

OPEN MENTORSHIP

By Apostle Femi Lazarus

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Title: Open Mentorship

Preacher: Apostle Femi Lazarus

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Foreword

This *Open Mentorship* is not a sermon you read once and move on from. It is a conversation you return to again and again.

When Apostle Femi Lazarus speaks, he does not speak to impress — he speaks to awaken. What you hold in your hands is not merely teaching; it is a deliberate stirring of hunger, clarity, and destiny-conscious living. This mentorship session carries the rare blend of spiritual depth, leadership insight, and practical wisdom that defines his ministry.

In these pages, you will meet truths that challenge comfort, dismantle entitlement, and reintroduce you to the discipline of growth. You will hear about circles and influence, hunger and endurance, privilege and purpose, comparison and destiny. But more than themes, you will encounter a mindset — one that refuses stagnation and settles only for transformation.

What makes this work remarkable is not just what is said, but how it is said. The voice remains authentic. The counsel remains fatherly. The authority remains gentle yet firm. Apostle Femi Lazarus does not merely instruct; he walks with you, questions you, corrects you, and then points you forward.

This is mentorship without distance. Correction without condemnation. Wisdom without noise.

As you read, do not rush. Pause often. Reflect deeply. Allow the words to interrogate your routines, your relationships, your hunger, and your vision. Many of the shifts that redefine destiny begin quietly — with one sentence understood, one decision adjusted, one hunger rekindled.

It is our honour at LivingSermons.com to preserve this session in written form, so that the light released in one moment can continue to illuminate many journeys.

May this book not only inform you, but reform you. May it not only inspire you, but reposition you. And may the hunger stirred here lead you, in God's timing, to the tables prepared for your destiny.

With grace and expectation,

Wisdom Epsi

— *Chief Editor, LivingSermons.com*

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Preface / Opening Context

This is a mentorship conversation. It is not a random conversation. It is probably the place where you get to hear me say some things that, here and there, may sound quite unconventional. I personally do not like to be a conventional person. It is not my thing.

But there is something that really drives me when it comes to helping people. It is the consciousness of the fact that everyone standing in front of me — including myself — has just one life. Unfortunately, not everyone understands that, and not everyone maximises that one life.

Sometimes you meet people and it looks like it is already late. Sometimes you meet people and it looks like it is too early — they are not even ready yet. Hardly do you meet people and say, “This one is quite on time.”

Most times, people are either late, a bit late, or too early. But if you are here at this point, you are on time. And that is what I want you to understand, so you can maximise these opportunities.

The kind of conversations we have here are not the kind that go out on the internet space. And I am going to tell you why.

Sometimes you hear people say, “Please just share these things, put them out there.” It does not work like that.

I think I have said it before: only a fool shares what he knows publicly all the time.

Number two, it is not everyone who needs it that wants it. That is one of the codes of wisdom.

People need wisdom. They need knowledge. They need to be helped through life. But the kind of wisdom, the kind of understanding that births people into destiny is not the kind that should be thrown on the street.

That is why I intentionally put this meeting for this time.

And you being here now is you saying, “I know what my life is about, and I am ready for it.”

So I am excited. And I believe we might be able to push on some things.

Chapter One

**The Factor Before Gift, Talent, and
Connection**

I said something when the video was sent out this morning. There is something that comes before talents, giftings, and privileges.

Before connection. Before who knows who. Before how gifted a person is. Before how talented a person is. There is a factor.

What I do basically is that I am not just a pastor or an apostle. I am a coach. I run different organisations. I am a scout.

That means I am always looking for people with potential. Not perfection — I think it is unfair to expect perfection from anybody. The one expecting does not have it also. But there is a trait I am always looking for.

Whether they are heads of organisations. Whether they aspire to become one. Whether they want to work with me. Whether I see them working. Whether I just see them randomly online.

Regardless of gifting, if I look at a person and this thing is missing, I know the person may have a moment — people have moments — but not everyone has the durability to go beyond moments. Life will not give you moments often.

There is something that, if you have it, it does not matter how bad your situation is. It does not matter how broke you are.

It does not matter how bad things are. It does not matter the mistakes you are making. It does not matter whether things are fine or not. It does not matter whether you are accepted or rejected. The moment I see this trait in a person, I know that person will get it.

Why Some People Cannot Be Helped

I have seen anointed people who lack that trait. They are anointed, but small. I have seen gifted people who lack that trait. They are gifted, but small.

I have seen connected people who lack that trait. The connection will not work for them. If somebody is going to pull your hand through life, you must be able to stand. I cannot pull your hand and still help you stand.

It is not everyone that can respond to lifting. There are people lifting will not help. Let me give you an instance.

Some of you attended very good secondary schools. I attended one of the best where I grew up. There is something that happens in the exam hall.

Somebody says, “Number two, number three.”

You tell the person the answer.

Then somebody says, “Spell ‘city’.”

And you realise the problem is not ignorance or forgetfulness. It is foundational.

We have to go back.

So although what you have just said should break this person through, it is not sufficient to cure the problem.

There are people you cannot help because they lack that one thing. Even if you give them opportunity, it will not work.

That is the truth.

And that is the thing I want us to look at.

Chapter Two

Talent Is Not Scarce

One time I saw a man on YouTube sing a song I love. He sang it better than the original singer. But I said to myself, “This guy will not go far in music.”

Let me ask you: when record labels want to sign musicians, what do you think they are looking for?

Talent? Ability to sing? Get this straight.

Talent is not scarce. Gifted people are not difficult to find. If what you are banking on in life is gift and talent, your kind is not scarce.

What record labels are looking for is somebody that, when they push, the person can continue. That is what they are looking for.

They check ability to pursue. They check ability to deliver. They check ability to make profit.

Because a person can be gifted and still be sleeping morning, afternoon, and night. And you must understand this: even God is profit-oriented. Religion has destroyed many people.

God, Profit, and the Elder Brother Syndrome

There are Christians I call elder brother Christians. They hate that the younger brother who fell away was celebrated when he returned.

But the one who had the audacity to go that far will also have the audacity to do the right thing better than the one who is not trying at all.

Sometimes we try to bribe God with a clean sheet. We forget that the One we are trying to bribe is the purest of the pure.

You must understand this: both God and the devil are interested in people who can bring returns. There is a profit aspect of the kingdom.

People God and the Devil Cannot Use

Look at Daniel chapter one. When the children of Israel were taken to Babylon, the king's palace had requirements:

Children of royal seed. People with exposure. People who could learn. People who could adapt to culture. They did not want to start foundation training again.

And among them we know Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. But there are people both God and the devil cannot use.

They do not have that seed — that ability to deliver, to not be neutral through life, to be dissatisfied when things are not right.

That dissatisfaction is a seed.

Not everyone has it. Sometimes what you call peace is complacency. We confuse the two.

You say, “I just enjoy peace.”

You are in trouble.

With the way your life is going, you ought not to have peace. This is not the kind of peace God promised. There must be a natural discontentment in a person that will be great. That hunger. That panting. That voice saying, “There can be more.”

If you do not have it, that is when you should be afraid.

Hunger Reveals Destiny

How do you know a hungry person?

They keep opening ports. They keep checking. They keep asking, “What can I cook?”

Many Christians do not open ports. They are not hungry. Religion has damaged people. This idea that “when your time comes, you will shine.”

Life is a one-way ticket. Every birthday can only happen once. That age is gone forever. There are people who are not investable.

Look at the parable of the talents.

The one with five traded and returned ten. The one with three returned six.

The one with two returned four.

The one with one buried it.

And said, “My master is wicked.”

That is the problem with many Christians.

Hunger is not there.

Relay Race and Capacity

In a relay race, it does not matter who starts in front or behind. Everybody will get tired. The race is too long for position to matter.

That is life.

I remember someone close to me had a result I did not like. I wanted to protest. He said, “I know my capacity.”

I shook my head. There was a problem. When I went for service, I met a girl who studied biochemistry.

She went on her knees and begged: “I do not mind being a cleaner here. I just want to manage to graduate.”

That moment exposed everything.

How Foolishness Is Exposed

The Bible already gave us the key. The only way foolishness can be concealed is when a foolish person is quiet. Once a foolish person talks, his level is exposed. The way to unravel wisdom or foolishness is to let people talk.

When people talk, their level is revealed.

Compatibility, Direction, and the Danger of Religious Excuses

If you want to be a global figure, you already have that drive within you. Now you are doing life with somebody who is very handsome or very fine, but the person is always responding to the force of gravity. They are too heavy for flight. You will not go anywhere.

You are thinking forward. The fellow is thinking backward. There is no compatibility in sense. But because you say, “God said that is my spouse,” who can argue with the Lord?

That is the problem.

We know Christians. Someone is entering what will kill him and he says, “God said.”

Let me ask you: if that person was not fine, will God still say?

If today something happens and fire burns the person’s face, will God change His mind?

The god who checks beauty and does not check brain is not my God.

That is religion.

Prophecy That Destroys Destiny

I remember a story. They went for a retreat on campus. Somebody began to prophesy and started assigning spouses.

Assigning spouses. And the brother prophesying had a sister he liked.

Everybody who stood as competition for that sister, he reassigned and relocated them.

“You — that is your wife.” “You — that is your husband.”

Prophecy is not epilepsy. I looked at him and said, “Sister is here. Is the Lord not speaking again?”

That is how many lives have been made miserable.

Chapter Three

Understanding Religion and Spirituality

I believe that when Africa took the path of religion, we went backwards. Spirituality and religion are not the same.

Until you separate them, you will not go forward. When Adam fell, he lost glory. He covered himself with fig leaves.

That was man's idea of approaching God. Organised. Structured. But fading. Religion is man's method. Not God's idea.

And it can cage you for life. It can shape how you see life. How you think. How you decide. There are things you ought to become that you may never become because of religion. Religion is brutal.

I have seen people who were sick and a simple blood transfusion would save them. But because of religion, they refused and died.

Every intervention in medicine and science is from the wisdom God gave man. God gave man brain to think. This does not mean we do not consult God. But these things have damaged lives.

Hunger: The Universal Trait of Great People

I was watching a podcast — Diary of a CEO.

He asked a powerful man, “What is that trait you see in every successful person?”

He said, “Hunger.”

What is hunger?

Hunger is the manifestation of dissatisfaction. When dissatisfaction is loud. The most difficult person to help is the one who is not hungry.

You want to see shame?

Try helping somebody who needs help but does not know he needs it. Many people are not hungry.

They believe, “What is written is written. One day things will change.”

Prophecies That Destroy Futures

I know someone religion damaged. Somebody prophesied to him: “God said do not go for NYSC. Somebody will come and take you abroad.”

That brother dropped out of school. Prophecies like that are why we have emergency prophets. If people who could not succeed in anything else keep entering ministry, Africa cannot change. And I will not say that politely.

If people serve God only because they are unemployed or unproductive, they will exploit God’s people. You cannot give what you do not have.

Poverty, Pressure, and Greatness

I told you about a man — a director in First Bank. He was an orphan. He cut wood to pay for his exam. All the money he had was for first year. If he failed, school was over. So the only way to survive was to beat everybody.

And he did.

When they asked him what motivated him, he said, “Poverty.”

The same poverty people use as excuse to steal. The same poverty people use to waste their lives. Someone else used it as a

stepping stone. There comes a time you know nobody is coming to help you. That is when destiny begins.

Too Many Options Can Destroy You

Many people say, “Mentor me.”

The problem is you have too many options. If you fail, somebody will carry you. That is your problem. But those of you who must not crash — you know who you are. You cannot go back with excuses. If you still lack hunger at that point, you are to be pitied.

The Quality of the Person Determines the Outcome

Not the quality of your teacher. Not the quality of your exposure. Not the quality of your knowledge. The quality of your person. Who you are naturally. Whether you are satisfied or always panting for more. Some people would have succeeded even as unbelievers. Because of their nature.

Do Not Escape — Make Things Work

Sometimes what you need is not to change professions. If you leave a thing without mastering it, you are learning escape. Not success. I tell myself: do not leave because it is not working. Make things work.

Rejection as a Tool of Destiny

I once told someone to get another room. His thinking would have reduced me overnight. Sometimes you need rejection to know you have a problem.

Some people need a rude shock. That shock jump-starts destiny. Disappointment sometimes is mercy.

When Love Exposes Capacity

Many Christian girls do not know what a successful man looks like. They date anybody. One day, the girl you think is dying for you says, “No, you are not my type.”

That rejection can save your life. One time a girl told a man, “Go and think about it again.”

That was somebody’s destiny speaking.

Religion Hates Thinking

Religious people hate intellectual conversations. Once you raise it, they call it pride. Religion helps us hide. Everything is the devil. If the devil could sue Christians, many would be in court.

Chapter Four
Change Your Circle

There are people you can work with. When you push them, they continue. Let me say this to you: If everyone in your circle is not doing well — change that circle. Yes. Change it.

If you have four fools as friends, you did not count well. You have five. That was a slap.

Circles, Influence, and the Power of Environment

If everyone in your circle is not doing well, always check that circle. If nobody is inspiring you, check that circle.

Sociologists say we are products of nature and nurture. Our environment shapes us. What we see. What influences our minds. The quality of conversations we hear.

I told you last time I was here that there are friends I have — we just drive around together. Don't tell me anything. Just do your stuff.

The quality of conversations they are having is shifting my paradigm. It is bringing me to an understanding that there is more.

If every time you are with friends, you are always the best in that circle, something is wrong. Maybe with your esteem. And you need to check it.

Start — Perfection Will Catch Up Later

Take this as mentorship counsel from me. You do not have to start anything perfectly. Just start.

Perfection will catch up later. If you are really going to go far, you do not need perfection. You need improvement. Just start.

If you can see excellence around you, you have no excuse for mediocrity. Your hunger will manifest in your ability to learn and replicate what is working.

Start. Learn. Find people doing it better.

People who change their world do not have time bragging about being the best. When you are celebrating where you are, others are already moving. We sing our own songs too early. That is the problem.

Capacity Determines Leadership Level

The captain of ten is comfortable with ten. The captain of hundred is comfortable with hundred. The captain of thousands is comfortable with thousands.

Jesus gave the blueprint: “Everyone that seeketh findeth.”

That is powerful.

A Night Without Food — And a Decision That Changed Everything

There was a time in school — six of us in a room.

No money. No food. No credit left. Six able-bodied men. No sachet water.

That night I said, “Tonight we go to bed without food. But if this ever repeats in your life, it is your choice.”

As far as I am concerned, that was the last time. And I noticed something. There are people who, even if everyone is dying, are not moved.

They think they are stingy.

No.

They lack leadership seed. They do not care for people. That is not leadership. That is a problem of quality.

The Quality of the Person Is the Constant

The quality of your person is the constant. If something is wrong with that quality, many things will be wrong in life. I do not care whether you are independent now, broke now, hungry now.

If you have that dissatisfaction, that hunger, that restlessness for more — you will break through.

Observation: The Highest Form of Learning

Some people ask questions whose answers are observable. That is not smartness. People who go far are observant. Observation is the highest form of learning.

You can pick what a person is not even intending to teach you.

What Keeps You Awake at Night?

What keeps you awake daily?

What puts you on your toes?

One of the proofs that you understand what you are saying is simplicity. Simplicity is proof of understanding. Big grammar is not wisdom.

Hunger Is Stronger Than Privilege

There are children who never had access to privilege. Yet they meet privileged people at the same table later. Because hunger is stronger than privilege. Hunger puts the beggar on the horse.

Lack of hunger puts the prince on the floor. Isaac said, “When you become discontented, you will break his yoke.”

There is no yoke a discontented man cannot break.

Chapter Five

Who Inspires You — And Why?

You must have people who inspire you. But do not do it religiously. I have no right to inspire you if I am not doing much in life. Do not mention someone only because he is your pastor.

You may love him, but he is not inspiring you. You must know the difference. Many of our biggest shifts begin when we break free from religious shackles.

Daily Discipline Builds Destiny

What are the things you do daily towards fulfilling your potential?

Not monthly. Daily. I read daily.

I equip my mind daily. I read:

- Biographies.
- Leadership.
- Nation building.
- Management.

Because hunger must be fed.

If you have that hunger —That dissatisfaction —That refusal to remain average — Then it does not matter where you started. You will meet the right people. At the right table. At the right time. And you will break every yoke.

Spiritual Growth Begins with Attention

How do you improve spiritually?

By paying attention to spiritual things. Simply put: the Word of God and prayer. How many hours do you sleep, sir?

What is your daily routine? And who inspires you?

I will answer one of those three. I rest when I have to. I believe rest is a reward for those who are working. If you are not busy, rest is fraudulent.

But understand this: that quality of hunger does not mean you are ungrateful. Yes, you are grateful. But you just know there is more. People may be celebrating you — and that is fine — but you have moved on. Something keeps telling you there is more.

A lot more.

Growth Is the Only Sustainer of Relationships

There are relationships that will not be sustained by loyalty alone. Some relationships will collapse if you do not grow. This person loves you, wants to be loyal — but you are not growing. Two cannot walk together except they be agreed.

You must understand that.

In our world today, we are not used to pastors who are also intellectuals.

If you put things out to change people's lives, someone will say, "Leave this thing and teach Jesus," and that person does not even know Jesus.

Their idea of a pastor is someone who sleeps and wakes in church and has no contribution to society beyond saying "In Jesus' name."

When God shows us different dimensions, we fight them because we do not understand. It is unfortunate.

Endurance Is Greater Than Privilege

Look at a marathon race. Some are born in front. Some are born behind. But whether you start in front or at the back, you will be tired when you are tired.

The real question is not where you started. Do you have the endurance to finish?

You can be born with privilege and still lack the spine to finish. The way God levels all of us in destiny is access to divine wisdom.

Let us say one is born the son of a great man and has access to quality people, quality impartation, quality schools. You may not have any of that. But you have the hunger his father had.

You will not be like him in your generation. You will be like his father. He is the son of a great man. You are a great man.

Two different people. One inheritance: hunger.

Eventually, it will be a privilege for him to meet you.

Nurse Your Hunger

Do not mourn what you were not born into. Some of your greatest opportunity is hunger. Nurse it like a baby.

It will place you where patriarchs stand. There are people you never had access to, never had hands laid on you by, never had certain doors opened to you. But on the strength of well-channeled hunger, you will stand in greater heights than they stood.

Your case becomes unfortunate if those with better opportunities now have more hunger than you. Maintain your hunger.

Grow, Then Return

Sometimes, leave. Focus on yourself. Grow. Then come back. Failure is an orphan. Everyone wants to be around those who are doing well. There are people I met before who opened their doors today — not because I kept knocking, but because I left to grow. Get out. Grow. Then return.

Comparison Is a Destiny Trap

I do not compare myself with anybody. Anyone you compare yourself with, you reduce yourself to their level — in life and in destiny. Comparison makes you unnecessarily competitive. Never compare yourself.

Closing Charge

Things may not be perfect now. They may not be the way you want them to be. But keep that mindset that searches for better ways. That mindset that believes things can be better.

That refuses to rest until they become better. One day at a time. One decision at a time.

If you nurse that baby called hunger, one day you will sit on the same platform with your mentors, and they will feel privileged to have you.

That is how life works. Eventually, hunger leverages all of us.

Final Benediction of This Session

Such a great time spending with you today. Let me know how this has blessed you and inspired you.

Remain hungry. Remain growing. Remain faithful to your process. The light you have received today is only the beginning.

About the Speaker

Apostle Femi Lazarus is a Christian teacher, mentor, and leadership voice widely known for his clarity of thought, intellectual depth, and practical approach to spirituality and destiny development. He is the lead pastor of Light Nation Church and the founder of the International School of Ministry, where he trains leaders across church, governance, and societal platforms.

His ministry is distinguished by a rare balance between spiritual authority and intellectual engagement. Through mentorship, leadership training, and public teaching, he equips believers to think correctly, grow deliberately, and live responsibly, addressing both spiritual formation and real-life competence.

Apostle Femi Lazarus continues to shape a generation through teaching platforms, digital resources, and mentorship structures, raising leaders who are spiritually grounded, mentally alert, and strategically positioned for influence in God's purpose.

About Living Sermons

Living Sermons is a Spirit-led publishing platform dedicated to transforming timeless messages of God's servants into books that can reach and impact lives across the world.

Our mission is simple: to preserve the wisdom, revelation, and anointing carried in the preached Word and make it accessible in formats that can be studied, shared, and revisited for generations. By turning sermons into high-quality Christian books and eBooks, we extend the life and influence of each message far beyond the pulpit.

At Living Sermons, we believe that the preached Word is living and powerful (Hebrews 4:12). Every sermon carries truth that can instruct, comfort, rebuke, inspire, and transform. Our role is to faithfully capture these words, polish them for clarity and readability, and present them in a way that maintains the preacher's unique voice and anointing.

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