

# **Sexual Battles: Experiencing Lasting Victory over Sexual Sin (Volume 2)**

By Seun Okikiola

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## **Dedication**

As my senior partner, teacher, instructor, guide, friend, and comforter, the Holy Spirit always adds a unique flavor to life, and makes my journey through life unique, exciting, and full of hope. Therefore, I dedicate this book to the Holy Spirit, as an awesome and effective tool for the transformation of destinies, homes, and relationships with God.

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# INTRODUCTION

Freedom from sexual sin and addiction is a journey. Anyone can be delivered by God's power at an instance. But staying delivered is never an instance. This is what makes freedom from sexual sin and addiction a journey.

In [Sexual Battles – Volume 1](#), we began a journey in which we laid that foundation for experiencing lasting victory over sexual sin. Below is a synopsis of some of the things we learnt from each of the chapters in volume 1 of this book.

## **Chapter One: Understanding the Human Nature**

In this chapter, we unraveled man's sinful nature and the futility of trying to overcome sexual sin and addiction with human effort.

## **Chapter Two: The Devices of the Enemy**

In this chapter, we exposed the subtle strategy with which the devil captures and holds many people in sexual sin and addiction.

## **Chapter Three: Calamities of Sexual Sin**

Sexual sin is pleasurable but poisonous. In this chapter, we discovered how sexual sin can destroy a person's life piecemeal.

## **Chapter Four: You can be Free**

No matter the level of sexual perversion a person has been involved in, he or she can be set free. In this chapter, we explored the first and primary step to lasting freedom from sexual sin.

This book, *Sexual Battles – Volume 2*, is only a continuation of [Sexual Battles – Volume 1](#). If you have not read the volume one of this book, please ensure that you download it and read it before reading this book. You can download a copy of

*Sexual Battles – Volume 1* from [Smashwords](#) or any of your favorite online eBook retailers.

As we continue the journey through this life changing book, my prayer is that you will come to know the truth that will truly set you free in an effective and lasting manner.

At the end of each chapter in this book, you will find some prayer points. Please endeavor to pray in line with these points as you end each chapter. You will discover that prayer is a key to God's miraculous transformation taking place in your heart and spirit.

Spend quality time praying these prayers, and do not end there. Let the prayers be a starting point from which you can continue praying according to the desire of the Holy Spirit working in your life. Such prayers will serve as the gateway via which you will encounter the transforming power of the Holy Spirit in your journey.

You will also find action steps at the end of each chapter. These tips, ideas, and points to meditate upon are to aid you in taking steps that will enable you to live in lasting victory through the power of Jesus Christ.

As you read through this ebook, you will come across some key points, which are few but powerful words that can change a person's life and destiny. Below these key points are links that will allow you to easily share these powerful key points with your friends on twitter and facebook with just a few clicks.

As you share these key points, please endeavor to maintain the link that appears on your twitter and facebook timeline. This link will help your friends access this eBook after reading the key point you have shared with them. With the viral nature of Social Media Network, you never can tell how many lives will be transformed by this little effort from you.

As you read, please feel free to share your comments, testimonies, feedback, or questions with me. My email address is [seunokikiola@gmail.com](mailto:seunokikiola@gmail.com) I would be glad to receive and respond to your message.

God bless you!

# CHAPTER ONE

## THE CUSTODIAN OF POWER

*I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high*

**Luke 24:49**

If I asked you what your greatest asset is, how would you answer? Perhaps you would be thinking of that property you finally acquired, the car you just bought, the business you started, the savings you worked so hard to build up, or the investments you have made.

Imagine, for a moment, having a hen with five chicks. They are just all over the place. You want to catch all of them and put them in a cage. How would you go about it?

I would recommend that you catch the mother hen without worrying too much about the five chicks, even if they are running all over the place.

Why?

Once you have the mother hen, the chicks will gather around her. Before you know it, you'll have the hen and the five chicks. This is much easier than exerting energy and time chasing after six animals with wings.

When you take your time to study the way God works, you'll find a similar pattern. When God wanted a world, he created man. Inherent in man was the ability to create the buildings, roads, vehicles, electricity, and all that you see around you. God did not bother creating all those things, even though He had it mind. All He did was to create man and create within him the potential to create the world He wanted.

Another instance was when God wanted to save the world from sin. All He did was to send Jesus; by the death of one man – the Son of God – the whole world has the power to be redeemed from sin.

Literally, you can call it “killing many birds with one stone.” This is the same pattern Jesus laid for His followers before returning to His Father in Heaven.

When Jesus was about to leave, 40 days after His resurrection, He instructed the disciples not to leave the city of Jerusalem until they had received the infilling of the Holy Spirit. In Acts 1:4, the Bible says:

***On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: ‘Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about.’***

The reason why Jesus gave them this instruction is because it is the Holy Spirit that empowers you to walk and operate as a member and heir of God’s kingdom. Once you accept Jesus into your heart, you are translated from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of God, which operates in righteousness and holiness, and the Holy Spirit gives you the power and anointing to live a righteous and holy life.

In God’s kingdom, the mandate is purity at heart and purity of actions. Without the Spirit of God at work in you, it is IMPOSSIBLE to live a life of holiness, which is fundamental to operating as a child of God and a disciple of Jesus Christ. The Spirit of God within you is the greatest asset that you could ever possess.

Ephesians 2:6-7 says:

***6 And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,***

*7 in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.*

You cannot sit with Christ in heavenly realms and enjoy divine blessings while at the same time toying with lust.

You may be a grand master in promiscuity yet you're rich or successful. Things seem to be working out fine in spite of your decision to live in perversion. But it would be foolish to think you are blessed. The success and riches you see around you is most likely just a curse in disguise.

Until you receive freedom through the infilling and empowerment of the Holy Spirit, the struggle with sin will continue. The Holy Spirit is the seal of God's power that guarantees freedom from sexually immoral habits that are holding many people back from fulfilling their destiny.

### **KEY POINT**

**WITHOUT THE SPIRIT OF GOD AT WORK IN YOU, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO LIVE A LIFE OF HOLINESS**

\*\*\*~::~~\*\*\*

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Many folks fail to realize this. Some have been so disillusioned by their futile struggle with sin that they now think it's normal to engage in fornication, in spite of God's instructions regarding such things.

Their lack of empowerment through the Holy Spirit makes them perpetually beset by traps that the devil carefully positions in their life.

Friend, it takes supernatural power to say no to sexual temptations, most especially when you have once been a victim of sexual sin. That's why therapies and psychological tricks will fail.

It takes supernatural power to silence sexual temptation at its point of origin – your heart. You need supernatural power to flee the scourge of immorality, like Joseph did. That supernatural power is what you receive when you become filled with the Holy Spirit.

## **DON'T TRY IT ALONE**

When Adam sinned, the whole of humanity inherited a sinful nature. That's why no one has to teach a kid how to steal or lie. It is the sinful nature exhibiting itself.

It takes an unusual ability to live a life that contravenes the human nature – a life of holiness. That's why Isaiah said:

*All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away*

**Isaiah 64:6**

Friend, you cannot work with God or even walk with Him on your own terms. It has to be on His terms. And God demands His standard of holiness.

*15 But just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do;  
16 for it is written: 'Be holy, because I am holy'*

**1 Peter 1:15-16**

Without the Spirit of God functioning actively in you, you cannot fulfill God's mandate of holiness.

Another thing the Holy Spirit empowers you to do is to walk in the realm of the supernatural.

Jesus lived a great life and did so many miracles. But when you study the life and ministry of Jesus, you'll find out that He never did anything without the Holy Spirit.

*How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!*

**Hebrews 9:14**

As a matter of fact, it was only when Jesus received the Holy Spirit that He began to perform miracles. Before then, the Bible has no record of a single miracle done by Jesus. This shows you how vital the Holy Spirit is. That's why Jesus instructed the disciples to tarry until they were filled with the Spirit.

You can go to the most anointed man or woman of God and ask them to lay hands on you and cast out every spirit of lust. You can go to church and be even more committed than the Pastor of your church ... but if you are not filled with the Spirit, you have no guarantee of overcoming lustful desires.

### **KEY POINT**

**WITHOUT THE SPIRIT OF GOD FUNCTIONING ACTIVELY IN YOU, YOU CANNOT FULFILL GOD'S MANDATE OF HOLINESS**

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**Share this key point with friends on:**

## THREE LEVELS OF FELLOWSHIP

One of the several synonyms of fellowship is association. There are three levels of fellowship or association with the Holy Spirit.

The first level entails the Holy Spirit being with a person. At this level, the best you can enjoy is the benefit of the Holy Spirit around you. A typical illustration of this is Jesus' disciples while Jesus was still with them on earth. In John 14:16-17, Jesus said:

*16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever —  
17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.*

Until Jesus rose from the dead, they had the Holy Spirit with them and not in them.

It was after Jesus rose from the dead that His disciples entered into the second level of walk with the Spirit. This second level entails the Spirit being in you.

Once you become born again, the Spirit of the Lord is in you. That's why Romans 8:9 tells us:

*You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.*

This is the reason why you feel a form of newness when you give your life to Christ. There's an almost tangible joy and peace that you experience. You know deep down within you that there has been a change deep within your heart, more real than anything you have experienced before. That's the Holy Spirit within you, and as long as you are in Christ, you have this Spirit actively at work in you.

Going back to the disciples, we find that the Holy Spirit came into them when they received an impartation of the Holy Spirit from Jesus, after His resurrection. John 20:22 says:

*And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'*

Just like the first level of fellowship with the Spirit, this level is based upon the presence of the Holy Spirit. The only difference is that with this level, the Holy Spirit is present in you. There's so much more benefit you can enjoy when the Holy Spirit is in you, compared to when he is merely with you.

The third level of fellowship with the Spirit is the highest level you can attain with the Spirit.

You enter this level of fellowship when the Spirit comes upon you. Friend, the greatest benefit of the Holy Spirit only comes when you have the Spirit upon you by virtue of being filled with the Spirit.

That's when you operate in the power of the Spirit.

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you*

**Acts 1:8**

This power gives you the ability to overcome any and all addictions, no matter how strong they are or how long you have struggled with them. It doesn't matter

what kind of addiction it is; God's Holy Spirit can set you free from any unhealthy tendency or addiction.

In the Old Testament, only a few people had the opportunity of walking with the Holy Spirit at this level. But from the New Testament until today, every believer that desires to have the Spirit come upon him or her can have their desire fulfilled via the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

That's because we all are a chosen generation and a royal priesthood [1 Peter 2:9].

Now, what happens with the lustful desires and addictions once the Spirit comes upon you?

It's like setting a bush on fire. The moment the fire lights up, all the rats, snakes, rodents, squirrels, and rabbits immediately dash out of their holes and flee. They cannot stand the heat of the fire.

That's what happens when the Spirit comes upon you.

It's like fire running through you. The tongues that rested upon the disciples when the Holy Spirit came upon them on the day of Pentecost actually resembled fire [Acts 2:1-3].

When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, God's Spirit takes charge of you. As you spend time with the Holy Spirit on a daily basis, and allow Him to regularly come upon you afresh, those lustful passions will loosen their grip upon you.

*And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not*

**John 1:5**

Just as light and darkness cannot co-exist, so is it impossible for the Holy Spirit and lust to coexist. When you allow the Holy Spirit to gain control of your life through total submission, lust and addiction have to give way.

When a container is empty and a strong wind blows, the container can be easily blown away. But when it is filled with water, the container automatically receives the capacity to withstand strong wind.

The Spirit of God cannot be in control of your life and allow you to remain a victim of lustful addictions, blown off balance by the slightest temptation. Rather, you will be led by the Spirit in the path of holiness. You will find yourself doing those things that will keep you on the path of righteousness.

Remember, though, that having the Spirit upon you is not a guarantee that you will not be tempted. As a matter of fact, Mark 1:9-13 says:

***9 At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan.***

***10 As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.***

***11 And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased."***

***12 At once the Spirit sent him out into the wilderness,***

***13 and he was in the wilderness forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.***

It was after being filled with the Spirit that Jesus was led to the wilderness, where he was sorely tempted.

This is the same thing that many folks have experienced, or will yet experience. Just after you've given your life to Christ, or rededicated your life to Christ, or

decided in your heart not to give lust a place in your life, or received the infilling of the Holy Spirit, you will face temptations.

What matters is not the temptation you face. It is the Spirit of God in you and the power to overcome temptation that matters.

Second Corinthians 3:17 gives us this promise:

*Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*

In other words, where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom from the stronghold and the bondage of sin.

### **KEY POINT**

WHERE THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS, THERE IS FREEDOM FROM THE  
STRONGHOLD AND THE BONDAGE OF SIN

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### **THE RENEWING OF THE SPIRIT**

Promiscuity was once something that was a thing of the world; it was virtually unheard of in the church. But today, it is increasingly becoming rampant in churches.

I've come across folks who claim to be Christians, go to church every Sunday, and see nothing wrong with having sexual relationships outside of their marriage. They indulge in adultery on a regular basis.

I've seen church folks who attend services every Sunday and still go back to their mistresses.

I've seen Christians who abandon the husbands or wives of their youth in pursuit of women and men of the world.

I've seen ladies who claim to be Christians and have no problem with seducing or sleeping with their boss to get a promotion.

I've seen pastors who abandon their God-given spouse and partner in ministry and take advantage of their congregation as they pursue the satisfaction of their lustful desires.

When you take a look at some of these folks, you would be amazed that some of them were once filled with the Spirit. Some of them may have been genuinely used by God to preach the gospel and perform miracles. In fact, many of them may be speaking in tongues; which is an evidence that they, at least at one time, received the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

But how did they lose it? How did they become slaves of their unholy desires after having a taste of the redemptive power of Jesus?

The answer to these questions reveal that it is not enough to have a one-time infilling of the Holy Spirit. You must repeatedly have the infilling of the Holy Spirit. This is the "renewing" of the Spirit.

Acts 2:1-13 gives a detailed account of how the disciples were filled with the Spirit. But these same disciples had another infilling of the Holy Spirit not long afterwards in Acts Chapter four. Acts 4:31 says:

***After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.***

Friend, it is not enough to be filled with the Holy Spirit just once. You need to be constantly filled with the Spirit.

Why? Because temptations will constantly come. Even after Jesus overcame the devil's temptations in the wilderness, the Bible says:

***When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time***

**Luke 4:13**

As long as we are in this world, Satan won't give up. He'll keep on trying. As long as you are in this flesh, you'll always be tempted. That's why you constantly need a renewing of the infilling of the Spirit. This was how Jesus was able to live a holy life, despite being tempted in all ways in a world full of sin.

In Matthew 12:43-45, the Bible gives us this warning:

***43 When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it.***

***44 Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order.***

***45 Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition***

*of that person is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation.*

You might have once had an experience of the cleansing power of the Holy Spirit, yet you found yourself going back to your past. If the power that delivered you from unholy habits is not given the opportunity to preserve you in the path of holiness, the habits will surely return. You must allow the Spirit to enter you, to fill you, to renew your spirit and your mind not just once, but as often as needed.

Many people experience deliverance only to lose it because they do not understand the importance of the need for regular infilling of the Holy Spirit.

### **KEY POINT**

IT IS NOT ENOUGH TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT JUST ONCE.  
YOU NEED TO BE CONSTANTLY FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

\*\*\*~\*\*~\*\*\*

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### **THE SPIRIT OF HOLINESS**

*All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away*

**Isaiah 64:6**

Holiness is not within the nature of man; it is not a concept that comes naturally to us. That's why every effort in the flesh to live a holy life will definitely and always end in futility. Our flesh simply lacks the capacity to live a holy life.

Holiness is God's nature; we can only live a life of genuine holiness when we possess the nature of God, and when we allow His nature to possess us. This nature is imparted unto us via the Spirit. Without the Spirit of God, you can never live a life of holiness. It is the Spirit of God in you that will enable you to be holy like God.

Friend, your body is just a cloth, an outer covering. The real you is your spirit, and your spirit can be subject to another spirit.

Second Kings 2:14-15 gives us a clue into this, speaking of Elijah's anointing passing on to the prophet Elisha:

***14 Then he took the cloak that had fallen from him and struck the water with it. 'Where now is the LORD, the God of Elijah?' he asked. When he struck the water, it divided to the right and to the left, and he crossed over.***

***15 The company of the prophets from Jericho, who were watching, said, 'The spirit of Elijah is resting on Elisha.' And they went to meet him and bowed to the ground before him.***

When your spirit is subjected to (or under the influence of) another spirit, you automatically begin to exhibit the same behavioral patterns as the spirit that has influenced or subjected your spirit.

Prophesying about Jesus, Isaiah 11:2 says:

***The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.***

The wisdom, understanding, counsel, power, and knowledge that Jesus operated in while He walked on the earth came directly from the Spirit of God. That's why He was able to function in the anointing and power of God.

When the Spirit of Holiness (which is the Spirit of God) begins to find expression in your life, living a life of holiness becomes a breeze. It is no longer a daily struggle. You are simply set free as the Holy Spirit enters your heart, fills your spirit, and empowers you to live a life of holiness and godliness.

## **ACTION STEPS:**

*“Without the Spirit of God at work in you, it is impossible to live a life of holiness, which is fundamental to operating as a disciple of Jesus Christ.”*

Have you ever prayed for God’s Spirit to come alive within your spirit? If not, now is the time to do so!

*“There are three levels of fellowship with the Holy Spirit. The first level entails the Holy Spirit being with a person. This second level entails the Spirit being in you. The third and highest level entails the Spirit coming upon you.”*

What level is the Holy Spirit operating at in your life? Is he with you, in you, or resting upon you and filling you completely? If you have never had the Holy Spirit come upon you, ask God to fill you to overflowing with His Holy Spirit today.

*“It is not enough to be filled with the Holy Spirit just once. You need to be constantly filled with the Spirit.”*

Perhaps you were filled with the Holy Spirit once upon a time, but you know the power has waned and is no longer operating effectively in your life. Meditate upon the truth that you must be regularly filled with the Holy Spirit, as you ask the Holy Spirit to come afresh upon you.

## **PRAYER POINT:**

Dear Lord, I no longer want to be operating with minimum or partial power in my life, and I know that your Holy Spirit is what will make the difference. Fill me to overflowing with your Holy Spirit. Let it fill me completely and rest upon me fully, pushing out anything in my life that does not belong. Help me to seek infilling of the Holy Spirit as often as is needed to live a life of holiness that is pleasing to you, in Jesus' name, amen.

## CHAPTER TWO

### TRANSFORMED FROM WITHIN

*Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will*

**Romans 12:2**

While reflecting on how the world came into existence, I realized that the Holy Spirit was present on earth before the Word of God came forth. Genesis 1:1-3 says:

*1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

*2 Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.*

*3 And God said...*

And as God spoke, the creation of the heavens and the earth took place, from the largest solar system to the tiniest atom. All of creation took form by virtue of God's Word.

Now you have the Holy Spirit, who will empower you to live above the pitfalls of sin. However, for you to experience a transformation from within – which will enable you to align your life to the nature of God that you inherited when you accepted Jesus into your heart – you need God's Word.

It is the Word of God in you that fortifies you with the nature of God and does the work of renewal in you. It is much easier to live a life of holiness with a transformed mind than to do so with a carnal mind. In fact, the only way to pursue a Christ-like life is with a heart and mind transformed and renewed via the Word of God.

At your new spiritual birth, there is a new you; and as you continuously ingest God's Word into your heart, you maintain your status as a new creation in Christ, while at the same time stripping your mind of every form of carnality.

Colossians 3:9-10 says:

***9 Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is BEING renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.***

Friend, the renewal by God's Word is not meant to be a one-time thing; it is a product of a continuous intake of God's Word. That's why Colossians 3:10 uses the phrase "being renewed," emphasis on "being" – denoting a continuously present state of occurrence.

### **KEY POINT**

**IT IS THE WORD OF GOD IN YOU THAT FORTIFIES YOU WITH THE NATURE OF GOD AND DOES THE WORK OF RENEWAL IN YOU**

\*\*\*~\*\*\*

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You cannot read God's Word once a month and expect this transformation to occur.

***The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth***

**John 1:14**

Jesus is the physical expression of the Word.

The disciples were simple lay men; some of them were even outcasts, but by virtue of their constant fellowship with Jesus (the Word of God in flesh), they became transformed. They didn't have to tell the world that they had been with Jesus. They didn't have to advertise that they were disciples.

People saw them and knew that they had been with Christ. The transformation that took place inside them became evident to everyone around them:

*Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus.*

**Acts 4:13**

The disciples became like their master, Jesus.

Friend, you cannot settle down with God's Word on a daily basis and not have something to show for it. God's Word is too powerful to leave you unchanged. God's Word will empower you to live the life that He intended for you all along.

## **A THERAPY FOR THE HEART**

*Jesus called the crowd to him and said, "Listen and understand. What goes into someone's mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them"*

**Matthew 15:10-11**

The root of sin lies in the heart and until sin is uprooted from the heart, a person remains bound to sin.

Jesus said that what comes out of a man's mouth defiles him because it is from the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks. This also holds true for our actions.

Jesus went on to say:

*17 Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body?*

*18 But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them.*

*19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts— murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.*

*20 These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them*

**Matthew 15:17-20**

Sin at work in the heart is the root of all forms of sexual addictions. God's Word is the only therapy that changes the nature of the heart, such that sin becomes detestable to you.

When God's Word dwells richly in you, it becomes much easier to resist temptations. God's Word within our hearts gives us the power to say no to sin.

*I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you*

**Psalm 119:11**

A typical example is Joseph. He was handsome, intelligent, and well built. He was so attractive that Potiphar's wife could not resist the temptation to have a sexual affair with him. Joseph could have slept with the woman, and His destiny would

have ended right there – in Potiphar’s house, as an executive slave. But Joseph said:

*...How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?*

**Genesis 39:9**

That statement is a product of an understanding of God’s commandment. Joseph had God’s commandments entrenched in his heart. He knew that such an act would not only be a sin against his earthly master – Potiphar – but against his heavenly master (God).

He might have physically been in slavery, but his heart was not in slavery to sin. That was why he could resist Potiphar’s wife despite her beauty and the pleasures he would have enjoyed.

## **FEEDING ON THE WORD**

Just like the body of man needs to be fed regularly with good food in order to be physically healthy, there is a need for your spirit to be fed with God’s Word. The quality of food you take in determines the quality of health that you enjoy. You can’t constantly eat junk food and expect to be as healthy as someone who regularly maintains a well-balanced diet.

The same applies to our spirit. The quality of what goes into your “spirit man” determines your spiritual status. Many folk have allowed their spirit man to be constantly flooded with ungodly things. That’s why many today, even in the Church, are spiritually stunted.

Just like food contains vitamins and nutrients that empower your body to fight off diseases, the Word of God empowers your spirit to resist sin. As you constantly feed on God’s Word, you begin to develop a strong and passionate resistance to sin [Psalm 119:11, Psalm 37:31].

Often times, we struggle to obey God's commandments. That's because we have no ability in our own self to do God's will or to obey God at all times. But Psalm 40:8 says:

***I desire to do your will, O my God; your law is within my heart.***

When God's Word dwells richly in you, as admonished in Colossians 3:16, obeying God and living in holiness is no longer a struggle for you.

Jesus is the Word made flesh, and when the Word dwells richly in you, you have a rich endowment of Christ in you. The power that lies in God's Word becomes actively at work within you, destroying every hold of immoral addiction and sin.

Friend, God created the whole world by His Word. The same power in the Word that was made flesh – Jesus – can create a new personality within you. This is the transformation that takes place through God's Word:

***Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will***

**Romans 12:2**

Just like you require food for your body on a daily basis, your spirit needs to be fed on a daily basis. You cannot feed your spirit once a week and expect to have a healthy spiritual status. This is why many Christians who expect to easily live a righteous and moral life are constantly in and out of sin. They confess and repent of sin today, and tomorrow they're right back in it.

Second Peter 2:17-22 puts it this way:

*17 These men are springs without water and mists driven by a storm. Blackest darkness is reserved for them.*

*18 For they mouth empty, boastful words and, by appealing to the lustful desires of sinful human nature, they entice people who are just escaping from those who live in error.*

*19 They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity — for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.*

*20 If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning.*

*21 It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs on the sacred command that was passed on to them.*

*22 Of them the proverbs are true: ‘A dog returns to its vomit,’ and, ‘A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud.’*

It is when a dog lacks good and nourishing food that it chooses to go back to its vomit. When the spirit man is starved of God’s nourishing Word, going back to past habits becomes inevitable. You become easily swayed by the slightest temptation.

Friend, it doesn’t matter whether you are an anointed prophet or minister of God. There are countless cases of genuine men and women of God who fell into sexual sin; no one is exempt from the possibility. Once you estrange yourself from God’s Word, you become a potential prey for sin.

God created man from the dust of the earth, designing that man would be sustained via the produce of earth. In Genesis 3:18, God instructs Adam, saying:

*...you will eat the plants of the field.*

In other words, the ground, or dust, from which the body was formed, produces the same substance – food – with which the body is sustained. Although I'm not a pharmacist, I know that most of the drugs and medications we have are traceable to plants and herbs. When something goes wrong with the body, the ground gives us medications that we administer to the body for healing.

The ground is vital to the body.

And what the ground is to the body is what the mouth of God is to the spirit. Just as the body is a product of the dust of the ground, your spirit is a product of the breath of God, which came forth from the mouth of God. Genesis 2:7 says:

***Then the Lord God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.***

The breath of life that came forth from the mouth of God created the human spirit, which is what gives life to the body. And if the spirit of man was formed by the breath of God, it cannot be sustained in purity without something that comes from God.

That thing is God's Word.

Just like the body is fed on a daily basis in order to be healthy, the spirit must be fed on a daily basis with God's Word for it to be "healthy." The state of healthiness for a man's spirit is holiness; sin culminates into death, just as sickness can lead to death.

***For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord***

**Romans 6:23**

## CONNECTING WITH THE SPIRIT BEHIND THE WORD

The Bible remains the most powerful and potent book in the world. Unfortunately, many folks find the Bible boring. They read it and they seem to have no clue of what the Bible is talking about. For some, the Bible has become a book of mere stories and an endless stream of commandments that can't be kept.

As long as the Word of God holds no meaning to you, it cannot work for you. As long as God's Word remains nothing more than a boring book to you, you cannot connect with the power that lies in God's Word to live a righteous life.

Second Corinthians 3:6 tells us:

***He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant —not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.***

Friend, the power in God's Word is not in the letters of the Bible. You can memorize the whole Bible and even quote it while sleep talking, and still never experience the wonder-working power of God's Word.

That's why there are many folks who quote the scripture as fluently as an audio Bible, and still struggle with sin. That's also why we have ministers who remain captive to unholy habits.

Until you are able to connect with the Spirit behind the letters in the Bible, living a life of purity at heart will remain impossible to you.

Second Timothy 3:16 says:

***All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.***

It is God's Word that trains you in righteousness. However, for you to receive that training in righteousness, you must first remember the scriptures are "God breathed."

They are not the words of men; they are the words of God. Trying to use human comprehension to fathom the things of God will only throw you into confusion and boredom.

Until you engage the Spirit of God, who is the original author of the scriptures, you cannot experience the life in God's Word.

***For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit***

**2 Peter 1:21**

***...the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David***

**Acts 1:16**

If I'm sent by someone to deliver a message to you and you don't understand the message I gave you, the best person to contact would be the person who sent me.

What we have in the Bible are words given to mere mortals by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. For you to enjoy the fullness of the Word, you need the Spirit – the true "author."

Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you His Word; you will find that as you read, the Spirit of God will begin to open you up to greater depths of revelation and understanding.

It is this revelation and understanding that empowers your spirit and gives you the ability to resist the temptation to sin. It is this revelation and understanding that brings about a transformation within your heart. It is this revelation and understanding that constitutes the nutrients in the Word of God, which brings nourishment to your spirit.

Just like food without nutrients holds no worth to your body, God's Word without the Spirit-inspired revelation and understanding holds little or no benefit to your "spirit man." It is only through the revelation and insight into God's Word that your spirit is trained in righteousness.

It's amazing how much understanding and depth of revelation you receive when you let the Holy Spirit speak to you through the Word. That's what makes the Word of God so enjoyable that you become an addict of God's Word. You cannot become an addict of God's Word and remain addicted to sinful habits. It doesn't matter how addicted you have become to an unholy habit... no spiritually unhealthy addiction can coexist with an addiction to the Spirit of God and the life-giving Word.

### **KEY POINT**

**IT IS ONLY THROUGH REVELATION AND INSIGHT INTO GOD'S WORD  
THAT YOUR SPIRIT IS TRAINED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS**

\*\*\*~\*\*

**Share this key point with Friends on:**

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**ACTION STEPS:**

*“The disciples were simple lay men; some of them were even outcasts, but by virtue of their constant fellowship with Jesus, they became transformed.”*

Ask yourself, “Has my life been transformed through regular fellowship with Jesus Christ, through reading the Word of God?” If not, consider following a Bible-reading schedule to ensure that you are partaking of God’s Word on a regular basis.

*“Just like you require food for your body on a daily basis, your spirit needs to be fed on a daily basis.”*

Do you read God’s Word every day, or depend on church attendance once a week to keep your spirit alive? Take a close look at your daily schedule and see where you can fit in a time of devotion every day.

*“Until you are able to connect with the Spirit behind the letters in the Bible, living a life of purity at heart will remain impossible for you.”*

Do you find reading the Bible to be tedious or boring? If so, perhaps you have never connected with the Holy Spirit. Ask, like King David, that God (via His Spirit) will open your heart to see wondrous things in His Word – the Bible.

### **PRAYER POINT:**

Dear Lord, I don’t want my relationship with you to be dreary or boring. I don’t want my time, reading the Bible, to be tedious. Give me the tenacity and faithfulness to spend regular time with you every day as I read your Word. Give me revelations from your Word and speak to me through it. I want to truly connect with your Holy Spirit behind the letters, empowering me and giving me the ability to live a life of purity and dedication to you, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE**

*For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms*

**Ephesians 6:12**

*The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ*

**2 Corinthians 10:4-5**

Addiction to immorality is a stronghold of darkness. It is not normal.

There is nothing normal about sleeping with several men or women, whether it is through fornication or adultery.

There is nothing normal about a man lusting after a man, or a woman lusting after a woman, or a human being lusting after or being sexually attracted to an animal.

There is nothing normal about incest.

There is nothing normal about lust.

The increasing occurrence of immorality around us has made it seem like the norm, but from the beginning, it was not so. It is not in God's agenda and perfect plan for anyone's life.

The "weapons of warfare" referred to in the scriptures above are available to you, for waging war against the lust that is at work in the flesh. These spiritual weapons pull down strongholds of lust that dominate the flesh.

Whether it is an addiction to masturbation, pornography, homosexuality, adultery, fornication, bestiality, incest, or any form of addiction that stands as a sin, the divine weapons of our warfare carry the potency to demolish them.

When a man is tempted sexually, it is not what he sees that causes the temptation; it is what goes through his mind when he sees what he sees. That is the real root of the temptation.

David saw and fell; Joseph didn't. David fell but Joseph fled.

Joseph saw the beauty of Potiphar's wife and he had the chance to sleep with her without anyone knowing. Since Potiphar's wife had planned to seduce Joseph for a long time, I'm very certain that she was seductively dressed for the occasion.

Yet Joseph resisted.

The difference between David and Joseph was what went through their mind.

David thought to himself, saying, "Her husband is away on the battlefield. I'm the king, and her husband's boss. I have the riches and power to get her and sleep with her."

On the other hand, Joseph thought about it (the proposal of Potiphar's wife) and said:

*No one is greater in this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?*

**Genesis 39:9**

When a man or woman is tempted sexually, it is not what they hear or see that matters. It doesn't matter what the physical dynamics are – how romantic a setting might be or how much physical attraction is at play ... it is what goes on in someone's mind that matters.

What goes on in your mind will determine your response to sexual temptation. The bible admonishes us to flee all appearance of evil (1 Thessalonians 5:22). Many believers, including men and women of God, know this. But at the point of temptation, the voice of their flesh is so loud that it silences the voice of God in their heart. That causes them to fall into sexual sin.

That's why the mind is the battlefield. That is where the greatest struggle takes place. It is also where the root of sin lies.

The weapons that will guarantee your victory in this struggle are not psychological therapies, or a set of do's and don'ts. The do's and don'ts are good and they will aid your victory; but they will not guarantee your victory.

Every physical attempt to overcome sin will definitely fail. Only spiritual weapons will guarantee you a lasting victory over sin; their power grows with understanding and practice.

In this chapter, I will be sharing some of these weapons and how you can engage them in first gaining and then enforcing your freedom.

## THE WORD

In the previous chapter, I touched on the Word of God and its transforming power. But the importance of God's Word cannot be overemphasized.

God's power, which disarms the devil and sin any day, and any time, lies in the Word. That's why the Word of God is a major weapon at your disposal.

My emphasis in the last chapter was on transformation via the daily intake of God's Word. Here, my emphasis is on speaking and acting on the Word of God when confronted with a temptation.

When Jesus was tempted, Jesus responded with the Word. Matthew 4:3-10 tells us:

*3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."*

*4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"*

*5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple.*

*6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: 'He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'"*

*7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"*

*8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.*

*9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me."*

*10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'"*

For every temptation, Jesus responded with the Word of God. And it was enough. Nothing disarms Satan like God's Word. This is why constant intake of the Word is crucial.

Sometimes the reality of temptation is such that you don't have time to start wracking your head and thinking of what scripture to quote. This portrays the importance of "hiding the Word in your heart" through memorization of the scriptures.

At the very least, though, you can always react to a temptation with an understanding of what the Word of God declares.

God's Word is clear about fleeing all appearance of evil:

***Reject every kind of evil***

**1 Thessalonians 5:22**

So when someone is trying to seduce you, run! Run for your life and destiny, just like Joseph did.

However, when the temptation wells up from within, especially through unholy thoughts that suddenly begin to flood your mind or through unholy content you have been accidentally exposed to, you cannot run from yourself.

This is when you have to fight off those thoughts. The most powerful weapon, that will enable you to bring such contrary thoughts into subjection to the perfect will of God, is the Word of God. Nothing else has this power.

Every computer has its hardware as well as software. When a virus attacks the software, you need an antivirus program – which is also a software – to capture and eliminate the virus.

God's Word is the antivirus to the "virus" of sin, and every form of unholy thought.

Just like you cannot use hardware to deal with a software problem, you cannot use human effort, strength, or therapy to deal with sinful thoughts.

And just like an antivirus software program must be regularly updated to deal with new and emerging viral threats, you need to update your mind with God's Word on a daily basis.

The Word of God will enable and empower you to quench every attack of the enemy aimed at getting you to sin.

Activating God's Word will unleash its power and cause it to deliver great results in your life. Nothing activates God's Word like a bold declaration, such as Jesus proclaimed when tempted.

## **THE NAME OF JESUS**

Another powerful weapon at the disposal of every child of God is the name of Jesus. However, this weapon works only with spiritual understanding.

*9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,  
10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*

*11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*

**Philippians 2:9-11**

Friend, many times we use the name of Jesus without understanding the sheer and unmatched power that lies in the name of Jesus.

What Paul was saying in the passage above is that everything is subject to the Name of Jesus. Every thought or temptation is subject to the Name of Jesus. The Amplified Version of Philippians 2:9 says:

*Therefore [because He stooped so low] God has highly exalted Him and has freely bestowed on Him the name that is above every name.*

As long as that thought, temptation, or addiction has a name, it is subject to the Name of Jesus, because His holy Name has more power than any other name. When you constantly subject that unholy thought or temptation to the Name of Jesus, it has no choice but to bow out of your life in deference to the Name of Jesus.

Friend, the truth is that the devil and his agents are terrified of the Name of Jesus. Just like they cannot stand the presence of Jesus, they can't stand the Name of Jesus. Even when Jesus was on earth, demons could not stand His Name:

*38 "Teacher," said John, "we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us"*

*39 "Do not stop him," Jesus said. "No one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me."*

**Mark 9:38-39**

Another illustration of the power in the Name of Jesus can be seen in Paul's demonstration of power using Jesus' Name:

*16 Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling.*

*17 This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, 'These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.'*

*18 She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, 'In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!' At that moment the spirit left her*

**Acts 16:16-18**

Sexual addictions are strongholds and you can come against them in the Name of Jesus. You can command ungodly thoughts out of your mind in the Name of Jesus.

You may not be able to stop people from dressing in seductive and tempting manners, you may not be able to stop the media from promoting an ungodly sexual culture, but with the Name of Jesus, you can dismantle every thought or temptation that fashion or the media stirs up within you.

I have used this so many times and I guarantee you that it works! When a thought that is contrary to the Word of God arises in my mind, I come against it in the Name of Jesus. I keep doing it until that thought dies.

I've listened to some people who say that you have to replace negative thoughts with positive thoughts. They say that when negative thoughts come to your mind, you should replace them with positive thoughts by imagining yourself doing something positive.

Well, I agree with them. But it's not always as easy as they claim it to be. The reality is that there are some thoughts that will follow you around and hunt you until they bring you down. When you allow yourself to be exposed to pornography, the images of what you saw will not leave you so easily.

The Name of Jesus is one of the divine weapons via which you can disband such thoughts. Command them to leave your mind in the Name of Jesus!

If you really want to be free from unholy thoughts, you can't react lethargically or take it passively. You need to be active and aggressive in dealing with these sinful thoughts.

The devil will use all kind of things to throw immoral, ungodly, or lustful thoughts into your mind. He will use TV, the internet, gossip, magazines, radio, and so on. If you don't derail those thoughts out of your mind, they will derail you out of God's path and His will for your life.

In using the Name of Jesus, you must understand that it is a weapon for those who are in Christ. You can't keep living in sin and expect the Name of Jesus to work for you. Acts 19 gives us an interesting account on this:

*13 Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, 'In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out.'*

*14 "Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this.*

*15 [One day] the evil spirit answered them, 'Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?'*

*16 Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding*

**Acts 19:13-16**

The Name of Jesus didn't work for them because they were not in Christ. They ended up in a worse state than they were initially.

## TONGUES

While I was a student in university, we usually had a session in each semester where the whole school went on a jogging exercise.

As an undergraduate, I was often buried in my books. I never really made a conscious effort to exercise. But when we went on these jogging exercises, I realized that there was a purging that took place in my system.

When I exercise, my digestive system functions better, I feel much lighter, my bowels are cleared, and I feel newness within. I go around full of energy, without feeling foggy or lethargic, and I don't seem to require as much sleep. These are the benefits I derive from exercising the body.

When we speak in tongues, we exercise our "spirit man." First Corinthians 14:4 tells us:

*Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves...*

Many folks in the body of Christ have an issue with speaking in tongues. But let's put God's Word above human or intellectual doctrine. What does God's Word say about speaking in tongues?

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests*

**Ephesians 6:18**

***But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit***

**Jude 1:20**

“Praying in the Spirit” is speaking in tongues. People often use First Corinthians 12:27-31 as a reason for not speaking in tongues. In that passage, Paul said:

***27 Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.***

***28 And God has placed in the church first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, of helping, of guidance, and of different kinds of tongues.***

***29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?***

***30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?***

***31 Now eagerly desire the greater gifts.***

However, Paul was only asking if everyone speaks in tongues. I am sure not everyone was speaking in tongues at that time, just as it is now. But Paul wasn't saying that everyone is not supposed to speak in tongues.

Not speaking in tongues doesn't make you less of a Christian, but it deprives you of the tremendous benefits of speaking in tongues.

Speaking in tongues clears up your spirit man, just as exercise clears out your physical system and gives you physical energy. Speaking in tongues tunes you into the frequency of the Holy Spirit. It launches you into the realm of spiritual mysteries.

***For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit***

## 1 Corinthians 14:2

The devil and his agents shiver when you begin to lash out in tongues. They cannot understand what you're saying, but they know that they have no power over it. Speaking in tongues arouses the Spirit of God in you; when that happens, no stronghold, addiction, or devil can withstand you.

When you set fire to a bush, all the rodents in that area evacuate their holes and take off with breathtaking speed. They can't stand the heat from the fire.

It is the same speed with which lustful desires are quenched when we let the Holy Spirit take over our tongues and start speaking in new tongues. The devil and his agents take off when you engage the language of the Holy Spirit. In spirit, it acts as a fire that casts out the power of the evil one.

Acts 2:3-4 says:

*3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.*

*4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

When you engage this language of the Spirit, the fire is stirred up within you and every form of lust ravaging your flesh is instantly quenched.

Friend, the mysteries you speak are mysteries your mind cannot fathom. Just as Paul said:

*For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful*

**1 Corinthians 14:14**

Although you have no idea what you're saying, the Spirit of God in you communicates with God. The Spirit of God in you knows the right prayer to utter to disband the devil's works.

So when the Spirit prays through you, as you speak in tongues, things that are beyond your comprehension begin to happen in the realm of the Spirit. This is what speaking in tongues will do for you and through you.

You might not understand the power you wield when you speak in tongues, but the devil knows, and he fears it greatly, because he cannot stand against it.

## THE BLOOD

*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin*

**1 John 1:7**

*...and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood*

**Revelations 1:5**

Another powerful weapon at our disposal is the blood of Jesus. As mentioned before, the root of sin lies in the heart. Without addressing sin in the heart, none of us can live the life of holiness that God expects of His children.

*How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God*

## Hebrews 9:14

Friend, there is nothing as precious as the blood of Jesus. That was the greatest sacrifice that was ever offered to God, the only sacrifice that had the power to create an avenue for man to be saved from sin. Nothing else would have purchased our salvation.

The devil and his agents know it and they tremble. They cannot withstand the blood of Jesus Christ.

The sacrifice of the lamb for the Passover, the first of which took place when the Israelites were slaves in Egypt, is symbolic of the potency of the blood of Jesus. In Exodus 12:13, God is instructing the children of Israel, saying:

*The blood will be a sign for you on the houses where you are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you. No destructive plague will touch you when I strike Egypt.*

The blood of Jesus cleanses us from all iniquity and washes us clean. It is also a sign, in the spiritual realm, that nothing destructive has the power to touch or overcome us. Nothing has the potency of completely disarming sin like the blood of Jesus.

If the blood of Jesus could wipe away the sin of the world, just think of what it does to the sin of one person – your sin. No matter how far gone you might feel, how low you think you have fallen, Jesus Christ shed His blood to forgive your sin and to present you sinless in the presence of the Father.

The blood of Jesus guarantees your victory over sin.

*They [God's children] triumphed over him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb*

**Revelations 12:11**

Now, the big question is, “How do I use the blood of Jesus as a weapon against sin?”

First of all, you must acknowledge that Jesus paid the price for your life with His blood. You need to accept the salvation work of Jesus on the cross. In the realm of the spirit, what you refuse to believe in cannot work for you. So the first step is accepting Jesus. At salvation, the blood washes you and purifies you.

Does that mean you won't be tempted again? No. It is one thing to be washed clean; it is another thing to stay clean.

Before Jesus came to earth, man sought atonement, or forgiveness, of their sins through blood sacrifices. Every time they committed a sinful act, they had to make atonement through some sort of sacrifice to God, through the method of giving the sacrifice to the priests at the temple, who would then perform the atonement before God. God gave this instruction regarding atonement through blood sacrifices:

*For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life*

**Leviticus 17:11**

After the death of Jesus Christ on the cross, no other atonement or sacrifice was necessary. Jesus is the Lamb of God, and you can draw on that blood for the atonement of your sins because it has been given to you freely. Those who believe in the power of His blood have forgiveness, now and always, no matter what the sin is.

But it gets better. The blood of Jesus does not only cleanse you; it also helps you to remain cleansed.

When temptations strike and your mind is plunged into unholy thoughts, you can plead the blood of Jesus over your mind. In the spirit realm, what you say is what you see. That's how God created the physical from the spiritual.

When you plead the blood of Jesus over your mind, it a sign.

If the Lord saw the blood of a lamb on the Israelites' doorposts and passed over, how much more effective will the blood of Jesus be in purging your mind of every unholy thought and quenching the fire of lust in the flesh?

The blood is a sign that keeps the devil and his agents far away. They know that they have no true power over anyone who pleads the blood of Jesus. The catch is, you must know and believe the power you have through the blood of Jesus. If you are fighting in a war, but decide to use your rifle as a walking stick, you aren't going to get very far. You must know and believe in the power you wield through Jesus' blood, and remember to draw on it when seeking victory over lust and sinful addictions.

As stubborn as the devil and his agents are, there are things that terrify them. They know when they have to stop, turn around, and head in the other direction. And one situation where the devil and His agents will back down is when you plead the blood of Jesus, in dealing with temptations and sins.

For instance, Matthew 8:28-31 says, speaking of Jesus:

***28 When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way.***

***29 ‘What do you want with us, Son of God?’ they shouted. ‘Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?’  
30 Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding.  
31 The demons begged Jesus, ‘If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs.’***

Jesus had just come into town. The demons saw Jesus and went to meet Him in fear. Jesus hadn't even said a word and they were already begging Him to cast them into the swine. That's how terrified they were. Many people in Jesus' day did not know or believe who Jesus was, but there were no doubts among the demons. They knew Him and they were terrified.

Why didn't those demons run? Because there was nowhere to run to! Evil spirits cannot withstand the power of Jesus. Those demons did not want to be dealt with like their colleagues in Jude 1:6:

***And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their proper dwelling—these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day.***

That was why they begged Jesus to cast them into the drove of hogs.

If the life of the flesh lies in the blood – as stated by God [Leviticus 17:11] –you can be sure that the “demon terrifying” life of Jesus lies in the blood of Jesus. Therefore, when you constantly plead the blood of Jesus over your mind and heart, whatever thought or addiction that has control over your mind in some way will certainly yield to the awesome power of Jesus.

When you show your receipt for an item you own, nobody can take that thing away from you. Salvation and deliverance have been given to you by Jesus, and His blood is your receipt. Even though the devil will prove stubborn, you must engage the devil and his unholy thoughts in warfare with a bold display of your receipt – the blood of Jesus!

Just like no court can take what is yours when you show a proof of legal ownership with a receipt, the devil cannot take away your salvation through sin when you plead the blood of Christ.

Just like a lawyer in court will present and publicly declare proofs of a claim to a property he is fighting for, you must present and publicly proclaim that the blood of Jesus has saved you from sin. You must say it out for the devil and his agents to hear you.

Another way through which the blood is applied is through communion.

***Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in him***

**John 6:56**

Jesus can't be dwelling in you, and you dwelling in Him, with you still remaining a captive of lust. Darkness has no choice but to bow to the light.

A number of people in the body of Christ take communion as some sort of spiritual "ritual," or religious exercise. But friend, the communion is much more than that. It is a mystery because it carries power to deliver miracles when taken in line with the scriptures.

However, outside Christ, taking the communion is dangerous:

***27 So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.***

***28 Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.***

*29 For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves.*

**1 Corinthians 11:27-29**

## **FASTING**

*Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke?*

**Isaiah 58:6**

Fasting is one spiritual exercise that every Christian needs to engage in. Nothing tunes you into the realm of the spirit like fasting. Fasting subjects your flesh to your spirit, and subjects your spirit to the Holy Spirit. Fasting breaks yokes, destroys bondage, sets captives free, and puts you in command of the supernatural.

Before Jesus went on a forty-day fast, there was no account of Jesus performing any miracle. But after Jesus' fast, the miracles began.

Nothing allows supernatural power to work in and through you like fasting. That power breaks the yoke of sin and addiction.

### **KEY POINT**

**FASTING SUBJECTS YOUR FLESH TO YOUR SPIRIT, AND SUBJECTS YOUR SPIRIT TO THE HOLY SPIRIT**

\*\*\*~::~~\*\*\*

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When your fasting is to the Lord, it destroys satanic patterns of sin; fasting also launches you into a greater depth in your relationship with God:

***8 Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard.***

***9 Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I***

**Isaiah 58:8-9**

Friend, God is calling men and women out of a life of sin into a deep union (relationship) with Him. Fasting breaks the yoke of sin and launches you into the depth of relationship that God desires.

The problem with many folks is that they come out of sin but they fail to enter into a deep relationship with God. Having nothing solid and deep to hold on to – no strong spiritual root system – they fall back into sin. The endless downward spiral of coming out and going back into sin continues, stunting their spiritual growth. A lack of depth in one's relationship with God creates lukewarm Christianity:

***15 I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!***

***16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth***

**Revelations 3:15-16**

Genuine fasting has the potency of making you so spiritually “hot” that the devil cannot stand or handle you.

As mentioned above, fasting subjects your flesh to your spirit, and your spirit to the Spirit of God. When the Spirit of God gains dominance over your flesh via fasting, the desires of your flesh become easily aligned to the will of God.

Lustful addictions can be very forceful on the flesh, a fact that you have most likely discovered by now. When an addicted person tries to resist succumbing to an addictive urge, it's almost too much to take. Failing to give in to the compelling urge can cause some to get sick. For some, they find it difficult to think straight. In some cases, the lustful urge causes something like physical withdrawal symptoms, which can then force the individual into an act that the victim doesn't desire, but just cannot withstand.

Fasting, however, gives you that extra spiritual strength needed to withstand such urges. Fasting empowers you to cast out every unholy desire tormenting your flesh.

***But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you***

**Acts 1:8**

Fasting keeps that power fresh and new within you. It renews your spiritual strength. That's why Isaiah 40:31 says:

***But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint***

**KJV**

Fasting is not something you do once in a blue moon. It should not be something you do once every couple of years.

Rather, fasting is a weapon you must engage regularly in order to lay hold of God's power and manifest it regularly.

## **ACTION STEPS:**

*“God’s power, which disarms the devil any day, and any time, lies in the Word. The Word of God is a major weapon at your disposal.”*

*“Another powerful weapon at the disposal of every child of God is the name of Jesus.”*

*“Speaking in tongues clears up your spirit man, just as exercise clears out your physical system and gives you physical energy.”*

*“The devil and his agents cannot withstand the blood of Jesus Christ, nor the power it gives us to serve God and bring others to know Him.”*

*“Nothing endues you with supernatural power like fasting. That power breaks the yoke of sin and addiction.”*

Consider the above spiritual weapons: The Word of God, the Name of Jesus, Speaking in Tongues, the Blood of Jesus, and Fasting. Are you using each of those powerful weapons to their fullest degree? Which one(s) have you never tried?

Spend time in the upcoming week(s) praying and asking God for grace to use these spiritual weapons in establishing your freedom from sin or addiction. Come up with a clear plan to use them in the months ahead and take note of the victories you gain through their power.

## **PRAYER POINT:**

Heavenly Father, help me to realize that believing in you, yet neglecting the spiritual tools at my disposal is like having electricity but never turning on the

lights. Switch on the lights in my life as I begin to use the powerful weapons of your spirit. Give me wisdom as to which ones I should start with and how to regularly use them in order to gain lasting victories and grow in spirit and truth.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### STAYING CLEAN

*If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning*

**2 Peter 2:20**

It is one thing to get clean. It is another thing to stay clean.

It is one thing to denounce sin; it is another thing to stay away from sin.

It is one thing to be delivered from a sinful habit; it is another thing to remain delivered from a sinful habit.

Living a righteous life doesn't exempt you from temptation.

The Word of God carries the nature and power of God. Jesus was the Word of God in the flesh [John 1:14], yet that didn't exempt Him from being tempted. In fact, the Bible makes it clear that He was tempted with all manner of temptation, just like we are:

*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin*

**Hebrews 4:15**

You could be anointed by the Holy Spirit. You could be a church leader or a minister. None of this will exempt you from being tempted.

Jesus was in the wilderness fasting after receiving the anointing of the Holy Spirit, and the tempter still showed up. And, as mentioned in an earlier chapter, when Jesus overcame through the Word of God, the devil “left him until an opportune time.”

You can be free of temptation today and yet be tempted tomorrow. The temptation in itself is not what matters. What matters is your ability to overcome.

### **KEY POINT**

**LIVING A RIGHTEOUS LIFE DOESN'T EXEMPT YOU FROM  
TEMPTATION**

\*\*\*~\*\*~\*\*\*

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First Peter 5:8 warns us:

***Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.***

One primary reason that many folks perpetually fall back into a life of sin, even after obtaining a temporary victory, is due to a lack of alertness. They go through life without being (spiritually) sensitive.

This lack of alertness, also known as spiritual lethargy, stunts their spiritual growth. They become little more than babies in spirit, who – in the process of trying to walk – just keep rising and falling, again and again.

God's desire is for us to come to a place of spiritual maturity where we rise and stay risen. This doesn't happen automatically; it takes effort and commitment. We live in a world that is full of sin, yet God expects us to live in it without conforming to it:

*Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will*

**Romans 12:2**

This obviously takes effort and commitment as well.

How can we stay clean? How do we grow into full maturity in Christ and in the things of God? How do we remain transformed, so that we can be empowered to know God's "good, pleasing and perfect will" – and follow it faithfully?

In addition to utilizing the weapons of the spirit, spoken of in the previous chapter, here are a few keys to victory.

## **GUARD YOUR HEART DILIGENTLY**

*Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it*

**Proverbs 4:23**

Friend, I cannot overemphasize the central role that your heart plays in enabling you to maintain a state of holiness before God.

In Matthew 15:17-19, Jesus said:

*17 Don't you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body?*

*18 But the things that come out of a person's mouth come from the heart, and these defile them.*

*19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts — murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander.*

In this scripture, what enters the mouth is symbolic of an act (the act of eating), which is not as important as what comes from the heart.

Man looks at your acts; God looks at your heart.

Unfortunately, the enemy has a firm grip over many of the most influential mediums via which information goes into the heart of people. With his grip over the movie industry, music, the internet, and other forms of media, the enemy sows seeds of unholy thoughts into the mind of people. As a result, our minds are constantly flooded with ungodly information and imaginations, which drive many people into ungodly acts.

### **KEY POINT**

**MAN LOOKS AT YOUR ACTS; GOD LOOKS AT YOUR HEART**

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However, as powerful as the mind is, God's original intent is for you to have control over your mind, and not your mind having control over you:

***4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ***

**2 Corinthians 10:4-5, NIV.**

God has given you the power to control what goes into your mind. You can shut out information or content that does not conform to God's will or purpose. That's why God has asked us to guard our mind with all diligence. God would not have asked us to do so if we lacked the power or the ability to obey His instruction.

The moment you identify something that passes ungodly information into your mind, cut it off! Jesus said:

***And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to go into hell***

**Matthew 5:30**

God is interested in the state of your heart because it is the driver's seat of your life. Anything that you allow to dominate your heart dominates your life. That's why one of the most potent prayers you can ever pray is for God to cut off and uproot anything that corrupts your heart.

Another channel the devil uses to successfully corrupt the hearts of many young people is music. Many folks will argue that there is nothing wrong with secular music, especially when it doesn't overtly portray or promote negative vices. But one thing many people fail to realize is that music affects the human spirit. It has the power to lift your spirit. And the direction in which your spirit is lifted is determined by the kind of music you listen to and the source of that music.

You cannot fill your life with worldly music and expect to live a godly life.

*...what fellowship can light have with darkness?*

**2 Corinthians 6:14**

Godly music exalts and glorifies God. Also, the source of the music is also crucial. In other words, the person that sings a song makes a huge difference in how the song affects you.

Many folks listen to music written or sung by people who have sold their soul to the devil and receive their inspiration from demons. The devil cleverly rides on such music to influence and subtly corrupt the heart of its listeners.

Those Christians who listen to such music do not understand why their relationship with God is in shambles. They would find immediate improvement in their relationship with the Lord if they made the effort to “keep their heart” in this one area of music. Listening to Godly music lifts your heart and surrounds you with the Spirit of God; listening to secular music often has the exact opposite effect because it will surround you with demons and break down every spiritual wall of resistance to sin that you might have built prior to listening to such music.

### **KEY POINT**

**YOU CANNOT FILL YOUR LIFE WITH WORLDLY MUSIC AND EXPECT  
TO LIVE A GODLY LIFE**

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I remember a friend who struggled hard with a smoking habit. He was trying to quit, but just couldn't do it. After watching him for a while, I realized that he often smoked after listening to some lively hip hop music; and the singers and composers of this music were largely marijuana smokers.

Friend, you can't listen to ungodly music from an ungodly musician and not be driven into a state of ungodliness.

In First Samuel 16:14-23, the Bible talks about Saul being tormented by an evil spirit. David would play the lyre for the king, and the evil spirit would depart from Saul.

Was this because David was skillful in music? Certainly not.

There must have been many other skillful musicians in Israel. David's main job at that time entailed looking after his father's animals. There must have been other people in Israel whose fulltime job was playing music. What made David's music so powerful?

The defining factor for David was the presence of God:

*17 So Saul said to his attendants, "Find someone who plays well and bring him to me."*

*18 One of the servants answered, "I have seen a son of Jesse of Bethlehem who knows how to play the harp. He is a brave man and a warrior. He speaks well and is a fine-looking man. And the Lord is with him"*

**1 Samuel 16:17-18**

The presence of God with David was the vital factor that separated David from others, even other talented musicians. When David played the lyre, the evil spirit that troubled Saul had to leave because it was overcome with the presence of God.

This couldn't have happened if David had a spirit that was contrary to the Spirit of God.

Again, in Second Kings Chapter three, Elisha needed the power of God to come upon him and he sent for a harpist:

*14 Elisha said, 'As surely as the Lord Almighty lives, whom I serve, if I did not have respect for the presence of Jehoshaphat king of Judah, I would not look at you or even notice you.*

*15 But now bring me a harpist.' While the harpist was playing, the hand of the Lord came upon Elisha*

**2 Kings 3:14-15**

Despite the fact that Elisha was a prophet of God, God wouldn't have moved if the harpist had sold his or her soul to the devil.

Friend, the music you listen to shapes the atmosphere of your spirit and the state of your heart. From experience, I can tell you that it's much easier to live a holy life and overcome sin when you surround yourself with music of praise and worship to God.

### **KEY POINT**

**THE MUSIC YOU LISTEN TO SHAPES THE ATMOSPHERE OF YOUR SPIRIT AND THE STATE OF YOUR HEART**

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**FELLOWSHIPING WITH THE BRETHREN**

*...not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching*

**Hebrews 10:25**

As much as God wants us to develop and grow in our personal relationship with Him, God doesn't want us to forsake the gathering of the brethren, which is fellowshiping with other believers. I've personally come to discover that there is a level of anointing that you only experience in the congregation of God's people. It is a "corporate anointing" that cannot be accessed individually.

Friend, you cannot despise fellowship and expect to experience God's power. Check out great men and women of God, both in the Bible and in our time, and you will discover that they do not joke with fellowship with other Christians. There is so much power that we can draw on by partaking in fellowship with other believers. From the beginning of Christianity, the greatest moves and outpouring of the Holy Spirit takes place in the fellowship of believers:

*1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.*

*2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting.*

*3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.*

*4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them*

**Acts 2:1-4**

The greatest move of the Holy Spirit takes place in the gathering of God's people. That's why David said:

*I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord.'*

**Psalms 122:1**

When the devil succeeds in luring you out of church, and fellowship becomes something that you despise or show little regard for, you become an easy prey for the devil. It becomes much easier for him to separate you from God, while keeping you in sin and making you comfortable in the pleasure of sexual sin.

Being genuinely committed to fellowshiping with God's people enables you to tap into an unusual grace and power that will enable you live a holy life.

Friend, it's much easier to break a single broom stick than it is to break a broom. Do not stand alone!

And if you have found that your church lacks the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, look for a church where the transforming power of the Holy Spirit can work on and in you.

## **KEEPING THE RIGHT COMPANY**

*1 Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers,*

*2 but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.*

*3 That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers*

**Psalm 1:1-3**

Show me your friends and I will tell you who you are.

While I was studying in university, I began to experience a spiritual transformation. Gradually, I got to a point where I knew that I could not hang out with some friends because they influenced me negatively.

One night while I was studying, a friend came over to my room to study with me. As we were studying, he began to talk about a man (whom we both knew) who had recently tried to have a sexual affair with a particular lady. His description became so graphic that it began to stir up unholy thoughts in my mind. I could clearly recognize that it definitely was not good for my mind.

After that night, I knew needed to change my circle of friends. I knew it would not be easy for me to just disconnect completely from some of these friends. I had to go to God in prayer and ask Him to cut off every relationship that influenced me negatively.

Gradually, God began to dissolve these relationships without my old friends having any form of ill feelings towards me. As this happened, God replaced this old circle of friends with new friends that have been a blessing to me and a positive influence in my life.

God's call on our life is to come out of a life of sin, into a life of holiness. God's desire is for you and me to be separated unto Him. In so doing, the company we keep is crucial to the realization of God's desire for us to be separated unto holiness.

Friend, the truth is that the journey on the path of righteousness could very well be a lonely one. Jeremiah, a prophet of God, said:

*I never sat in the company of revelers, never made merry with them; I sat alone because your hand was on me and you had filled me with indignation*

**Jeremiah 15:17**

Keeping the wrong company dilutes the power of God over your life.

Sometimes the devil will intentionally and subtly sow the wrong friends into a person's life. Such a friendship may look and feel so innocent, yet the person is being spiritually sapped by this relationship until he or she finally falls into a state of spiritual bankruptcy.

A typical example of this occurred with the Israelites, who had a mixed multitude among them:

*37 And the children of Israel journeyed from Rameses to Succoth, about six hundred thousand on foot that were men, beside children.*

*38 And a mixed multitude went up also with them; and flocks, and herds, even very much cattle.*

**Exodus 12:37-38, KJV**

This mixed multitude comprised of some people who were not Israelites, those who had no covenant with God.

What was the effect of this mixed multitude on Israel? Numbers 11:1-10 gives us a clear account:

*1And when the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp.*

*2And the people cried unto Moses; and when Moses prayed unto the LORD, the fire was quenched.*

*3And he called the name of the place Taberah: because the fire of the LORD burnt among them.*

*4And the mixed multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat?*

*5We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick:*

*6But now our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes.*

*7And the manna was as coriander seed, and the color thereof as the color of bdellium.*

*8And the people went about, and gathered it, and ground it in mills, or beat it in a mortar, and baked it in pans, and made cakes of it: and the taste of it was as the taste of fresh oil.*

*9And when the dew fell upon the camp in the night, the manna fell upon it.*

*10Then Moses heard the people weep throughout their families, every man in the door of his tent: and the anger of the LORD was kindled greatly; Moses also was displeased”*

**KJV**

In this account, the complaints of the Israelites made God so upset that His fire consumed some folks in the camp.

It seemed, however, that their first experience of God’s wrath wasn’t enough. Verse four says that the “mixed multitude” began to lust for delicacy, and then the Israelites began to complain again.

Can you see the influence that unbelievers can have, even on a whole group of believers?

### **KEY POINT**

**KEEPING THE WRONG COMPANY DILUTES THE POWER OF GOD OVER YOUR LIFE**

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In Matthew 13:7, Jesus talked about the seed that fell among thorns, sprouted up, but got choked. Keeping the wrong association can choke out the presence of God in your life.

Jesus also gave the parable of the wheat among tares (weeds).

*24 Jesus told them another parable: ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field.*

*25 But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away.*

*26 When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared’*

**Matthew 13:24-26**

*37 He answered, ‘The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man.*

*38 The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one,*

*39 and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels’*

**Matthew 13:37-39**

If you’ve ever worked on a farm or in a garden, you know that a weed deprives other plants of the nutrients they require to grow and be fruitful.

Sister, you can’t afford to hang around with ladies who take pride in bragging about their sexual exploits with men. As a daughter of the most holy one, those people are of an entirely different class, and they will only drag you down to their level.

Brother, you can't afford to pay attention to folks who spend their time thinking and talking about lustful or unholy things. Folks like this are only a threat to your destiny!

You must learn to hang around people whose desire is to draw you closer to God.

*As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another...*

**Proverbs 27:17**

Hanging around folks who have a dampened spiritual life will only kill your spiritual fervency and rob you of intimacy with God.

*Do not give the devil a foothold*

**Ephesians 4:27**

## **RESIST THE DEVIL**

Give the devil an inch and he will take a mile; he will take more than that if he can, and rob you of your God-ordained destiny.

Friend, Satan is a master opportunist. He is always seeking for an opportunity to bring God's people down. That's why Peter warned us:

*Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour*

**1 Peter 5:8**

When you carefully and prayerfully read through the account of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness [Matthew 4:1-11, Luke 4:1-13], you will notice that the devil went from a subtle temptation, such as turning stone to bread, to a grave temptation: worshiping Satan.

Very often, especially for folks who have had struggles with sexual addictions, this is how the devil comes with his temptation. He starts with something subtle, trivial, and unassuming, which will slowly – but undoubtedly – plunge you into the deep waters of sin.

This is why you must not allow the devil to have a gateway into your life.

***21 Test everything. Hold on to the good.***

***22 Avoid every kind of evil.***

**1 Thessalonians 5:21-22**

The moment you sense that you are being faced with a temptation, or a situation that will lead you into temptation, flee! Do not wait for the temptation to be full blown and so overwhelming that you have little chance of escape. First Corinthians 6:18 instructs us:

***Flee from sexual immorality...***

There is nothing to negotiate. Flee from it!

Joseph fled and his destiny was preserved. So flee!

But, you may ask, what do you do when the temptation wells up within you and you cannot flee from yourself? What can you do when you find yourself in a situation where there is nowhere to run?

Resist!

***Resist the devil, and he will flee from you***

**James 4:7**

And don't just be passive about it. There is no point being gentle with an aggressive enemy; it will only get you nowhere fast. You have to be aggressive in your resistance.

By being aggressive, I'm referring to spiritual aggression.

Sister, when that guy begins to romance you, speaking sweet words of adoration or love, just so he can sleep with you, don't be gentle about your resistance.

Brother, when you see that pop-up ad inviting you "just for a chat," don't just "check it out this once" or you may find that the "inch" you've given the enemy has turned into a full blown internet porn addiction.

When Peter was trying to dissuade Jesus from His death, Matthew 16:23 says:

***Jesus turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.'***

Jesus looked beyond Peter and saw the tempter. You need to look beyond people who make you fall into sin, and address the devil behind the mask with a holy aggression.

The devil will hide behind people to make you keep your cool. Sometimes he will use people you love, respect, or cherish to tempt you or to pull you back into your past. You must not allow the devil to succeed in his mission of getting you to succumb to his will.

Friend, sexual temptations are extremely difficult to resist with human effort.

I have experienced it; I know how it is. But whenever you are tempted, you need to look beyond the chemical reactions arousing you to the power of God that is within you. It is God's power that enables you overcome the temptations of the devil, and trample on his head!

From experience, I have also discovered that whenever you succeed in overcoming temptations thrown at you, the devil withdraws, just like he did when Jesus overcame the temptation in the wilderness.

In the account of Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, the devil kept on throwing temptations at Jesus until Jesus resisted him after the third temptation.

For the first and second temptation, Jesus was quoting the scriptures. When Jesus declared what God's Word said, the devil would drop one temptation and subtly move to another one.

But at the third temptation, Jesus didn't just quote scriptures. He quoted the scripture and resisted the devil.

Friend, a resistance that is backed with God's Word will certainly disarm the devil.

### **KEY POINT**

A RESISTANCE THAT IS BACKED WITH GOD'S WORD WILL  
CERTAINLY DISARM THE DEVIL

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## WATCH AND PRAY

*Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak*

**Matthew 26:41**

When Jesus went up to the mountain to pray, before His betrayal, He specifically gave the above instructions to Peter, James, and John. They had gone up on the mountain with Jesus.

Jesus' closest followers failed in carrying out this instruction. Hours later, Peter fell into temptation and denied Jesus.

To watch is to be spiritually sensitive. To pray is to communicate with the Father – and not just through a mere monologue, but through dialogue with Him. You cannot just speak; you also need to listen for the voice of His Spirit in your heart.

Being spiritually sensitive enables you to avoid traps set for you by the enemy. It enables you be in the right place at the right time. If Peter was sensitive, he would have avoided the situation in which he denied Jesus. But thank God for His mercies; He is in the business of forgiveness and second chances.

Friend, your spiritual sensitivity is aided by prayer. You need to be committed in prayer. Prayer sharpens your spiritual antenna. The deeper you enter into a lifestyle of prayer, the easier it becomes for you to pick things up in the realm of the spirit.

Temptations, very often, come in a subtle manner. But with prayer, you enter a realm where you sense the enemy's agenda and you take the right steps to avoid it.

Some years back, a friend told me about an experience that a renowned pastor had. This pastor is a great man of God, whose teaching was primarily on holiness.

One day, he was approaching a building with his wife and they both heard a woman crying out loud in the building. The pastor was about to go into the building when he changed his mind and his wife went in.

Immediately she went into the dark building, a nude woman ran towards her and held her tight, thinking it was the pastor. It was a trap!

The plan was for the pastor to come in, and when he entered, the woman would rush at the pastor, and a photographer hidden there would take a picture of the woman and the pastor.

It was a plan to destroy this pastor's ministry. But thank God the pastor was sensitive to the leading of God's Spirit!

Spiritual sensitivity averts destruction.

In addition to sharpening your spiritual sensitivity, prayer charges you up.

Even if you are not able to sense the temptation on the way, prayer enables you to be fully charged and empowered to overcome the temptation.

Friend, it is much easier to overcome sexual temptation when you're charged up in the place of prayer than when you live a "prayerless" life.

As you constantly commune with God in prayer, the nature of God begins to rob off on you like it did on Moses [Exodus 34:29-35]. You get to the point where you love what God loves and hate what God hates.

Men of God are not perfect. But when a man of God falls into sexual sin, take a closer look and you will discover that he has not been watching and praying as he should.

### **KEY POINT**

#### **SPIRITUAL SENSITIVITY AVERTS DESTRUCTION**

\*\*\*\*~\*\*~\*\*\*\*

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### **SEEK GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS**

You cannot touch what you do not reach out for.

At the root of every genuine encounter is a longing; a desperate hunger or thirst. This is why Jesus said:

***Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled***

**Matthew 5:6**

The righteousness Jesus was referring to is the righteousness of God, not the futile righteousness of man, which is like filthy rags before God [Isaiah 64:6]. The righteousness of God is a nature that comes upon you as a result of a genuine quest.

Again, Jesus said:

***But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well***

**Matthew 6:33**

Many folks in the church are struggling with sinful habits because they have not sought the righteousness of God. They are still relying on their own righteousness, and their personal list of do's and don'ts.

When you become filled with the righteousness of God, it becomes easy for you to live your life in right standing before God.

However, you can only become filled with God's righteousness when you hunger and thirst for it.

When God fills you with His righteousness, every taste for sin within you dies. You don't struggle with habits because the unholy urge in you is completely dissolved by the holy nature of God that is imparted to you.

Because darkness vanishes at the emergence of light, sinful habits are destroyed when you become ravished by God's righteousness, which places you in a realm where holiness becomes your nature.

### **KEY POINT**

**WHEN GOD FILLS YOU WITH HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, EVERY TASTE FOR SIN WITHIN YOU DIES**

\*\*\*~\*\*~\*\*\*

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The devil would not dare to stir up those images at times when I was on fire for the Lord because I would simply look for a quiet place – even if I had to lock myself in the bathroom – and begin to pray in tongues.

However, at times when I was tired and lying on my bed waiting to fall asleep, these unholy images and thoughts would begin to well up in my mind.

At the times these thoughts came, I would feel so tired and find it so difficult to get up and wrestle the devil and these thoughts in prayer. I used to feel exactly the same way Peter, James, and John felt when they went up to the mountain with Jesus, and He said to them:

*...The spirit is willing, but the body is weak*

**Matthew 26:41**

This gradually became a pattern that I was uncomfortable with but helpless about because those thoughts flooded my mind at the point of weakness.

I knew it was a sin for me to entertain these thoughts so I would wake up in the morning, full of guilt, and start asking God for forgiveness.

One day, I got fed up. I recognized that the whole thing was like the story of the enemy that attacked in the night [Matthew 13:15]. I started to cry out to God for help concerning this. I held a fast for a couple of weeks, asking God to clothe me with His own righteousness and give me the grace to walk in it. I needed a genuine purging from within. I needed God's fire to run through me and destroy every seed sown in my heart by these thoughts.

When God answered my prayers, I knew it. That was the point where the devil's hold over my mind was completely broken. Before then, it seemed as if I had control over my mind during the day, and lost that control at night. But after God answered my prayer, the difference was clear.

Immediately after my deliverance, I had two mysterious experiences. One night when I was about to sleep, just after I had spent time praying, I fell into a state where I was half awake.

I was conscious of my surroundings, but I was under the power of the Holy Spirit. I felt something running through my chest. It was so powerful and impacted so much pressure that I almost felt like resisting it, but at the same time I knew it was the Spirit of God working on me and I wanted more of it. Immediately the experience was over, I fell asleep.

The following night, I had another experience. This time, it was a dream. I was kneeling down and there were about two or three fellows who were laying hands on me and praying for me.

These men seemed to look like people I knew. But the two or three hands of these fellows felt so heavy on my head. It was as though I was carrying a heavy load on my head. As their hands were on my head, I felt a headache.

When they were done, I jokingly commented on how heavy their hands were. Then I woke up from that dream, and my head felt heavy. Deep down within me, I knew this wasn't an ordinary experience.

After these experiences, it was as though I had a new mind. The struggles of the past became almost like a walk in the park. God's righteousness had clothed me and to this day I rely completely on it in maintaining a heart of purity before God. I cherish the newness of my mind so much that I make every effort to ensure that it remains new through a daily and rich fellowship with God in prayer and in the Word.

Friend, you may cry out to God and not have the kind of experiences that I had. But I will assure you of two things.

First, when you are genuinely hungry and thirsty for God's righteousness, God will satisfy you with it. God gave that promise and He wouldn't change His mind on it.

Second, when God clothes you with His righteousness, you will know. When God's nature of righteousness becomes your nature, you will know. There will be no doubt in your spirit that you are now operating in God's righteousness. Maintaining purity at heart will cease to be a struggle; rather, purity will become your nature.

## **ACTION STEPS:**

*"God has asked us to guard our mind with all diligence."*

Take note of the movies you watch this week, the music you listen to, and the websites you access. At the end of the week, look over the list and determine whether you truly are "guarding your mind with all diligence." If not, set some safeguards to help you do so.

*“There is a level of anointing that you only experience in the congregation of God’s people.”*

How often do you connect with the people of God, spending time in fellowship and worship with Godly people? Make it a point to join a congregation of believers where you will experience spiritual growth.

*“The company we keep is crucial to the realization of God’s desire for us to be separated unto holiness.”*

Think of those you hang out with and communicate with on a regular basis. Are they folks whom you know will help you grow and remain strong in spirit? If not, pray and ask God to work in your life to remove those friendships that are not healthy for your Christian life.

**PRAYER POINT:**

Dear Lord, help me to take advantage of the things you have put in place to help me stay clean and grow into full maturity in Christ. Empower me to know your “good, pleasing and perfect will” and to follow it faithfully. Thank you for the keys to victory, which you have given to help me live in victory over sin and the devil.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### THE BEAUTY OF HOLINESS

*Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God*

**2 Corinthians 7:1**

*For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life*

**1 Thessalonians 4:7**

When God clothes you with His righteousness, holiness becomes a lifestyle for you. God's righteousness causes you to be in the right standing with God, both in act and at heart.

God's righteousness brings you to the realm of effortless holiness. You don't struggle to maintain purity at heart because your heart becomes lightened up with a passionate fire for God and His kingdom.

Literally, God governs your heart and all you long for are the things of God.

#### KEY POINT

WHEN GOD CLOTHES YOU WITH HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS, HOLINESS  
BECOMES A LIFESTYLE FOR YOU

\*\*\*\*~\*\*~\*\*\*\*

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Oh, how beautiful it will be for each and every one in today's church to have an experience of this. This is the realm God wants us all to operate in.

Many years back, when someone portrayed himself or herself to be pursuing after holiness, he or she became a laughing stock. Even today, in many circles, a perceived act of separation unto God qualifies you to be branded as weird and out of touch.

This has blinded the eyes of so many Christians from some of the precious benefits that holiness confers. Many lack an understanding of the pure and precious beauty of holiness.

Psalm 29:2 says:

***Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness***

**KJV**

When holiness becomes your lifestyle, beauty is conferred on you.

I'm not talking about any kind of physical beauty, which fades as time goes by. I'm talking about a supernatural beauty that comes from above and penetrates every part of your life until your whole life is ablaze with the supernatural beauty of God.

***Your statutes, Lord, stand firm; holiness adorns your house for endless days.***

**Psalm 93:5**

If holiness brings beauty to God's house, how much more will it bring beauty to you, whom the Bible has declared to be the temple of God [1 Corinthians 6:19]?

Friend, it doesn't matter what mess you've been involved in. It doesn't matter how ugly your life may look right now. You might have been involved in prostitution, or you might have been a notorious womanizer. You might have been involved in extramarital affairs, multiple sexual affairs, pornography, sex scandals, or whatever.

As long as you are willing to accept Jesus into your life and pursue holiness, God can beautify your life beyond recognition. As a matter of fact, it is just what He is waiting to do.

God can take away your filthy "garment" and replace it with a spotless garment; He can beautify your life with His holiness.

*1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,  
2 to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,  
3 and provide for those who grieve in Zion - to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair. They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the LORD for the display of his splendor*

**Isaiah 61:1-3**

Not only is God ready to set you free from the captivity of your past and free you from the grief and guilt that sin bestows upon a sinner, but He is also waiting to turn that ugly situation around by giving you a crown of beauty instead of ashes.

There are great benefits when we live a life of holiness! Friend, you cannot partake of God's divine nature of holiness and remain ordinary. There will be something supernatural about you.

Many folks, even many Christians, don't know what wonderful benefits are theirs to claim as they pursue a life of holiness. Even when some strive to walk in holiness, their ignorance robs them of the rich rewards that such a life can afford to give them.

Those who claim to live a holy life and lack any tangible proof or testimony of the rich benefits of holiness are simply victims of ignorance [Hosea 4:6].

In this chapter, you will read of five benefits that a life of holiness confers on you. There are so many more benefits than just these five. However, these five particular ones are vital and your knowledge of these benefits can cause a total transformation in your Christian life.

Are you ready? Let's go!

## 1. YOU EXPERIENCE DIVINE VISITATIONS

*9 The LORD said to Moses, 'I am going to come to you in a dense cloud, so that the people will hear me speaking with you and will always put their trust in you.' Then Moses told the LORD what the people had said.*

*10 And the LORD said to Moses, 'Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow. Have them wash their clothes*

*11 and be ready by the third day, because on that day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people'*

**Exodus 19:9-11**

Divine visitation is one of the primary benefits we enjoy when we live a life of holiness. Holiness is the nature of God. When we share in this nature, we experience the visitation of God. His presence is with us.

Before the fall of Adam, he had regular fellowship with God. God would come down to the Garden of Eden in the cool of the day to fellowship with Adam. But when Adam sinned, he was expelled from the Garden of Eden and his fellowship with God was terminated.

Today, many Christian gatherings lack divine visitation simply because they harbor sin. It is a dangerous thing to experience divine visitation when you are not holy, as evidenced by the following Scripture:

***Even the priests, who approach the LORD, must consecrate themselves, or the LORD will break out against them***

**Exodus 19:22**

Friend, God might not visit you the way He visited Moses and the Israelites at the wilderness, but when God visits you, you will know. Something about you will certainly change for the better.

God visited Jacob and His life never remained the same. Genesis 32:24-30 tells us the story:

***24 So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak.***

***25 When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man.***

***26 Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."***

***27 The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered.***

***28 Then the man said, “Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome.”***

***29 Jacob said, “Please tell me your name.” But he replied, “Why do you ask my name?” Then he blessed him there.***

***30 So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, “It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.”***

God may decide to visit you in a dream, or through a vision. He may decide to visit you in a disguised manner so that you don't even know it is God. He may decide to send an angel to you.

How will you know when God visits you? In Joshua 3:5, the Bible says:

***Joshua told the people, ‘Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you.’***

When God visits you, amazing things happen. When God visits you, the impossible becomes possible.

The devil sows seeds of iniquity in the life of God's people in order to prevent them from experiencing the divine visitation that will launch them into greater heights in life.

Look at Abraham. God had great plans for Abraham. But as long as he was in Haran, which was a land of sin and idolatry, God could not do much with and in Abraham's life.

When Abraham had reached the age of seventy-five, God told him to leave Haran. It was only after Abraham left that land of sin that God began to do amazing things in his life.

That was when God struck a covenant with Abraham.

That was when Abraham got to the point where he became a friend of God.

That was when he came to be known as the “father of faith.”

Many of us want to experience greater depths in our walk with God, but until we get to the point where we completely give up a life of sin and embrace holiness as a lifestyle, we cannot experience a deep intimacy in our walk with God.

Forsake the lusts of the flesh and get ready for divine visitation. Having God’s presence in your life is greater than anything you let go of to attain it.

## **2. YOU BECOME GOD’S SHOW PIECE**

*...They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of his splendor*

**Isaiah 61:3**

When you are separated unto God in holiness, God adorns your life such that you become His show piece.

Holiness sets the pace for divine direction. When God begins to order your steps, he orders them into green pastures [Psalm 23:2].

When others are experiencing a famine in their life, you’ll be experiencing God’s abundant grace and provision.

God's desire is for you and me to become a light unto the world, to draw unto His light those who sit in darkness. However, holiness is what makes you a light.

## KEY POINT

### HOLINESS SETS THE PACE FOR DIVINE DIRECTION

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When you take a close look at a light bulb, you will discover three things. The first thing is that the light that shines through the bulb is produced by a coil inside the bulb. Friend, without God dwelling in you, you cannot be a light to the world. You are the bulb; God is the coil. It is God in you that makes you a light; and it takes holiness to have God dwelling in you.

The second thing you'll discover is that the bulb has to be clear for the light to shine brightly. You shouldn't expect to see any light from a black bulb. The clearer the bulb, the brighter it shines. That is why a white bulb will definitely shine brighter than a colored bulb; it is white and clear.

The purer we are, the brighter we shine in a world of darkness. As God's light shines more and more through us, we become God's show piece to the world. The world will look at us and see God's light shining through us, simply because we are pure vessels through which God's light can shine.

*Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn*

**Isaiah 60:3**

Friend, God is looking for men and women who will be His show piece for this generation. God is looking for men and women who will be His show piece in the world of business, finance, politics, academics, sports, fashion, and other fields of endeavor.

You cannot be God's show piece and be ordinary. Your representation of the supernatural God confers on you the extraordinary status.

But, before this, holiness is a fundamental requirement.

### **3. YOU ARE POSITIONED ON THE HIGHWAY OF HOLINESS**

*And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it*

**Isaiah 35:8**

The way of holiness is a highway.

On a highway, you don't move slowly. You move with speed.

When you operate in holiness, you operate on a highway. Things begin to work out for you with ease. You don't experience stop light after stop light. Your spiritual life experiences daily renewal by virtue of the power of God that is actively at work in you. When you open your mouth to pray, mysteries happen.

*The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]*

**James 5:6 (Amplified Bible)**

You cannot operate on this “highway of Holiness” and be ordinary. Holiness is the foundation upon which God’s power rests in a person’s life.

You cannot carry this divine power and yet operate in slow motion. At God’s appointed time, things will happen without stress. You will begin to experience the miracle-working power of God based on His divine timetable.

Another experience you will have on the “holiness highway” is what I refer to as the magical touch.

When you get involved in something, it just works. It doesn’t matter how bad or improbable that thing is. Even if the situation is dead and buried, your involvement causes it to resurrect and begin to work perfectly well. It is God’s hand on your life; there is no other explanation for it.

Psalm 1:1-3 tells us:

*1 Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers.  
2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.  
3 He is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither. Whatever he does prospers.*

This passage is talking about the person who separates himself or herself to God. It’s talking about the person who is committed to holiness.

*...Whatever he does prospers.*

That’s the magical touch.

Every employer wants to hire someone with the magical touch. Everyone wants to do business with someone with the magical touch. In a world full of crisis, everyone wants to be lead by someone with a magical touch.

You cannot have this magical touch and not command great value. Friend, this magical touch is available on the “holiness highway.”

When you get on this highway, your level of expertise changes supernaturally, as you experience the miracles of God.

Remember though:

*...The unclean will not journey on it...*

**Isaiah 35:8**

#### **4. YOU BECOME AN INSTRUMENT IN GOD’S HAND**

*20 In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for special purposes and some for common use.*

*21 Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work*

**2 Timothy 2:20-21**

The greatest honor any mortal being can have is to be an instrument in God’s hands.

Nothing is more dignifying. Nothing is more honorable.

Very often, when Christians hear statements like this, they think it is all about ministry. They think that for God to use a person, it means the person is called to preach or evangelize. But that is not always the case.

God is looking for instruments to use in many different facets of life. God is looking for people that will be His instruments in politics, entertainment, sports, business, education, and numerous other fields.

### **KEY POINT**

**THE GREATEST HONOR ANY MORTAL BEING CAN HAVE IS TO BE AN INSTRUMENT IN GOD'S HANDS**

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Joseph is a typical example of God's instrument in governance. There was going to be a famine that would have wiped out the world. God needed an instrument in the political sphere of Egypt – the most powerful nation at that time – in order to prevent the whole world from being wiped out as a result of the famine that was to come.

God didn't even pick an Egyptian for this task. God picked Joseph and, in His mysterious ways, made him a prime minister, in order to save the world [Genesis 41:57].

Another example of God's instrument is Gideon. Gideon was God's instrument in the military. The Israelites had become slaves to the Midianites. Midian oppressed Israel so badly that Israel cried out to God for deliverance.

God went after Gideon, who was a “nobody” [Judges 6:15]. His background did not matter to God. Through Gideon, God defeated the Midianites in a miraculous manner.

In business, Isaac was an instrument of God. Even though Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were businessmen that operated on a covenant founded on separation to God, Isaac’s story fascinates me the most.

Even when there was famine in the land, Isaac just got richer and richer:

*12 Isaac planted crops in that land and the same year reaped a hundredfold, because the Lord blessed him.*

*13 The man became rich, and his wealth continued to grow until he became very wealthy.*

*14 He had so many flocks and herds and servants that the Philistines envied him. 15 So all the wells that his father’s servants had dug in the time of his father Abraham, the Philistines stopped up, filling them with earth.*

*16 Then Abimelek said to Isaac, ‘Move away from us; you have become too powerful for us’*

**Genesis 26:12-16**

You too can be God’s instrument in your field, office, community, state, or country; and holiness is what will position you to be mightily used by God.

God wants to use you. Maybe He is just waiting on you to forsake those things that are holding you back in sin.

## **5. YOU BECOME QUALIFIED FOR HEAVEN**

*Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God*

**Matthew 5:8**

Just like I mentioned in earlier chapters, holiness does not emanate from the acts that we do. Holiness emanates from the heart. Correcting the “acts” without correcting the heart will never amount to holiness.

Jesus said, in regards to this:

*...First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean*

**Matthew 23:26**

Maintaining a pure heart is critical in your qualification for Heaven. In man’s sight, the act of sexual immorality weighs far more than the thought of sexual immorality. In fact, many folks consider thoughts of sex with someone other than their spouse to be nothing.

However, in God’s sight, the thought of sexual immorality and the act of sexual immorality are the same. They carry the same consequence. Jesus said:

*But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart*

**Matthew 5:28**

While it’s important for us to get it right on the outside, and to follow after holiness in our acts, we must first get it right on the inside. What happens on the outside is a reflection of what’s happening inside.

When we get it right on the inside, it will certainly show on the outside.

It is very important that we serve God with vibrancy. But if we dissipate all our energy and resources in service to God while our heart is still wallowing in the swamp of sinful thoughts and lust, our service becomes worthless.

As believers, our ultimate goal should be to make Heaven. Heaven is a place that runs on holiness.

Nothing unholy has a place in Heaven. As beautiful as Lucifer was, sin was found in him and he was cast out of Heaven [Isaiah 14:12-15].

No man can see God in the flesh. God, speaking in Exodus 33:20, said:

***...you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live.***

Moses wanted to see God, but God didn't allow him see His face. God only allowed Moses to see His back. That was the closest any mortal being got to seeing God.

When Jesus spoke in Matthew 5:8, He wasn't referring to seeing God's back like Moses did. He was talking about beholding God. He was talking about seeing both the front and the back of God. He was talking about seeing God's face:

***Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.***

Psalm 11:7 confirms this:

***For the LORD is righteous, he loves justice; upright men will see his face.***

You can't see God's face in the flesh. It is when your spirit departs your flesh that you can see God's face. But for that to happen, your heart must be pure. The purity of your heart, embedded on the salvation package, is your ticket to Heaven.

### **KEY POINT**

**CORRECTING THE "ACTS" WITHOUT CORRECTING THE HEART WILL NEVER AMOUNT TO HOLINESS**

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### **ACTION STEPS:**

You just read of five benefits that a life of holiness bestows on you:

1. You experience divine visitations.
2. You become God's show piece.
3. You are positioned on the highway of holiness.
4. You become an instrument in God's hands.
5. You become qualified for Heaven.

Which of these benefits speaks the most to you? Which one(s) do you really need in your life? Ask God for the grace to let go of anything holding you back from living a life of holiness, and stopping you from enjoying these benefits.

There are so many more benefits than just these five.

Outline more personal benefits that a life of holiness will give you.

**PRAYER POINT:**

Lord and Savior, only you know those things that I have been holding on to, which have been keeping me from walking on the highway of holiness, the things that have kept me from experiencing your divine visitation. Most of all, I have allowed these things to keep me from becoming an instrument in your hands. I want to be an instrument in your hands. Please help me to live a life of holiness.

## CHAPTER SIX

### REMAIN IN CHRIST

*Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me*

**John 15:4**

*As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him*

**John 2:27**

In the journey through this book, I've written on the basis of revelations that are rooted in the Word of God.

None of the things that I've shared so far are mere personal knowledge. They are not things I have cooked up. Rather, they are culmination of revelations that birthed my freedom from the bondage of sin, and have preserved me on the path of righteousness.

However, above all that I've shared, my ultimate advice for you is to remain in Christ.

Overwhelmed by the heavy weight of addictions, many folks give up their faith in Jesus. They do not believe they can be free. They do not believe anyone going through what they are going through can be free.

Friend, if you are ever going to experience a total transformation, you cannot afford to give up on your faith in Jesus.

The journey of finding freedom from a life of pleasurable but sinful addictions is not always instant and easy. Some folks experience an instant deliverance that cuts them loose from every taste for their lustful and sinful past.

For others, it takes a high level of perseverance, discipline, and determination to quit a sinful life and follow the path of holiness.

Your path might be straight and swift, or it might be long and winding. On your way out of your past, you may stumble and fall. But if you fall, you must rise up with a determination not to fall again.

*Though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again*

**Proverbs 24:16**

Friend, the righteous man is not the man who has never sinned.

The righteous man is the man who has “become the righteousness of God” through the sacrifice of Christ Jesus, and has thus forsaken the life of sin [2 Corinthians 5:21].

What makes us righteous is the fact that Christ took our place as a sinner, through His death on the cross. We are able to take Jesus’ position as one who is righteous, because Jesus took our position as a sinner.

That is how Jesus paid the penalty for sin, despite having no sin.

**KEY POINT**

WHAT MAKES US RIGHTEOUS IS THE FACT THAT CHRIST TOOK OUR PLACE AS A SINNER, THROUGH HIS DEATH ON THE CROSS

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## WALKING DAILY WITH JESUS

As a child, I was very scared of dogs. I always avoided them. I was once attacked by a ferocious German shepherd, and it took me a long time to get over that experience.

But when I walked with someone the dog was afraid of or regarded, like its owner, I knew I was safe. I knew I will not be attacked. When the dog wants to come near, my “savior” would scare the dog away and I could just walk on without being harmed or harassed.

Friend, the enemy will do all it takes to bring you back to your past. He will bring greater and greater temptations just to make you succumb. If you truly want to overcome and be totally free from sin, then you must engage in a daily walk with Jesus.

If you really want to stand in the position of authority over lust, sexual addictions, and every form of sin, you must engage in a daily walk with Jesus. If you really want to live a life of holiness and enjoy all the benefits of being separated unto God, you must engage in a daily walk with Jesus.

As a Christian, you have been given the authority over sin, and every work of the devil [Luke 10:19]. However, you can't exercise that authority in isolation of the person who owns the authority and delegated it to you. Jesus, the owner and delegator of the authority, said:

*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me*

**Matthew 28:18**

Your authority in a company is restricted to your employment in that company. When your employment is terminated, your authority in that company is withdrawn.

So also, when your walk with Jesus is terminated, your spiritual authority in Christ is withdrawn. You become a prey for the enemy. That's why Ecclesiastics 10:8 says:

*...whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him*

**KJV**

Our walk with Jesus is meant to be a daily walk. It is a walk that entails starting and ending each day with Jesus. It is a walk that entails spending quality time in prayer and in the study of the Word on a daily basis.

In a nutshell, our daily walk with Jesus is a daily sacrifice that puts us in spiritual command on a daily basis.

## **AN INSTRUMENT IN THE HAND OF JESUS**

Beyond experiencing the redemptive power of Jesus, which sets people free from the captivity of lust and all form of addiction, there is a higher level to experience.

This higher level entails being an instrument for the redemption of others who are still captives of what you were once captive to.

When you experience the redemptive power of Jesus, you are set free. It is an experience. But when you take it to the next level by becoming an instrument for the deliverance of others, it is a greater experience. You become a carrier of the redemptive power of Jesus.

Through you, God touches lives and transforms them. Through you, many are rescued from destruction. Because you've been where they are, you understand their feelings, pains, and struggles:

*3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the  
Father of compassion and the God of all comfort,  
4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort  
those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from  
God*

**2 Corinthians 1:3-4**

Your testimony of victory also gives them greater faith and hope for victory over their struggles. Can a pipe that carries water be dry?

You cannot be a carrier of God's redemptive power and lack the benefits of being redeemed. Being an instrument for the redemption of others preserves your redemption and takes you into a deeper experience of God's power.

Friend, this is the reason why you're reading this book. I've experienced the redemptive power of Jesus, and I'm sold out to being an instrument for the redemption of others.

This is the point where God wants you to come to: a point where your testimony will be a weapon of war against the devil in the hands of multitudes.

My prayer for you is that God will anoint you as an instrument of deliverance for those who still struggle with addictions and difficult issues.

You can't be an instrument of deliverance and be down. God positions you on top.

In Numbers 21:9, God, through Moses, positioned a bronze serpent up on a pole. Whenever an Israelite was bitten by a snake, he or she would look up at the bronze serpent and be delivered. Note that the bronze serpent, which was the instrument of deliverance, was placed up.

Jesus hung on the cross. Today, He is placed at the right hand of the Father. We all look up to Him, and we are not the same [Psalm 34:5]. Because Jesus offered Himself as an instrument for our salvation, He was elevated to the right hand of the Father and given a name that is above every other name [John 10:17-18, Philippians 2:6-11].

You cannot be an instrument in God's hand and not experience an elevation from God.

And when God elevates you, who can bring you bring you down?

### **KEY POINT**

**YOU CANNOT BE A CARRIER OF GOD'S REDEMPTIVE POWER AND  
LACK THE BENEFITS OF BEING REDEEMED**

\*\*\*~\*\*~\*\*\*

**Share this key point with friends on:**

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**ACTION STEPS:**

*“Remain in Christ. If you really want to stand in the position of authority over lust, sexual addictions, and every form of sin, then you must engage in a daily walk with Jesus.”*

If you have not yet come up with a concrete place in your schedule to spend time with Jesus daily, strengthening your relationship with Him on a daily basis, don't wait any longer. Put it on your schedule. Make it happen!

**PRAYER POINT:**

Heavenly Father, I thank you for the spiritual journey that this book has been. Thank you for the things you have shown me and the lessons I have learned. Most of all, thank you for all that you have in store for me as I walk on in victory through the power of your Son, Jesus. I want to take the victories you have given me to the next level by being a witness of your miracle-working power. I trust you will enable me to walk in victory through your mercy and the blood of Jesus Christ. Amen!

## FINAL WORDS

Dear friend, thank you for taking time to read this book. I hope that you have been blessed by the things I have shared.

Having been set free from a life of sin, God began an unusual work of transformation in my life. This work of transformation set the pace for the birth of God's agenda for my life, which is to raise a righteous generation.

I feel the call of God to preach the Word of righteousness to my generation. My desire is to see the yoke of sin and addictions broken in the life of God's people, as they come into the light of God's saving power and become the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.

In pursuit of this God-given mandate, this book, *Sexual Battles: Experiencing Lasting Victory over Sexual Sin*, is my first published teaching.

Not everyone reading this book may have had an issue with sexual sin or addictions. At the same time, there are millions of people in the world today who are bound in sexual sin and lustful habits, suffering under this burden in secret, and wishing they can be free.

There are millions of people who carry the burden of sexual addictions, which perpetually keeps them bound in sin and weighs them down spiritually.

Some of these people may be your friends, relatives, neighbors, classmates, church mates or colleagues. Most likely, you will not know their struggle, because sexual sin thrives in secret.

However, by sharing your lessons from this book and recommending it to others, you never can tell how many souls you will be saving from destruction. Therefore, please let your friends know how much this book has been a blessing to you by sharing a tweet on this book, or by recommending it to your friends on Facebook.

Also, if you would like to give me feedback, ask a question, seek counsel and prayer, or share with me on how this book has blessed you, please feel free to contact me via email: [seunokikiola@gmail.com](mailto:seunokikiola@gmail.com)

I will be glad to receive an email from you. God bless you.

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## ABOUT AUTHOR

Seun Okikiola is called by God to preach the Word of Righteousness to His generation. With a First Class Honors in economics from Covenant University, and a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) from the prestigious Lagos Business School, Seun is a graduate of the Redeemed Christian Bible College (RCBC). Prior to his engagement in full time ministry, he worked with international financial institutions.

A prolific writer and speaker, he currently worships and serves as a missionary with The Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG).



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## **PARTNER WITH ME**

Thank you for taking the time to read this eBook.

As a messenger of the Word of Righteousness to my generation, my desire is to make heaven and to help others make heaven via the teaching and preaching of the Word of Righteousness. This will entail reaching out to diverse nations and races of the world.

One of the channels via which I seek to achieve this is publishing. That is because a book can go to places where its author cannot get to, and bless people its author cannot come in physical contact with.

My vision is to publish this book and other books in different formats (hard copy, audio book, and soft copy), in different languages (Spanish, French, German, Mandarin, Arabic, and so on), and at the least cost (at zero cost where possible) to the readers.

If you have been blessed by this eBook and you would like to make a financial contribution, donation, or pledge towards this vision, please contact me via email [seunokikiola@gmail.com](mailto:seunokikiola@gmail.com)

Thank you and God bless you!