

GOD'S JUSTICE SYSTEM (*Episode 3*)

By

Apostle Femi Lazarus

Transcribed And Edited

By

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Dedication

*To the glory of the Almighty God,
the Giver of life, wisdom, and revelation,
without whom there is no message, no grace, and no ministry.
All praise, honour, and thanksgiving belong to Him forever.*

*And with heartfelt honour,
This book is dedicated to **Apostle Femi Lazarus**,
a faithful servant of Christ,
whose yielded life, teaching, and obedience
continue to bless the Body of Christ
and advance the Kingdom of God in our generation.*

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Introduction

Welcome, dear reader.

At Living Sermons, we don't just put words on a page—we preserve living encounters with God. Each message you are about to read began as a sermon, spoken with fire, passion, and revelation. What we've done here is simple: we've captured the raw flow of the preacher and shaped it into a format that lets you sit with the Word at your own pace.

Think of this book as a conversation. You'll hear the preacher's voice, you'll catch the urgency in his heart, and you'll sense the Spirit's wisdom gently guiding you. Don't rush through it—pause, reflect, pray, and let the Word do its deep work.

This is more than a sermon transcript. It is a tool for transformation. And my prayer is that as you read, the same light that shone in the service will break forth in your own heart.

Yours in service

Wisdom Epsi – *Living Sermon, Chief Editor*

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Main Message

God's Justice System (Episode 3)

By

Apostle Femi Lazarus

Opening Prayer

Let everything within you honour Him and magnify Him. He is worthy to be praised and exalted. He is higher than the kings of the earth. Bless Him. Give Him glory. Give Him praise. He deserves the lifting up of our hands and our honour.

We give You glory, Lord, in Jesus' mighty name we pray.

Amen. Hallelujah.

A Turning Point in Your Understanding

One of the very interesting things that is going to happen this evening is that your understanding of Christianity will change.

If there is a sermon—if there is a message—you need to move from being a religious Christian without results to becoming a victorious Christian who knows God's Word and succeeds with it, Amen.

So, I want you to pay very, very important attention to this.

Chapter 1:

Understanding God's Thinking & Alignment

To walk with God, you must first understand the way He works and the way He thinks. *“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”* (Amos 3:3). We cannot agree with Him unless we know how He thinks.

One of the shocking discoveries is that many believers have assumptions about the way God thinks. Some of us even imagine that God is an African, or perhaps a Nigerian. But His culture is entirely different from our own.

God's Thoughts Are Higher

Let me show you a scripture. Turn your Bibles quickly to Isaiah 55.

Now let's start reading from verses 8 and 9:

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” (Isaiah 55:8–9, KJV)

Did you hear that?

God says clearly: *“I don't think the way you think, and the way you walk is not the way I walk.”* That is a clear statement.

So, there is no victory in view until we align ourselves with His thinking and the way He works.

The Word of God Can Be Trusted

Permit me to tell you that the Word of God can be trusted. If you find a Christian who has been taught—who has sat down to learn and then applied the things they have learned—that Christian will be victorious.

Many times, when you hear Christians saying things like, “*Oh, I trusted God for money, or for whatever it is, and it didn’t come through. God of the Bible is a scam. I’m done with Him.*” — The problem is not with God.

That Christian might be in church, but not in class. And those are two different things.

Church is the family; the class is the place where you learn the culture. If you don’t stay in class, you will soon leave church.

Chapter 2:

Misconceptions About Christianity & Success

The Christian life is not something you automatically have just because you repeated a prayer after someone.

“Say after me: In the name of Jesus... Jesus...” — No, talk now! Except you are truly giving your life to Christ, simply repeating words won’t make it so.

Somebody may have made money illegally before, and then suddenly say, *“Father, in the name of Jesus, I accept Jesus as my Lord and Saviour today. I renounce all my evil ways and I start something new.”*

Now, listen carefully. If they told you that from the moment you said that, your success had started — they lied to you. Yes, sir!

The way you knew to make money before, you have abandoned it. But you don’t yet know God’s way. And between now and the time you learn this way, you will suffer.

Sorry if nobody told you like that. But I just have to tell you as it is.

Victory Is Not Automatic

This idea that once you confess Christ, victory begins immediately—it’s not true. If it were true, then is it so in your own life?

Is it possible for a very prayerful Christian, one who never misses daily prayers or daily Bible study, to still be defeated in life? Is it possible?

Yes! It is very possible. In fact, your poverty can be greater than your prayer life.

It is possible to pray, to attend PPC in the morning, never miss Sunday service, Bible study, or prayer meetings, to even fast weekly—and still experience defeat.

“Are you saying, Apostle, in the midst of all that, can I still be defeated?”

Yes, very well! Even right in the middle of all that.

So now, you understand the way things work. Christianity and victory in the faith are not automatic.

Principles Govern Results

I am tired of using Nigeria as an example, but it’s true. We will keep being disappointed if it has not yet occurred to us that prayer does not put a president in a seat.

Yes, sir. More fasting and prayer will not actually remove Nigeria from being a third-world country. Why? Because God is just, and there are principles in place.

When you rebel against principles, it doesn’t mean God will veto them.

Have you not done it before? *“Father, as I write this exam, I write in Your name.”* Did God come down from heaven, open the book through angels, and show you the formula? No. You can even have an extra year in school. Meanwhile, in ministry, you may be very successful. Why? One knows the principle, the other doesn’t.

Faith Without Understanding

Have you not seen people who are sick, and the doctors say they need a blood transfusion, but they insist, *“Oh, I believe we are not going to get any blood transfusion. The God of my father will do it for me.”*

The person will die. And the first thing the angels will say when he arrives in eternity is, *“Wow, you came so early!”*

Chapter 3:

Decisions, Choices & Destiny

Let me show you from Scripture: **your decision is your destiny.**

There is no such thing as this idea: *“I am single, and the person I am going to marry is already kept somewhere by God. One day, somehow, I will just meet them, and everything will align.”*

Listen to what I am saying. Even you can shock your angels. You could say, *“I will walk to number 1, 2, 3, 4. Then I will turn right, count one to seven, and pick whoever I see.”*

If that person agrees, you marry. That doesn't mean it was in God's plan. I am trying to show you that you have the power to make decisions.

The Power of Decision

It doesn't matter how much God may not want a thing—once you decide, everything begins to align with that decision. What will then happen is that Heaven begins to evaluate: *What quality of destiny can still be fulfilled with this choice they have made?*

Do you understand what I am saying?

“Yes, sir!”

So it's not as though if you marry the wrong person, you will just die immediately. No, you will give birth to children, but perhaps not the ones God originally planned.

Life, Death, and Choice

We often say, “*God knows when we will die.*” That is true. But even you can influence it.

Only God knew the day you were born, because you had no decision in that matter. You did not exist then except in His mind. But from birth onwards, you have power to choose.

You can choose even how your life ends.

Strange Choices People Make

People today identify as whatever they want. I have an auntie in the UK now who identifies as British—yet she is black.

One man, when arrested by the police, insisted he identified as a dog. He argued that there was no constitutional right to arrest him. The police responded, “*True! But in that case, we will treat you like a dog—give you some injections and call the vet to check you.*”

I am just trying to let you know: you are powerful. Please don’t hang every responsibility on God. You are powerful!

Salvation Is Not Enough

You are in church today not just because God chose it, but because you also chose it. Nobody knows tomorrow, but you can decide that by tomorrow you want to be in jail. How? Go outside, record yourself on Facebook assaulting an officer, and the police will gladly help you get there. *Praise God.*

Now, let me ask you a question:

The fact that you are born again, Spirit-filled, and present in church—does that guarantee you will succeed in life?

“No!”

Please preach the gospel to your neighbour: *“It is not a guarantee.”*

Talk to me now—being born again, Spirit-filled, and speaking in tongues, even I know that is not enough criteria to succeed.

Chapter 4:

God's Justice System & Principles

Let me tell you the way God thinks. The thinking of God is so perfect and so set that even when it became clear that the only way humanity could be saved was for God to become flesh and die, there was no argument in the Godhead.

The route Jesus had to go through was to be stripped naked and hung on the cross. And sometimes you ask yourself: *“Could God not just swallow His pride and declare, ‘All of you are saved’?”*

But the God who did not do that—the God who watched Jesus die—will not wave aside responsibility. Yes, sir!

Nigeria Must Know This God

It is high time Nigerians know this God. It is high time Nigerians are introduced to the God of justice and principle.

I don't overrate myself; I am very honest with myself. And let me give you the balance.

Prayer Without Wisdom

Sometimes you hear testimonies: *“Oh, praise God, while I was going for the interview, the Apostle prayed with me and prophesied, and that was why I got the job.”*

But sometimes I just sit there and say to myself, *“Not be me!”*

That doesn't mean prayer doesn't work. But if prayer searches your life and finds no wisdom on the ground, the result is still zero.

One million times zero is zero.

A pastor's ego can be massaged while the people remain ignorant—believing that once the man of God prays or lays hands, everywhere they go, they will automatically be accepted.

But let me ask: is your character good? That is a basis.

Keep this in mind: the same God who watched His only begotten Son die because that was the requirement—this same God will not wave principles aside just for you.

Chapter 5

Choices & Consequences

Doing what is right does not mean that automatically, as far as life is concerned, God will veto everything and guarantee your success. If you heard that kind of statement, I put it to you: you did not hear God.

There is this idea that anywhere I turn, God will just show up for me. Even if I turn here, He will make a way. But that is not true.

There are routes you must never go. The Bible says:

“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” (Proverbs 14:12, KJV)

The only way God can help you is to stop you from entering that path in the first place.

The Story of a Wrong Choice

Let me tell you a story. In fact, I will tell you two—and they are about church.

A woman was preparing to get married. Her mother, a prophetess, declared, *“The Lord said this person is going to be your husband.”*

The daughter replied, *“But I don’t feel any connection with him.”*

Her mother insisted: *“Who are you, mortal, to question the word of the Lord?”*

So, she married the man. Soon after, he got her pregnant, then vanished. He did not return until she gave birth. When he finally came back, he beat her so severely in the hospital that he mistakenly struck the baby, and the child passed away.

He then stormed out and disappeared again, only later sending a mere ₦5,000, as though that could cover the damage.

Tongues Do Not Cancel Consequences

Listen carefully: the fact that you speak in tongues does not mean that if you make wrong choices, you will not face the consequences.

This idea that “*God loves me so much, He will make a way no matter what I choose*” is not biblical. The same God who did not excuse Jesus from dying for our sins is the God you think will excuse you from your choices?

No! The only thing you have control over is your decision, not the consequences. Once you make a decision, the consequence will follow. You have no control over that.

This means that the best time God can help you is **before** you make the decision. After that, the consequences are yours to bear—you must dance to their tune.

A Brutal Truth

I want us to understand the way God works and the way He thinks, so that in dealing with Him, we are clear about who we are dealing with.

Here is the brutal truth: many people in Christianity today—if they continue on the path they are on—will never be successful in life, even if they attend every prayer meeting.

Get me my chair. Let me sit down to say this. I need to calm down. I need to calm down.

All of you, look at me. Switch on all the lights in this church. I want to see your faces. I want to look at you. Let it be a testimony that I told you. Let us talk now—honour the light.

Chapter 6

Prayer vs Responsibility

This business of switching off the lights—sit up, look at me. I am your pastor. Now, we lead prayer every morning, and I am still the same one telling you that not missing prayer is not a guarantee for success. Your prayer note can be full, yet based on the quality of the person you are, there may not be much God can do with that quality. Even with a prayer life—are you seeing it?—there may not be much result.

When we were on campus, I knew many people who were passive about life. They were not motivated. They had no drive. Yet they loved God—and they still failed. Even God Himself will not allow you to enthrone Him wrongly.

The Myth of “Prayer Is the Master Key”

We often sing, *“Prayer is the master key. Jesus started with prayer and ended with prayer. Prayer is the master key.”*

That is not true.

Jesus did not start with prayer and end with prayer. He started with favour—with God and with men—and He ended with obedience.

I am going to show you from the Bible the role of prayer. We are studying God’s justice system, and I want you to see that even though you are His child, your life can be lived in such a way that people cannot trace your results to God.

The earlier we know these things, the better.

The Nigerian Version of Christianity

This is why much of what we call “the Nigerian version of Christianity” can only be sustained in Nigeria.

Why? Because we are in a failing system, and so God is expected to cover up for the lapses of the government.

An average black man has no choice but to pray.

Now, this is not me talking down on prayer. I will show you where prayer comes in. Smile—yes, smile.

Prayer does not fill potholes.

When Systems Fail

Let me give you an instance.

Let’s say that in Nigeria, on average, 5,000 people die yearly in road accidents. If the right things were done—if roads were made good and driving rules and regulations were properly enforced—that number could drop significantly, maybe even to 500.

That tells you that God does not cause those deaths.

Yes, sir. Many things that happen to people in life are not God’s responsibility.

By putting the right people in place and making changes in failing systems, you will see that God was never the one responsible. And even when you say, “*It’s the devil,*”—he is often only taking advantage of your lapses.

Chapter 7

Prophecy, Wisdom & Victory

That you are God's child is not enough criterion to guarantee victory in every aspect of your life. God has principles and laws that govern different areas of existence. Being born again is not an excuse to ignore them.

For instance, it is very possible for a Christian to say: *"As the year began, I made a sacrifice. I gave my first income towards the propagation of the gospel."* But after the fasting, prayer, and giving, what happened? They were sacked from their job.

Why? Many things could be responsible for that sacking. And the fact that you gave your first income does not mean those reasons will no longer stand.

Here is the truth: God will bless your wisdom, but He will not ignore your foolishness.

Misconceptions About Suffering

Many believers ask, *"How can I, a child of God, serving Him faithfully, be the one going through these things?"*

The answer is simple: You can.

"I can't be broke!" you say. But you can be broke. The question is: what are you doing not to be broke?

Some think it is just about naming it and claiming it. No! You can drown even with your anointing.

What I am saying is this: God has prepared a future for you, but it is not automatic. You have a stake in determining whether you will get there or not.

The greatest mistake is assuming that everything you saw in visions and prophecies will automatically come to pass. That is a lie. That is ignorance of God's ways.

Even Jesus Had to Be Careful

There are things God has shown me personally. I know them. But do you think that if prophecy were automatic, I would just sit back, cross my legs, eat chicken, and say, "*Yes, that's my boy,*" while life unfolds on autopilot? No! Even Jesus worked.

Did you not read your Bible? When people wanted to kill Jesus before His appointed time, He escaped.

Yes—Jesus escaped.

When He was still a child, and Herod wanted Him dead, what was the angel's instruction to Joseph? "*Run with the child.*"

Could they have killed Jesus? I think so. Because He was in the flesh, and the flesh has limitations.

So you—who are not God in the flesh—should you be careless? I, Femi Lazarus, know that there are places I should never go without security.

If you say, "*I can do all things,*" without wisdom, you will die. And people will simply gather at your funeral and say, "*Ah, he was a good man.*"

This is why I constantly remind myself: what God has shown me is not automatic. Being a pastor is not a guarantee either.

Chapter 8

Prophecies & Preparation

Even God Himself, when revealing certain things, does so with wisdom. There are prophecies He will not allow me to disclose fully—because if fear mixes with revelation, the devil can take advantage.

If God shows me that the enemy is trying to take your life, I don't have to tell you directly. By telling you, I might authorise fear in your heart, which then allows Satan to act. That is why, when people come saying, "*What God showed about you is not good,*" they are not spiritually smart.

The right response is not to frighten people but to intercede. If there is wisdom to provide, you give it. Otherwise, you pray.

I once had to caution someone who kept calling me with negative visions, asking me to pray against one danger or another. I said, "*Stop it—that's witchcraft. You want to put me under pressure, so I live in fear and depend on your so-called visions.*" Never entertain anything that darkens your spirit.

Prophecy Requires Preparation

Understand this: no prophecy fulfils itself.

God may declare, "*I have called you to start a glorious church that will spread to all nations.*" But if preparation is not in place, that prophecy can end up being attended only by your family members.

Be careful about the prophecies you believe. If you do not have the capacity or preparation to carry them, you may end up offended when they don't happen.

This is the mistake many Nigerians make. Have you heard people say, "*There are prophecies that Nigeria will one day be great, until Jesus returns*"?

Listen carefully: never let anyone—no matter the title or colour of their collar—make you believe that Nigeria will automatically change. If Nigeria changes, it will be because Nigerians rose up and changed it. If Nigerians remain passive, Nigeria will sink.

The same people oppressing you today will raise children who will oppress your children tomorrow.

Hope alone does not change nations. Hope, without responsibility, is an opium for the masses.

Tomorrow Is Not Automatic

Life does not improve with time; life improves with transformation. No Scripture guarantees tomorrow will be better if you remain the same.

If you stay unchanged, your tomorrow will be worse than today—even with God on your side.

That's why all these songs about "*Tomorrow will be great in Jesus' name*" are not enough. Your angels may well be saying, "*Really? Based on what?*"

Prophecy is your advantage—it reveals God's will. But until you align with it and do the work, it will remain unfulfilled.

The Bitter Truth

Let me tell you a bitter truth with a personal example. One day, I was praying about a particular person in church. I said, *“Lord, You have called us to touch the nations. There are billions of white people in the world, yet in this church I only have one.”*

It dawned on me: if we are truly to reach nations, we must change orientation—even in our presentation. That’s part of the reason I wear suits now. Not because I like it, but because I recognise the need for cultural flexibility if we are to reach beyond familiar borders.

Do you see it? Even the little things—how we present ourselves, how we engage others—become part of preparation for prophecy. Otherwise, you will only reach those already within your circle, those who know your “prophetic regalia.”

Selah.

Chapter 9

Growth, Exposure & Preparation

There are many more examples I could give, but not everything can be said at once.

There was a time in Light Nation when people like you would never have come. Shocking, right? But it's true. My people here can testify. We had to grow.

At one point, the highest earner in the entire church was earning just ₦100,000. Before we ever got to the point where I now mentor people across the world, it wasn't because a prophecy went ahead of us—it was because we grew.

Impartation Needs Preparation

During our Festival of Life meetings, when my spiritual father calls me up and lays hands on me, I never take those moments casually. I always remind our pastors: *those words never fall to the ground.*

But listen carefully—before I go on my knees, I have already spent days in prayer and fasting, preparing for what comes next.

This is a painful but necessary submission: if impartation alone were powerful enough, then everyone I have ever laid hands on should have succeeded. That reality humbles me.

If I lay hands on a fool, his foolishness will make me look like I am not anointed. If I lay hands on a wise man, his wisdom will make it look like I am

highly anointed. It is not just about the quality of the hand-laid; it is also about the quality of the head receiving.

Now, put your two hands on your head and declare: *“Lord, I receive wisdom.”*

Say it again. *“I receive wisdom. Wisdom to navigate life. Wisdom to discern. Wisdom to prepare.”*

Yes, in Jesus’ mighty name.

Learning From History

Recently, the Lord began to open my eyes to certain patterns. As I studied the history of the church in Nigeria, I discovered something striking.

Only two ministers of the gospel—maybe three if we include one whose reputation many don’t like—have predominantly touched people of different races and colours.

Think about it: even if you consider someone fake, uneducated, or unrefined, what did they know that enabled them to influence people beyond our race and tribe?

And yet, we who are educated, articulate, and genuine often cannot cross the barrier of tribe or colour.

Yes, we fill stadiums across the world. But let’s be honest: the majority of those filling the seats are still our own people.

This calls for reflection. What principles did they engage that allowed them to break barriers we still struggle with?

Chapter 10

Nigeria, Ministry & Orientation

If this is truly where I want to go, then my method must change. My orientation must change.

Scripture says that God “*calleth those things which be not as though they were*” (Romans 4:17). That means anything not called will not come. “*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me*” (John 10:27).

Influence & Reach

Anybody you cannot influence, you cannot invite. Ministry is not magic.

Think about it: Coca-Cola is not born again—it is just a product. Yet, it has dominated the world. Meanwhile, you plus the Holy Ghost have not gone beyond Abuja. The question is: what do they know that you don't?

The Holy Spirit will not personally teach you what He has designed for you to learn from men. That's why mentorship and training matter.

The “God Said” Syndrome

One of the easiest ways to know a Christian will fail is this: for every decision they make, the only reason they give is, “*God said.*”

You must hear this: “*God said*” is not biblical interpretation. Proper biblical hermeneutics requires revelation, inspiration, and confirmation. “*No prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation*” (2 Peter 1:20). And “*in the*

mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established” (2 Corinthians 13:1).

So when someone tells me, *“The Holy Ghost showed me this verse,”* but they cannot balance it with other scriptures, they are living a lie. Scripture must interpret scripture.

I told someone recently, *“The only reason I cannot help you in life is because for every wrong decision you are making, you say ‘God said.’”* How can a mentor help you against what you think God said? Often, *“God said”* is just stubbornness and rigidity speaking. You didn’t hear any God.

“God said I should wear blue. God told me my time with this person is up.” Really? If you didn’t have a quarrel, would God have said that? If that same person gave you ₦5 million, would God still have told you the time was up?

Many Christians have been trained to live in self-deception, wrapping stubbornness in the cloak of spirituality.

Balance of Grace & Responsibility

When our former venue was pulled down and we had to move here, a religious interpretation would say, *“God provided this new place.”* Yes, He did—but we also searched.

If we had simply slept at home, waiting for the Lord to provide, we would have been worshipping outside. After our very first service here, we even received a quit notice. They told us, *“Get out of this place.”*

Do you know how God gave us victory? Not by angels descending, but by speaking to a security man. The same man who had been advocating for us to be thrown out was the one who turned the tide.

If we had been too proud to humble ourselves and negotiate, that one security guard would have driven thousands of us out, no matter how anointed we thought we were.

Humility in Battles

Not every battle is fought by drawing your sword. Some victories are won only through humility.

Your boss may have been labelling you as unwise. If you stand and shout, “*In the name of Jesus, I am a Light Nation member! We have the covenant of ease!*” they will push you out—easily.

There are battles you win by humbling yourself, bowing low, and begging if necessary. Humility can win where anointing and arrogance will fail.

Chapter 11

Character, Favour & Success

One of the most difficult categories of people to employ are Christians. Why? Their orientation.

That means something is wrong in the way we have been taught. The fruit of our learning is producing a posture that makes us unwanted in the marketplace.

Lessons from Power

I was speaking with a very dear friend of this house—a multi-billionaire—and he shared something striking. He had just been transferred from one government agency to another. He said, *“Do you know the people who lack wisdom the most around the corridors of power? They are believers.”*

Those of other faiths will follow up with calls and text messages. If you help them, they will send you messages of thanks, even long after you’ve left that position. But Christians? Their mindset is, *“God has made a new way for me.”*

Hear me: **it doesn’t work like that.**

The Tiger in the Trap

Imagine a tiger caught in a trap, bleeding badly. If you don’t help it within five minutes, it will die. Compassion may move you, but what will you do?

Most people will watch the tiger die. Why? Not because they are not compassionate, but because of the **character of the tiger.**

Dear Christian, favour is not scarce. It surrounds us like a shield (Psalm 5:12). The real problem is **character**.

You can sing, “*Favour surrounds me,*” and shout amen, but if your character is repelling people, even someone who doesn’t know the song will find more favour than you.

Prophecy, Preparation & Reality

Soon, another crossover service will come. You will be here. You will hear, “*2026—you will excel!*” and you will say amen.

But listen: it is not necessarily automatic.

Those who are engaging in work that God can bless know themselves. Some of you are not yet at the level of praying for nations—you are still at the level of “*Lord, help me survive this month.*” That is fine, but let’s be honest.

You cannot claim you will “*take America and Britain*” when you do not yet have the exposure, discipline, or preparation for such assignments. Being born again, tongue-speaking, and praying in capital-letter tongues does not mean God will overlook process and preparation.

The same God who did not make it easy for Jesus on the cross will stand by His principles, for He is just.

God is Just

Being a Christian does not automatically qualify you for a job above a Muslim. The question is: if you are given that role, will the organisation become better? Or do you think it is your status as “*a child of God*” that makes you deserve it?

No. **God is just.**

Say it to yourself: “*God is just.*”

Say it again: “*God is just.*”

Your prophecies will not come to pass by themselves. You must work. You must change your orientation. You must study. You must prepare.

Even if the biggest pastor in the world declared, “*Light Nation, take over the world!*” I would shout the loudest amen. But I also know: **it is not automatic.**

Chapter 12

Personal Growth & Destiny Fulfilment

“Femi Lazarus, you are going to be used by God.”

Yes—but it depends on me.

There was a time in the journey of this ministry when the only people we could attract were either students or those who didn't have jobs, people who were struggling. For them, a religious message gave temporary encouragement. But anyone who was doing better in life knew: *“If I stay here, I will fail.”*

And I wasn't blaming them. The problem wasn't them—it was me. I didn't yet know what I should know.

Shaping the Mind for Destiny

So I sat down, studying, changing my thinking, shifting my orientation, and doing the work. I began adjusting what needed to be adjusted.

If you pick up my mobile phone today and scroll through my screenshots, you will know where I am going. Because part of destiny fulfilment is setting images before you that confront your mediocrity.

God told Abraham, *“Look at the stars.”*

Later, He told the Israelites, *“Look to Abraham your father.”*

If I cannot yet see the stars, but I can see a man who has seen them, something shifts inside me. I cannot despise those ahead of me and expect God to show me directly what He showed them.

Hear me: **when God sends people to lift you and you despise them, He will not do it Himself.**

Adjusting for Destiny

As your pastor, I pray every day. I study the Word every day. But I am also showing you practically that destiny demands adjustment.

For example, the way I dress now is not comfortable for me. I am a minimalist. I love to be free like a bird. But where I am going demands a different posture. So I adjust.

Let me say this plainly: **to claim “I get it” while refusing to change is fraudulent.**

Chapter 13

Knowledge, Mentorship & Skills

Where did we even learn that song—“*Prayer is the key, prayer is the master key*”?

I am not saying prayer is not key. Without prayer, it doesn't matter what you know; you will be grounded. But hear me: prayer alone does not substitute for knowledge, skill, and preparation.

When you read Luke 4, you see that Jesus, according to His custom, was always reading. At age 12, He was found reasoning with the teachers of the law. That tells you something: even the Son of God submitted Himself to learning.

But in Nigeria and across Africa, this assumption that prayer alone changes everything is what has weakened us. The average person is not doing what they can do daily to change their nation, because they believe “time” or “prophecy” will change it. *It will not change.* Nigeria cannot change without Nigerians.

Knowledge Is Non-Negotiable

God has placed a disclaimer on many things. He will not override them because you prayed or fasted. There are dimensions of life that function strictly by knowledge. Ignorance is not a defence.

That's why Romans 10:14–15 makes it clear: "*How shall they hear without a preacher?*" You need teachers. You need mentors. You need those who have walked the path before you.

Even Paul, after his dramatic encounter with Jesus, was sent to Ananias for further instruction. Encounter was not enough; mentorship was necessary.

So, dear believer, stop trivialising knowledge. Stop saying, "*Know God for yourself, you don't need anybody.*" That's not Scripture. If you don't know, sit with those who know.

You need to read. You need to study. You need to expose yourself. Buy books on finance, leadership, emotional intelligence, and management. Not every book must be stamped "Holy Ghost" before it is useful.

Skill, Track Record & Exposure

Don't romanticise Bible stories. When David killed Goliath, it wasn't only that God "backed the stone." David belonged to a clan of skilled slingers—men who could aim at a strand of hair with a stone and not miss (Judges 20:16). He was trained, he was exposed, and he had a track record.

Before Saul, David wasn't a novice. He was already playing music in the palace. He had faced lions and bears and survived. He had evidence, not just prophecy.

So you say one day you will be the president of Nigeria? What is your track record? Even the local government chairman, you did not contest. Life does not answer to anointing alone—it answers to competence, preparation, and history.

Daniel thrived under pagan kings because he mastered knowledge and governance. Jesus Himself *increased* in wisdom, stature, and favour with God **and men** (Luke 2:52).

If you ignore men while shouting “I have favour with God,” you will remain stranded. Even Jesus’ ministry needed public endorsement from John the Baptist.

The Science of Human Relationships

Life is not designed to be lived alone. Only God is my approver? That’s not humility, that’s pride. In reality, doors open when those who have earned respect vouch for you.

So learn to build relationships. Learn to master communication. Learn integrity. Learn humility. Stop burning bridges in anger and saying, “*I say it as it is!*” That posture guarantees poverty. You can win a fight and lose the battle.

Good understanding brings favour, but the way of a transgressor is hard (Proverbs 13:15).

If you master knowledge, skill, and human relationships, doors will open. If you despise them, you will keep repeating cycles.

Chapter 14

Wisdom, Favour, Endorsement & Final Prayers

John the Baptist came in the spirit and power of Elijah, yet his passion was not balanced with wisdom. Jezebel could not touch Elijah, but John the Baptist lost his head to Herod. Sometimes passion alone cannot preserve you—wisdom must rise. Passion without wisdom can end in frustration.

Many cry that “the blood of the martyrs will change Nigeria,” but bloodshed has never changed our nation. True change will not come by shedding more blood but by men and women rising in wisdom—taking responsibility, getting involved in leadership, in politics, in governance, in the very systems that shape society. That is how we rewrite history.

Beloved, Jesus Himself grew in wisdom, in stature, and in favour with God and with men (Luke 2:52). Wisdom gave Him balance. You cannot only pursue favour with God while despising the place of men. Even Jesus needed John the Baptist’s public endorsement. It matters who vouches for you, who can call your name in rooms you cannot enter on your own. Sometimes a single endorsement will do more for you than forty days of fasting.

Proverbs 13:15 says, “*Good understanding wins favour, but the way of the transgressor is hard.*” Favour with God produces intimacy and spiritual power. Favour with men produces access, open doors, and opportunity. Both are needed. The arrogance of “only God is my approver” is pride. In life and destiny, doors are opened when men trust you, respect you, and stand as witnesses to your character.

This is why you must master relationships. You cannot afford to “say your mind” at every provocation. You may win the argument and lose the battle. Life is deeper than raw emotions. Learn communication. Learn honour. Learn love. Master human interactions. A man with integrity and understanding will always find favour.

Beloved, whatever you lack, go humbly to those who have it and learn. Don't despise grace. Don't trivialise mentorship. Recognise the value of those God has placed around you. Many doors remain shut because pride keeps men from bowing to receive what they need. Recognition is key.

Tonight, I declare over you:

- Receive the wisdom that brings victory.
- Receive the grace to add character to proficiency.
- Walk in dominion in every aspect of your life.
- May the Lord grant you favour with God and with men.

In the name of Jesus Christ, may wisdom, excellence, and recognition begin to speak for you. Amen.

Remember this: Real life does not bend to emotions or social media trends. It works by principles, wisdom, and laws. Align with them, and you will rise.

God bless you.

About the Preacher

A

postle Femi Lazarus is the Lead Pastor of *Light Nation Church*. He is an Apostle with a prophetic cutting edge and carries a divine mandate to raise Kingdom-minded culture shapers and global leaders who will influence every sphere of life with Kingdom principles.

Trained as a public health professional, Apostle Lazarus combines his academic depth with a passion for sound doctrine and Spirit-led ministry. He is also the Principal of the *International School of Ministry*, a platform through which he has equipped and trained ministers from more than thirty nations of the world.

A devoted lover of God, Apostle Femi Lazarus ministers with clarity, balance, and prophetic insight that ignites transformation in the lives of believers. He is married to *Pastor Miracle Femi-Lazarus*, and together they are blessed with two beautiful daughters.

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