

*Pastor Dolapo Lawal*



# **LEADINGS AND BURDENS: YOUR BURDENS ARE A COMPASS**

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# Leadings and Burdens: Your Burdens are a Compass

Pastor Dolapo Lawal

*Published By:* [LivingSermons.com](http://LivingSermons.com)

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**Publisher:** Livingsermons.com

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First Edition — 2026

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## Foreword

*In this timely teaching, Pst. Dolapo Lawal carefully unveils a dimension of God's dealings that many believers often misunderstand — the language of burdens. In a generation driven by comfort, convenience, visible results, and outward success, this message calls the believer back to discernment, alignment, and spiritual sensitivity.*

*Through powerful scriptural insight and practical spiritual wisdom, this book reveals that not every burden is an attack, and not every difficult season is the absence of God. Sometimes, the very heaviness we seek to escape is heaven's compass directing us into purpose.*

*One of the striking truths throughout this teaching is the distinction between what is merely “working” and what is truly God's assignment. The life of Paul becomes a profound example: though grace flowed mightily among the Gentiles, there remained a divine burden for the Jews that could not be ignored. This book challenges every believer to stop measuring destiny merely by ease, applause, visible success, or personal strength, and to begin discerning the deeper leadings of the Spirit.*

*As you read these pages, you will encounter truths about:*

- *spiritual burdens and divine direction,*
- *wilderness seasons and testing,*
- *obedience and interpretation,*
- *patience and partnership with God,*
- *and the danger of silencing divine promptings through distraction and noise.*

*This message is both prophetic and deeply pastoral. It speaks to believers standing at crossroads, those experiencing cycles, unexplained restlessness, spiritual dryness, or an inward dissatisfaction that earthly success cannot satisfy.*

*Our prayer at [LivingSermons.com](http://LivingSermons.com) is that this book will help you recognise the hand of God upon your life, interpret your burdens correctly, and align yourself fully with His divine purpose.*

*May you not misinterpret the burdens heaven has placed within you.*

*May you discern rightly.*

*And may every holy burden lead you into God's ordained promise.*

**— Wisdom Epsi**

**Chief Editor, [LivingSermons.com](http://LivingSermons.com)**

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## **Publisher's Note**

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The message you are about to read was originally ministered in a live congregational setting. As such, it carries the weight, urgency, and atmosphere of that sacred gathering. Minor grammatical and structural adjustments have been made solely to enhance readability, without altering the substance, intent, or power of the original delivery.

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*A Spirit-led Publishing Stewardship*

## **Main Message**

*Begins Here:*



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## **Spiritual Discernment and Responding to God**

We have been talking about the Antioch model, and I want to extend us a little further today.

One of the points we mentioned was that the church had spiritual discernment. It could recognise and respond to prophetic warnings, such as Agabus' prophecy of famine in Acts 11.

We read Acts 11, Acts 13, and Acts 15.

What I want to talk about tonight is responding — how we respond to prophetic insight and divine promptings.

Let us pray.

Father, in the name of Jesus, as we share Your Word tonight, let it be spirit and life. In Jesus' mighty name.

Amen.

## Message Topic

I want to share on *Leadings and Burdens*.

More specifically, I want to show us how to recognise what may be happening when you are experiencing restlessness or unrest.

Perhaps you are in a dry season. Maybe there was a time when you experienced visions, encounters, and spiritual activity, but now it feels like everything is drying up.

It is almost like your brook is drying, and if you do not hear God telling you to move to Zarephath, you feel like you may die there spiritually.

A lot of people get trapped because they do not know the difference between the supernatural and what is merely fascinating.

If your walk with God is not grounded in Scripture, you will drift.

There are believers who do not necessarily “feel” God emotionally the way others do. Some people can sit through worship without tears or visible emotion, and yet they are genuinely saved. They are convicted of sin, righteousness, and judgement.

Do not dare say they are not Christians.

Sometimes, especially within charismatic circles, we have built too much around feelings. And one thing I have noticed is this: many of the people who later become atheists or completely abandon the faith are people who once felt deeply.

Often, their issue is not that they doubt God’s power. Their issue is personal disappointment. “If God is real, why did He not come through for my mother?”

It is not always doctrinal. Sometimes it is deeply personal. They sound like believers who are offended that they believe. It is similar to John the Baptist asking, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?”

# God Is Not a Feeling

So, if you are in a season like that, you must understand God and relate with Him based on His Word. If God were merely a feeling, there would be no reason for faith.

Stay with Scripture.

Be diligent with what you see in the Word, and do as Scripture says. There is faith, and there is faithfulness. Both are manifestations of faith. Hebrews 11 shows us this clearly. Some received miracles. Others remained faithful through suffering and death, looking forward to a better resurrection.

What God sees as miraculous is His movement — not necessarily something dramatic or fascinating. Elijah was fed by ravens, yet there came a point where he asked God to kill him because he felt alone.

God responded:

“I have seven thousand in Israel, all the knees which have not bowed unto Baal...” (1 Kings 19:18, KJV)

Elijah thought he was the only one being sustained supernaturally, but God was preserving thousands of others in quieter ways. While ravens fed Elijah, Obadiah was secretly feeding prophets with bread and water.

Elijah’s experience was dramatic, but that did not invalidate the provision of the others. Many people compare their walk with God to someone else’s experience, forgetting that people exaggerate and sometimes even lie.

“Three angels appeared in my room.”

Maybe they are telling the truth. Maybe they are not. But your walk with God should not depend on comparison. The mere fact that you are relating with an invisible God and carrying the witness of His Spirit in your heart is supernatural enough.

# When Your Soul Feels Dry

Maybe you are in a season where everything feels dry.

Your prayer life feels dry.

Your walk with God feels dry.

Your heart feels dry.

You even find yourself doing things that are unlike you. Galatians 6:2 says:

“Bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.” (KJV)

Then Galatians 6:5 says:

“For every man shall bear his own burden.” (KJV)

At first glance, that sounds contradictory, but the Greek words are different. The burden in verse two refers to a heavy, overwhelming weight — something too much for one person to carry. The burden in verse five refers to a personal load or assigned responsibility. Every blessing comes with a burden.

The blessing of a salary comes with the burden of a job.

The blessing of a child comes with the burden of responsibility.

The blessing of a calling comes with the burden of prayer.

Often, what delays blessing is not God’s unwillingness to bless, but a lack of capacity to carry the burden attached to the blessing. The children of Israel could not enter the Promised Land because God knew they would faint when they saw war. They wanted the blessing, but they could not yet carry the burden attached to it.

Jesus said:

“I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.” (John 16:12, KJV)

God does not give us what we cannot bear.



## What Is a Burden?

The burden I am speaking about tonight is not ordinary responsibility. I am talking about that holy, overwhelming weight God places upon a person. A burden is a holy weight God places on your heart that refuses to let you rest until you obey His will.

Psalm 32:3–4 says:

“When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long.  
For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me...” (KJV)

That heaviness is the burden. It is the hand of God upon a man.

1 Peter 5:6 says:

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time.” (KJV)

The hand comes upon you because exaltation is near. But while God is preparing you, that hand can feel heavy. Verse seven then says:

“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.” (KJV)

So when you enter seasons filled with pressure and care, God's expectation is humility — not murmuring. Many people respond wrongly in those seasons. When they stop “feeling” God, they try to work harder spiritually. They strive more, force more, and exhaust themselves further. But that burden is often an invitation from God to come and receive from Him.

## **The Invitation Hidden in the Burden**

Psalm 32 continues:

“For this shall every one that is godly pray unto thee in a time when thou mayest be found...” (Psalm 32:6, KJV)

When that hand is upon you, God is calling you to seek Him.

Then verse seven says:

“Thou art my hiding place...” (KJV)

There are people who enter dry seasons and decide to isolate themselves completely.

They say:

“I am struggling spiritually, so I am going on a personal retreat.”

But sometimes that is the worst thing you can do. If you are already burnt out, who exactly will pour into you while you are alone?

Sometimes you do not need isolation. You need community.

You need people.

You need corporate fellowship.

The Scripture continues:

“Thou shalt preserve me from trouble; thou shalt compass me about with songs of deliverance.” (Psalm 32:7, KJV)

One prescription for heaviness is worship. Then God says:

“I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go...” (Psalm 32:8, KJV)

So the burden came because correction was needed. That holy weight is often God redirecting your life. It is an invitation into a new season.

## **Burdens Are Part of God’s Vocabulary**

- Nehemiah had a burden for the broken walls of Jerusalem.
- Moses had a burden to deliver Israel.
- Esther had a burden for her people.
- Hannah had a burden for a child and for Israel’s future.
- Daniel had a burden for restoration.

What did all these people have in common?

They carried burdens before they received explicit instructions.

God did not always speak audibly first. The burden itself was the communication.

A burden is part of God’s vocabulary.

Do not say God is not speaking if there is a burden in your heart. When Nehemiah heard that Jerusalem’s walls were broken, something became heavy within him. God did not initially tell him, “Go and rebuild the wall.”

The burden itself was the invitation.

Others heard the same news and moved on. But Nehemiah could not.

That was the voice of God through burden.

# Paul and the Burden of Assignment

Acts 9:15 says concerning Paul:

“He is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel.” (KJV)

Then God added:

“For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name’s sake.” (Acts 9:16, KJV)

From the beginning, Paul knew suffering was attached to his assignment.

In Galatians 2, Paul explained that grace had been given to him specifically for the Gentiles, just as Peter had grace for the Jews.

But notice what happened whenever Paul ministered among the Jews.

Again and again, opposition arose.

The Jews contradicted him.

They blasphemed.

They attempted to kill him.

They stirred persecution against him.

They poisoned minds against him.

Everywhere Paul went among the Jews, resistance followed.

Yet among the Gentiles, there was unusual grace and acceptance.

Paul eventually declared:

“From henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.” (Acts 18:6, KJV)

Every burden reveals direction.

Every grace reveals assignment.

And sometimes frustration itself is a compass pointing you toward where God has actually called you.

Now, if you are reading Galatians, you may conclude that the reason the Gentiles were receiving Paul's ministry was because the grace of God upon him was specifically for the Gentiles.

And that is true.

But remember the original scope of Paul's assignment in Acts 9. God said he would minister to:

- Gentiles
- Kings
- Jews

Gentiles, kings, and Jews.

Yet every time Paul preached to the Jews, they rejected him.

At one point, he became frustrated and said:

“Your blood be upon your own heads; I am clean: from henceforth I will go unto the Gentiles.” (Acts 18:6, KJV)

But before long, he was back preaching to the Jews again.

Why?

Because there was a burden.

# Something Can Work and Still Not Be God

Romans 9:1–3 says:

“I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,

That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart.

For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren...” (KJV)

Some people would say Paul kept entering trouble because he refused to focus on what was working.

But listen carefully:

Something can be working and still not be God.

Do not miss this.

Jesus came unto His own, and His own received Him not. Many of the times Jesus experienced acceptance were among Gentiles, yet He Himself declared:

“I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” (Matthew 15:24, KJV)

If you judged Jesus only by visible results, you would conclude that the people outside His primary assignment were responding better than those within it. That is why I am saying your burden is a compass.

You may have a good job.

Money may be flowing.

Everything may appear successful outwardly.

Yet there is still a heaviness in your soul.

Why?

Because it can work and still not be the work. That burden is God drawing you.

## **Focus on Your Burden, Not Your Strength**

If someone looked at Paul carnally, they would say:

“Peter was called to the Jews, not you. Every time you preach to them, they reject you. Focus on your strength.”

But Paul refused to do that.

Do not focus merely on your area of strength. Focus on your burden. Just because you can do something well does not mean you were called to it. And just because something is difficult does not mean God did not call you there. Do not play with what I am saying tonight. Because something is working does not automatically mean it is God’s will for you. That leanness in your soul may actually be heaven’s compass redirecting your life.

## **Burdens Must Be Interpreted Correctly**

Acts 21:10–11 says:

“And as we tarried there many days, there came down from Judaea a certain prophet, named Agabus.

And when he was come unto us, he took Paul’s girdle, and bound his own hands and feet, and said, Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle...” (KJV)

Imagine Luke witnessing this. Paul had already suffered repeatedly at the hands of the Jews. Agabus now dramatically ties himself with Paul’s belt and prophesies more suffering. Naturally, everyone around Paul concluded:

“Do not go to Jerusalem.”

But Paul interpreted the prophecy differently. The others interpreted it as protection. Paul interpreted it as preparation. That is maturity.

## **Preparation, Not Protection**

Acts 21:12–13 says:

“And when we heard these things, both we, and they of that place, besought him not to go up to Jerusalem.

Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.” (KJV)

Paul understood that the warning was not meant to stop him. It was meant to prepare him mentally for what lay ahead. If he avoided Jerusalem, he would never stand before Caesar.

And if he never stood before Caesar, major dimensions of God’s purpose for Christianity would not unfold.

- The Jews had to arrest him.
- Felix had to process him.
- Caesar had to hear him.

The burden was leading him toward destiny. So our entire Christian faith is deeply connected to men who obeyed burdens.

## **God Confirms After Obedience**

When Paul eventually arrived in Jerusalem, exactly what Agabus prophesied happened.

Imagine Paul sitting in prison thinking:

“Maybe I should not have come.”

Before discouragement settled in, Jesus appeared to him.

Acts 23:11 says:

“And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome.” (KJV)

Notice this carefully:

God did not confirm the interpretation before the journey.

He confirmed it after obedience.

If Noah was building the ark, God would not applaud halfway through construction.

The flood would be the confirmation. You know whether you built correctly when the storm comes. That is why many people misinterpret burdens. They seek immediate validation instead of obedient alignment.

I pray for you: you will not misinterpret your burden.

## **Do Not Quench the Burden**

Many people suppress burdens with distractions.

Netflix.

Noise.

Endless conversations.

Entertainment.

They are trying to kill the move of God in their hearts because the burden feels uncomfortable. But when you silence the burden, you miss the move.

Then you must wait for another visitation. That is how Israel spent forty years in the wilderness. Honestly, some people are not experiencing delay. They are simply stubborn. It is not always the devil. Sometimes even the devil steps back because your stubbornness alone is enough to destroy you.

The issue with Israel was never primarily Satan. It was hardness of heart.



## **Cycles Are Often Signals**

Some people live in cycles.

Every few months, the burden returns. Whenever they separate from certain relationships, the burden resurfaces, and they interpret it as loneliness. Then they reconnect with the wrong people again.

The cycle repeats.

Others think what they need is more money.

But the issue is not money.

It is leanness of soul.

God may be trying to remove something from your life, while you are busy adding more distractions to avoid confronting it.

## **The Making Process Is Not Pleasant**

Acts 23:11 shows us that Paul had to testify in Jerusalem before he could testify in Rome.

That difficult place was part of the process. Just because something comes easily to you does not mean you are empowered for it. That thorn-like burden may actually be part of God's making process.

Jesus told Peter:

“Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (Matthew 4:19, KJV)

There must be a making. And making is not pleasant. Some people do not truly know themselves until burdens come.

## **The Wilderness Test**

The children of Israel were called out of Egypt for what should have been a short journey. Yet they entered cycles. They moved, but they were not progressing. Eventually they realised:

“We have been going around this mountain repeatedly.”

Why?

Because their hearts were not ready. God allowed the wilderness to expose what was still inside them. Moses then went up the mountain for forty days. The very forty days that should have completed their journey became another test.

And while Moses was away, they built a golden calf.

That is how people miss burdens. If you do not understand this process, you may wrongly conclude that God is unfaithful.

## **Jesus Passed the Test Israel Failed**

Jesus entered the wilderness for forty days. The exact temptations Israel failed were the same temptations He faced.

Satan said:

“Command that these stones be made bread.” (Matthew 4:3, KJV)

Jesus answered:

“It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” (Matthew 4:4, KJV)

That response came directly from Deuteronomy 8.

Israel failed the wilderness test. Jesus passed it.

Every believer encounters wilderness seasons. And many people remain outside promise because they continually fail the same test.

## **The Hand of God Upon You**

That burden is not a curse. It is a blessing.

The hand of God comes upon a man because exaltation is near. But you must humble yourself under that mighty hand. The due time comes after the process. If you refuse the process, what people call “delay” may simply be self-sabotage.

You enter promise by doing things God’s way. Not merely by being clever.

## **Delay and Partnership**

Abraham's story teaches this clearly. Sarah initially thought the promise was only Abraham's responsibility. That misunderstanding prolonged the process. When the angel finally spoke directly, Sarah laughed because it was the first time she personally realised she was part of the promise.

Hebrews 11:11 says:

“Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed...” (KJV)

Isaac came when Sarah believed. Faith requires partnership. Sometimes what we call delay is actually incomplete alignment.

God is faithful.

## **Pay Attention to What God Actually Said**

Exodus 3:10 says:

“Come now therefore, and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people...” (KJV)

Notice carefully:

God told Moses to bring Israel out of Egypt. He did not tell Moses he would take them into the Promised Land. If you do not pay attention to God's exact words, you may accuse Him falsely.

Joshua — Yeshua — would later lead them into promise. Moses represented one phase of God's plan. Joshua represented another.

If you miss this, frustration will come.

## **Do Not Fight for What God Has Left**

Some people are labouring intensely in places where God has already departed.

The glory has lifted. The water has become bitter. Yet they continue striving there.

You cannot speak God's Word effectively in a place where God is no longer moving. Israel became trapped because they believed God could never move beyond what they already understood. Meanwhile, God was introducing a New Covenant.

God still does new things.

## **Travail Until It Breaks Forth**

Isaiah 66:8 says:

“For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.” (KJV)

Ecclesiastes 11:3 says:

“If the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth...” (KJV)

If the clouds are filled, rain will come. That burden inside you is not meaningless. Pray into it. Carry it before God. The reason Paul correctly interpreted Agabus' prophecy was because he lived in continual alignment through prayer.

He understood the voice behind the burden. And tonight, we must pray.

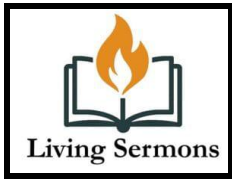
Lift your voice before God. Pray through the burden.

Do not ignore it.

Do not silence it.

Do not drown it in distractions.

Your burden may very well be the compass of your destiny.



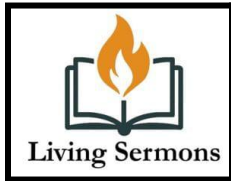
## About the Speaker

**Pastor Dolapo Lawal** is a teacher of God's Word with a clear, practical, and uncompromising voice. His ministry is marked by biblical accuracy, spiritual depth, and direct application to everyday life.

He is committed to raising believers who are grounded in Scripture, mature in character, and intentional about growth. His teaching addresses real issues—faith, relationships, purpose, leadership, and personal responsibility—without exaggeration or sentimentality.

Pastor Dolapo Lawal is known for clarity, accountability, and balance. He challenges listeners to look inward before looking outward, to embrace process over shortcuts, and to pursue transformation rather than appearance.

His desire is simple: that believers grow into stability, wisdom, and Christlike maturity through the uncompromised teaching of God's Word.



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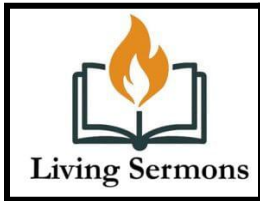
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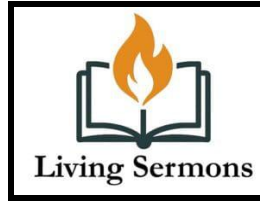
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