



Chapter Nine

Is this God Speaking?

How to Ascertain the Will of God. As I said before, people sometimes at this time go off a tangent saying, “God said this” or God said that.” Many a time, they did hear a voice, but time soon proves that the voice they heard was not from God. Let us look at a few guidelines to help keep us in line.

The “Voice of God” and the “Word of God” Agree

Check to make sure that this voice speaks instructions that are only in line with what the Bible says or teaches. Are these “divine instructions or wisdom you have received scripturally sound? The “voice of God” *agrees* with the word of God, the bible. Of all the guidelines, this is perhaps the most fundamental and perhaps most important. Never will God’s instructions to you, contradict His written word.

1 John 5:7 (KJV)

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.

The Greek word translated “word” is “Logos.” In this verse, it represents Jesus, the full expression of God’s will. Literally, it also means God’s mind; that is God’s mental faculty of thinking, meditating, reasoning, and calculation. If you ever want to know what God’s opinion or thoughts are on any issue, find an example of someone in the bible who faced similar issues, see how it was handled and see if God approved of their method or not. That

would show you what God expects you to do.

Now the bible teaches the principle of 2 or 3 witnesses. Repeatedly in both the Old and New Testaments, we see this principle of settling or confirming issues with 2 or 3 pieces of evidence:

Deuteronomy 19:15 AMP

15 One witness shall not prevail against a man for any crime or any wrong in connection with any sin he commits; only on the testimony of two or three witnesses shall a charge be established.

Matthew 18:16 AMP

16 But if he does not listen, take along with you one or two others, **so that every word may be confirmed and upheld by the testimony of two or three witnesses.**

2 Corinthians 13:1 AMP

1 **THIS IS** the third time that I am coming to you. By the testimony of two or three witnesses must any charge and every accusing statement be sustained and confirmed. [Deut. 19:15.]

Even when Jesus was proving his claim to being The Messiah, He used that same principle saying:

John 8:16-18 AMP

16 Yet even if I do judge, My judgment is true [My decision is right]; for I am not alone [in making it], but [there are two of Us] I and the Father, Who sent Me.

17 In your [own] Law it is written that the testimony (evidence) of two persons is reliable and valid. [Deut. 19:15.]

18 I am One [of the Two] bearing testimony concerning Myself; and My Father, Who sent Me, He also testifies about Me.

Therefore, this is the principle set forth in scripture; you must find 2 or 3 instances in God's word that support what you believe is

God's specific instruction to you.

So back to the question: This instruction you believe God gave you, can you find 2 or 3 scriptures that affirm it? You can? Then write down the instruction and underneath it, write the corresponding scriptures. I would add a word of caution, do not "twist" scripture, and make it *fit* what you want to do. Remember, the essence of a fast is to receive instructions from God to help you out of your gridlock. It is not a time to insist on God rubber-stamping your plans. You are looking for **His** plans, not your pre-conceived thoughts and desires .

The next guideline we are going to discuss helps us further confirm if it is God speaking to you or not.

Godly counsel

So during this time of your fast, you believe God spoke to you and you even have scriptures to back it up. Subject this to another test, bring it out to the open; subject it to scrutiny. God's instructions will hold up under the most intense scrutiny. I know you said God spoke this to your heart and the question is if God said it to me why should I need any more validation? Well, God also speaks through people. We of course must qualify "people." But first, let us look at the book of Proverbs:

Proverbs 24:6 (KJV)

For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counselors there is safety.

Proverbs 11:14 (KJV)

Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

The bible says that there is safety in the multitude of counselors. The Hebrew word translated safety is *teshû'âh*; this means salvation, deliverance; this meaning includes deliverance usually by God through a human agency. The bible says the "people fall" if there is no counsel. Therefore, to keep us from falling, God would often

speak to us through counselors.

Proverbs 1:5 (KJV)

A wise man will hear, and will increase learning;
 and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise
 counsels.

“Wise counsel” literally means the power to steer your course rightly on the dangerous seas of life. The place of godly counsel cannot be over-emphasized. Many children of God have made a shipwreck of their destiny by lack of counsel. Godly counsel protects you and prevents unnecessary accidents on the paths of life. The voice may sound like God, the whole set up may look like God, *but it may not be God*. Be smart and receive godly counsel.

So, who do we take counsel from? Well, let us start with who we do not take counsel from.

Psalms 1:1-3

1 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of
 the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in
 the seat of the scornful;

2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His
 law he meditates day and night.

3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water,
 That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also
 shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

When God gives you an instruction, you do not discuss it with the ungodly; let alone seek their counsel or advice. I mean you do not ask, “Do you think this is a good idea?” In other words, you do not ask an ungodly person, “Do you think God is speaking to me or is this my imagination?”

Who are the ungodly?

- Anyone who has not received Jesus as Lord and savior obviously would fall into this group. Therefore, your very nice colleague at work, who is very kind but does not believe in Jesus,

does not fit the description of a godly counselor. You do not “bounce” God-given instructions off them to see if they make sense. They would steer you in the wrong directions because they do not have the Spirit of God living in them. Some say God can use anyone to speak to me; after all He used a donkey to speak to Balaam in the Old Testament (Numbers 22:21-31). We must recognize that incident, as an extreme situation. God would use an animal when the human is too “dull” in the spirit to perceive anything from God and when there is no other human through whom God can speak. It is most unlikely that we are in that kind of situation so we should not expect anything or just anyone to speak the counsel of God to us; we should go through His clearly approved methods of communication to hear what He is saying to us.

Romans 8:6-8

6 Now the mind of the flesh [which is sense and reason without the Holy Spirit] is death [death that comprises all the miseries arising from sin, both here and hereafter]. But the mind of the [Holy] Spirit is life and [soul] peace [both now and forever].

7 [That is] because the mind of the flesh [with its carnal thoughts and purposes] is hostile to God, for it does not submit itself to God’s Law; indeed it cannot.

8 So then those who are living the life of the flesh [catering to the appetites and impulses of their carnal nature] cannot please or satisfy God, or be acceptable to Him.

tisfy God, or be acceptable to Him.

- Anyone who does not recognize Jesus as the final authority in his or her life could be classified as the ungodly. Notice that I did not say anyone who does not go to church or believe in Christ. The godly have set God as their reference point; their lives revolve around His principles. The bible is their manual for life. Sadly, *many church-going Christians do not fall into this category*. Many Christians live on the principles of their culture or upbringing which many times conflict with principles God laid down in His word. The truth is, we know those who live by God’s principles and those who do not; we can tell. In times when we need to seek counsel, these are not the appropriate

counselors. Yes, they may sound very spiritual, they may go to the same church we go to, but the bottom line is this: How have you seen them live their lives so far? Your breakthrough is too important; you need godly counsel.

1 Corinthians 2:13

13 And we are setting these truths forth in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the [Holy] Spirit, combining and interpreting spiritual truths with spiritual language [to those who possess the Holy Spirit].

Proverbs 12:5

5 The thoughts of the righteous are right; but the counsels of the wicked are deceit.

Mentors, Fathers, and Pastors.

So from whom then can we obtain counsel? From mentors, fathers, and pastors. In 1 Corinthians 4, there are 2 categories of spiritual leadership we encounter: Instructors (mentors) and Fathers.

1 Corinthians 4:14-16

14 I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn you.

15 For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

16 Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me. Over sons I warn you.

A mentor is a wise and trusted guide and advisor. A mentor serves as a teacher or a trusted counselor. God Himself set in His church instructors or teachers of His word, who will break down the word of God into digestible, comprehensible pieces. Because of the grace of God on the lives of these individuals, scripture comes alive. For example, let us say you are very confused on a marital situation; maybe this problem has troubled you for so long. You can receive instruction from God on this situation by reading a book on this subject written by an anointed man/woman of God. Suddenly, it is as if you see clearly now. It is as if you understand the crux of your marital problem and you know what to do. What

just happened there is that God instructed you on what to do through one of His chosen vessels who was obedient enough to write that book. You most likely never met this person before and therefore have no relationship with him or her.

Another situation maybe one in which a friend invites you to a meeting. When the preacher begins to speak, it is almost like he/she is reading your mail. It is as if God sent that person to you with a specific message to get you out of your predicament.

Mentors could also be Christian brothers and sisters whom you know but whom you recognize are spiritually more mature than you are. You have watched their lives and they have a *track record* of integrity and a genuine walk with God. From their spiritual maturity and experience, they often are able to offer genuine scripture-based counsel. Please note that I place no emphasis on chronological age; one may be chronologically mature in age and yet be a spiritual novice. You do not want to seek counsel from spiritual novices; more often than not, they will steer you in the wrong direction. This is not because they want to harm you but because they have no experience with the word of God; they most likely will offer you worldly/human wisdom and this is not what you need. Their counsel would probably be based on their own background, experiences, or culture; what you need is counsel strictly based on the word of God.

Apostle Paul goes a step further in 1 Corinthians chapter 4 to make a distinction between an instructor/mentor and a father. He told the Corinthians, “You may have 10,000 counselors but you have only 1 father.” Paul emphasizes what the main difference is between a mentor and a father; it is the *relationship factor*. The dictionary meaning of father is a man who begets or raises or nurtures a child. He called them his sons and said “In Christ Jesus, I have begotten you through the Gospel.” He said, “Follow me,” or imitate me. Evidently, Apostle Paul expected that they would pay more heed to him, their spiritual father than to all the instructors. The way God designed His body, He placed spiritual fathers in it for guidance and care of his people. This may be the person who introduced you to Christ or someone who adopted

you for the purpose of nurturing you to spiritual maturity. The counsel of a spiritual father is to be more heeded simply because this person has a relationship with you based on God's love and only desires your spiritual advancement and growth to maturity. He has no ulterior motive. An instructor or teacher would probably address only that area of your life while a spiritual parent would put the problem in context of your whole life; both past and present. Then, from scripture, he would give you counsel that would be so much more balanced. You see, a spiritual parent feels responsible for you and the ultimate fulfillment of your God-appointed destiny. He feels He has to give an account to God on how he steered you. He is very careful to seek the face of God on your behalf and be a conduit of God's wisdom into your life at that time. A spiritual instructor feels no such responsibility; sure, he wants to be a blessing to you but he doesn't know you enough to shoulder that kind of awesome responsibility.

Pastors of local churches would fit into the category of fathers. Your local church pastor has been ordained by God to be your spiritual father. They are often called shepherds. God's instruction to them is to guide you with skillfulness just as David guided the sheep.

Psalms 78:72

So he (David) fed them according to the integrity of his heart; and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands.

In Hebrews chapter 13, the bible instructs us to yield to their guidance and counsel.

Hebrews 13:17

Yield to those leading you, and be submissive, for they watch for your souls, as those who must give account, that they may do it with joy and not with grief; for that is unprofitable for you.

A true shepherd has your interest at heart; he knows you and would give you godly counsel. It is a great tragedy that many Christians have no local church and therefore no local pastor.

These Christians miss out on a great aspect of the plan of God for their lives. From the study of scriptures and from personal experience, my conclusion is that you cannot have a balanced Christian growth without being a participating member of a local church.

I caution strongly, Christians who seek counsel from telephone prayer lines and internet ministries; these ministers of God have no clue of who you are and there is no way they can give you balanced counsel. On occasion, such a minister may speak prophetically but that is the exception to the rule. I encourage you; if you do not belong to a local church today, ask God to lead you to one where the living word of God is preached, and one where you would have confidence in the minister.

Another area of caution is one-on-one counsel or “prophecies” given to you by visiting ministers. I do not contest the fact that this counsel may be God-sent, but again I encourage you to share that counsel with your pastor and let him or her help you put it within context.

I have heard many say that their local church pastor is seeking to control their lives; while this may be the case in some extreme situations, it is usually not so when that shepherd has a heart for God and genuinely loves God’s people. This is why I do not call this control, I call it, *staying in a safe place*. Every child I know kicks against their parents guidelines and restrictions, but a few years down the road, they are so grateful for that parental guidance. Don’t resist pastoral counsel, embrace it. If you do not feel safe enough to take counsel from your pastor, then you are either in the wrong sheepfold, or you may need to renew your mind and receive God’s purpose for setting up local sheepfolds. Either way, you need pastoral counsel in your life.

So now you have this instruction which you believe God has spoken to you, you have scriptures to back it up and you have sought godly counsel, especially from your local church pastor. What should

you do next?

Peace, the umpire that guards our hearts (The Sweet Zone)

The fourth and final step to ascertaining that this is God's instruction for you at this time is the presence of peace. Peace is the Umpire which guides us in our final decisions. Another word for umpire is referee; that is, one who settles disputes. Ultimately, every decision you make and anything you decide to do is your responsibility.

Philippians 4:6-7 ISV

6 Never worry about anything, but in every situation let your petitions be made known to God in prayers and requests, with thanksgiving.

7 Then God's peace, which goes far beyond anything we can imagine, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Let this be the final determinant or judge on whether or not the instructions you received are from God or not. For example, let us say a pastoral counsel was contrary to what you thought God said for you to do, what should you do next?

Go back and pray, lay all your reasons before the Lord and ask God again for Divine input. If the original instructions were from God, you will again sense a strong leaning towards them; if they were not, suddenly you will begin to feel uncertain. You will experience a "settled feeling" or a sense of peace whenever you gravitate towards God-given instructions. Ultimately, you must go with what you feel persuaded and peaceful about.



Chapter Ten

Hold Out for the Manifestation

As we come to the end of this book, I would like to encourage you to hold out for the manifestation of your miracle. I know with a book titled *The Exit Strategy*, there is a tendency to think, all you have been lacking has been a divine Exit Strategy. True as that may be for a lot of folks, it does not mean the whole process of your escaping satanic gridlocks works like magic.

Many times, we are required to wait for the manifestation of our miracle. This principle needs to be emphasized:

The principle of Patient Endurance.

Jesus walked in this principle and He expects us to do the same.

Hebrews 12:1-3

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls.

The bible in verse 1 of Hebrews chapter 12, encourages us to “run with patience.”

That word Patience is translated from the Greek word *hupoménō* which refers to one’s response toward circumstances, denoting perseverance in the face of difficulties. *Hupoménō* is actually from two contracted words: *hupó*, under, and *ménō*, to remain. The word therefore means to remain under, i.e., to persevere, endure, sustain, bear up under, suffer, as a load of miseries, adversities, persecutions or provocations with faith.

Much as we all wish that our situations are resolved once we have executed the Plan of Action given us by God, it does not always happen that way. In fact, some of the most astonishing miracles in the bible happened after all hope was lost.

Abraham

Let us take for example Abraham, who Christians refer to as the father of faith. A study of this great man’s life showed that many of the things God promised him appeared delayed. Take for instance the issue of his child of promise. God had promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations. This promise did not take place until about 25 years later. Abraham’s life really is a good study of how to and how not to wait for God’s promises. I encourage you to take time out to study the entire life of Abraham as revealed to us in the Holy Bible.

Rest - Don’t Be Agitated

Abraham, like most of us, had to learn the art of waiting on God. Initially, while waiting for a biological child, he was jumpy, agitated and impulsive. What happened was that Abraham ended up having a biological son called Ishmael. As exciting as this was for Abraham, this was not *The Promised Child* and he paid dearly for this forwardness with marital disharmony and pain; and even today the offsprings of his sons are at war (Israel and the Arab

nations). I hope you will study this in Genesis chapters 16 and 17.

Remember to patiently execute the Plan of Action God gave you. Do not impulsively hash up a plan. Don't "help" God. Let Him work things out for you. Stick to His plan.

Wait Expectantly

Waiting however does not mean you are doing nothing. It only means you are sticking to the plan as God gave you and you are not adding your own *two cents*. It means you have complete faith that it shall be as God told you. It means you have your eyes on Him, serving Him in faith and rejoicing as though what He told you has taken place already.

Abraham however eventually got it right. Let us look at how he waited

Romans 4:17-21

17 (as it is written, "I HAVE MADE YOU A FATHER OF MANY NATIONS") in the presence of Him whom he believed--God, who gives life to the dead and calls those things which do not exist as though they did;

18 who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations, according to what was spoken, "SO SHALL YOUR DESCENDANTS BE."

19 And not being weak in faith, he did not consider his own body, already dead (since he was about a hundred years old), and the deadness of Sarah's womb.

20 He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God,

21 and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.

Abraham did the following things:

- He believed beyond hope. He "believed anyway." Romans 4: 18 (MSG).
- He kept his faith strong; he was not weak in faith.

- Abraham didn't focus on his own impotence and say, "It's hopeless. This hundred-year-old body could never father a child." Nor did he survey Sarah's decades of infertility and give up. Romans 4:19 (MSG)
- He did not stagger at the promise of God. "He didn't tiptoe around God's promise asking cautiously skeptical questions. He plunged into the promise and came up strong, ready for God." Romans 4:20 (MSG)

So, I encourage you: Believe anyway. Don't be skeptical, don't ask doubtful questions. Be fully sold out and committed to God's promise to bring you out.

I believe that if you hold on and hold out, God's *Exit Strategy* for your situation will bring you out of every satanic gridlock.



Chapter Eleven

Stay Free!

We are coming to the end of this divinely inspired book, and I know you know that devil cannot keep that stranglehold on you anymore. No, not now; you know too much now. Hallelujah!

If there is nothing you leave with after reading this book, I hope you leave with the knowledge that God loves you deeply and will never leave you at the mercy of the Devil. The Devil hates you and I am sure you are very convinced of that by now. Always know these:

- God is ALWAYS good.
- God will never put evil on you.
- Whenever you see evil or experience pain, recognize that is not God (trying to teach you something). That is the Devil fulfilling his ministry; the ministry of bringing pain and suffering into the lives of individuals.

When you know these FACTS, you will be able to boldly come into the presence of God to seek help in your hour of need. The bible encourages this in Hebrews.

Hebrews 4:15-16 AMP

15 For we do not have a High Priest Who is unable to understand and sympathize and have a shared feeling with our weaknesses and infirmities and liability to the assaults of temptation, but One Who has been tempted

in every respect as we are, yet without sinning.

16 **Let us then fearlessly and confidently and boldly draw near to the throne of grace** (the throne of God's unmerited favor to us sinners), **that we may receive mercy [for our failures] and find grace to help in good time for every need** [appropriate help and well-timed help, coming just when we need it].

There is only one more area I would like to talk about. This would be the area of Repentance.

Repentance

Now, although we spent time discussing the areas of human and satanic-generated gridlocks in our lives, we must understand that many issues may come as a result of some error in our lives. Many times, we opened the door of our lives and invited the Devil in. The bible teaches that the Devil prowls like a lion. He is always looking for a way in; which is why God tells us to be *vigilant*.

1 Peter 5:8-9

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

The Amplified version says it like this:

1 Peter 5:8-9 AMP

8 Be well balanced (temperate, sober of mind), **be vigilant and cautious at all times; for that enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring [in fierce hunger], seeking someone to seize upon and devour.**

9 Withstand him; be firm in faith [against his onset--rooted, established, strong, immovable, and determined], knowing that the same (identical) sufferings are appointed to your brotherhood (the whole body of

Christians) throughout the world.

God expressly told us that *the Devil is trying to get us*. He instructed us to be vigilant and to *resist* and *withstand* him. In Ephesians 4:27, God warned us not to give any place or room to the Devil:

Ephesians 4:27

27 Neither give place to the devil.

Ephesians 4:27 AMP

27 Leave no [such] room or foothold for the devil [give no opportunity to him].

The truth is, many of us have not heeded God's warning and that is why we find ourselves in the situations in which we are today. We were not vigilant, instead we let our guards down. *In what way you say?* There are many ways in which we have failed to maintain our vigilance but I am only going to focus on three areas: The area of sin, the area of wrongful speaking and the area of idle speech.

Sin

Falling into sin (and not immediately repenting of it) or more importantly, living a life of sin is the surest way of opening ourselves to Devil. I do not know of a more open invitation than that. Sin invites the Devil in and gives him a legitimate seat in our lives. And when the Devil sits in our lives, he tends to wreak a lot of havoc.

Wrongful, Evil Speaking

This is what the King James Version of the bible calls Evil Speaking. When we get into this area the bible says the Holy Spirit will be upset with us.

Ephesians 4:29-31

29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that

it may minister grace unto the hearers.

30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

Ephesians 4:30-31 GW

30 Don't give God's Holy Spirit any reason to be upset with you. He has put his seal on you for the day you will be set free from the world of sin.

31 Get rid of your bitterness, hot tempers, anger, loud quarreling, cursing, and hatred.

The word translated Evil Speaking in the original is the word, *blasphēmía*. This means blasphemy, verbal abuse against someone which denotes the very worst type of slander with false witnesses; wounding someone's reputation by evil reports, evil speaking.

And this is why the Message translation states this verse this way:

Make a clean break with all cutting, backbiting, profane talk.

This is an area that many of us Christians do not pay particular attention to. I bring it up because you may not count it as a major sin but it offends the Holy Spirit. Anything that offends the Holy Spirit excites and empowers the Devil. It brings him straight into the living room of your life and there, he starts to bind you up.

Make it a point of duty never to backbite. Don't repeat negative information about another person even if you are so convinced that it is true; not even as a "prayer point." This is slander; the Holy Spirit hates it; it grieves Him.

Idle Speech

This is another area that trips up many Christians. The bible says:

Matthew 12:36 KJV

36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of

judgment.

Let us look closely at the word *idle* in the original Greek. The word is *argos* [*ar-gos*']

It means *inactive, unemployed*; (and by implication) *lazy, useless*: - barren, idle, slow. These are useless words that we speak which many times when brought to our attention we say, *You know I didn't really mean that*. They are words we speak that "produce no good effect, and [are] not calculated to produce any." Most of us speak those words to be able to fit in with the crowd. Words like: You make me sick!; I will never make it!; This job (marriage, child) is killing me! This word isn't working in my life etc.

I know the bible teaches that we will give account of this idle speech on the Day of Judgment; however, we must recognize that we are starting to give account even from this life. It is simply in the area of cause and effect. Words spoken produce results; good or bad.

You see, words are very powerful. Words create and words destroy. Even though we may not want to admit it, many of the log jams in which we find ourselves today are as a result of the words we have released from our mouths. Only the other day in a grocery store I heard one dear lady reprimanding her daughter and I couldn't help but overhear her say, *Make up your mind; you are driving me crazy!* I wouldn't be surprised if we find out that this lady is on one mind-modulating medication or the other. Not that I think that she spoke that way because she was crazy, but if she keeps on talking that way, it won't be long when she will indeed find herself in an in-patient psychiatric unit. Those were idle words; they did not need to be released into time and space.

Shut the Door, Keep out the Devil

One of the most powerful experiences we will have in the place of prayer and fasting, is a cleansing and renewal process. You see, in a properly executed fast, we come face to face with our Heavenly Father. In that meeting place, the Holy Spirit not only gives us the

Exit Strategy we need but He also reveals to us how we came to be where we are in the first place. I encourage you to pay close attention to these promptings of the Holy Spirit. They can save your life! If we repent, God will cleanse us and wash us white as snow.

What then is Repentance?

Not to weigh you down with a lot of Greek, we really do need to consider two more words which when translated, mean Repent and Regret.

The Greek word *metanoō* [*met-an-o-eh'-o*] is a contraction of two words *metá*, denoting change of place or condition, and *noéo*, to exercise the mind, think, or comprehend. It entails using your mind; reflecting. You understand the magnitude of what you have done, you see it the way God sees it and you make up your mind to change. In other words, you repent; you change your mind. Theologically, it involves regret or sorrow, accompanied by a true change of heart toward God. It is distinguished from the Greek word *metamelomai* which means to regret. **Regret** means you wished it did not happen and you are sorry it did. It however does not have that accompanying resolve to never let that happen again.

This resolve, **the resolve of completely turning away, of never letting that issue occur again, is the key to closing the door.** Mere mental assent to the wrongness of the action or event will not close the door of your life to the evil meddling of the Devil.

Go to God. Tell Him you are sorry. Tell Him you will never do that again. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you make this commitment good.

I encourage you today to take this vital step; this vital step of repentance. This will ensure not only your deliverance from life's gridlocks but will also guarantee that you maintain your victory.

All Things Can Work for Good

If you have missed a step in your walk with God or fallen out of fellowship with Him; if you feel that your foolishness or error is what brought you to where you are today, all hope is not lost.

ALL THINGS CAN STILL WORK TOGETHER FOR YOUR GOOD

The Bible says in Romans 8:28:

Romans 8:28

28 And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

The Amplified version renders it like this:

Romans 8:28 AMP

28 We are assured and know that [God being a partner in their labor] all things work together and are [fitting into a plan] for good to and for those who love God and are called according to [His] design and purpose.

Romans 8:30 states:

Romans 8:30 MKJV

30 But whom He predestinated, these He also called; and whom He called, those He also justified. And whom He justified, these He also glorified.

God already knew you were going to miss it sometimes so He already made provision ahead of time (indeed before you were born), to justify you so that He can still add His beauty and glory to your life.

So be encouraged. Don't give up. It is all right. God is able to fit you right back into the center of his will and plan.



Epilogue

I have written this book with an assumption that you are someone who committed your life to God and at one time or the other invited the Lord Jesus Christ into your heart.

This of course, will not be the case with every reader and I consider it the utmost privilege and honor to help you start a relationship with Jesus Christ today.

If you are such a reader who has been encouraged to accept Jesus into your heart, please read the following prayer aloud. At the end of this prayer you would have become a bona fide child of the true and living God. Please write or email me and let me know you made this commitment (the address is at the back of the book).

PRAYER OF SALVATION

(Pray Aloud)

Father, God in heaven, it is written in Your word that if I confess with my mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in my heart that You have raised Him from the dead, I shall be saved.

Therefore, Father, I confess that Jesus Christ is my Lord. I make Him Lord of my life right now. I believe in my heart that you raised Jesus from the dead. I renounce my past life with Satan and close the door to any of his devices.

I thank You for forgiving me all my sin. Jesus is my Lord, and I am a new creation. Old things have passed away. Now all things become new, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Congratulations and welcome to the family of God!



Bonus Chapter

Warfare Prayer Confessions

This bonus chapter was included in this book to help you pray effectively against the Devil's stratagem. These are Prayer Confessions; i.e. scripture-based prayers, which I have used personally over the years and I have found to be very effective. When you confess these with your mouth, you are igniting spiritual processes and you will see the manifestations before long.

These particular sets of prayers are for *warfare praying* and are especially suited for seasons when you are under heightened satanic attacks. I encourage you to use them as often as you need to.

I would only like to sound a note of caution: In warfare praying, *the Devil is your enemy not humans*. Having said that, there are those who have chosen to work hand in hand with the enemy and these prayers will be effective against their operations against you.

These Prayer Confessions are not to replace your fervent personal prayers but they are to assist you in praying on target.

On a final note, these prayers are based on specific bible verses and I have included the relevant scripture under the heading of each prayer confession.

Daily Warfare Praying during an Escalated Attack from the Devil

(Based on Colossians 1:13-14 AMP, Isaiah 54:17 NASB, Psalms 2:2-4 NASB, Psalms 2:2-4 NASB, Isaiah 54:14-15 KJV, Romans 16:20 KJV, Luke 10:19-20 KJV, Luke 22:31-32 ISV, 2 Corinthians 2:11 KJV, Acts 5:3 KJV)

Ephesians 6:12-18 (AMP)

For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [*contending only with physical opponents*], but against the despotisms, against the powers, against [*the master spirits who are*] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere. 13 Therefore put on God's complete armor; ...

Luke 10:19-20 (KJV)

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

20 Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, **that the spirits are subject unto you**; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.

Prayer

Father thank you for your love and protection. I recognize today that I have enemies that are not physical, seeking to destroy me and to limit my progress. I recognize that they are wicked; evil in principle and practice and I know that they are addicted to vice and immorality.

Therefore today Father according to Ephesians 6:13, I put on God's complete armor. I put on the belt of truth, the breastplate of righteousness, the shoes of the readiness to announce the good news of peace; I pick up and carry now the shield of faith

and I put on my head, the helmet of salvation.

In the name of Jesus the Anointed One, I resist and stand my ground against every evil plotted against me today. I declare to the host of hell that there is no weapon that has been fashioned against me that can prosper. Every argument, every accusation against me I condemn now; this is my right as a servant of the

Most High God and I exercise it right now.

I am established in righteousness; I am far from oppression. I am far from the imposition of unreasonable burdens. I am far from hardship, calamity, depression, dullness of spirit, and lassitude of the body. I am far from a sense of heaviness or weight in my soul. I shall not fear. I am far from terror; far from violent dread or the fear that agitates the body or the mind. I am far from, and

cannot be moved by the threats of men.

I trample all over you Satan and your host. I take authority over you and walk all over you in dominion and victory in Jesus name.

God bruises you under my feet. I declare today, that although you spirits may gather together, since your gathering was not ordained by God, you will all fall for my sake.

I know your intent and purpose is to sift me and destroy me but I am safe in the hands of my faithful and merciful high priest; He is praying for me and I am safe! Satan I am not ignorant of your devices; I know how you fill men's heart to do evil. Well, today I overcome you and all who work in league with you.

Satan, today I join my Father in heaven and I laugh at you and all your plans and antics. He who sits in the heavens laughs at you. We who sit with the Father laugh at you. God speaks to you in His anger. I bring to your remembrance that the Father has delivered and drawn me to Himself out of the control and dominion of darkness and He Himself has transferred me into the Kingdom of the Son of His love. Therefore, I am out of bounds to you and out of your reach. I declare all these boldly now in the name of Jesus. Amen!

The Overcomer's Prayer - Exercising Dominion

(Based on Ephesians 2:2 GNB, John 14:30 GNB, Job 2:2 GNB, 1 Peter 5:8-9 GNB)

1 Peter 5:8-9 (GNB)

8 Be alert, be on watch! Your enemy, the Devil, roams around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour.

9 Be firm in your faith and resist him, because you know that other believers in all the world are going through the same kind of sufferings

Prayer

You ruler of this world as you have no power of over my master Jesus, I declare that you have no power over me, because as He is, so am I. I set my face against the spirit that controls the people who disobey God. I take on and I overcome today the ruler of the spiritual powers in space. You evil spirits roaming the earth seeking to destroy and devour me and mine; I overcome you with the blood of the lamb and the word of my testimony. I resist you today in the name of Jesus. For greater is He who is within me than you who roam the earth.

Satan I am not ignorant of your devices; I know how you fill men's heart to do evil. Well, today I overcome you and all who work in league with you. I trample all over you Satan and your host and all humans who work with you. I take authority over you and walk all over in you in dominion and victory in Jesus name. God bruises you under my feet.

I resist you today: I stand against you; I withstand you and I oppose. I counteract you, I defeat you, and I frustrate you today in the name of Jesus. I declare that today you are baffled and disappointed by my actions of righteousness, holiness, and dominion; in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, the Anointed One and His anointing.

My Help is Here!

Isaiah 50:7-8 (KJV)

7 For the Lord GOD will help me; therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be ashamed.

8 He is near that justifieth me; who will contend with me? let us stand together: who is mine adversary? let him come near to me.

Prayer

My Help is here. My God will help me; this is why I will not be confounded; I will not be perplexed, I will not be terrified. God is near and He justifies me; who will contend with me? I am helped by God today, in Jesus' name, amen.

Contending for Your God-assigned Inheritance/Taking Back all the Devil Stole from You

(Based on Deuteronomy 2:24 KJV, Isaiah 49:24-26 GNB, 1 Chronicles 21:1 KJV, 2 Peter 1:3 KJV)

Deuteronomy 2:24 KJV

Rise ye up, take your journey, and pass over ... behold, I have given into thine hand ... [the] king of Heshbon, and his land: begin to possess it, and contend with him in battle.

Prayer

Satan, I contend with you for my inheritance today. God declares that He has given me all spiritual blessings in Heavenly places; all that I need for life and godliness my Father already gave to me. So, I demand Satan, today in the name of Jesus that you hand over my goods right now; they are not yours, they

belong to me. I command you to return all you stole from me. I speak now by the authority given me by my Father, and I begin to possess my inheritance right now.

In the name of Jesus, all my loot that you have taken, I seize back today; God and the host of heaven fight against you today. You and your cohorts are confused and there is war and confusion in your camp. God contends with you on my behalf, in the name of Jesus, amen!

Prayer Confession against Hindering Spirits

(Based on 1 Thessalonians 2:18 KJV, Revelation 12:7-9 KJV, Zechariah 3:1-2 KJV, Philippians 2:9-11 KJV, Mark 9:25 GW)

Zechariah 3:1-2 (KJV)

- 1 And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.
- 2 And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?

Prayer

I take authority over you, you hindering spirits in Jesus' name. You spirits who stop, impede, obstruct and retard my progress. I take authority over you right now in Jesus name; I restrain you from obstructing me, impeding me, or retarding my progress. I hold you back from proceeding and advancing in your activities against me in the name of Jesus. I cast you hindering spirits out of this environment now in Jesus name; you are not permitted to work against me on hinder me in Jesus name.



APPENDIX

Fasting Guidelines used in Abundant Life International Church,
Cleveland, Ohio, USA

21-Day Annual “Daniel” Fasting & Prayer

Fasting guidelines

Time: 6 AM to 6 PM daily

Duration: 21 days

What is the scriptural basis for this “Daniel Fast?”

Daniel 10:2-3 (MSG)

“During those days, I, Daniel, went into mourning over Jerusalem for three weeks. I ate only plain and simple food, no seasoning or meat or wine. I neither bathed nor shaved until the three weeks were up.

This is just our scriptural example. Daniel was the “Prime Minister” in his day, and he had to continue his ministerial duties while his fast was on. This is an excellent fast for people who must seek the Lord with fasting and yet continue with other day-to-day

duties.

Can we eat or drink during the fast?

Yes: The focus of our fast is the time of prayer, not a hunger-strike or dieting. This is a “Daniel Fast.” By this we mean, that due to the length of this fast you can eat fruits and/or vegetables during the day. We encourage adequate hydration; i.e. take lots of fluids; water, juice etc. At 6 PM after praying, we encourage that you sit down to a nourishing [but not excessive] meal.

Are there any guidelines to praying during this Fast?

In A.L.I.C., we recommend the following:

- Start the day with a short time of worship (you may use any worship CD to enhance your worship).
- Read the scripture reading, and devotional for the day
- Read the Church Confessions for the year out loud.
- Take your prayer points to the Lord (we encourage you to submit your prayer points online, so we can agree with you).
- Write down any “word” from the Lord that strikes you as important or strikes you as an instruction. Thank the Lord for answered prayers.
- In the evening, read the devotional evening bible portion.
- We encourage everyone to read as much of the word of God as possible during this time of fast; God speaks!



About the Author

Born in Nigeria, West Africa, Dr. Tinu Tadese committed her life to Christ in 1981. She holds a degree in Medicine/Surgery and practiced as a physician for several years. Her hunger for God placed her in Christian service from an early age.

Tinu and her husband Rev. Kayode Tadese, were called in September 2002, to pioneer the Abundant Life International Church, a vibrant, growing, non-denominational charismatic church in Cleveland Ohio, USA. They have since then stepped into the church planting phase of their ministry.

Tinu does not only co-pastor these growing churches, but has also been used mightily by God to deliver and set many women free, through Prayer and Fasting conferences. She is a gifted teacher of the Word of God, an intercessor, a prolific writer and a business woman. Her greatest passion is to see God's kingdom move forward and to see God's children disciplined and living in the total freedom and abundant life Jesus came to give them.

She and her husband currently reside in Cleveland Ohio with their two children, Kristene-Favorina and Emmanuel-David.