those things that will help your journey, but suffering in God's will is not the same as struggle in life; the former leads to life while the later leads to destruction and irreparable loss.

My advice to you is to know what you are doing, like I asked the young man, "What do you want to do with Jesus? God is still looking for people like Daniel and his friends, Children in whom there was no blemish, but well favoured, and skilful in all wisdom, and cunning in knowledge, and understanding science, and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace, and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans. People that God wants to use for His glory, are those that will stand for Him when the need arises. There is no good intention for a man of destiny who lives in Padanaram, such will find it difficult to fulfill God's will.

If you have missed your destiny and you are ready to go back to it now, know that your night to wrestle must come. For your destiny to now speak and for you to enter into your original, it is not going to be easy as if you obey God at the initial stage. It is now by fire, by force to obtain your destiny. The good thing is your original is still intact with God and therefore learn to wrestle with Him in prayers and do all to claim your destiny. I will equally advise you not to mind those who are for you or against you. Rachael never entered into the original of Jacob. She died on the way, she stole the idol of her father; she was an idol worshipper. You must let go of what you love for what God wants you to become. You cannot be friends with the world and expect the Word of God to prosper you.

Do all you can to obtain the Promise like Jacob; he understood he had missed it in Bethel, now in Peniel he would not allow the opportunity to pass. So fight and never mind what will happen. The devil has done enough in your life and when you have done all, stand in God and live your destiny. You now have a mandate!

## CHAPTER TWELVE

### THE MANDATE

Sometime ago, I went into a new generation bank to perform a transaction. When I presented my cheque to the cashier expecting to be paid, after a while, the cashier told me, “Sir, I am sorry. Are you a signatory to this account?” Yes, I responded. He said, “Sir, I am sorry again, I cannot pay you, the mandate on this account has been changed”. Furious, as I needed the money badly, I placed a call to my account officer, "hey, why did you change my account mandate without notifying me?" She was about to respond, when I interjected, “Look, I don't have time for all that protocol”. What do you want me to do? I told her, you will see me in your branch the following morning. For the fact that I own the account, no man had the authority to change my mandate; the following day, I sent a letter to the bank effecting a change of mandate on the account and I collected my money.

As a child of God, the day Jesus died, He gave you a brand New Mandate. You have authority and power to do whatsoever you want (in God) here on earth. Never walk in rejection and dejection; you are not an object of pity. As far as God is concerned, you are in right standing with Him because He has conferred His Righteousness on you. So nothing happens, whatever you might have done before you come to Christ Jesus is forgotten, you are NOT a sinner anymore, Christ has paid it all. You are discharged and acquitted, so do not put yourself in bondage anymore by living in sin. Therefore, walk in your liberty purchased by the precious Blood of the Lamb. Rise above pity, guilt, condemnation, sin and seeking people's acceptance or approval before you can demonstrate who you are.

People do not need to accept you so far God has approved you. Walk in power, walk in freedom and let the devil know you cannot be molested. What the devil uses to reduce us to a state of pity and rejection is our thinking and imagination. He knows he cannot win the battle, but he will orchestrate a situation whereby he plays on our intelligence and try to make a fool of the Word of God. Never accept his gimmicks; he has been a failure right from the beginning of the world. He lost the battle long ago.

Are things not working in your favour? Has the devil changed the mandate on your life? Proof to the devil that you are in charge and not him. Proof to him and to the world that you understand your mandate. But as long as the child remains a baby, he differs nothing from a servant even though he be Lord of All (Galatians 4:1). You must come to this knowledge and stop begging the devil to leave you alone, you do not have to. All you need is to send a letter to your account officer (Jesus Christ), stating who you are in Him by the reason of His death and resurrection. Know that you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; therefore show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. Beloved, give no place to the devil, see you over the top and ride in your sweet chariot. Every child of God needs to know who they are in God; you are more than what you think, and what meets the eyes.

## **OPERATE YOUR MANDATE**

Knowledge and information precede involvement and action. It is not enough to know your mandate or understand your rights, you must operate in your mandate. Many people have not gotten to the knowledge of their mandate, but for those who have gotten into the realm, I congratulate you. You can now begin to operate the code of your mandate without any stoppage. It is impossible to be stopped when you enter into this realm of knowing how to operate in your mandate, you are made for life. It is a sin if you do not operate your mandate, you will pay dearly for it, the devil understands this very well, hence the reason for his darts and continued waging war against one's life. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ—Galatians 3:27.

Here is a scenario, you have seen a traffic warden at some critical junctions in the cities directing traffic, why is it that when he raises up his hand, motorists stop? It is because of the authority he operates in. What makes the officer to be different from other civilians, the uniform he put on. It is possible that you have a fake traffic warden on the road, he may manage to get the uniform, do you know that he will carry out his intention and motorists will obey him because of the uniform on him. So when you are baptised into Christ, you wore Christ; you wore authority, you put on power. Therefore, begin to operate under this and see what you will enjoy spiritually and physically.

***“Heaven is not answering,  
because the earth failed to demand.”***

The question is, how do you operate your mandate? It is possible to operate your mandate if: one, you demand for it. It is painful for God to see His children operating under self-pity or begging Him for bread. He wants His children to operate under the authority that has been given unto them. Look, you do not have to ask Me before it is done, if you are aware of the power on your inside. God says, "Whatsoever you loose on earth SHALL BE loosed in Heaven". Heaven is not answering, because the earth has failed to demand.

Two, you must return to your Father, like the prodigal son after he had wasted his inheritance, the Bible says when he came to his senses, he returned to his father and the latter welcomed him with a party. How come the prodigal son made it back to the fold? God does not want sinner's death, but for them to come to repentance. The prodigal son operated in the mandate as a son, even though he failed at some point. Unlike the big brother at home, he was just working without any demand. He refused to celebrate his brother's return, even though the elder brother was the Lord of all, he differs nothing from a servant; he never operated under the mandate he had. It is a pity because half of his kingdom had been wasted by the junior brother who later came back to share from his own inheritance. Their father said, "You have not for once demanded and enjoyed". Beloved, no matter how hard life is, once in a while, eats a good meal; chop chicken or roasted fish. It is not a sin to be happy, you are not the only one going to heaven.

Last, remove fear far from you. You are thinking if you take a leap of faith and it does not work, it will serve as if you have no faith. It is a lie, when a child is trying to walk for the first time, he rises up and falls



down, the same child will not only walk at a later stage, he will run and even sometimes try high jump. Take away fear from you, walk in your mandate, it is yours. As you are trying to walk today, you will fly tomorrow. A pilot was once a toddler, then he could not take a step but now he is flying all around the world. Remove fear from your life and you fly high one day.

### **THE BEAUTY OF OPERATING YOUR MANDATE**

God will work with whatever tool He meets in your hands at any time you come to the consciousness of your mandate. When you know the authority you carry, even ordinary stones become a mighty weapon. When you are in power, you command possibilities and move in endless progress. Moses was at the backside of the desert when God called unto him through the burning bush, when Moses turned aside, he turned to his mandate, which was to lead the Israelites out of the land of bondage. When he did not understand his mandate, the current power at his disposal, God asked, “What's that in your hand?” Moses said, A Rod! That's what Moses needed, a mantle of authority and power. Moses would later use the Rod to wrought miracles, signs and wonders in Egypt. What you have in your hands now determines your purpose and destiny in life?

The Rod in the hand of Moses was just a secondary instrument, an evident of power, might and authority; but the main things that God gave to Moses are His (God's) name and His Words. He said to Moses, I am the I AM THAT I AM (See Exodus 3). The beauty of operating your mandate is in the Word of God and the name of Jesus the Christ, not only this but also declaration of the Word at all times and

proclaiming His name in the face of hopelessness. The three young Hebrews said to Nebuchadnezzar, “We are not careful to answer you in this matter, O king! The king was furious and threw them into the fiery burning furnace, but the FOURTH MAN appeared. The point is, not until we are ready to make a demand upon our mandate we will not see God in our situations. You are the Son of the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, stop behaving like chicken.

When the Israelites failed to understand and work in their mandate, they ran away from their enemy (only Goliath) for eighty times, at the eighty-first time when Goliath came, the man who was ready to operate his mandate came into the scene. Operating one's mandate is not about size, it is in knowing and demonstration of the knowledge of your mandate. Joash became a king at a tender age; David killed his ten thousand at seventeen. When are you going to appear at the scene? The choice is yours!

Another beauty is, those who know their mandates do not beg, they command. Stop begging God in prayers, it is absurd, stop pleading to God to attend to your case, God is too big to attend to your case, it is your case that must attend to God. If you are in power indeed, you do not have to buy anything with your money, people who need your favour will favour you freely, they will give you freely both the ones you need and you don't. Have you ever read in the Bible that after the Ascension of Jesus, His disciples lack anything? Never! Christ gave His disciples the Word, likewise you; therefore operate by the letters and Spirit of your mandate.

## **ENVIRONMENT CAN FRUSTRATE YOUR MANDATE**

There was a prophecy that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem several years before Jesus was born, but many people and those He (Jesus) helped called Him, Jesus of Nazareth. How come? It is a practice in some tribes to bear the name of their towns, so I believe if Jesus was to be called by His place of birth; it is supposed to be Jesus of Bethlehem, but not so. When Jesus was born and the Angel of God announced to the wise men, Herod was told a New King had been born and before he could carry out his dastardly act, Joseph was warned in a dream to take the Child away to Egypt and when Herod died, Joseph could not return to Bethlehem anymore, but found solace in Nazareth. Beloved, the battle that is confronting you daily is a matter of environment. Environment is the greatest issue in accomplishing or operating your mandate. You should not stay in an environment that is contrary to your vision. If you have tried to make meaning in your environment and the situation is not changing, then, it is time to take off.

Environment can be anything; it can be your job, office, house (even if you are the owner), country, association, course and many more. Jesus was born by the Spirit, the Angels announced His birth and as supernatural as He was, I believe He can continue to stay in Bethlehem. Assuming that His foster father did not listen to the instruction, Herod would have wasted Him and the rest of the children in that land; His destiny, mandate, purpose and vision would have been destroyed. Maybe by now, we would still be waiting for another messiah. If Jesus could not stay in one environment to fulfil His destiny, it is wisdom most times to change location or environment.

Those who know you inside out are an environmental factor. Joseph could not operate his mandate in his own father's house, God who knew the heart of men orchestrated events against Joseph's environment, before he could operate his mandate to the fullest, he changed environment four times, from the Ishmaelite to Potiphar's house, to prison and finally to the palace. Do not be deceived, you need a good environment to fulfill your vision. There is nothing you can achieve under a toxic environment; there is nothing you can achieve in a place where nothing good is seen in you. You will never go far in an environment that just wants to use you. You need a change of location for your allocation to come to you.

It is equally impossible to live under the sinful atmosphere and expect to live a righteous life; you need to remove yourself from such an environment. Leave and run away from such a location. Jesus fulfilled prophecy by changing location, so it is not a sin if you have a leading to change the environment you are in. You need good soil for a great harvest. In the Parable of the Sower, until the sower got a good land, he never reaped a bountiful harvest (Matthew 13:1-9). He who hath ears, let him hear. You might have a good idea, you equally need a good, fertile location to turn it to wealth, if not the idea and the owner of the idea can be wasted because the place you are is not your location. God does not even encourage a life to stay in one location, from Abraham you will see people migrated to fulfil their destinies. If you have a leading by God to move to a new city, country, what is stopping you? Go ahead.

## **THE BEHAVIOUR OF A MAN OF MANDATE**

A man of mandate has no time for the things of the flesh; he is always for God and wanting more of Him. You will never see him idle or loaf around, he is always busy for God. When you are looking for such a man, you will find him studying to equip himself. He is not interested in proving a point, but to always reveal who God is. He knows that his assignment is urgent and must do everything to bring it to pass. He cares less about himself, but only cares about his father's business; he will never be comfortable with sin except the things of the Spirit. He has weakness and is always ready to work on his weakness; and will never manipulate or build on the weaknesses of others to succeed in his assignments. He understands the implication. A man of mandate is ready to take up responsibility.

Jesus as a young boy went to the feast of the Passover with His parents as a custom, in this particular year, He stood behind not to play around, but to have discussion with teachers and doctors of the law, to understand His mandate and His environment. His parents while looking for Him checked with the family members, friends and acquaintances but found Him not; a man of mandate knows what is at stake. He is always with God and knows the mind of God concerning a matter. A man of mandate sees things differently, and will never be moved when people do not buy his idea, for he knows that the idea will later sell and people will still come around when they come to their senses. He is calm, cool and content.

Saul who breathed threats against the Gospel and Christians in Jerusalem was later found to be useful for God, he never saw Christ

while He was on earth maybe because of his location at that time, but a few year or less than a year after Christ's ascension, he was everywhere to kill and destroy; but the mercy of God located him on the road to Damascus where he had an encounter with Christ. That was the only thing Saul who later became Paul needed to shake his own world, he was not among the Apostles selected by Jesus but became Apostles to the gentiles, wrote more than half of the New Testament, healed the sick, disputed with authority and preached the Gospel all over including planting a church in the house of Caesar. As a man of mandate, he never gave any excuse, faced with many challenges on the land and on the seas but never complained about his condition. He was sold out for God, good and Christ. He was a man of the Word, mighty in words and deed; even Peter made reference to his hard saying. He was indeed a man after God's heart.

For every man God brought to this world, He gave them mandates to fulfil for the common good of all. Is your mandate blessing God and His people? Are you commercializing the gift of God in your life, believing God cannot reward you in time? A man of mandate never thinks of himself, but rather thinks about others and God. God is always with a man of mandate and such will always get favour with God and man, he can never be stranded. What is your own mandate? Today, have a quiet place to ruminate about your existence and what you must accomplish for God whether secular or spiritual. Heaven is waiting for you. Mark the perfect man, beholds the upright, for the end of that man is peace.

## **ARE YOU IN THE WORK OF HIM?**

Jesus was committed to the divine assignment given to Him by God. He said, "...I must work the works of Him that sent Me". Are you in the assignment God called you into? What are you doing for God to warrant Him commending you as a faithful servant? Do not be like the man born blind in John 9:1, do not be like him. Do not be blind to God's purpose for your life, whether secular or spiritual, not everyone will be a pastor, but we are all evangelists to spread the Gospel. Not only that, there are some people called to be medical doctors, engineers, policymakers, entrepreneurs, politicians, advisers, etc; they are all called by God for His purpose and glory. The question to ask is, this work that I am doing, is it in line with the Will of God written of me?

Do not be blind to God's will. If at the end of life, you stand in the presence of God to give an account of your stewardship and Heaven plays the videos of your journey and works on earth and the actual Will written for you, what is going to be your reaction if it is not in line or aligned? You know, there are sins we commit that we do not know are greater sins even more than fornication or adultery, it is the sin of not being in the Will of God. Christ was committed, while His disciples went to buy food, He met with a Samaritan woman and preached the Gospel to her. In the midst of all these, His disciples came to offer Him food; He refused and told them my food is to do the Will of Him that sent me. Are you committed to the Will of God for your life? Do you really know His Will? Beloved, night comes when no man can work. Night cometh when you cannot go out anymore to preach the gospel even though you loved to. Night cometh when you can no longer be a chorister or an usher in the vineyard of God. Night cometh when your

ability to drum in church will no longer be needed, but it is your money and network that the people in church and around rely on.

Beloved, night cometh when you can no longer go out for that business, when the night of Jesus came, He died on the Cross, He could no longer go to Samaria or must need to pass through. If He had not used His days to work the works of Him that sent Him, we won't be here claiming His discipleship. He worked and has mandated us to do the greater works. So what are you doing? Are you in His assignment? Let the zeal for His house and works consume you while it is day, so that when night comes, you can look back to give glory to Him and meet Him in glory too. Beloved, save this in your archive you **MUST** work the works of Him that sent you while it is day.



## CHAPTER THIRTEEN GREY HAIRS, SIGNS OF GLORY

*“The glory of young men is their strength:  
and the beauty of old men is the gray head.”*

- Proverbs 20:29

Grey hairs are the beauty of old men and signs of their glory, you will never use yours to answer foolish questions, and yours will not meet you in the prison or on hospital bed (Amen). But one must make hay while the sun shines, you must prepare for your old age while you are young. Go to school when necessary, stop playing around, understand why you need English language, Mathematics or any other subjects. Study your environment, your personalities, your family background, and friends, understand your field, profession and the behaviour of people around you.

There are old men and women around who are suffering today, some of them have great regret. If they are given an opportunity again in life, they will use it well. At this level of yours, you too may have regret, you might have left something undone, do note that old age is fast approaching and our old age is in our hands. Fulfilling or regretting it depends on what you do today, making the most of every opportunity, run while your mates are running, read while others are reading and pray while others are also praying. You cannot leave your life to chance. You must understand everything you are doing and take this to mind, everyone of us shall give account of himself to the Lord. So if any man ruins his life based on what messages he is exposed to, no

preacher will stand for him, even if it is a witch that you allow to ruin your life, may God not allow it, you cannot shift the blame to anybody, you are still responsible.

The level you are presently, you allowed it and you will swim in the consequences. If you understand that your life is not going in the proper direction, take time to step aside, meditate about your life and think about what to do, and the best thing to do is to seek the face of God. You do not have to become like Methuselah before you make an impact, in your youth, you can make impacts. So in reaching your old age, which is by God's grace, what will be your prayers or your experience, will you look up and praise God or regret it like Jacob? It is left to you.

The Sun of Righteousness can still rise upon you now, if you are ready to come into the will of God. In Genesis 32, the Sun rose upon Jacob, the sun was not a natural sun, for it was a sun of his destiny which was set when he failed to obey God's instruction and went on his way. If you will come to Jesus today, His glory will rise and shine upon you. Keep Jesus in your life and in your old age, you will God praise.

You must go back to the will of God, to God's instruction. In Genesis chapter 35 verse 1 God commanded Jacob to go back to Bethel, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God that appeared unto him when he fled from the face of Esau his brother. You see, if you want to shine in your old age, you must find where you have missed it and go back there. God had to ask Jacob to go back to Bethel (Genesis 28), where he left God to go on his own journey. There is a critical junction

we must not miss in life and it is the junction of obedience.

When Jacob came back from Padanaram, God appeared to him again. God blessed Jacob and said to him, "Your name is Jacob, but I will change that name. You will no longer be called Jacob. Your new name will be Israel." So God named him Israel. God said to him, "I am God All-Powerful, and I give you this blessing: Have many children and grow into a great nation. Other nations and other kings will come out of you. I gave Abraham and Isaac some special land. Now I give the land to you and to all your people who will live after you." Then God left that place (Genesis 35:9-13). It is never too late with God, He can do much more with your life and what you need to do is to go back to God where you left Him.

Put away all that hinders you from receiving God, you can imagine in Genesis 35:2, Jacob told his family and all the other people with him, "Destroy all these foreign gods that you have. Make yourselves pure. Put on clean clothes. We will leave here and go to Bethel. There I will build an altar to the God who has always helped me during times of trouble. He has been with me wherever I have gone." In verse four, the Bible says, "So the people gave Jacob all the foreign gods they had, and they gave him all the rings they were wearing in their ears. He buried everything under an oak tree near the town called Shechem."

You can imagine if rapture came at the time God visited Jacob again, only Jacob would have made it, for his entire family are idol worshippers. So what sort of destiny was that and meanwhile God wished was to make Jacob, Israel a great nation, in Israel was and is Jesus. You must purge yourself and be ready to be for God alone if you

do not want to regret in life. Where was Rachael?, whom Jacob wasted his life for, she died on the way. Assuming Jacob listened to God, he would have understood that Leah was the one God ordained for him but because he wanted to have his way, God left him to his mistake.

Instead of Jacob going into the land of Egypt to answer foolish questions during famine, the entire world was supposed to come to buy food from Jacob. The one who received and interpreted the dream, (because already Pharaoh did not know what to do), was Joseph. Assuming Joseph was allowed to stay in his father's house, they would have been the one to sell to the world during famine. There would have been no need of travelling miles to buy corn, but our God works miraculously. I pray you will not regret your life. You will end well and strong.

There are steps to take, find God, get to know what He want you to do, ask for specific instructions about it, get the direction to actualize it, stays in Him, study and educate yourself about the will of God, focus and refocus on God, operate under your mandate and above all, prepare for life.

## **CHAPTER FOURTEEN**

### **PREPARATION, PERFORMANCE AND PRIZE**

The three stages of life earlier mentioned at the beginning of this book which were the morning, the afternoon and the evening time must be well understood, if you want to live a meaningful and rewarding life. The morning season is the preparatory time, the afternoon season is the performance time and the evening season is the prize or reward time. None of these can be interchanged, you must prepare for life in your morning time, that is why the Bible says, “It is good for a young man to bear his yoke in his youth”. There are young people who want to ride cars in their youth. At the preparatory time, they have not done anything meaningful in life, but they want to appear suddenly. The time they suppose to use to prepare for life, they keep using it for pleasure; I am enjoying my life they will say. They may be enjoying their lives now when their mates are busy shaping their lives, they will soon endure it later.

Whatever you left undone in your preparatory time you will struggle to catch up with it. God Himself programmed the world, the day and evening time came up at the creation, there is a time to work and a time to rest, there is time for everything. The point is, what are you doing in your preparation time? Are you being forced to go to school? Do you see education as boring or a scam? You do not like schooling and at the same time you do not like to acquire skills and you want to 'chop life'? It is 'cold' that will teach you a lesson, when the time comes with your sleeveless regalia. Those people around you who are genuinely warning you to go do this or that are talking from experience, if they

have another chance of winding the time back to your age, they will never repeat their mistakes; but now you find it difficult to go to school, you are not taking your education seriously. You want to hustle, may hustling not kill you.

Like I wrote earlier, the very first step in life is to know the Will of God for your life, your purpose in life; there and then you will know what to do to actualize it. It is your vision that tells you what kind of education you need, the kind of association to keep and the kind of places to go. You cannot use Christianity to cover up practical things you need to do to achieve God's purpose for your life. Yes, praying is good but it cannot replace studying and reading your books to pass your examinations. Your vision gives you direction and by multitude of counsellors you know what to do to reach your destination. Do all within your power to ensure you prepare well during your preparation stage because it determines how your performing stage will look like.

You may not have the money to sponsor yourself to school, life may be difficult because of your environment and circumstance, but if you can also show a positive attitude in your preparation stage, you may likely see someone who will help you. Once you get good grades from your elementary education and you are serious in your secondary education, there would be nothing else you cannot do to ensure you make your preparation stage a meaningful one. You may find yourself in a casual job, you may be employed as a cleaner or whatever legal job is available, just know that it is your process stage. Where you are on the job is not your end. Moses the greatest leader in Israel, at age forty became a shepherd, this helped greatly when he was to lead the people

of Israel out of the land of bondage, and he even got an opportunity for mentorship from his father-in-law, which helped his ministry greatly.

Life cannot be completely rosy at some point but you have to keep life moving. God is the one that controls life, good can come out of evil and vice versa but the most important thing is where you are going, not where you are presently. All you need to do is to make the most of your current stage. If odds keep you at bay, look out for people you can leverage on, be good to people around you, as a young lad, help people without expecting a reward, though they may reward you in return. There are people that I personally paid their visa fees, supported their education abroad financially and much more even when I was denied a visa. If you know that whatever you do today will speak in the future you will learn to do good things to others even at your most humble stage in life.

Your performing stage may be on auto-pilot if indeed you do well in your preparatory stage, if you have good grades in your academics, getting a job or making most of the opportunities in the performing stage will not be that difficult. But if you struggled academically or you do not have any skills to offer and now you are in your forties, what will you do in your performing stage? Now you want to correct your life like Jacob, you now have found grace from God, but God will not say because you have found favour with Me, you can go scot-free. God is a God of principles, beloved, you have to go back to your preparatory stage. That is why a lot of people struggle in their adulthood because they have left so many things undone in their morning season.

Let me most sincerely inform you, you will be responsible for your action and inaction, you cannot blame anybody, not even God. You cannot even blame it on ignorance, you are the one responsible. So if you need to leave your father's house now? Leave without hesitation, if it is God that is leading you. Do you need to travel out of the country or to a place where you can get opportunities that match your skills? God will never stop you if it is in His will.

Do something with your life fast. Jacob can be blamed for his ignorance about God, but the man did not have a Bible like you have now. He did not have access to Google, to smartphones, to information about life, health, marriages and careers flying all around, but you do have some degree of access to all these. So, how is your life faring compared to that of Jacob? You need to make the most of the opportunities available to you now. No one lives life twice, we all have only one life to live. You cannot be young twice, you can only be single once, and therefore, if you do not use the season well, it is only God that can determine what is going to happen next.

### **NOW YOUR LIFE**

Look at your life critically at which stage are you presently? The man in his reward stage is a testimony to the man who is in his preparatory stage, likewise the same with the man in his performing stage, provided all of them live life accordingly and righteously. You cannot jump any stage in life. People may see that you are in your reward stage and when in the real sense you had cheated your way to the stage, such a man would still go back to whatever stage he skipped. No shortcut in life, you can be aided and favoured in life to move to another stage, but



to steal your way, steal people's property and convert the same to yours and to celebrate your evil ways, may make one disappear from the radar of life. There is nothing you do in life that does not have a reward. Galatians 6:7 says, "Whatsoever a man sows, that he shall reap also". That's the law of nature, what goes around comes around.

If you discover there are some gaps in your preparatory stage, you need to go back there now and fill it. You are not penniless because you are not praying; you are because what you are doing is not enough to make a living. The same amount you use to earn a thousand, somebody is using it to earn a million and imagine if you both go to the same market to buy stuff, how long can you last? Therefore, learn from the man, what has he done that you had not? You can fill up every space in your life. You will do well to look into talents and skills available at your disposal. There is a rod in your hand which can aid you in whatever stage you are.

Look at what you want to become, have and do in the future, compare it with your present status, what do you need to do to accomplish the future? Begin to do them now, break them into smaller actions. Who do you need? What will you need? Where do you need to go to fulfill your destiny? You must know and need not be caught unaware. Above all, is God still missing in your life? If yes, please do go back to God. Confusion can catch up with anybody at any stage, but your relationship with your Creator and obedience to His instructions will deliver you from every form of confusion and ignorance.

Your most sincere prayer everyday should be, “Lord, what do you want me to do?” Yes, do not look at anyone, look up to God. You can make men to be your mentor, but the only Man that is worth looking up to is Christ. Have a fellowship with the Holy Spirit. The dispensation we are now is that of the Holy Spirit. He will teach you all things and bring all things to your remembrance. Make God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit your anchor in life and you will sail truly. Ensure your present occupation is the direction and instruction from God. You cannot be in another man's assignment and expect God to bless you.

Note that each man on earth has his own regrets, but God can correct every error provided you go back to Him and recognize His Lordship. No matter your mistakes in life, it can be corrected and the earlier the better for you to find the purpose of God for your life in time. Time is of essence when it comes to fulfilling God's purpose. It will be great if you can discover the purpose of God for your life at age twelve, you can imagine what honour you will command when you come to your eighties. But a man like Jacob who found God's purpose in his nineties, used the remaining forty year to settle errors within his family and mourn a child that was not dead, you can now imagine why he was in pain and sorrow in the presence of his Pharaoh.

A time will come that you will stand in the presence of God and make account of your stewardship to Him. What are you going to hear? Good servant, enter into your rest or otherwise? Even before this time, there may be some times that you need something badly or an opportunity presents itself and you need to grab it but because you lack

skills which you ought to have learnt at the preparatory stage, you may miss it. Be wise!

Both in your preparation and performance stages, you must be exposed to different sources of information to enable you to take firm decisions and steps needed for a better tomorrow. Read beyond your field, attend conferences and seminars to know and network. Be a man of knowledge and read widely and responsibly. Jacob's problem lay in the fact that he did not understand the tradition of the land; he did not know that they do not give out the younger daughter in marriage before the older one, so, he paid dearly for it.

Assuming that he was educated about the tradition and culture of the people of Mesopotamia, he would have found another means of getting his Rachael. He would have been in discussion with Laban. It was not a tradition to serve for seven years in the land before one gets a wife, it was a lack of understanding on the part of Jacob, he negotiated wrongly and Laban rode on his foolishness and ignorance.

Do not depend much on people, you cannot depend on people and succeed greatly in life. People will fail and disappoint you, learn to rely on God and that is why you need to know Him early enough in life. Instead of depending on people, learn to do things for yourself. Know that whatever you want people to do for you, you can do it for yourself. At some point, I needed a website to promote my organization but the persons I depended on failed many times, I had to go and learn, HTML, CSS, Javascripts programming languages for web development and at the end of the day, I built my organization's

website and develop websites for others and earn money from it.

There are countless skills God has deposited in you, if you do not stop depending on people, you will not develop them. Dependence ruins life. At some point, somebody promised to take me abroad. I was waiting, praying for a breakthrough, the person was asking me to do this, do that, go to this and that, but one day I discovered he was only deceiving me and when I confronted him with the truth, he denied. But did he take me abroad? No! Did I eventually travel abroad? Yes! How? Before I met the person who promised to take me abroad, I already had the mind and there was a prophecy regarding that, but the Lord warned me not to make this person my focus. He said, I should focus on Him. But you know human beings, since this person was already there and with the kind of love he usually shows, I want to believe he can do it, and actually he can do it, but why he did not do it, I do not know.

When I later realized the man was only deceiving me, I went back to God begging for forgiveness and when I changed my focus to God, the One who does not disappoint, there was a breakthrough. I got a free visa and somebody borrowed me money to buy my flight ticket and the funniest thing was I travelled without basic travel allowance, normally called BTA but the Almighty God took care of me. I ate, lived in an accommodation for a week and returned home. But that was not the end of the story; the trip was indeed the beginning of many breakthroughs. While attending a conference at the United Nations Office in Geneva, Switzerland; I borrowed a camera from a brother here in Nigeria hoping to take pictures of beautiful places while on my trip. During the conference, I stood up to take pictures of the high table

and other participants including myself with other people I met during the conference.

The following year, a fellowship programme was announced for participants to attend the conference. I completed the application and as stated in the requirements, an interview was going to be conducted and so one fateful day I received a call from the organizer of the event, but before then, I did not know that they had visited our organization's website to check our activities as related to their mission. On getting to the website, they realized that I had posted pictures of the last event I attended with them.

So when the man called, he mentioned my name and I answered, yes. He said, I realized you attended our last event and I saw the pictures of the event posted on your website. Can you give us permission to copy the images for we do not have any copies? I said why not, after all it was your program. He said, no, just please give us permission to download; I said, go ahead. That was the end of the interview and the beginning of sponsorship for several years. Twice the Psalmist says, “Vain is the help of man” (Psalms 60:11 and 108:12). God even cursed the one who go down to Egypt for help. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man and princes (Psalms 118:8, 9). I am not saying you should reject the assistance of genuine people placed on your path. If your parents are well to do to send you to school or abroad, grab the opportunity, it is part of the education you need for your tomorrow.

Many people do not know that God has answered their prayers long ago. How can God create somebody like you and not back His creation up with resources needed for life? Most of the help you need, if you look inward, you will find it in abundance. God will not bless you beyond what you have; you must see it, the more you see, the more you will prosper from it. May you not answer foolish questions in your old age. If you do not have what to fall back on like investment, skills and savings, that prayer is just a wish.

Life needs adequate planning and it may not even go the way you plan it, so you need to be tough and arm yourself with skills and education. If one plan does not work, another will work. In your preparation stage, register your company, build your house, be educated, be skilled and ensure you do everything within your power to get what you need in your old age. Is it when you do not have enough strength to run around, get things legitimately, will your future become brighter?

There was no place the birthright or Isaac's blessings Jacob fraudulently took, worked for him, in fact they brought him more problems than prosperity. Remember, every action you take, there is an opposite reaction. Everything you do is a seed and it will germinate later for harvest. If you waste your life now on frivolous things today, you reap it tomorrow in foolishness. Learn to sit down, think about life, understand it, ask questions from people around, to know how they are navigating their world and document every step you take.

Be a person of character, many young people say they lack opportunities. But in actual fact, what they lack is character. I have

created opportunities for many young people out of the little resources I have, but do you know their challenge, it was a character issue. Many of them want to make it big without working. They do not want to drop their bad behaviours, the negative environment, people they live with and friends they keep that have a bad influence on them. Therefore, some indulge in stealing to meet up with life's trends, forgetting that their behaviours today are seeds for tomorrow's harvest. People will naturally like you, if you are a man of good character, they will like to help you even without you seeking their help.

Who you are today is as a result of choices you made in time past. Jacob made his own choice. So what do you want from life? It is impossible to make a wrong choice yesterday and expect to be in the right location today. People and friends you keep determine what will accompany you. Do you wish to live your life in a way that is not acceptable and become an outcast? I urge you not to go that way. You can decide to walk the path of decency and godliness by exploring and discovering the great plan of God for your life. Decide to follow the path of greatness today and experience the wonderful blessings of God.

Never throw the spanner of hardship away, whether you prepare for it or not, hard times will surely come. You may be a brilliant student and still lack lunch, never mind. It is just a phase and it will soon become a thing of the past. You must go through something, you have a story to tell and it is only designed for you. If you reject the load you suppose to carry, greater of it will be heaped on you in the future. I told somebody recently and the person was surprised. I said, I once trekked a twenty-

three kilometres journey when I was looking for a casual job. It has become a story now, that is how whatsoever you are going through presently will become a story.

Do not accept pity, you are not an object of pity. Know the reason why you are suffering, if you are suffering because of your vision, it is worth it. Ensure you know your destination. Ensure you are sure of what God wants you to do, and every other thing is secondary. At some point in time, I was borrowing a friend's clothes to wear, but now I have bought countless clothes and dresses, shoes and other items for people. Beloved, time makes the difference. Do not kill yourself because of what you do not have now. If you do not have money today, sit down to think about what you can do to get money and follow it up.



## **CHAPTER FIFTEEN**

### **DO YOU WANT TO BE YOUNG IN YOUR OLD AGE?**

Do you want to be ever-shining in your old age, be strong as if you are still in your youth and be happy ever and ever? Then you need to order your life, order your life in every sense of it, because what you sow you shall reap. I want to believe this book has opened your mind to what you need to do and you have learnt great lessons from the journey of the great man, Jacob. However, as a reminder, you are on a journey whether you know it or not. Nothing is permanent, only God is. As you are rounding up reading this book, arm yourself with the words after now.

The Bible says, “O that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end” - Deuteronomy 32:29. Did it ever occur to Jacob that one day he would stand in front of a king to answer some questions? Before you consider what you need to accomplish in life, think first about what your end would look like. If many people think about their end or have a vision of it, there are so many things they will never do. But because they were unwise, they never put it into consideration. Surely, there is an end. Therefore, make the most of every opportunity and chance you have. If you have been given a position, think first about your end in that office or wherever you are, this will propel you to do well.

Now, you might be asking what next?, what do you need to start doing and all that. In turn, you will expect that I would begin to reel out steps

to take such as; be a man of vision, be positive, be this or that. But, the essence of this book is to emphasize and re-emphasize your connectivity with God. If a man really finds God, such a man has found everything. Yes, have a godly lifestyle, let godly visions drive your life; vision puts one's life in the proper direction. Vision guides and makes life meaningful if it is birthed in God. When you know where you are going and how to get there, you will succeed. Many people have a vision to become something, to have one thing or the other or to do this or that, but not many people know the way to achieve their vision. Therefore, it is not lack of vision that kills destiny, but not knowing how to actualize the vision.

It is impossible to copy another man's vision and expect to get to your destination. Jacob never had a vision to build a city, so he must go to Egypt to buy corn during famine. Assuming he had a vision to build a city and manage his house well, Joseph would have still become a prime minister in Canaan, and the entire world including the Egyptians would still have come to buy corn from him. Vision speaks about the future. It is what you ought to walk toward every day, every step. In fact, you should take the lead in your vision. If you want to avoid foolish questions in your old age, stand upon your watch now, pray to God to give you a vision and run with it.

***“You cannot bark in the dark  
of your glory and expect kings  
to come to the brightness of your rising.”***

At age ten or twelve years, if you do not know what you want to become, then there will be a problem, if not problems, because you are bound to take everything for granted. You will take your teacher for granted. English language, Mathematics, Physics, Biology and other subjects will not make sense to you. Why? Because you lack vision, if you understand and have knowledge of where you are going or what you want to become, maybe a pilot or an astronaut, Mathematics will be meaningful to you. You must have a vision of whom to marry, the number of children you plan to have, the place you want to work or reside. You cannot bark in the dark of your glory and expect kings to come to the brightness of your rising.

Do not be a lazy person, be a man of hard work. For lazy people, life is a path overgrown with thorns and thistles. For those who do what is right, it is a smooth highway (Proverbs 15:19). Some people are too lazy to plant seeds. So at harvest time, they look for food and find nothing (Proverbs 20:4). Being lazy does not mean you do not even plant food for yourself, but it also means not having enough to sell to make you rich. What happened to the house of Jacob during the seven years period of plenty? Peradventure, one, they were not aware of what would befall the world after seven years of plenty (they lacked vision). Two, they did not plant enough that they could take care of the family. They only planted to eat and when the famine season came, there were not enough to eat again.

Equally, being lazy is having shortsightedness, not seeing what you are supposed to see in time. Lazy to even conceive a vision, not dreaming in time. More than sixty men, not to mention maid servants,

were in the house of Israel but they could not plant what a nation would eat in seven years. What a lazy generation? Assuming that Jacob was a man of vision or somebody from his family, he would not have had any cause to go to Egypt to answer foolish questions. Laziness makes man to eat the food of his enemy. There were able men in the house of Jacob during the seven years of plenty, what were they doing? Do you want to command respect in your old age? Be committed to something now, be hard working. Hard work does not kill, laziness does. Hard work wearies hard life. Conceive and plant what you will eat in your old age now.

***“Relationship is not the same as Engagement.”***

The wise man walked past a field that belonged to a lazy man. It was a vineyard that belonged to someone who understood nothing. Weeds were growing everywhere! Wild vines covered the ground, and the wall around the vineyard was broken and falling down. The wise man learnt that a little sleep, a little rest, folding one's arms, and taking a nap will make one poor very quickly. Hard work sharpens one's mind; it renews one's vigour and makes one shine in old age. Never mistake hard work with pain, even if God gives you vision, you still need to work things out. There are steps you need to take and people you need to meet.

I can go on and on to tell you the requirements for shining in your later years, such as be truthful and faithful, understand that life is a journey, walk with godly counselors, departing from evil, make meaningful friends, enjoying every moment, document your experience, do not do

anything without a purpose, ask questions where necessary, help many other people, marry right, show a little bit of love and kindness, among others. But, the greatest requirement you need to possess is your connectivity with God. The chief purpose of light is to enlighten, you may not have a personal vision but if you have God, you get vision cheaply. Darkness covers the earth and gross darkness the people, but God shall be your everlasting light. So if a man lacks God, such will live in darkness and what can one find in darkness? Hopelessness!

Any man that has lost God is unwise and will find occasions to answer foolish questions. If there is anything to desperately do, it is to connect with God. Connectivity with God is the key to all true breakthroughs and genuine greatness in life. A man that is connected to God will surely have vision; he will have direction, will surely be positive, and be truthful because he is connected to God. What vision did father Abraham have? But when he possessed God, God gave him a vision. Therefore, it is not vision to become something that you need, you need vision about God, and you need to be connected to God. If your device is connected to the internet you have endless possibilities, you can travel to any part of the world while you remain where you are, but when you are not connected to any network, you remain in your locality.

***“If you do not have God, you are old even when you are in your youth.”***

Therefore, do all within your powers to get connected to God. A relationship is not an engagement. Several people that most times rush

to service, to attend one program or the other do not really have a relationship with God. David's relationship with God made the difference. It is impossible to be connected with God and not walk uprightly. So if I tell you to be upright in your dealings in life in order to achieve your purpose and you do not have a relationship with God, you will find it difficult to live upright, therefore living upright is not the problem having no relationship with God is.

Your being must look for God. God is everything and He you need. Jesus Christ came to the world to reveal God the Father to us. He prayed, "Our Father who hath in Heaven, hallowed be thy Name" – (Matthew 6:9). You must be connected to and with God. Connection with God will bring you all that you need in life. God is what you need. If you do not have God, you are old even when you are in your youth. If God does not matter to you, everything that matters in life will not come to you. Yes, there are so many things that life depends on, but none is more important than God. God is the surest secret any destiny can have.

I hope you will use your life to seek and connect with God. Like that shepherd was looking for one lamb living his ninety-nine behind, much more, you must look for God and find Him in time. Your life, existence and entire being depend on Him. If you find God, reading the Bible will be interesting and meaningful to you. Going to church will not be difficult, paying tithe or giving offering will not be complicated and finding a good wife will be a favour and not a game. Enoch found God, God took him. Abraham found God; he became a father of many nations. Isaac found God, he got the Promise and Jacob in his later

years, found God, his battered name was changed, he got a new identity. The story of people who find God litters the pages of the Holy Bible and I hope you will take time to study them in depth. What made their lives different from yours? Will you find God? A man that is a MEMBER of God's house is the one that can 'RE-MEMBER' Him.

### **A FINAL NOTE**

Finally beloved, no one book can give you all that you need in life, if you are expecting to see certain instructions in this book, it may be that the author leaves it for the Holy Spirit to take you through it by Himself or you need to consult more books about life. You need books on marriage, on career, finances, life in general and many more. Read widely and you will in your old age thank God for a life well spent. To have a meaningful life, God is all you need. May you find God in your lifetime (Amen).

On a more serious note, you can never find God without Jesus Christ. He is the Way, the Truth and the Life and no one can come to the Father except by Him (John 14:6). Will you yield your life to Him? Let Jesus help you, there and then you can have and live a meaningful life. When He encountered Saul, he did more than he could imagine. Saul's name would have been forgotten for life, but he (Saul who later became Paul) is being mentioned in many nations of the world today. In fact, he wrote more than half of the New Testament. When Peter found God through Jesus, he caught a great multitude of fishes; if you desire God, that business of yours can be great. You can be a solution to your generation and the ones to come. Only that you must find the Only True God, the Maker of the Heavens and the Earth.

Come to God through Jesus Christ today and you will be glad you did.  
**To have assurance of salvation, say this prayer:**

*Lord Jesus, I come to you today,  
I give and release my life unto you  
I confess you as my Lord and personal Saviour  
I confess you as the only Begotten Son of the Father  
I confess and forsake my sins and repent from them all  
Save me by your dear Blood and make me Yours forever  
In Jesus name (Amen)!*

I congratulate you beloved and I am anxiously waiting to hear your testimonies. But note, confessing Jesus is just the beginning; the journey will be interesting and great with you studying the Bible and fellowship with genuine brethren, by joining a Bible believing assembly close to you.

If need be, you can contact me via the email at the back of this book.

God bless your goings.

May I ask you once again, “How old are you now?”

**Casey 'Gbenga Adeleye**









# HOW OLD ARE YOU?

## About the Book

What is life if not lived according to purpose? And what is the purpose of someone's existence if one does not recognize his/her Creator and have access to His Will (one's own personal will) as written in Heaven? As one lives daily, one gets old and time flies. Until people come to a certain understanding, it is possible to live life based on certain people's opinions, advice, errors, mistakes, religion, strength, weaknesses, education, orientation, training and environment.

Assuming your mentor, parents or someone you respect asks you this question, how old are you? What will come to your mind? Will you fully understand the implication of this critical question? Will you understand that such a person is not asking you about your real age so to say? Will you know that this person is actually asking for your achievements in spite of your age and resources at your disposal?

This Book attempts to answer some of the critical questions about life and encourage appropriate actions and attitudes needed to fulfill your mandate as written in Heaven.

## About the Author

Casey 'Gbenga Adeleye is a founding Trustee of the Empowered Mission for Christ Commission (EMCC), a Commission with a mission to preach the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and equip believers with the truth of God's Word while fulfilling their divine mandate more intelligently, passionately and responsibly.

Casey 'Gbenga Adeleye is a Social Activist, an Educator and Publisher of the Christian Magazine, Believers Today. He sits on the Boards of nationally and internationally recognized organizations including African Centre for Citizens Orientation, Pan African Institute for Entrepreneurship and Community Development, the Institution of Data Scientists and Analysts, Institute of Information Studies and Knowledge Management, Perry Olufemi Adeleye (SR) Institute of Agriculture, Technology and Transportation Engineering among others. He currently serves as the Head, Human Resources, Science and Technology (HRST) Cluster Committee, African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AU ECOSOCC) Nigeria.