Living Sermons

AN APOSTLE JOSHUA SELMAN MESSAGE

ROOTED AND BUILT

MATTHEW 7:24-27

"Your real profit to the kingdom is not in your being saved. It is in your becoming mature."

APOSTLE JOSHUA SELMAN

Ministered at Harvesters International Christian Centre, Lagos

Transcribed and Published by Livingsermons.com

Rooted and Built (Matthew 7:24–27)

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FOREWORD

How do you know that you are truly growing as a believer? Many sincere Christians say they are mature, but cannot defend that claim from Scripture. In this message, ministered at a renewal conference at Harvesters International Christian Centre in Lagos, Apostle Joshua Selman sets out the biblical measures of spiritual growth and shows what it takes to build a life that stands when the storms come.

Taking his text from Matthew 7:24–27 and Colossians 2:7, he first lays a foundation: six indices of growth, from intimacy with God and character to light, results, the outflow of God's life, wisdom and power, and investedness in God's agenda. He explains why light is the currency for dominion and describes three dimensions of God's power. He then gives five areas of focus for an efficient and impactful Christian life: intimacy with God, growth and transformation, manifesting victory, God's end-time program, and fulfillment beyond success.

The tone is that of a teacher keeping careful time before a hungry congregation, with simple pictures that stay with the reader: an admission letter, a newborn crying for food, a donkey released for a triumphal entry. He is clear that a believer's love for God comes before things, yet warns that a life without results misrepresents the fatherhood of God.

This edition has been prepared from the live transcript. The preacher's words, order and voice have been preserved. Only time stamps, sound cues, songs and unnecessary repetitions have been removed, chapters and subheadings have been added, and punctuation and capitalization have been corrected.

Use it as a checklist, as he encourages: read it slowly, hold your life up against each measure, and let the word root and build you.

Wisdom Epsi
- The Chief Editor, LivingSermons.com

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

This book is a faithful transcript of a live sermon delivered by the preacher under the inspiration and unction of the Holy Spirit. Every effort has been made to preserve the preacher's exact words, tone, flow, and spiritual authority, while carefully proofreading and formatting the message into a clear and readable ebook format.

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.

Watch the live sermon from which this message was transcribed on YouTube, **at *Koinonia's Official YouTube Channel***

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MAIN MESSAGE

Begins Here

CHAPTER 1

ROOTED AND BUILT

AN ENCOUNTER TONIGHT

Can we lift our hands for one minute and just cry unto the Lord for an encounter tonight? They go from strength to strength. Would you lift your hands? Cry unto the Lord: “Father, give me an encounter tonight, by Your word, by Your Spirit. Let Your word come with clarity. Let it come with precision. Let it challenge me. Let it build me up. Let it empower me by the Spirit.” In Jesus’ marvelous name we pray.

Thank You, Father, for Your wisdom. Thank You for Your power. We submit ourselves to the influence of Your word and of Your Spirit, and we pray that we’ll be mightily edified tonight. To You be all the glory. In Jesus’ name we pray. Please, you may be gloriously seated.

CONFERENCES LIKE THIS

Thank you again for this opportunity. I love conferences like this, because they speak first and foremost to the hunger that is locked up in every man as far as encountering God is concerned. And then, of course, they position us as believers to manifest victory in experience. I’m happy to be part of those whom God has ordained to help strengthen our feet and our hands as we soar in the faith.

And so I pray in the name of Jesus Christ that the things I’ll be sharing, for the time that I have, will add to our spiritual understanding and will help to build us, so that we become a mature people, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

It was for this purpose that Jesus gave what we call the fivefold. The Bible says in Ephesians chapter 4, from verse 11, that when He led captivity captive, He gave gifts unto men. He gave some apostles, and prophets, and evangelists, and pastors and teachers, for the perfecting, or the maturing, of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. Hallelujah. Praise the name of the Lord.

A FEW BODIES OF TRUTH

So, very quickly, I have a confession to make. When you come to preach in a conference like this, particularly one that involves matters of awakening, revivals, deepening your walk with God, there is an array of teachings. You can literally exhaust the night talking about various aspects of our spiritual lives, and any one of them at all (whether prayer, discipleship, consecration, the word of God, victory), you can literally pick any topic, and time will fail you to exhaust it. So I just decided to put together a few bodies of truth, so that within the time that we have, I'll be able to bring them to help strengthen our walk with God, in Jesus' name.

We'll look at two or three scriptures very quickly, and then we'll begin to discuss. I'm teaching tonight on a topic I titled "Rooted and Built."

TWO BUILDERS

Matthew chapter 7. I'll begin my reading from verse 24. Jesus is speaking, and He says:

> **MATTHEW 7:24–27**
> *Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*

Colossians chapter 1. Paul is praying a very serious prayer over the church in Colossae, verse 9:

> **COLOSSIANS 1:9**
> *For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.*

Verse 10. Can we read verse 10 together? One, two, go.

> **COLOSSIANS 1:10**
> *That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.*

You can stop there: “being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.” The final reading will be Colossians 2. Let’s read in concert, verse 7. One, two, go.

> **COLOSSIANS 2:7**
> *Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith.*

Praise God. Hallelujah.

CHAPTER 2

HOW GROWTH IS MEASURED

GROWTH CAN BE MEASURED

The level of spiritual growth, the level of excellence in the spirit and the level of progress of a believer can be measured. There are parameters that the Bible provides to measure the level of excellence, of growth or of maturity of a believer. There is an array of parameters.

For example, the depth of your intimacy and your devotion unto God is one of the parameters that can test and prove whether you are growing and excelling spiritually. Another parameter would be character: the manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit at work in your life. Number three will be your level of illumination and spiritual understanding.

So I'm saying that when a man is growing spiritually, when he's making spiritual progress, there are indices. It's not something you assume. You don't assume growth. You don't claim growth. There are very clear, unmistakable Bible indices that we use to test and check and verify growth.

One of them, I said, is the depth of your intimacy and devotion. Number two is your character, the outworking of the fruit of the Spirit. Number three is your level of illumination and spiritual understanding. Maturity is knowledge-dependent. So it's impossible to say you are growing spiritually while bankrupt, or void, of accurate spiritual understanding.

Number four would be your results: the testimonials that come attesting to the fact that you have learned how to profit from the word. You cannot say you are making progress in the spirit where the word of God remains barren in your

life. Results are a clear measure of spiritual growth and spiritual progress.

THE LIFE, THE WISDOM AND THE POWER OF GOD

Number five is the outflow of the life, the wisdom and the power of God through your life to bless others. “Impact” will be what we call it, for short: the outflow of the life, the wisdom and the power of God through your life to bless your world.

The faith practice is a transformative journey, and the transformation starts from within you, then around you, then to your world. The entire scope of the faith practice is about transformation. It does not leave you, or anything around you, the way it met it. So when you receive the life of God, there is an inner work of the Spirit that begins from within you, and then around you, and then you begin to change and influence your world. So the fifth parameter to measure progress and spiritual growth is the outflow of the life, the wisdom and the power of God.

It’s important for you to know what flows from you to your world. It’s more than what you learned in school. There’s what flows from the believer that becomes a blessing to the world. Number one is the life of God. Number two is the wisdom of God. Number three is the power of God. The Bible talks about the first Adam being a living soul, and the last Adam being a life-giving spirit. Say, “I’m a life-giving spirit. I carry, and I dispense, the wisdom of God.” Do you believe that?

I hope you know that the way we tame principalities and powers, and the way we reveal the excellency of the kingdom, is through the manifestation of wisdom. Ephesians chapter 3 and verse 10 says, “To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God.” Hallelujah.

So when you are making progress in the spirit, it's important that you would have learned how the life of God flows through you, how the wisdom of God is dispensed through you, and the power of God flowing through you to bless your world. May that be your testimony.

INVESTEDNESS IN GOD'S AGENDA

And then I would give, not necessarily the last, but the last for now, the sixth index that measures spiritual growth: the level of investedness in fulfilling your assignment and God's agenda. You cannot say you are mature when everything around your Christian experience is about you: the level of your investedness in fulfilling your assignment, and then fulfilling God's agenda for the nations.

I thought to start with that because most believers say, "I am growing," and they mean well, but they cannot defend their sense of growth using biblical parameters. So if someone were to challenge you and say, "What makes you believe you are a mature Christian?", we may use other, inferior parameters, like church attendance. They are not necessarily wrong, but they are not superior parameters. You have to defend your growth using these indices.

CHARACTER WAS DESIGNED TO SPEAK

Let me recap very quickly. Number one: the depth of your intimacy with God, that you are so invested in God. We'll still talk about that; I'm just laying a foundation. And then number two is character. If you have to tell people you are a man of character, something is wrong. Hallelujah. Character was designed to speak. It was designed to be loud enough: the outworking of the fruit of the Spirit.

Are we together? I'm saying this so that you can already let it be a checklist for you. Remember, this is a renewal program. So you look at your life against this list. The idea is not just to write it or to recite it, but to look at your life in light of all of it. Is the character of the Spirit at work in me? Or, when people see me,

in spite of my praying in tongues, they say, “You look like an angry person,” and you say, “It’s true; how do you know?”

No. Remember, the kingdom is a culture. And when the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in you, He regenerates you. The word “regeneration” is like a cutting away of the old gene and a re-gene, a reformation. It doesn’t matter whether you come from a background that is known to have certain negative traits. You see, this is where the dominion power of the Spirit prevails upon your person, cutting away the attributes that are consistent with the old man. Are we together now?

And don’t feel discouraged if that contention is still there. The Bible says to reckon yourself dead to sin. The word “reckon” is the Greek word *logizomai*. It means to walk in the consciousness of it. You see that now? So you carry the consciousness: “I’m a child of God; therefore the fruit of the recreated spirit must be visible in and through my life.” Do you believe that?

CHAPTER 3

LIGHT AND RESULTS

THE CURRENCY FOR DOMINION

And then number three is your spiritual understanding: illumination. In this kingdom, the currency for dominion is light. You cannot walk in dominion when you do not have light. In fact, what makes us a chosen generation, a peculiar people, is that we have been called out of darkness into His marvelous light. The Bible talks about the inheritance of the saints in light, not in darkness. John 1:5: “And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.” Are we learning already? Very important.

Let me explain to you what I mean by light. Light there talks about the exact body of truth that empowers the believer to manifest victory. Light here is an aggregate of every relevant spiritual piece of information needed for your maturity, for your stature and for your dominion.

There is something you need to know about prayer to win. There is something you need to know about God to win. There is something you need to know about Satan to win. There is something you need to know about faith to win. There is something you need to know about the Holy Ghost to win. There is something you need to know about the word of God to win. There is something you need to know about the world to win. You see that now? That body of knowledge, aggregated together, is what we call light.

NOT IN BEING SAVED, BUT IN BECOMING MATURE

And this is the blessedness of submitting yourself under a teaching priest: line upon line, topic after topic, series after series. That is what keeps happening to you, like a student who got admission. How many of you know that an admission letter does not qualify you to practice? It only means that you are ready to learn. So there are many believers carrying their admission letter, their salvation, but they are not able to do anything much.

Let me go ahead of myself to tell you: your real relevance and profit to the kingdom is not in your being saved. It is in your becoming mature. Your real profit to the kingdom is not your salvation. Your salvation benefits you. But when you grow, you transition from an infant to a witness. At that point, you become a plus to the program of God.

The Bible says, “As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.” So there are many believers who love the Lord. They are yielded, but they are bankrupt of light. When you talk to them, they cannot defend the kingdom with intelligence. They have gaps: a little about prayer, a little about fasting. “Why do I fast? They just said I should fast.” You see that now? So there needs to be an upgrade. Is somebody learning?

The Bible says, “The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light.” It takes maturity. “Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government” (the symbol of authority) “shall be upon his shoulder”: the son’s. The word “son” there is not about gender. It means one who, through knowledge and alignment, has attained the same status as his father. So when Jesus called Himself the Son of God, they said, “You say You are God.” Are we together now? Praise God. Hallelujah.

SUPERIOR LIGHT

And then, of course, results. The value of light is that it drives away darkness. If your light does not drive away darkness, it is not light indeed. Because the Bible says, "That was the true Light," meaning there are false lights. False lights are bodies of information that we hold, and sometimes brag with, but they do not have the power to bring victory.

Now, with all due respect, the body of Christ is full of much spiritual information about God, about life, about victory. But when much of it is tested… For example, there is much information we have, even as pastors, about church growth, about increase, but when you put it to the test… You see that now? The world is a hub of information. We sell all kinds of information. Even in our personal lives, someone will say, "I have found a key that will help you achieve this and that," maybe to make your hair longer, and then you test it, and it doesn't work. And yet the person did his or her best. And yet you find one that works miraculously. That is called superior light.

I'm praying for you, in the name of Jesus, that in the course of this conference you will encounter superior light: light that delivers undeniable and consistent results, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Listen to me. Results are not a gift. There's no gift of results. A result is a reaction. It's a consequence of engaging the mysteries of the kingdom consistently and methodically.

THREE DIMENSIONS OF GOD'S POWER

There are three levels of the investment of God's power. Let me walk with my time. You wouldn't believe I've not even touched what I wanted to. I'm just giving us the indices. Don't worry; I will keep to time. I have a timer before me. Praise God.

The highest dimension of God's power is released through relationship. It is not released through obedience. It is released through intimacy. Please listen. The highest dimension of God's power does not come by obeying rituals. It comes by the depth of your devotion and your knowledge of God.

But the second dimension of God's power comes through understanding and obedience, or understanding and engaging, kingdom principles. That dimension of God's power does not depend on relationship. It is enhanced by relationship, but it does not depend on relationship. And both believers and unbelievers can access dimensions of that power: the power that is invested in principles. A man can hate God and sow, and yet he will reap. That's the power of God delivering results. Are we together now? A man can hate God and practice leadership principles and build an organization. Anything that works is sponsored by the power of God. But the power of God is arranged in different dimensions. There is a dimension of His power that requires that you know Him and have a functional relationship. But there's a dimension of His power that is not relationship-dependent. It is dependent on understanding and compliance, or obedience.

There's the third dimension of His power, which is a product of covenant association. So you can come into partnership with one who has done business with God, and it doesn't matter whether you are an unbeliever or not: because you are under the influence of such a person, you can enjoy certain privileges. Hallelujah.

So when you say you access spiritual power, we have to verify which dimension. Because if you were in Israel, in Egypt, once there was blood on your lintel, even if you were an armed robber, you would not die that night. It had nothing to do with your understanding. It was the blood that bailed you out. Are we together? But if you were Cain or Abel, it was your knowledge of the personal sacrifice that would bail you out. Both of you would have offerings and all of that, but how you engaged it determined whether you would be accepted or not. But if

you were Elijah, it would not be what you set up. It would be the God that you know, because the prophets of Baal also had the same bullock. Are you getting the point now?

THE WISDOM OF THE JUST

I promise that we'll go straight to our word. Pastor Bolaji, you see what training your people has cost. Praise God. Hallelujah. But have you learned something already?

So the next time you are helping someone to grow and the person says, "I think I'm a mature believer," you tell the person, "Okay, so let's talk. Give me a few indices." If he says, "I go to church," you say, "That's wonderful, commendable, but that's not the noblest of the indices": your walk with God, character, the spiritual intelligence that's been gained, then the results that are produced through your life, then the outworking.

Listen, let me tell you this. Do you know that if you stay with the word of God and you stay with the Spirit of God, there is a dimension of wisdom you access and release, or deliver, by being a believer? It doesn't matter whether you had the privilege of secular exposure or not. It doesn't matter whether you had the privilege of formal academic knowledge or not. There is a dimension of wisdom called the wisdom of the just, Luke 1:17.

When you interact with spiritual things, it primes you; it creates a neural pathway. Now I'm talking biologically. There is a way that your speaking changes. A man who has stayed with God, even if that man never had the privilege of going to school: when you hear such a man… Remember what they said about the apostles? They were unlearned men, but they said, "Ah, no, no, no. This level of intelligence… They had been with Jesus." Being with Jesus has an implication. It affects how you speak. It affects how you think. It affects how you view life. Is somebody learning now?

That's why the church should not produce dull people, and I don't say that in a derogatory way. If you are under the influence of the word, if you are learning the ways of the kingdom, there is a construct; there is a way your understanding begins to be built. Is somebody learning now? The life, the wisdom and the power of God.

And then, anyone who is truly mature: maturity is also connected to vision. You cannot be a mature believer when everything is about your life, and nothing is about kingdom come, nothing is promoting God's agenda. Well, let me quickly get to my talk. I have a few minutes.

CHAPTER 4

INTIMACY WITH GOD

FIVE AREAS OF FOCUS

My emphasis tonight is to show you five areas of focus if you want to build an efficient and impactful Christian life. I call it "Rooted and Built." In addition to all that you have learned as far as devotion and consecration and all of that, there are five areas. Now, there are many areas in a believer's life that he or she should pay attention to for wholesome growth. However, there are five major areas, and if you fail to allow the Holy Ghost and the word to build you in these areas, you will not be efficient as far as your Christian life is concerned, and you will not be impactful. Praise God.

HE WANTS TO BE KNOWN

So, very quickly, let me run the list of five areas. Number one: the first area of focus, if you want to build a robust Christian life, is your intimacy with God. You must cultivate a deep and functional fellowship with God. Intimacy with God: this is the first area. Non-negotiable.

The Bible says, "The people that do know their God" (Daniel 11 and verse 32) "shall be strong" (capacity, strength) "and do exploits." John 17:3: "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent." The Bible says, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." It says, "and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." Hallelujah. A functional knowledge of God.

How many of you know that as mighty, majestic, and sometimes mystical as God is, He wants to be known? God wants to be known. All through Scripture,

He's made ways available to reveal Himself. Paul said, "That I may know him." He can be known. Job said, "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee." God can be known. You will never know God until you believe He wants to be known.

He can be known. Now, we cannot know all of Him; that's what makes Him God. But He has fragmented Himself into dimensions that allow us to know Him sufficiently to gain dominion upon the earth.

THE ORDINANCES OF INTIMACY

And let me tell you this: intimacy with God is the resultant effect of walking in keeping with certain practices that I call the ordinances of intimacy. And I'll list four of them for you very quickly. You can never truly know God functionally (not theoretically; functionally) except and unless you walk in keeping with these four tokens, these ordinances of intimacy.

Number one is prayer: a life of consistent prayer. This is a praying church. You have learned several dimensions of prayer. But I'll tell you this: you can be an effective person in terms of prayer, but your prayer can be largely need-driven. Need-driven prayer does not produce intimacy. A major part of your prayer life should be invested in building intimacy, and in edification. In fact, the original assignment of prayer is not to meet needs. It is to become a doorway, a gateway, to encounters. Else, why would you need to pray when you have all the results? Why did Jesus, as the Word, pray? If prayer were all about needs, the Word should not pray. It would be useless, because all things were made by the Word. So why did He pray? Hallelujah. Are we learning now? Prayer. It's important: investing time in fellowship, knowing the Lord.

Number two (I'm still on point one, showing you the ordinances of intimacy with God): the second ordinance is a rich word-study life. Many believers are not disciplined enough to be students of Scripture. A rich word-study life.

Number three: worship. And there are two dimensions to worship. There is ministering unto God, and then there is receiving from God in worship. The first part is where you must focus. How do you know you are ministering unto God? You don't ask for anything. You worship Him, declaring His holiness. Are we together? Ministering unto God.

Most believers want intimacy with God, but they are unwilling to pay the price: prayer, the study of the word, worship, and then corporate fellowship. That's the fourth element of intimacy. If you violate these four ordinances, you will not know God functionally. It's a pattern He created.

THE FIRST PORT OF CALL

So if you find out that your knowledge of God is faulty, or there's a gap in your knowledge, so that you cannot truly say, "I know Him," this is the first port of call. Return to a place of prayer, and not just prayer to receive things: prayer to know Him, to fellowship. It says, "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost."

And then number two, stay with the word. "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." We learn God by studying His word.

And then number three: in the place of worship, the Holy Ghost quickens the knowledge of God within your spirit. There is a dimension of knowledge that surpasses all understanding. It does not come through the gate of intellect. This one is spirit communication. God will deposit a reality about Himself. You just know that you know Him, in a way that science cannot explain. So when it has to do with imparting knowledge, it does not always follow the gate of intellect. There is a dimension of the knowledge of God that bypasses the realm of understanding. It is quickened in your spirit, and you just know. The Bible says, "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit." How do you explain that scientifically? But you know it is there. Are we learning?

STABILITY AND CONFIDENCE

Oh, I did not tell you the benefit of intimacy with God. You may want to add: among the many benefits of pressing for intimacy with God are stability and confidence. When you truly know God, it doesn't bring pride, but it brings confidence. I think it is 2 Timothy 1:12. Paul was talking to his son in the gospel: "For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded."

He said, "I know whom I have believed." It's important to know who sent you, because life will ask you who sent you. Life will not ask you your assignment first. It will first say, "Who sent you? Who sent you to open these gates over your family? Who sent you to lead the nations to Jesus?" You see that now? Moses understood this, and he said, "Don't send me to Egypt until I know who sent me. Who are You? Pharaoh will ask me who sent me."

And there are many believers who are running, and when life asks them who sent them, they say, "Well, I know my pastor talked about that God." No. He has to become your God. Is somebody learning? Confidence.

CHAPTER 5

GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION

FROM INFANT TO WITNESS

Number two: the second area you must focus on, as far as becoming a person of relevance and impact in the kingdom is concerned, is your growth and transformation. So, number one: intimacy with God. That's the first area. Press to know God. Pay the price. Get materials. Number two: your growth and transformation.

I made a statement earlier on that your real value, or profit, to the kingdom is not in your being saved, but in your becoming mature. When you transition from an infant to a witness, then your profit to the kingdom becomes visible. So there are many believers who are saved, but with respect to God's program, they are like the man with one talent who did not add anything to it. God loves them, but He cannot tell them, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant," because they are not doing anything for the kingdom. Kingdom exploit is growth-dependent.

HUNGER IS PROOF OF HEALTH

You see, you must contend to transition from an infant to attain maturity. And there are at least two keys. Number one is hunger and passion. You cannot grow until you are hungry. Babies teach us that. As soon as they come out, they demonstrate their willingness to grow by crying for food immediately: not later, not two weeks later, immediately. Provided it is a healthy child, the child begins to cry. And sometimes they can just stay there breastfeeding forever.

Growth. Hunger is proof of health. Once you get sick, one of the first things affected is your appetite. So when your hunger for the things of God goes down, it is a sign that something is wrong with your spiritual life. Are we learning? Say, "I receive grace to grow. I receive grace to contend for transformation."

THREE MINISTRIES FOR GROWTH

Let me see if I can just lay this out for you in one minute. There are three steps to becoming an efficient believer in the kingdom. The first step is the transition from being an unbeliever to being a believer. That's the first junction, and the gateway that allows that transition is salvation. Everyone is an unbeliever by default: "In sin did my mother conceive me." Are we together? So once you hear the gospel and you place your faith in Jesus Christ, that transition happens.

When you come into the kingdom, you are a believer, but the Bible calls you an infant, or a babe. Are we together? That means you are truly saved. The life of God is at work in you, but the value of that life cannot benefit you or others, because it is growth-dependent. Now you are in the kingdom, but you don't stop there.

Please listen, everybody. As soon as you get into the kingdom (you may have heard me teach this), there are three ministries you must be exposed to for your growth. Number one is the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Number two is the ministry of prayer and the word. Not prayer or the word: prayer and the word together. You don't select. They were designed to go together. Then number three: the ministry of spiritual leadership, or a teaching priest.

Now let me tell you: anyone who defaults on this pattern will not become a mighty man. Once people get saved, they must be exposed to the ministry of the Holy Spirit, the ministry of prayer and the word, and then the ministry of a spiritual voice, a spiritual leader or teaching priest.

ENLIGHTENMENT, RENEWAL, CONFORMITY

Now, these three ministries work in partnership and begin to transition that believer line upon line, service after service, conference after conference, prayer meeting after prayer meeting. You see that now? The name given to that journey is transformation. And transformation is a three-step journey: it starts with enlightenment, then renewal, then conformity. Are we learning now?

EMPOWERMENT AND PURPOSE

When you become transformed, the next junction becomes empowerment, because transformation leaves you knowledgeable, but you may not be able to defend it with results. So Jesus told them, "I have taught you, but tarry ye until ye be endued with power." You will be talking about a lot of things you don't have the grace to defend. Are we learning now?

Now, after empowerment, you don't stop there. The next junction after empowerment is called purpose. That's what gives value to the entire journey. "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit," John 15:16. So it is salvation, transformation, empowerment, purpose.

It doesn't stop at empowerment. If you empower people and don't help them understand the program of God, for example in a church like this, you have a lot of headaches, because you have many anointed people who want to go everywhere they want to go. You see, purpose is what gives power relevance. If you empower people without a definition of what that power should serve, whether financial or whatever it is, you're going to end up destroying them. Are we together? Praise God. Growth. Transformation.

CHAPTER 6

MANIFESTING VICTORY

USING THE RESOURCES OF HEAVEN

Number three. The third area I want you to focus on, if you want to be robust, if you want to be mighty in the spirit and you want your life to justify the investment that God has placed upon it: are you ready? Manifesting victory, triumph, progress and dominion. Write that down, and I'll explain very quickly. This is the third area you must focus on.

So number one has to do with building intimacy with God. Number two has to do with growth and transformation, that change within. But number three: you have to be trained to know how to use the resources of heaven to produce a life of victory and dominion.

Everybody, please listen. You can be a transformed believer. You can be a mature believer. But if you do not know how to use the word to produce profit, you will be frustrated. There are many believers who have not been trained to use the resources of the kingdom: learning how to win through the word, learning how to use the resources of the kingdom to produce victory and dominion.

Second Corinthians 2:14 says, "Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ." Always: not once in a while. "And maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place."

LEARNING HOW TO WIN IS A SKILL

Now let me tell you this. I hope you know that learning how to win is a skill in the spirit. The Bible says, "Blessed be the Lord my strength, which teacheth my hands to war, and my fingers to fight." Is that in your Bible? You are taught. You have to know how to win. You must know how to use prayer for victory, the word for victory. You must know how to deploy the intelligence of the Holy Ghost to win. Are we together now?

This is the third level. Many believers do not know how to win in life. They are born again. They are anointed. They are consecrated. But they are perpetual losers. They don't know how to make the world profit them. The Bible says, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works."

VICTORY CLEARS THE WAY FOR PURPOSE

Let me tell you this. Do you know why personal victory is important? Because it will lead you to the fourth area that I want to show you. If you are not victorious, you will be too distracted to serve the program of God. Attaining personal victory is an advantage, so that you clear your personal needs, get them out of the way and focus on a nobler, bigger program. It will be difficult to hear the mandate for your life when your rent is still a concern.

Listen to me. The God who has called us did not call us into a life of servitude and slavery. Watch this. Our focus is to love and serve Him, but He is not selfish, unconcerned about our needs. He knows that our excelling is victory-dependent. So there is a provision in His economy: while that is not your ultimate pursuit, you must taste and see that the Lord is good. Not just hear and assume. You must taste. There is an experience to victory. Hallelujah.

He says, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children…" Now watch this: the emphasis is not using God to get things, but God is kind enough to make sure that, while you serve Him, you carry things along.

God is kind enough to teach you how to pay the bills of your children. God is kind enough to teach you how to pay the bills of the church. Are we together now?

Don't throw that away as you are walking with God. "I love Him more than things." But He can teach my hands to war. He can teach my fingers to fight. When you see me winning, it is by the word. When you see your pastor winning, it is by the word.

THERE IS AN INTELLIGENCE

There is an intelligence that produces victory. I am telling you, there is an intelligence, sir. There is an intelligence that brings you wealth and abundance with integrity. There is an intelligence that brings you favor before men. There is an intelligence that brings longevity to your impact. There is an intelligence that makes people follow you. There is an intelligence that makes people like you. People don't just like you; they are made to like you. Are we learning now? There is an intelligence that gives birth to a child called excellence. Excellence is a product of an intelligence. Order is a product of an intelligence.

You must learn how to be victorious. Most believers are not trained. They don't know how to win. They know God wants them to win. They know they are part of a winning team. But they have not been taught. I'm telling you, if you learn God through their lives, you will hate God, because the picture that their lives give of God is not complete. A God that you keep serving and serving, and who seems to be disinterested in your life and your well-being, is a very inaccurate picture of God.

Intimacy with God; maturity and growth; you must understand the way of victory. This is the way of champions. This is what gives you the consolation that serving God pays. Is somebody learning here?

THE WORD LIKE A RAW MATERIAL

Maybe, for someone, you came to this renewal conference, and this third area is what you need to begin to press into. I know you love God. I know you're contending for maturity. But do you know how to win? Can you use the word of God like a raw material and produce undeniable results: results that are not dependent on geography, results that are not dependent on weather conditions? Do you believe what you are hearing?

The Bible says, "All things were made by him." All things: victory in every area. Believe this about the word of God: the power, the intelligence and the wisdom that come from it can pick a man up from being a tenant and honestly cause that person to be a landlord. Listen: the idea is not just to show off. The idea is to give you the rest that allows you to focus on other, nobler kingdom activities.

Can I tell you this, for example? How many of you know that wealth is a defender of integrity? There is a level of the help of God upon your life that makes certain temptations dead on arrival. They are useless to you, because you have risen, like an aircraft, beyond that realm of temptation.

SHOW ME YOUR WAYS

Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, please hear me. Let me say that again, in order of priority: your love for Jesus surpasses things. But please, in a bid to show that you love the Lord, do not reject an opportunity to learn His ways, because you will pay a very bitter price. Moses said, "Shew me now thy way," and he said, "Shew me thy glory." The ways of God lead to life. The ways of God lead to victory. Are we together?

That's number three. This is my assignment: to challenge someone. You are a lover of God, but you don't know how to win by the Spirit. You don't know how to win by the word. And you have to learn it, because the bankruptcy of results in your life keeps misrepresenting the fatherhood of God. Remember, the Bible

says we are living epistles. People have been reading God through your testimony, and you have been misrepresenting God. What kind of worker in church serves God, loves God, but still struggles with rent?

Okay, if you are just starting… Listen: the Bible says, "Though thy beginning was small." That means the only part of your life that should be small is your beginning. Only the beginning should be small. I'm telling you, if it goes beyond the beginning and you don't grow… Look at this. How many of you know that if you give birth to a child, and after two years the child cannot talk, the child cannot walk, no parent rejoices over that child? Do you still spoon-feed your child at five? No. The joy of the parent is to watch victory in the life of the child.

I WILL NOT REJECT THE DONKEY

I don't know about you, but as far as I'm concerned, the victory that's been purchased in Christ must speak evidently in my life, in the name of Jesus. Forever, I love Him more than things. Whether He blesses me or not, it does not affect my love. But I will not die the death of a fool because of folly. No, I will not do that.

Listen to me. If I need a donkey for a triumphal entry, I will not reject the donkey if He gives me one. It is a tool that is needed. I will know how to loose that colt, because the Master had need of it. Is somebody learning now?

Say, "In the name of Jesus, I receive grace to learn the way of winners. In the name of Jesus, I receive grace to learn the way of victory. In the name of Jesus, I learn how to use the word to redefine my destiny. In the name of Jesus, in partnership with the Holy Spirit, I am an overcomer. I am a winner." Pray in the spirit for one minute, and then I'll give you the other key: an overcomer, a winner by the Spirit. In Jesus' name we pray. Please be seated.

FINISHED, YET MANIFESTED

My time is up. Let me borrow a few minutes and just drive this point home. Look up. Please listen. There are many things required to know how to manifest victory. For example, you must know that in Christ all things are finished. That simple revelation: you are not to create. The believer's business is to manifest, to make visible, not to create. The reality, the victory, is finished. If you don't carry this finished mentality, you will be a loser, trying to do what God has already done. Are we together? Victory: finished. Tomorrow: finished. Finished in Christ.

However, you must also know the difference between prophetic realities and their experiential manifestation. That which is finished in Christ does not mean it will manifest by default in your life. In theology, we call it the law of conversion: the mystery that makes the word become flesh, healing become flesh, prosperity become flesh, greatness become flesh. It is finished in Christ, but whether your life will capture it as an experience depends on understanding these dynamics: number one, it is finished in Christ; but number two, it will require partnership on your part. We call it the God-man partnership: that man always has a participatory role in making that which is finished in Christ manifest as his reality. Are we together? Salvation is finished in Christ, but if you do not participate by confessing the lordship of Christ, you will still go to hell. Are we together? Praise the name of the Lord.

CHAPTER 7

GOD'S END-TIME PROGRAM

BEYOND PERSONAL VICTORY

Let me give you number four. The fourth area of emphasis: you must understand God's end-time program. Oh yes, you must understand the full scope. Maybe another time, if God grants grace, we'll come and talk about that: God's end-time program.

So when you press for personal victory, it does not stop there. Beyond achieving personal victory is where your heart becomes invested in birthing and championing the program of the Spirit. Listen: the real value of winning is not just to show people you are a winner. It's so that you take away the distraction and can spend the remaining part of your life directly invested in God's kingdom-come program.

And God's kingdom-come program is divided into three. There is God's program for the unbelieving world: it's called soul winning, world evangelization. There is God's program for the church: helping the church attain maturity and stature through discipleship. There is God's program for the nations: it is called territorial advancement. Are we together?

GIVING IS ENHANCED BY ABUNDANCE

God helps us and sorts out our lives so that we can focus on His agenda. How many of you know that it will be difficult (not impossible, but difficult) to give consistently to the work of God, for example, if you have all kinds of financial limitations? While it is true that giving is of the heart, truly it is enhanced by the presence of abundance. Hallelujah.

The reason the people at Jesus' crusade could gather twelve baskets was that they were full. If they were still hungry, you would not find even one crumb on the ground. How do I know that? The woman in Zarephath: he said, "Make me some bread." She said, "Ah, no, no. We don't have room for waste now. We're about to eat this one and die." Hallelujah. Praise the name of the Lord.

Let me tell you: one of the greatest ways to show you love Jesus is not kneeling and crying. It is your investedness in seeing His desire for the nations come to pass. You can sing that you love Him. You can say that you love Him, but your giving does the louder speaking: investing your time, energy and resources. Are we together? That you are all about souls, and people say, "Don't you do anything with your life?" and you say, "God has sorted me. What is left again?"

A JOURNEY BEYOND COMFORT

You see, most believers don't know the purpose of prosperity, or the purpose of a good life. And if you do not know it, you will misrepresent your goodness before the world, because they will think your entire journey was just to use God to get things. But we show the unbelieving world that there is a journey beyond comfort. There is a journey beyond personal results. Are we together? Now you become invested in the things of God.

Why should a multimillionaire or a billionaire get up to pray in the morning, interceding for the nations? Because there is still a project beyond money. Are you seeing that now? Why should someone still serve in church as a CEO, having all kinds of conglomerates across the globe? Because it was never about those things. They were vehicles. Now he can serve the Lord sincerely. Who is learning?

Let me pray for you. Whatever is needed for your comfort, to give you the convenience to serve the program of God, I pray for you. I stand in faith with your pastor that between now and the end of the year: pleasant surprises, open doors by the Spirit of the living God, exploits by wisdom, exploits by the Spirit,

exploits by grace.

CHAPTER 8

FULFILLMENT BEYOND SUCCESS

WHAT FULFILLMENT IS

Please sit down. I'll give you the final key, and then I'm done. So, five things to focus on. Number one: intimacy with God. Number two: your growth and transformation. Number three: how to manifest victory and triumph using the resources of the kingdom. Number four: being invested in birthing and fulfilling God's end-time program. That also includes excelling in every area of your life: really, a life of impact, making a difference.

And then number five: if you want to live an efficient Christian life, you must understand fulfillment beyond success. If you do not understand fulfillment, you will still be frustrated. There is a level that goes way beyond being successful. Don't stop at being successful.

Let me quickly define fulfillment for you. Fulfillment is the satisfaction that is derived from knowing that you have lived your life efficiently, serving the purposes of God, living a victorious life and being a blessing to your world: making a difference, impacting your world. Genesis 12:3: "In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."

I HAVE FINISHED MY COURSE

Second Timothy 4:7. Paul was speaking, and he said (I'm wrapping up now), "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

Listen: there is a level beyond success called fulfillment, and it is the only gift you can give yourself. Success has to do with achieving goals, predefined goals. But fulfillment is the satisfaction that at the end of your life you can stand before God, as a man of God, as a child of God, knowing that, number one, you served the purposes of God as best as you knew how. Number two, you exerted dominion upon this life, manifesting victory, unquestionable victory. And number three, you left the world, or you can leave the world, better than you met it. Is somebody learning? Praise the name of the Lord.

A FINAL RECAP

So as you explore all the other teachings that come in the course of this conference, do not forget these five things. A final recap, and then I'll wrap up.

Number one: your intimacy with God, in order of priority. It's better to fail in every area of life and win in this one. When you win with God, you are a winner indeed.

Number two: growth and transformation. You must transition from being a babe, an infant, to a believer with stature, speaking like Christ, functioning like Christ. Perhaps you have heard me say that having the life of Christ without the mind of Christ will still leave you defeated. It takes the union of the life of Christ plus the mind of Christ to produce victory. Most believers have received the life of Christ, but they have rejected the mind of Christ through transformation, and so the riches that have come through that life cannot be revealed to the world. Unbelievers have rejected the life of Christ, but they have embraced the mind of Christ. The life of Christ plus the mind of Christ, through transformation: that's the requirement for dominion.

You must learn how to be victorious. You must learn how to win. You must train your fingers in the spirit to fight and your hands to war.

And then you must understand God's program. Let me emphasize that. Don't live your life just acquiring and accumulating things. You will become the rich fool. With all due respect, you know that man called the rich fool: it was not the riches that were the problem. It was that foolishness was added to the riches, and it destroyed everything. Hallelujah. Understand the purpose of His help in your life, so that you can focus on the kingdom.

This is why let me take a minute to salute all those who are workers in this vision. At the very least, that is your contribution. And also those who are partners, in various degrees, to this program. Listen: this is how to participate in kingdom come, among other channels.

And then, finally: live a life of fulfillment. I don't know about you, but at the end of my life I don't just want to look at pictures of crusades, travels to nations, healings and miracles. I want to know that I served God the best that I was able to, as touching the grace He gave me, and that I walked in victory and dominion in experience. But let it be that I left the world better than I met it. It says, "In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." Please rise up on your feet. Hallelujah.

CHAPTER 9

THE ALTAR CALL

ALPHA BEFORE OMEGA

Thank you for your patience. Let me just make the altar call. Pastor, is that all right? Can I make the altar call, sir? Praise God.

I'm walking on borrowed time, but let me give someone an opportunity who wants to truly make Jesus Lord of your life. Remember, He has to be Alpha to be Omega. You cannot run your life on your own terms and ask Him to seal everything you have done with your life. No. He's Alpha; then He becomes Omega.

I'm speaking to someone here who is saying, "Apostle, I heard you. I understood what you said, but I need Jesus." That's the beginning: the foundation of a victorious life. I want to give one sincere person an opportunity to make it right, or someone who wants to rededicate his or her life, and you're saying, "Apostle, Pastor Bolaji, I'm not ashamed. I want to make it right with Jesus. I don't want to leave tonight's session knowing that I've not made it right with Jesus."

COME TO JESUS

I'll count from one to five. I just want one or two sincere persons who will leave their seats. I know it's quite a distance, but He left heaven and came to earth for you. Leaving your seat and coming to stand for Him is a fair enough bargain.

I understand there are various expressions across the globe. Please lend me your attention. I'm going to make this altar call. Those who are here on site, whether here or in the overflows outside, I request that you come and stand when I begin my counting. And all the other overflows and expressions, please

do as you are told. Some of you may need to walk to your LEDs; you may need to indicate, or scan a QR code that will be made available, to let us know that you have made it right with Jesus. I will be glad to follow you up.

Are you ready? Let me begin my counting. I want to see a bold brother, a bold sister, who understood my teaching tonight and is saying, "Apostle, I'm not ashamed. This is for Jesus." One. Let's celebrate them as they come. Come on, Harvesters; you are called Harvesters. Two. Come. No matter how far, come. He gives you a new beginning tonight. Three. Keep clapping; let's celebrate them. Come to Jesus. He'll give you a new beginning. You can start afresh. You can start again. Four. There are still some others coming. Let's celebrate them as they come. Tonight is your night. Hallelujah. Can we give Jesus a big hand clap for these ones? If you're coming, please make haste. My brothers and my sisters, come.

THE PRAYER OF SALVATION

Now, let me have the attention of those of you who are following, whether by way of television, those of you who are following online across the social media platforms, or even those who will be watching by way of rebroadcast. It's an honor to lead you in this prayer, this noble cause. Surrendering your life to Jesus is the wisest decision any man can make on this side of God's kingdom, because the Bible says that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. It says, "For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

To my dear brothers and sisters here in front: congratulations. Thank you for the boldness to declare His lordship. Would you lift your right hand? Lift it high above your head. I know you are being given a form to fill. Just pause on that for a moment so that you can make the prayer, and afterwards you will fill out the form legibly and hand it to the counselors. With your hands lifted, and across all the expressions, the centers across the globe: as I lead these ones in prayer,

would you join to say the same prayer, but mean it from your heart? You're not reciting a poem. This is a principle that will lead to your salvation. Say:

"Lord Jesus, tonight I declare that I love You with all my heart. I believe You are the Son of God. I believe You died for my sin. I believe You rose again for my justification. Right now, I receive Jesus into my heart as my Savior, my Lord and my King. I declare that the power of sin, Satan, hell and the grave is broken over my life. From tonight, I'm a child of God. I go forward ever and backward never. Amen."

Keep your hands up, and I pray for you. Father, thank You for these ones. Your word declares that as many as come to You, You will in no wise cast out. These ones have come declaring Your lordship. By the authority of Scripture, I declare their sins forgiven. And in the name of Jesus, I call you bona fide recipients of the life of God. The grace and the empowerment to live the victorious Christian life, I impart upon you from tonight. And I declare that you go forward ever and backward never. It's in Jesus' marvelous name we pray. Shout amen.

All right. Do me a favor, please, all of you. May I request that you look to my left; that will be your right from where you are standing. There are officials who have been trained. They'll have a word with you. They will guide you in filling out your form, and thereafter you return to your seat. Please do cooperate with them; it'll be for a very brief time. Let's honor them. Thank you. Come on, Harvesters, keep clapping. Let's celebrate salvation.

Hallelujah. The Lord bless you. The Lord increase you, in the name of Jesus. May the fire upon your altar never go down. Grace upon grace, wisdom upon wisdom. In Jesus' mighty name we pray. Give Jesus a big hand clap.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

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Matthew 5:16* — Let your light so shine before men. (Chapter 6)

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ABOUT THE SPEAKER

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