



THE LION BEAR & DOG

...understanding the levels of challenges and how to overcome them, using the David's Paradigm

Daniel Odiwe



The Lion, The Bear and The Dog

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THE LION
THE BEAR
and **THE DOG**

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Paradigm.*

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email: dangreatlight@gmail.com

Facebook page: @dangreatlight or

Daniel Odiwe – GreatLight www.facebook.com/dangreatlight

YouTube channel: @dgreatlight TV <https://bit.ly/2ab0ufq>

Instagram: @dangreat_light

FOREWORD

The lion, the bear, and the dog is a classic book inspired by the Holy Spirit through a prophecy given by a minister in a meeting with Rev. Dr. Chris Oyakhilome in 2017. This book will help you see the true nature of challenges and guide you with proven and practical steps to overcoming every seemingly overwhelming challenge and situations in your life.

This book simplifies the levels of challenges. The traditional perception of challenges and problems considers challenges as tougher at ascending levels. We see this in every game, every competition challenge, as well as in every aspect of the human living. But in truth, however, challenges get easier and smaller at ascending levels resulting in greater victories and triumphs.

In this book, you will discover how one of the greatest warrior and king of all times, King David, faced and overcame overwhelming challenges and situations and his eventual rise as a King with the strategy of The Lion, The Bear and The Dog paradigm. Learn the principles behind David's paradigm and put them to work. You will definitely get the results David got.

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PROLOGUE

The Lion, The Bear, And The Dog

“Don’t worry about a thing,” David told him (King Saul). “I’ll take care of this Philistine!”

Don’t be ridiculous!” Saul replied. “How can a kid like you fight with a man like him? You are only a boy (what do you know about battle), and he has been in the army (a Warrior) since he was a boy!

But David persisted (and presented his resume). “When I am taking care of my father’s sheep,” he said, “and a lion (a hungry raging one) or (and) a bear (with fury) comes and grabs a lamb from the flock, I go after it with a club and take the lamb from its mouth. If it (or as it) turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. I have done this to both Lions and Bears, and I’ll do it to this heathen Philistine too, for he has defied the armies of the living God! The Lord who saved me from the claws and teeth of the lion and the bear will save me from this Philistine!”

Saul finally consented, “All right, go ahead,” he said, “and may the Lord be with you!”

Then Saul gave David his own armor – a bronze helmet and a coat of mail. David put it on, strapped the sword over it, and took a step or two to see what it was like, for he had never worn such things before. “(Haah!) I can hardly move!” he exclaimed and took

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them off again. Then he picked up five smooth stones from a stream and put them in his shepherd's bag and, armed only with his shepherd's staff and sling, started across to Goliath. Goliath walked out toward David with his shield-bearer ahead of him, sneering in contempt at this nice little red-cheeked boy!

“Am I a Dog,” he roared at David, “that you come at me with a stick?”

1 Samuel 17 (TLB with added commentaries by me)

All alone with his father's flock, a young boy of seventeen years old, sat under the tree shade to catch some nap after a somewhat stressful day of guarding and guiding the flock in the green valley. He had led the flock beside the quiet stream and made the flock rest in the meadow grass. When all of a sudden like a mighty rush of the wind, a fierce looking Lion from nowhere attacked a lamb disconnected from the flock all alone close to the forest edge. The lamb let out a loud bleat as David awoke from his very short nap and ran towards the Lion.

Thousands of contemplations played guest to his mind in a couple of seconds as David headed for the Lion. The thoughts of getting killed by the lion and the thought of the lion killing his dear lamb taunted him. He thought of how inexperienced he was in this situation and without any weapon, “maybe I should run home and tell Daddy and my military brothers, they should know how to deal with this.” “Oh what about if the Lion kills the lamb before they

arrive here.” He thought again to himself. But the thought of letting go of his dear lamb seemed impossible for him as he said out loud “no, I won’t hesitate! I will just get a hold of my lamb out of its mouth and tear down that lion’s mouth. If I die, so be it but I must save this lamb”

He immediately, launched a violent attack at the lion as he held the lion’s jaw with his two hands, allowing the Lamb’s head freedom. The lamb immediately ran to where the other flocks were as David continued to battle with this overwhelming situation - the Lion. The Lion looked so ferocious but the daring instinct of this little lad was the only advantage he had over the lion. He continued to open as wide as possible the lion’s jaw until finally, he tore his sharp-toothed mouth as he had promised himself. The lion breathed lifelessly at this point as David had to ensure it was dead before letting go.

Finally, the lion was dead. David breathed heavily a sigh of relief. He was so happy that his lamb had been rescued. He looked again at the lion and imagined how he was able to kill this fiery beast. The feeling of victory soothed his spirit. He had won! He had killed his lamb’s assailant. For the first time in his life, he had confronted a Lion and killed it without any hunter skill or experience. Oh! What a joy!

In the midst of the excitement, he had learned very important lessons from the experience. He had acquired a notable winning skill; the Courage to “Dare Act Fast and vehemently attack the strength of the enemy (the lion’s mouth)” and “to win at all cost!”

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Nobody saw this victory; hardly will anyone believe it was David, the little young lad that had killed this Jungle King. Only skillful and dexterous Hunters with the aid of the hunter guns or spears and arrows were accorded this accolade and great compliment, not a seventeen-year-old lad with his bare hand.

At this point, there was no indication that he had been anointed King, hence, it was not clear if it was the anointing that made him accomplish this feat. Of course, the anointing of God upon a man's life will cause him to do the unimaginable but this is not the case here because David made no mention of it. Thus, we can say that with or without the anointing, David dared the seemingly overwhelming challenge and won. But David never thought of broadcasting this victory to anyone yet, not even father Jesse nor his brothers knew. He kept this victory to himself. He was going to look back at this accomplishment in the future and draw strength from it.

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There was another day, almost like the other day, David was on the field feeding the flock when he realized that a lamb was missing. He immediately left the flock with a keeper who was with him at this time to go look for this one missing sheep.

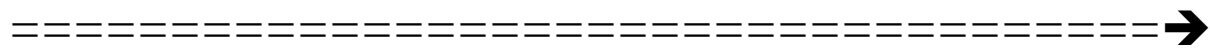
Remember, the story Jesus told about the Shepherd who left the ninety-nine sheep to look for the lost one sheep. I think the master

was telling David's story. He left the other sheep, to look for the one lost sheep. Haha, that's just my assumption.

While David was searching for the missing lamb, a loud bleat from an open cave was let out in defense by the missing lamb that was being attacked by a bear. David ran swiftly to the open cave and found the lamb's neck in the mouth of the bear as it struggled for survival from the bear's mouth

In a twinkle of an eye, without hesitation, David got the bear by its mouth just like he did to the Lion. He rescued his dear lamb from the mouth of the bear as he struggled with the bear until he tore apart its jaw and killed it.

Now, he had learned from experience. He knew better now, how to kill a fiery beast. He had killed the lion; the bear must be approached just the same way with better experience and skill. Killing the bear wasn't as difficult as his experience with the lion because he had now gained more fighting skill and experience. His courage and fighting strength have been improved right there in the forest. His confidence level had increased. He never had to learn that from any hunter or school or military camp. He was a shepherd boy who never had the privilege of attending any form of school. His sole responsibility was to take care of his father's flock but was now becoming more of a warlord.



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A day came when the nation of Israel was confronted by the Philistine army and their greatest giant warrior, Goliath of Gath for a duel battle. In those days, in order to avoid mass destruction of lives, two nations in a feudal battle over territory would present their strongest warriors for a duel battle, representing each nation. The result of this was that the defeated warrior's nations concedes defeat and consequently evacuates the disputed territory or be subjected to the triumphant nation.

Goliath was a man of nine feet tall and was well dressed for battle. The King of Israel, Saul, described this man as a warrior right from his youth. I wonder how old Goliath was at this time if he had been a warrior from his youth. Even King Saul was afraid of his sight.

Prior to this time, King Saul was the greatest warrior in the land of Israel and had led the nation into several victories. The scriptures described him to be the tallest man in Israel. David described that he was swifter than the eagle and stronger than a lion but at this point disobedience to God had robbed him of his powers and the Spirit of God. Thus, Saul lost the guts to face Goliath who continued swaggering his threatening and cursing for forty days.

Just as David was about to go into the field to shepherd the flock, Jesse called him in and gave him some food package to deliver to his three elder brothers at the battleground valley. A prudent shepherd that David was, he left the flock in the hands of a keeper and left for the battleground. When he arrived the battlefield where he met his brothers, he saw Goliath step out cursing and challenging

the armies of the Israelites to a fight as the Israeli army ran away in fright. While imagining what was happening to the Israeli army, he heard some soldiers discussing in this manner;

‘Have you seen the giant? Boy! He is a head above everyone and he’s got so much gut to insult the entire army of Israel (and there’s nothing anyone can do about this). And have you heard about the huge reward the king has offered to anyone who kills him? (Hmmm he knew if he- King Saul couldn’t fight this giant, no one would dare it, talk more of killing him). The king will give him one of his daughters for a wife’

David’s eye popped wider as he eavesdrops on their conversations.

“...and the whole family will be exempted from paying taxes!” The soldiers continued.

Now, David could not believe what he was hearing. *“This is incredible! What!? Any daughter for a wife?”* he asked himself.

To confirm the validity of what he has just heard, he decided to ask some other soldier standing by, for in the mouth of two or three witnesses a truth is confirmed. So, he asked, *“Sir, what will a man get for killing this Philistine and ending his insults to Israel?”* The response he received was a verification of the report he had previously eavesdropped. It was at this time, he realized how disgusting and irritating that an uncircumcised fellow who has no knowledge about God could dare taunt and challenge God’s people.

This confirmation gladdened his heart as he now had the confidence of defeating this taunting enemy and had always had a

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crush on one of the King's daughters, Michal, while he worked as part-time staff to the King. But his eldest brother soon noticed David's gusto and almost sent him back home. However, David wouldn't change his confession and keenness, he kept enquiring from others if the reward report was actually true maintaining his position of ending this insult.

He did this until he was brought before the King. The king must have received the shock of his life to see this little teenager who has become so daring and confident on "taking care of the Philistine." Saul was still astounded about what gave this little seventeen-year-old lad the impetus and courage to 'take care' of this dreadful Philistine Giant Warrior. With much persuasion and persistence from David, King Saul had to let go and grant David that life-threatening opportunity without any armor or weapon.

I presuppose that the whole army of Israel and the King had already started mourning David. You know when you are daring enough to pursue your dreams; people begin to cry for you as though you've lost your mind.

Eliab his eldest brother must have seen him approach Goliath without any armor or weapon and let out a loud cry. But David saw differently. While everyone else saw this undefeated giant of the philistine, David actually saw a Dog. David knew that he would end up a lump of dead meat if he were to put on King Saul's weaponry and armor. He had killed the Lion and the Bear with his bare hands and this giant was just a Dog he would kill with nothing more than a smooth stone. Goliath couldn't contain the insult. He could read

David's mind through the way David approached him. He could see the intention behind David's confrontational style and this above everything else disgusted and infuriated him the more as he yelled "*Am I a Dog that you come at me with a stick?*"

David replied in the positive and assured him of his death. As Goliath took some steps towards him, David rushed towards him in the attack, pulling out a stone from his shepherd's bag and launched it from his sling as it hit the Dog, I mean Goliath in his forehead. The stone sank in and with a thunderous sound, Goliath had fallen stone dead.

David defeated the dog in less than a minute without battling. He conquered the philistine greatest giant warrior with a sling and a stone. This is extraordinary and remarkable, a significant achievement!



Word of Prophecy for you!

Thus says the Spirit of the Lord unto you, "Just like the Lion, the bear and the dog challenge was for David, so is every challenge going to be for you. They will get smaller and easier for you!"

This story vividly explains how we came about the title in this chapter – The Lion, the Bear, and the Dog. The Lion was the first

"THERE IS NO VICTORY WITHOUT CHALLENGES." -ANONYMOUS

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encounter David had as a shepherd boy. And in his explanation to the King in a bid to persuading the King of his competence in killing Goliath, he tells of how he overcame seemingly insurmountable challenges in killing the lion and the bear.

Before this period- David and Goliath's confrontation, the Lord had asked Samuel the priest to stop mourning King Saul because he had rejected him. This was because of Saul's disobedience and unrepentant attitude. The Lord has chosen for himself a new king in the house of Jesse from Bethlehem and sent Samuel, the prophet to go anoint this chosen king. But Samuel feared for his life because he knew that at this time, Saul could kill him if he dares to find out.

Isn't it remarkable that Saul could take such an action against a Man of God? This was possible because the Spirit of the Lord had left Saul. A man without the Spirit of the Lord would act against God. Thus, God gave Samuel a strategy to save his life and fulfill the assignment of anointing this new king.

On arriving Jesse's house, Samuel saw the first son of Jesse and immediately thought to himself, *"surely this is the man the Lord has chosen."*

But the Lord said to Samuel, ***"Don't judge by a man's face or height, for this is not the one. I don't make decisions the way men do! Men judge by outward appearance but I look at a man's thoughts and intentions."***

Jesse made sure that his seven sons passed before Samuel but the Lord rejected all of them. God sees differently from the way Man sees. To Samuel, the prophet, these seven sons had the impression of kingship qualification, but to God, they were no fit for the crown. He considered them and rejected them. God rejected them because he had looked at their hearts. God could see how these ones would chicken out at the face of challenges. He had seen their future and considered them poor specimen because he knew that one day they wouldn't be able to dare face Goliath.

Samuel was surprised that although God had sent him to anoint one of the sons of Jesse but had rejected all his seven sons. *"Who then has the Lord chosen?"* He must have asked himself. *"Are these all your children?"* He asked Jesse. To Jesse, there was no other son of his fit to be king. The only son who was absent at that convention was David, the teenager responsible for shepherding the flock.

So Jesse responded, *"there remains one..."* Jesse saw no reason why this lad in the field caring for the flock should be involved talk more of being informed about this anointing service. But God needed a man who had learned how to lead and shepherd his people. God needed a man that was up to the task.

Thus, Samuel demanded they sent for David with urgency ensuring no one sits until David arrives.

David was the last son amongst the eight sons of his Father Jesse. And as the last son, he was meant to look over the sheep. There was nothing so special about him; therefore, there wouldn't be any consideration of enlisting him into the army. Anyways, he

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was too young to join the Israeli army now. He would wait for another three more years to be enlisted into the army to go for war.

Despite the fact that he was despised by family members, God had chosen him to be King. God had seen the fighting strength and daring victory instincts of the young lad in the field when he killed the lion and the bear. God could see his future and how he alone would stand tall to challenge and overcome the Philistine Giant. God had seen how he took care of the flock with passion and faithfulness. ***“This must be the right man for the throne”*** God must have thought to himself. ***“He is capable of delivering my people from the hands of their enemies and he has the courage and will to win at all cost”*** - must have been God’s afterthought. No wonder He said to Samuel, ***“I look at the thoughts and intentions of man.”*** God had recognized his mindset. He had the Mindset of a Victor. No wonder he never lost any battle he fought during his reign.

“SUCCESS, GREATNESS AND VICTORY ARE A PRODUCT OF MASTERING THE ART OF OVERCOMING OVERWHELMING CHALLENGES.”

The content in this book reveals that success, greatness, and victory are a product of mastering the art of overcoming overwhelming challenges.

The lion, the bear, and the dog symbolize the three different major phases of challenges in life that must be faced on your journey to success.

Life is full of challenges and in fact survival itself is a challenge. But you can live a perpetually victorious life. You can be victorious all the time. Yes, you can! Battles come your way, troubles and challenges will always come but you've got to always win. You are a Victor and Victors win always.

Of course, not everybody is at the same level in life. This is the reason why you must not compare your situation with others because you don't know what challenge level they are in. There is nobody without real challenges.

Thus, understanding what level of challenge you are right now and how to successfully overcome at every level will place you on a path of a perpetual life of victory and triumph.

CHAPTER 1

The Lion Challenge

The Lion symbolizes the greatest challenge you would ever face in your journey of success without experience, skill, or resources. The Lion is the king of the Jungle. He is the strongest of all animals in the animal kingdom.

Think of one time in your life where you were faced with an overwhelming situation or challenge in your family, business, job, finances, and health with little or no experience, skill, and resources. This is the Lion challenge.

It's always the first of the seemingly challenges you face while setting out on the path of success, greatness, and victory. It is the initial level of challenge you face when venturing into something new. At this level, you are faced with a challenge that must be overcome but with little or no resources. If you can defeat this lion, it then means you can defeat the bear and the dog.

While battling the lion, you, the challenger, are mostly without experience and competence. All you have is the passion to be successful, the passion to save your future from the hands of the

***"WHEN YOU ARE BOLD, AUDACIOUS AND DARING, YOU ACTIVATE THE
SUPERNATURAL"***

destroyer and fulfill your dreams and goals. At this level, you don't

have the technical know-how; you are at sea as to what the outcome of your decision would be.

David was not a hunter or a warrior. He knew nothing about killing a wild animal as at this time of his life. All he knew was how to tend and carter for his sheep. He was a shepherd boy. And like every shepherd, the life of just one sheep is as dear as the life of a thousand sheep. He knew how to feed the sheep and guide the sheep from danger but had no training on fighting a Lion talk more of rescuing a sheep out of Lion's mouth. He had never experienced such a situation before. Maybe he had rescued his sheep from serpents, scorpions, wells, and dungeons but definitely not from a Lion. He was daring, bold and full of faith.

At this stage of your life, you are uncertain about the outcome of events but just like Esther, you dare to act and say "*if I perish, I perish*" because your future is at stake. No one can promise you at this level you will come out triumphant. In fact, the odds might be against you this time. But you must be determined not to let go of the vision. You must be determined to exert some courage and act resourcefully. You are going to damn all consequences and be so daring at this stage.

When you are bold, audacious and daring, you activate the supernatural. It's true that "*fortune favors the bold.*" Joshua faced the Lion challenge after the death of Moses in leading the Israelites into the promised land and the most repeated traits God demanded of him was Boldness and Courage. At this stage of your life, God demands that you are bold and very courageous.

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Some time ago, I was attacked by three dreadful hoodlums in the middle of the night while heading home from a late night meeting. I noticed that these guys were dead drunk and probably with some kind of hidden weapons but they were very much intentional in their attack approach. The leader of the gang called unto me as though he had known me from somewhere before but because I was security conscious that it was really late, I refused to heed to his call unknowingly to me that there were other two ahead of me. When I discovered this, I realized that trying to run away from this guy won't work. So as he approached, I returned to attend to him. He stretched forward his hand for a handshake and I hesitantly gave him a handshake. Just as I tried removing my hand, I noticed he held on to my hand with a very firm grip, not wanting to let go. With surprise and a mixture of uncertainty, I forced my hand out of his hand to let go. At this time, they were all surrounding me and had started roughly handling me. The gang leader, however, declared that I was responsible for stabbing a friend of theirs and they wanted to know why and if that was true. I couldn't believe what I was hearing. Me? How!? Certainly, they've got the wrong person. But as I tried to justify myself, I realized they were taking advantage of my frightened dispositions. They had sensed that I was afraid and they capitalized on it.

Immediately, the tide changed only when I decided to swallow some guts. All of a sudden, boldness welled up from within me as I confronted the situation heads on by daring to threaten them. I said to them; *"Come, do you know who you are dealing with"* I thought for a

minute what was going on in their minds at this moment. “Do you want the wrath of God to come upon you” I continued *“I am a Man of God and you don’t rough handle me except you want God to deal with you.”*

As I paused, I could see them retreat, even though the leader at this time was getting uneasy with my verbal attack, he hesitated a bit. He told me to calm down. That maybe I was the wrong person. At this point, I knew I had gotten them where I wanted them. Even though I was oblivious of whatever harmful weapon they had with them, I was able to overcome that lion situation with Boldness. With boldness and courage, I led these three dreadful guys to Christ that night. The Lion challenge comes to frighten you and once it does, it’s got you where it wants you. The lion challenge wants to subject you to fear and it must be defied with faith and Boldness.

At this stage, you are like Abraham who knew nothing about where God was taking him to. He never knew how the voice of God was like but dared to believe the voice that he had heard was God’s.

Moses also faced the Lion challenge in fulfilling God’s assignment to set the children of Israel free from Egypt’s bondage. He had never done anything like this before in his life; talk more about going against the Pharaoh of Egypt. His life was at stake here. He tried showing God how inexperienced he was when he told God he was slow in speech. Nevertheless, he faced this Lion challenge and won by leading the children of Israel out of Egypt.

Your decision to act is sometimes tougher than your ability to maintain your decision, even though the two are synonymous to achieving success but you must dare to face it heads up at this level.

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There are many people who have failed to act and carry out the vision, instruction, and ideas God had given to them. Many at this level are afraid to act because they are uncertain about the success of their endeavor.

The fear of failure has killed many dreams, visions, and ideas planted in the hearts of men. Ideas and businesses with great potentials have not seen the light of the day because of indecision, the absence of intentions and the fear of failure. Do you know that the fear of failure has even killed people and made some commit suicide?

As a teenager in high school, I faced my lion challenge in my public speaking career when I was selected to speak or argue in a debate before the whole school. That was my first time of ever speaking in front of over 100 students. It was as though the earth should just open up and have me in there. I was frightened and nervous to the bone. Although I was excited that I was selected but the fear of messing up, losing the debate or even forgetting my lines made me even more anxious.

I knew no one was going to rescue me from this dilemma as there was no plan to substitute me. I also wanted to do it but this fear of failure wouldn't let me be. Thus, I made up my mind to face this lion challenge and win.

I practiced and rehearsed my lines again and again for the fear of not forgetting my lines. On the D day, I am yet to even remember what I said but all I knew was that after some minutes into my talking, the audience was already clapping their hands and the whole

school was thrown into some kind of thrill. Maybe I had blown some exhilarating ambiguous words I had learned before the debate day which made them aroused, I can't say. My time was up and I had to stop. Thank God I had to stop because I remembered that I was going out of memorized words already. I faced it heads on and I was glad I did. That single action paved way for me in the school in later becoming the Library prefect of the school and today, a public speaker.

David had no weapon with him. He had no resources. It was easy to watch the Lion devour his dear sheep because he had no resources but that wouldn't have been David. He was resourceful and quick-witted. He did not settle for the overwhelming circumstances of life by saying *"you know I don't have a gun or a spear or this or that. No one is here to help me. I better run before the lion attacks me too."* No! He didn't talk like most people would do in the face of the Lion challenge. He charged after the lion and attacked the beast with his bare hands. That required some wittiness really. Resourcefulness always prevails in the absence of resources. This is another quality you must develop at this level and at every level of your life.

Resourcefulness and Pro-activeness are required in dealing with this challenge. Like David, you must take the initiative to act promptly with little or no know-how.

Most of the time, many think that challenges come in increasing degree but the story of David here shows otherwise. The challenge you face now may seem bigger than the one you faced

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yesterday or yesteryears but that's not true. In reality, challenges come in decreasing measure because they are only stepping stones to greater victories. Every stepping stone always relies on the first or foundational stone for support; therefore, the first - lion challenge is always greater than the rest. As you overcome one challenge, you gain greater fortitude to take on more challenges. The level of your confidence increases as you move from the lion situation to the bear situation. Challenges become bread for you as you move from one level of challenge to another. It gets easier at the top. You must let this settle within you.

Notice what David did at this phase of his life. He had the option of running home to consult or report to his father or his brothers who were warriors and were able to handle the Lion. If he did, the Sheep definitely wouldn't have survived the attack of the Lion. You must act like David. There's no time consulting and looking for help and support. When God gives you a vision or an

"RESOURCEFULNESS AND PRO-ACTIVENESS ARE REQUIRED IN DEALING WITH THE LION CHALLENGE."

assignment, consult not with flesh and blood. Go ahead and act with boldness, courage, and resourcefulness.

David also had the option of running away from the Lion attacking his sheep to secure the rest of the flock, but he didn't. That one sheep meant the world to him. He wouldn't hesitate to risk his life for that one sheep.

What are you willing to risk for Victory? You must be willing to risk that thing that means so much to you at this level on your journey to achieving your dreams. You must be willing to go the extra mile. You must be willing to damn the consequences and act fast. You must be willing to accomplish that vision that dreams no matter what. You must be willing to jettison even your own life sometimes to achieve that vision as Paul said

“But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.” Acts 20:24

He also declared in Phil. 3:8 *“I count all things but dung that I may win Christ.”*

Every great person in the world today, dared to face the Lion in their lives and win. They made war with the Lion in their lives with little or no experience and won.

Don't wait until you have all the experience in the world before you launch out an attack against the lion of your dreams. Don't wait for another second to act, it might just be too late you know. You will never move to the bear stage until the lion is out of the way.

It gets easier as you go but not without overcoming every seemingly challenge on your way. Victory is assured when you are daring. And when you win, take along with you every bit of the

“IT GETS EASIER AS YOU GO!”

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experience and lessons learned. This is the ladder you will need for the next level of your life. The experiences you take with you are the resources you require in dealing with the Bear. Take with you the ladder of experience and knowledge for the next level.

CHAPTER 2

The Bear Challenge

The bear is the next challenging phase of your life. It's mostly synonymous with the Lion experience because it comes right after your dream without your notice or your permission like the Lion does.

Bears weigh over 400 kg and are taller than the average man standing upright. Bears are usually bigger than Lion in size but are nowhere compared to the king of the jungle, the lion. The bear might seem friendly but becomes ferocious at the sight of prey. They hunt only at dusk and at night.

The Bear challenge is a terrible situation similar to the Lion challenge and requires that you use the victory techniques learned from the lion experience in order to win.

Many at this phase of their lives sometimes back down, give in and give up. Why? Because they have refused to learn from the previous experience of the Lion even though they came out victorious. Those who triumph in this phase are those who employ all they've learned from the Lion situation to tackling and dealing with the Bear.

The bear is as ruthless and merciless as the lion. Its aim is to destroy every victory you think you might have had and to kill that miracle, dream, and vision altogether. It goes after your dream, in the same manner, the Lion attacked your dream and vision.

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David showed us the scenario when he explained the Bear's attack in similarity to the Lion attack. There was no difference. They were both brutal and vicious in attacking his dear sheep.

Many a time, many people have difficulty in differentiating the Lion from the bear. This is because the bear uses the same Lion technique and strategy, thus, making it difficult for anyone to realize that it's a fresh challenge. It wants to get you thinking you never defeated the Lion. It wants to get you thinking you are not done with that situation you had conquered previously.

I see this happen many times to sick people who get healed. After daring to trust God's word and act their faith for their healing, they finally receive healing. But the same symptoms and feelings they had when they were sick comes back disturbing and disquieting them in order to make them feel they never got their healing when they acted out their faith earlier. The symptoms, feelings, and pain come back again to make them think they are still sick. Many at this stage give up too soon when their words and actions align with the seemingly challenge in their body, thereby resulting in a rebate in their health.

This is the strategy of the Bear. This is its sole purpose for challenging you and your dreams; to steal, to kill and to destroy every single trace of victory and vision you've had. It comes like a thief in the night. If you hesitate to deal with it, it could be dangerous. There would be no trace of your Lion victory when you hesitate to take prompt and daring action against the bear of your life.

At the Lion stage, you were Proactive; you took the initiative and dared to act. You took a proactive step with boldness faith and courage and you won. You were resourceful with your limited resources and it paid out to be successful. But at this stage, you must employ the Counter Attacking strategy.

“THE BEAR WANTS TO GET YOU THINKING YOU NEVER DEFEATED THE LION.”

Kenneth E. Hagin narrated a story of how he defeated the bear challenge in his health. After many years of overcoming the Lion challenge and being healed of a heart condition, he started struggling with these alarming and disturbing symptoms patients associated with that disease were challenged with. At night he couldn't sleep and in the day the symptoms were there. He prayed about these and the Lord told him not to consider this challenge. He was supposed to set his attention on his healing and the healer, Jesus. This is part of the counter-attack strategy- the strategy of disregarding daunting challenges, steadfast resistance and solely focus on the victory assured.

Too many people at this stage, pay attention to the bear challenge. The more they think and focus on them, the more the bear devours them. Some will begin to say *“maybe, I still have cancer after all.”* Or *“Well, God is yet to answer me. The situation is getting worse. I don't know what to do now. I am tired!”*

A Lady was brought to a church healing service and was prayed for. At the meeting, she got healed and testified of her healing and

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miracle that the symptoms she was having had all stopped. After some days, she started experiencing these same symptoms she used to have at night time before her healing. When she visited the hospital, the doctors ran a test on her and reported to her that the fibroid was still present in her systems. She heard this and sank back overwhelmed with the report and started saying, *“I don’t really understand what’s happening again. I thought all these are gone. I thought I was healed when the Pastor prayed for me. What are all these again.”* As she kept on saying such words, her conditioned worsened until there was no trace of her ever being healed. She didn’t recognize that this was the bear challenge and its purpose was to rid her of any Lion victory she had had. She was supposed to employ the counter-attack strategy, disregard the doctor report and the symptoms, steadfastly resist the demons responsible for this attack and solely focus on her Lion victory. This would have resulted in her victory over this Bear Challenge.

God’s children need to be taught how to employ the counter-attack strategy in the most effective way to defeating the bear challenge. The Devil has a counter-attack strategy in afflicting people. Jesus spoke of the demon who after being cast out looking for a place to stay and if he discovers that the person, his house like he called it is empty, he goes and call more of his family members who are more callous and evil than he. And the end of that person

is worse than the former. This is his counter-attack strategy. God's people ought to be trained in kingdom counter-attack strategy.

"AT THE LION STAGE, YOU WERE RESOURCEFUL AND PRO-ACTIVE. AT THE BEAR STAGE, YOU MUST EMPLOY THE COUNTER ATTACKING STRATEGY."

The Counter Attack Strategy

The Counter Attack strategy is mostly used in the game of football and in the military parlance. It describes an offensive attack in response to the opponent's or enemy's attack.

You see, the aim of the counter-attack strategy is to frustrate the seemingly advances of the enemy by constantly ignoring and disregarding their distractions and hysterics. Meanwhile, you are solely focused on holding fast to the Lion victory you have attained already. You do this by resisting the enemy steadfastly and by attacking offensively thereby overcoming this bear challenge.

Napoleon Bonaparte, clarified the importance of this strategy when he asserted that *"the greatest danger occurs at the moment of victory."*

When you thought you have killed and overcome the Lion of your life, that is the time you must begin to look out for this bear challenge and employ without hesitation the counter-attack strategy. This is because you are easily susceptible to danger at the moment of danger.

THE GREATEST DANGER OCCURS AT THE MOMENT OF VICTORY – NAPOLEON BONAPART

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Don't think you have arrived yet like Paul who said, *"No, dear brothers, I am still not all I should be..."* because the devil too, knows how to apply this counter-attack strategy too. In fact, the bear challenge is his own way of counter-attacking your lion victory. Once you defeat the Lion, the Devil marks you out immediately for the Bear.

Although in my prologue, I made it seem as if David's lion attack and bear attack were two separate days. But there was no record of that. So, it could have been on that same day as well.

He had just killed the Lion and thought to take a nice nap in the green valley when at dusk, the bear appeared. This was the devil's way of denying him the victory that he had over the Lion. If he hadn't counter attacked the Bear, there would have been no testimony of either the Lion Challenge or the Bear Challenge. In truth, the Lion challenge testimony would have seemed irrelevant.

We have been given enormous defensive weapon and just one offensive weapon for an effective counter-attack against the Bear. Take a good look at this scripture once again;

"Wherefore, take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand in the evil day and having done all, to stand.

Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth and having on the breastplate of righteousness and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace.

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the spirit which is the word of God.” Eph 6:13-17 9kiv

If you notice, you will realize that all except the sword of the spirit are for the defensive - to successfully defend off all the enemies attack. The sword of the spirit is used to attack the enemy. This is how it is done in the game of football. The defensive side quickly and decisively strikes and attacks the opponent with the objective of shocking and surprising the opponent.

The whole idea of this counterattack strategy is to catch the enemy off guard.

It is not true that the enemy, the devil knows all that's in your heart. He only knows those things you let him know. You get him off-guard when at the moment he expects you to react in fear, you react with faith in the Word. Using the Word of God overwhelms, surprises and staggers the enemy.

CHAPTER 3

The Dog Challenge

Malcolm Gladwell in his book *David and Goliath* exposed that *“Giants are not what we think they are. The same qualities that appear to give them strength are often the sources of great weakness”* This is profoundly true as our estimation of challenges sometimes are not really as gigantic as we presuppose them to be.

At the age of seventeen, when most of his mates were either playing in the field, chasing after a girl, or enjoying the pleasures of youthful exuberance, David faced the biggest enemy of his nation - the undisputed Warrior of the Philistine - Goliath.

Despite the magnificence of the Giant, David thought of Goliath as a Dog. This was probably the reason he approached Goliath with just a stick, a sling and a purse of stones. Amazingly, David never called Goliath a dog, but Goliath at this point in time began to see himself as one. He bought the picture David portrayed to him with his confrontation style.

He was used to the conventional way of fighting with swords, spear, and armor against another warrior. But this time, it was a seventeen-year-old teenager with a stick and a sling without any armor or weapon that was standing before him.

This confrontation was the greatest insult of his life. He could read David's mind through extrasensory perception. To the

teenager, he was just a dog. *“How dare this brat?”* He must have thought. He got infuriated and shouted *“...AM I A DOG?”*

David proved that Goliath was actually a dog. He proved this not only in the confrontation style but also in the way he killed him. David won the battle with a slingshot; a battle that didn't last five minutes, a quick bloodless battle. David killed Goliath and was standing spotless as though nothing had happened and then headed towards the lying dead body of Goliath to decapitate him. He cut off his head like he said he would.

The dog is the easiest phase of challenges you will be faced with in your journey to success and victory but it always comes in the deception of being the toughest and greatest challenge in your journey to achieving your dreams and visions.

Remember, it gets easier as you go.

So, I visited a friend lately where I was attacked by his dog. I felt bad that a dog could attack me that way (although no major attack and injury, just that it's been long ago I had such experience). I later realized that at a point even the dog was afraid of me. I was about entering into my friends' car when the dog which had been barking all this time seeing me as a stranger in the house, ran under the car, kept on barking and attacked my legs as I was about lifting them into the car. I noticed as I shake my legs to prevent bite or scratch from it, it quickly scampered away in fear still barking. I also noticed it was really afraid of me too. So, I thought each time I come to visit, I will ignore or try to frighten the dog and see what happens.

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On my next visit, I was intentional about the dog and as I entered through my friend's gate, it started barking again and grinning. This time like I had decided, I totally ignored it, moved on till I got to the door and knocked until someone answered. I observed closely that all the while this dog was grinning and barking in fear. My initial thought was that I was a stranger and it didn't really recognize me, hence he barked to scare me away. But after this time, I realized that it grinned and barked because it was actually afraid of me. I could see him hide his tail even as it barked.

You see, this is the exact way dogs are. They appear to be frightful, scary and tough but they are truly not that way. In actual reality, they are afraid of you. They bawl and appear tough not to scare you but to give themselves some moral boost and protection against you. When the devil throws this kind of challenge at your face, you just know that he is a defeated foe already and like the dog, it only wants to draw your attention to the fact that he is afraid of your next step. He doesn't have a clue to what next you are going to do. This was the reason why Goliath spent forty days shouting and threatening the people of Israel like a dog without really taking any action. He was actually afraid of what next the Israelites might pull up and the only way he could give himself some morale was to appear tough and threatening. But David could see with the eyes of

the Spirit how weak this fellow was. David knew that like a dog, just a few stones would do. But only one stone was sufficient.

Some time ago, a friend gave testimony of victory over a dog experience she had. She was literally attacked by a dog. Before this time, she had always had this phobia for dogs but on this beautiful evening, she summoned all her courage, dared the barking dog that was aggressively barking and heading for an attack towards her. She

“THE DOG IS THE EASIEST PHASE OF CHALLENGES YOU WILL BE FACED WITH IN YOUR JOURNEY TO SUCCESS AND VICTORY BUT IT ALWAYS COMES IN THE DECEPTION OF BEING THE TOUGHEST AND GREATEST CHALLENGE IN YOUR JOURNEY TO ACHIEVING YOUR DREAMS AND VISIONS.”

stood right at a spot observing with a somewhat fright but anger. Angry because she had experienced this attack on several occasions and was helpless. Angry because she had just finished a session of prayer that evening and here was this dog again. She was determined not to run away like other times this time but to face this overwhelming situation. Immediately she picked up some stones and attacked the dog. To her surprise, she had chased this barking and frightful animal away. Sometimes, anger and desperation used in the affirmative can positively lead to overcoming seemingly challenges. Desperate situations demand desperate actions.

The truth is that the seemingly giant but dog challenge cannot be compared to the enormous weapon and victory potential that lies on the inside of you. Always remember, whenever you face a giant-dog situation that He that is in you is greater than the challenge. The

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force that is inherent in you is far greater than the force behind any challenging situation.

The dog always wants you to know it's around the corner with its barking and threatening. It's always seeking attention when it barks. When it barks, they are for two reasons mostly. It's either it barks because it is angry at you or it barks because it is terrified by you. Whatever ways, until it can bring you to display attitude and thoughts of fear, then it's aware it's got you right where it wants you. But you must not let this happen. You must see this terrible situation or challenge exactly the way David saw it.

David never killed Goliath-the dog, the way he killed the lion and the bear. He used his physical abilities to defeat the first two challenge phase. But this time, he employed a greater technique. He had to use his spiritual and mental prowess in attaining victory.

He rejected the royal armor and weaponry in defeating Goliath. He knew Goliath was too strong for such conventional style of battle. He had to function by a different set of rules. He had to play a different game. He had to dance to a different tone.

Saul allowed David to confront Goliath not because he believed he could defeat this giant but because he wanted to prove the testimony David had given. It was time to test David's integrity and perseverance.

It is at this stage of your life that your integrity and perseverance is held in high esteem. People want to see what you said you are and can do as they really do not care about what you

say but what you do. They will only give you a chance because they want you to prove your words, thereby your integrity.

At the first two stages of David's life – the Lion and the Bear stage, the victories he won were not publicized. They were won in secret chambers. No one ever knew. David's fame and introduction to the world really started at this level. The Giant-Dog experience introduced him to the world of his day. It was after this challenge that the maidens in the nation released a track in his name. They sang that while Saul had killed his one thousand, David had killed his ten thousand. How did that happen? He only killed Goliath. The answer lies in the fact that victory over the dog challenge blows your horn to the world.

Victory over the Dog challenge always shines the spotlight on you. It's always your introduction to world fame. At this stage, all eyes are on you. Everybody is watching you. The little things you do and say at this point of your life matters to the world. Almost everything you do goes into public notice. Everyone wants to write a blog about you. The social media trends with your name. People of the renown want to associate themselves with you. Things just begin to happen easily for you. With or without your involvement, things happen effortlessly.

The award-winning gospel artist, Frank Edwards tells his story of how he overcame the Lion and the Bear challenge when he had to hawk wares with his mother to earn a living while growing up. How he had to squat in a friend's house when he got to the city and how he had to borrow his friends' clothes because he had no clothes.

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He also narrated how he gave his first career income of One Million Naira as first fruit after he was successfully able to produce a hit song for the first time in his life. He narrated how he had to decline certain offers from the circular worldly music labels that were not in line with his calling and priority. All these along many other victories were done in secret. No one ever knew about these things not until he testified them. But today, he has defeated the Dog challenge. There is virtually no gospel music lover who hasn't listened to his music or maybe there is. There is virtually no major musical, praise or worship concert in the country you don't find him ministering at except a few. Things are sure better than the way they were.

You see why it gets easier as you go!

Nevertheless, the result of this stage always comes with greater consequences. Failure or defeat at this stage could result to ridicule and soon ostracism. But success or victory at this stage would always attract greater persecution amidst the reputation. Either of the two sounds negative but persecution is surely what Victor looks out for.

The Victor thinks "it's far better to suffer persecution rather than to suffer ridicule and shame."

The Victors' mindset is a winning mindset. The victor uses his mind as the greatest tool and weapon to overcoming the greatest of all challenges. The mind power is unlimited. It possesses a limitless potential to transform a challenge into bread and unfavorable circumstances into stepping stones.

With no hesitation, let's take a look at David's paradigm in overcoming the Lion, the Bear, and the Dog. The following chapters reveal to us the David paradigm of overcoming challenges.

CHAPTER 4

The Warriors' Mindset versus The Victors' Mindset

The Warriors' Mindset

A warrior is a fighter who is well known for heading battles and war. When war arises, it is the warrior who immediately comes to the mind of the people. He is the one everyone looks up to. But the fact that he is esteemed in the sight of others is not always a prerequisite for victory.

The word “Warrior” is derived from the old French word *Guerreor* or “*Werreieor*” which means one who “wages war”. This means that a warrior is a Warlord. He is one who has been trained and brought up most of his life to fight battles and make war. He is an expert in warfare.

Goliath was a warrior. Saul referred to him as one who has been a warrior right from his youth. Even Saul dreaded his deportment just like every other Israeli soldier.

Obviously, for Goliath to have been placed at the forefront of the battle challenge, it must mean that the Philistines had so much placed all their hopes and assurances on him. The Philistines' victory depended completely on this man's victory. He was indispensable and he knew it. He thought he was unchallengeable and that was the

reason he harassed the Israeli army for forty days until David showed up.

As a warrior brought up from his youth, Goliath had all the experiences, the techniques, skills, and strategies that were required to winning a war. He had the strength, the mannerisms, the necessary weaponry and armory to land any victory. He was the surest bet anyone would dear put money on any day anytime.

He was so full of himself. He was a proud warrior who didn't need to be cheered or praised for motivation. Pride blinded him from seeing his own weakness.

Malcolm Gladwell extensively pointed out Goliath's weakness by accentuating in his book "David and Goliath", that Goliath

"...is supposedly a great warrior but does not act like one. For starters, he has an attendant walk before him with a shield, which was atypical. Goliath also requests David go to him rather than going to meet David. Instead of being scared, he is insulted by David. This behavior has led medical experts to suggest Goliath had acromegaly. This is caused by a benign tumor, leads to considerable growth and causes double vision.

It is probable that Goliath did not even see David until he was close. David was fast and powered by courage and faith, while Goliath was blind to his approach and slowed by armor."

All through his years as a warrior, it never dawned on him that he was sick. It never dawned on him that he was weak until David

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showed up. David's confrontational style revealed to him how weak he was. David gave him a mental picture of a dog, a defeated one. This is the mind power. This is about the mind game.

The great warrior could now see himself as a dog. His self-esteem went down the drain. Warriors are most of the times conscious of what others think of them. They are easily vulnerable. Goliath was so easily vulnerable even though he seemed and appeared as the greatest challenge the Israeli army would ever face at the time.

Goliath had the option of refusing to engage this young kid, David, in a duel battle but he knew his reputation was at stake. In order to protect his reputation before his people, Goliath proceeded with the challenge and as he took his first two steps, David had already charged towards him swinging the death-dealing stone into his forehead.

Right from my childhood, I have always detested defeat. Be it in academics, on the football pitch or any game competition, even in a fight. I must make sure you never won. And when you fortunately win or defeat me, I never let go, a fight could probably ensue. This doesn't mean I will end up winning or defeating you but I was just acting like a defeated warrior who will not just accept defeat.

Let me share with you an experience I had while in senior secondary school. I, however, remember those actions and laugh at them now.

The story shows that all fights are not worth fighting. The victor knows this but the warrior who always wants to prove his worth and moved by anger and revenge will be defeated soon or in the long run.

There was a time I was so angry that I didn't mind killing somebody. Can you imagine that? Paul had been like the bully of the class. Virtually everyone dreaded him in a certain way. You don't really want to get into his trouble. He was that tough anyway. I wonder sometimes what gave him that audacity to mostly threaten everyone in the class. I know you must have experienced someone like this while in secondary school too. I think maybe he was that way because he was older than everybody in the class.

After school hours, one day, we had planned to go play football on a particular field and so we headed for the field, selected teammates and started playing football. After a while, a fight broke up between I and Paul and the other stood by watching.

Well, I don't really recollect what the cause of the fight was again but Paul dealt with me some heavy blows and slaps. He hit me seriously that, immediately, I knew if I tried to fight him back with my fist, I will be done for. Looking around, I saw a hoe. Headed for it and was about to use it on Paul, when the others rushed at me to prevent me from using it. I couldn't bear it any longer. How could he hit me like that? I wasn't thinking of my actions any longer. I wanted to kill him. I was infuriated. I looked for a big stick and started chasing him with it for a long distance until I couldn't get to

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him. I wanted to get even. I wanted my revenge. The only thing I could do was to stop and cry bitterly.

This is an example of the Warrior mindset. They fight with anger. They fight to revenge, get even and prove something to others. They want others to see that they are daring to fight. Although this daring instinct is fine they see fighting as the only means to attain victory, they always get engaged in a fight. They fight to win. This is what separates the warrior from the victor. The victor never fights to win. He wins every fight he gets into because he is a Victor. He also knows when to stop fighting and enjoy his victory spoils.

The warrior thinks in the line of getting physical revenge with fury and anger in his heart. He acts in terms of strength and weapon (resources). Now I know better. I should have just walked away. That wouldn't have been a display of weakness but a display of mental strength and self-control. But to the warrior, letting go is

"NEVER RESPOND ON THE BASIS OF YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES. BE IN CONTROL OF YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES"

absolutely a display of weakness. Warriors never let go easily of hurts and offenses. They have forgiveness issues. They always seek revenge and to get even is what they long for.

Never allow your attitude to be ruled by other people's misbehavior. Don't respond accordingly. You are in charge. You are in charge. Rule over your attitude. Respond as someone in charge. Determine how you must respond- the Victor response not the

Warrior response. Learn to forgive and let go. Never respond on the basis of other people's action. Never respond on the basis of the situation and circumstances. Be in control of the circumstances. Respond on the basis of your Excellency. YOU ARE EXCELLENCY! YOU ARE A VICTOR!

The warrior is always warring, forever in battle. He has been wired that way. They are those who are always praying warfare prayer. You've heard about the Prayer Warriors, right? They are forever at war with the devil and his little demons. The warriors are those who are always trying to defeat one enemy or the other. They are trying to overcome this or that while the Victor just functions from a position of rest, a winning position.

The warriors are always in a competition against the other fellow, striving to be better than the other. They always see enemies everywhere. They will tell you how so and so is against them. They are always devising strategies and plan to overcome their enemies. They are easily insulted and angered.

The warrior thinks that courage, physical strength and weaponry or resources at his disposal are enough to overcome challenges. Without connection with the right mind strategy or ability (mindset) and supernatural influence, they end in failure.

The warrior thinks his wealth and great accumulation of experience is weaponry enough to overcoming overwhelming challenges only to realize that there are times when money and

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wealth fail. I am writing a book on that titled “When Money Fails” a book on what to do when money and everything money can buy fails.

Moses sent out twelve warriors to spy the city of Jericho and bring back reports. Ten warriors came back with a pessimistic report. What they saw in Jericho had painted a negative picture for them as Grasshoppers. The elegance, beauty of the city coupled with the mighty men of war they saw there had beaten down their self-value.

Remember, I said, Warriors are always conscious of how they look like. They are conscious of what others think of them. They are conscious of what people say about them. They have a reputation to protect. Even though this consciousness in itself is not really a negative one, the warrior, however, subjects his life to what others perceive about him. He is a slave to other people’s perceptions.

The warrior always seeks the praise of others and when he doesn’t get it, he thinks something is wrong. He feels insulted when he’s not given the honor to which he thinks he deserves.

The warrior is only concerned about his self-respect and honor. This is because he lacks the understanding that the wounds of honor are self-inflicted. It has nothing to do with what others do or say about you. The only time you feel dishonored is because you allowed it. Let no one determine your honor and self-respect. Honor is the moral of kings. Honor is something all men are born with. It cannot be taken from you. You are Honorable. You’ve been

crowned with honor already but not by man. You've been glorified and honored by God.

The warrior is carnally minded. He is sense ruled and preconditioned to what he sees, hear and feel. Warriors are deficient to spiritual realities. The seeming circumstances determine the quality of their existence. It decides their thought processes, their talk and consequently their actions.

"THE WOUNDS OF HONOR ARE SELF-INFLICTED. LET NO ONE DETERMINE YOUR HONOR AND SELF-RESPECT. HONOR IS THE MORAL OF KINGS."

I guess this was the way Goliath felt. David never called Goliath a dog because he knew better not to be rude to elders. He only confronted Goliath with a sling and stones but this giant warrior felt he was like a dog.

This was the same way the ten Israelites warrior spies felt. They didn't even hear the Jericho giants call them Israelites, "grasshoppers" but they said to Moses, "See they were so big that in our own eyes we were as grasshoppers and in their own eyes, we were as grasshoppers." How did they know that the Giants saw them as Grasshoppers? It was the processing of their mind. They were warriors who had the Grasshopper mentality. They bought the thought. They saw themselves as hopping grasshoppers unable to take the city. Their honor and self-esteem have been wounded and brought low. The truth was that since they saw themselves this way-as grasshoppers and talked about it, they will never conquer Jericho

that way. But two men decided to think, talk and act differently because they had a different mindset - Joshua and Caleb had the Victors' Mindset.

Refuse to be just a warrior, you are a Victor. Develop the Victors' mindset.

The Victors' Mindset

The idea of the Victors' mindset was best conveyed in the words of General Patton when he asserted that

“If you were going to win any battle, you have to do one thing. You have to make the mind run the body. Never let the body tell the mind what to do...”

The Victor is one who has mastered the art of employing the greatest weapon - the mind to always ascertain victory. The victor draws all resources from the reservoir of his mind. He is not ruled by his body, feelings or emotions. He is one who has gained mastery over challenges by employing his mind power.

Failure or defeat doesn't exist in the mind of a Victor. Failure and defeat are strange to him and he is a stranger to them. Someone once said that failure is a junction while Success is the bus-stop. Well, I get the idea but I totally disagree with that. Failure is not a junction for the Victor neither is defeat. The victor only recognizes

**THE VICTOR IS ONE WHO HAS MASTERED THE ART OF EMPLOYING THE GREATEST
WEAPON - THE MIND TO ALWAYS ASCERTAIN VICTORY.**

success and victory in everything. There are only pleasures at the junction not defeat or failure for at his right hand there are pleasures forevermore. He is not on a journey to success because he has arrived there already in Christ Jesus. His journey is one of perpetual success and victory. He never gets into a fight to win or be victorious. No! He wins and he's victorious in every fight! He is unafraid to start a fight and to make war because Victory is certain.

The Victor sees challenges and problems and he rejoices knowing that every problem gravitates to their solution. He sees himself as the solution.

The Victor has the consciousness that he is the answer to the cry of many generations. He is conscious that in all these things he has passed the stage of conquering. He knows he is 'More than a Conqueror'.

“Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us” - Rom. 8:37

The Victor is not trying to win. He has won already in his subconsciousness. This is because the victory you have not won on the inside will never materialize on the outside. The Victor has, always, the note of victory on the inside even in the face of seemingly overwhelming challenges.

David was not a warlord at this time of his life but he had a different mindset - The mindset of a Victor. David trained himself from his experiences as the Shepherd boy. He had killed a Lion and a Bear with his bare hands in rescuing his sheep. He had learned

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how to use the sling in the field while guarding and taking care of his father's sheep.

He knew something the entire Israeli army and the king never knew. He knew something the Philistine giant and army never thought about. He knew that the archers or slingers will always defeat the infantries. He knew that his new skill was capable enough to defeat the well-dressed Philistine giant warrior. He had mentally and physically invested in himself with unusual skill.

However, David never depended on his physical prowess. While Goliath depended on his physical prowess and ability, he deployed his mental and spiritual prowess. He thought differently painting a mental picture of weakness to Goliath and painting a picture of victory for himself all the way.

David knew that the only way to get Goliath distracted and defeated was to make him fight with anger in his heart. Thus, he spoke words that made him angry. Anger in Goliath's hearts made him blind to strategies and attack. David, on the other hand, fought with great love for God and an unfeigned love and patriotism for his nation, Israel. He understood that the greatest force of victory is the force of Love. Anger darkens the heart of a warrior from winning skills and strategies. The man who fights with love for victory in his heart will undoubtedly overcome any overwhelming challenge.

"THE VICTOR IS NOT THE VICTOR IS NOT TRYING TO WIN. HE HAS WON ALREADY IN HIS SUB-CONSCIOUSNESS. THE VICTOR HAS, ALWAYS, THE NOTE OF VICTORY ON THE INSIDE EVEN IN THE FACE OF SEEMINGLY OVERWHELMING CHALLENGES.

This was the same technique, a onetime heavyweight champion deployed in defeating one of his greatest opponent and challenger. During the fight, he shouted severally at his opponent telling him that the shots and punches were not his best yet. Those words infuriated his opponent and made him throw out more punches in anger until he got exhausted. This heavyweight champion realized that he has gotten his opponents distracted, frustrated and exhausted and started unleashing those knockout punches until he landed his victory. This is the Mind game.

David knew that the Proactive and Counter Attack strategies he deployed to overcoming the Lion and the Bear challenges respectively would not suffice in defeating Goliath. He thought in his mind and strategized an unconventional plan.

All David could see right before he confronted Goliath was Victory, nothing short of victory. King Saul and the entire army of Israel saw a terrifying giant while David saw an uncircumcised Philistine, a dog who has come to defy and insult the army of God's people.

David had to detach himself from the conflicting influences and the frightening of the Israeli army. He didn't see the problem they saw. All he saw was the reward ahead of the victory. He could only see Victory. He already saw himself decapitating Goliath even before he launched his attack. This is the Victors' mindset. You must detach yourself from the conflicting, corrupting and limiting influences of this world to rise above its challenges. You must set your gaze on the victory assured.

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Jesus had the Victor Mindset. While the Devil saw the end of his ministry on earth, Jesus saw differently. He saw the glory that should follow after his death. He saw the salvation of the world while many saw the death of their savior. He saw the coming of another comforter when the disciples saw the death of their one and only comforter and Rabbi. He saw Satan fall like lightning while Satan thought he was triumphing. He saw his victory over Satan in hell. He saw his triumphant resurrection from the dead. He saw you and me uniting with God, our father. This mindset kept him through the passion of the cross.

Like explained in the discourse of the Warrior mindset, the two spies talked differently from the rest of the twelve spies Moses had sent to spy out the land of Jericho. But Joshua and Caleb had the Victors' Mindset. They didn't think like the other ten warriors who received the wrong picture of themselves becoming as grasshoppers in the sight of those giants and seemingly challenges. Joshua and Caleb saw differently. They saw that they were able to take out the city. They saw that this was bread for them.

You are not too young to change the world. Your age is not a determinant to your greatness in life. David was just seventeen years of age when he delivered his nation from the shame and insult of Goliath and the Philistine army. He never limited himself by his age. There is no junior success. You can be a success at every level of your life.

Caleb was already an old man at eighty-five years old but refused to think old when he requested of Joshua, the possession of

the land God had promised him forty years ago. He said to Joshua, “I am as strong this day as I was forty years ago for war...and I shall drive them out.” (Joshua 14:10-12) What a mindset! This is the Victors' cogitation and contemplation. This is the victor's mindset.

And if you are thinking right now that you are too old to pursue that dream and to make landmark impact in your world, I want you to think about Abraham who fulfilled his vision at hundred years. I want you to think about Caleb who went for his dream at age eighty-five after forty years of promise. I want you to think about Moses who started his ministry at eighty. I want you to think about Jesus who officially started at age thirty and completed his earthly ministry in just three years. You too can accomplish that dream irrespective of your age. You can fulfill your dreams even in a short time space. All the time David had was all the time he needed to kill the Lion, the bear, and the dog. All the time you have right now is all the time you need.

Even when it looks like all odds are against you and there seem to be no hope of victory, like Abraham, who against hope believed in hope, you must maintain your hope of victory. You must refuse to be dissuaded for your victory is sure. Whatever age you are at this point in your life, you can be as successful as you wish if you will develop the Victors' Mindset.

No one was ever born with this mindset; ask any successful man or woman in the world today. Every victor in life had to consciously and consistently train his mind to think on these lines. This is because nature, the society and the corrupting influences of

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this world always tend to hand over to us self-defeating culture and mindset that fails.

In order to break free from limiting influences of the world, you must consciously develop the Victor Mindset by consistently taking control of your mind and updating its content and processes to work for your success and all round victory.

CHAPTER 5

The Mind Game

“The mind game is played with a lot of passion. Read the mind of the opponent and never allow the opponent read your mind. Give the opponent the picture you want him to see but never show any iota of weakness and defeat.”

These were the (paraphrased) words of a cricket coach to his deaf and mute trainee in a Bollywood movie “Iqba”.

The greatest battles and challenges are fought and overcome first in the mind. The mind plays host as the most brutal battleground to the two greatest enemies (Good and Evil/ Right and Wrong/ Positive and Negative) in the world.

The mind is a battleground. Every war or battle that ever happened was first triggered in the mind. It was won or lost first in the mind.

The greatest weaponry available to man in the world today resides in his mind. The mind is where ideas, thoughts, reasoning, and imaginary pictures are crafted. The mind holds great potential at man’s disposal but sadly only a few have mastered the art of managing their mind.

The mind is the seat to the intellectual world. With the mind, man connects with both the spiritual world and the physical world. Thus, the mind can access unlimited resources available in the

subconscious world-the spirit realm converting it into limited resources in the conscious world-physical realm.

David defeated Goliath and the Philistine army because he knew how to utilize this great potential that was seated in his head. He had learned how to allow and disallow what goes into his mind and what comes out of it. He was a mastermind player in the Mind Game. I think that he knew about the gravitational pull in the magnetic force field of the mind. He must have known about the transmission of thought waves from one mind to another. From his experience as a shepherd boy, he had learned how to sell thoughts and hypnotizing instructions to humans using the sheep as the experimental specimen.

"THE GREATEST WEAPONRY AVAILABLE TO MAN TODAY, IS HIS MIND."

Mount Guard at the Door Way

The mind is the doorway to the spirit and the physical. No wonder we are expected to mount guard over this doorway (Prov. 4:23). The words 'Heart' and 'Mind' are interchangeably used even though both of them are two different entities.

The heart is the central organ of a man's life responsible for the active functioning and transmission of blood tissues via blood carrying vessels to all parts of the body. So is the mind, the central part of man's thoughts, reasoning's, imaginations and emotions which is responsible for the dispositions, actions, characters, and

attitudes of man. Thoughts, reasoning, imaginations, and emotions are the beauties of life. Life becomes meaningless when these features of the mind are impotent.

Thus, in order to barricade thought contents that are capable of killing these features and senses in the mind, we are instructed to mount guard at this doorway as a vigilante would. Isn't it remarkable that God thinks we can do this? This means that we've got some control over our mind. And not the other way round.

Another reason you are to mount guard over your mind is that, not every thought that comes to you are from you. Not every thought that attack your pure mind is generated by you. This is, especially if you are born again, because, you now have the mind of Christ and therefore, wrong thoughts that are not consistent with the thoughts of Christ in his written words are not consistent with your thoughts. They are external thoughts that you must not give entrance to.

You know, sometimes you hear people talk like this "I don't know why I am thinking this way. I just find myself always thinking like this." Every time I hear this, I immediately know that the speaker is being controlled by his mind. He has become a slave to his thoughts processes. He hasn't learned to master the secrets of taking charge of his mind and thoughts. He hasn't learned how to manage his mind.

In his classic book, "The Power of your mind", Rev. Dr Chris Oyakhilome explained that *"managing your mind is the primary principle for increasing your value and multiplying your success and upgrading your state."*

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This means that victory is not an option for the man who has learned the principle of effectively controlling and managing the content and operations of his mind.

Only you have the key to your mind. Therefore, like General Patron instructed I remind you once again to know that,

“If you were going to win any battle, you have to do one thing. You have to make the mind run the body. Never let the body tell the mind what to do...”

This is what you should do with your mind.

Thoughts

The mind is responsible for the creation and processing of thoughts. Thoughts are like electrical currents, forces that are sent to the brain through the nervous systems for processing and thereby causing stimuli. Thoughts have a strong magnetic pull to attract whatever it instigates. Thoughts produce words and actions. They are the determinant of a man's life. Your life goes where your thoughts go.

Everything man has been able to invent all his life started out as an idea in form of thoughts in his mind. The mind has the capacity to bring forth creative ideas, dreams, and visions that are capable of changing the world. Your mind houses your imaginative ability which is your creative aptitude.

Your thoughts are building blocks for your character. Your character is an expression of your thoughts and the inner processes of your mind. With your character, I can tell the way you think. When you complain, it's obvious that you have been having worry thoughts. When you weep and mourn, it's obvious you have been having painful and unhappy thoughts. When you rejoice, it's a demonstration of Joyful thoughts. When you celebrate, it's an expression of Victorious thoughts.

Phil. 4:8

And now brothers as I close this letter, let me say this one more thing, fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right, think about things that are pure and lovely, and dwell on the fine good things in others, think about all you can praise God for and be glad about.” TLB

This shows us the kind of thoughts that we must allow in our minds. Always ask yourself are these thoughts in line with God's standard of thoughts? Is it true? If not, delete. Is it good? If not, discard. Is it right? If not, throw away. Is it pure and does it generate love? If not, barricade it. Is it a good report and praiseworthy? If not, erase it.

This is about building a strong positive domineering character. When you think these thoughts and act accordingly, we are not doing it for anyone. For instance, it says “...**dwell on the fine good things in others...**” it has nothing to do with other people even though it seems so. It has everything to do with you, your thoughts processes. The one who thinks and sees fine things in himself sees

and thinks fine things about others. Those who fault this thought principle pay the repercussion for it dearly. Goliath faulted this principle when he began to see degrading things about Israel, God's people. This was why David couldn't recognize the fine things in him as well. He devalued the Israeli army because he could also see degrading things about himself for as a man thinks (sees and talk) so is he.

Imaginative Ability

Imagination comes from the root word "image". It refers to the creation of abstract images in the mind. It's the ability to see with the eyes of your mind, like an artist, the hidden treasures and unseen pictures of the subconscious world – the world of realities.

The renowned artist, Michael Angelo said he could see an angel in the stones. He was employing his imaginative ability; seeing with the eyes of the mind.

Pastor Chris Oyakhilome once said to me (I personalize this), "*your imaginative ability is your creative power.*" This is so profound. The mind has the ability to imagine anything at all. In your mind lies a limitless possibility. You can be whatever you want to be, you can eat, drink, see, hear, or do anything you choose to do and be anywhere you desire with your imaginative ability in your mind.

Do you know worry is the imagination of negative possibilities? This means that you believe in the possibility of a negative outcome when you worry. No wonder Paul asked us to worry for nothing. Refuse to allow anxiety set in.

This is because; you can overcome right now that seeming overwhelming challenge. You can choose to live above and beyond that situation even now. Yes, you can!

Let's do this. I want you to imagine yourself walking out of that challenging situation or circumstances right now. Go ahead and imagine you are living your life's dream. Imagine all that you ever asked for or required are yours now. Shut your eyes for a moment and use your imaginative ability. Once you get a hold of your desired image, live it out!

What did you see? I guess everything you ever wished to be right? If not, please don't proceed further by reading the rest of this chapter. It's time to use your creative ability.

If you did this and you still saw something different from your desired future, it's alright. The reason is because you haven't trained your mind in this direction before. I can help you.

Peradventure, while using your imaginative ability, you saw some pictures you don't want to see at this point, just simply do this: change the picture in your mind by replacing the picture with some better picture. Begin to draw like an artist in your mind the picture you want to see.

This might even still look difficult for you. The wrong pictures and thoughts might even at this moment seem to still be haunting you from seeing the right pictures, but hey! Never mind. I've got the surest and flawless secret to help you paint that desired future. It is your words.

Words

Words are verbal expressions of your thoughts. Words are another powerful weapon many don't know how to use to their advantage because they are unskilled. The greatest wars and battles are first won with words as the most potent weapon. David defeated Goliath first with his words. He had confessed so much that he would defeat this giant. He said it to anyone who cared enough to listen. He kept saying it until he painted a dog picture to Goliath and successfully killed him.

With words, Goliath suffered defeat when he said: "am I a dog?" He began seeing himself as a dog before this teenager. He saw himself as a dog because of David's word and voiced it unknowingly. His words coupled with David words destroyed his self-esteem and value. The words he spoke led to his death.

THE GREATEST WARS AND BATTLES ARE FIRST WON WITH WORDS AS THE MOST POTENT WEAPON.

This reminds me of the words of the master in the 34th verse of the 5th chapter of Matthew; ***"by your words, you shall be condemned and by your words you will be justified."***

Words are the bridge that connects the spiritual realm to the physical realm. Words are spiritual forces expressed in physical form. They are spirit form because they have the descriptions of

spirit when spoken. Spoken words like spirits cannot be seen but its effect can surely be felt. The scientist has discovered that the intense frequency of spoken words in sound waves can cause a physical effect on both living and non-living things.

The scripture states that the power of life and death are resident in the mouth (Prov. 18:21). If you study closely people who die, you will realize that their last words were that of transition and resignation from this physical life. Their words are descriptive most times of switching to the life beyond. Only through their words were they able to translate from the physical to the spiritual.

Many years ago, while as a young teenager, there was a certain woman who was more like a family friend to my family. She was actually a member of our family church and got so friendly with my mum. She saw my mum more like her mother and mostly consulted her for certain issues pertaining to her and her family. She was a wonderful woman.

You notice I'm using the word 'was' not because she's no longer wonderful or stopped being a friend to my mum but because she is dead now. I will tell you what happened to her.

One certain day she was advised by neighbors to drink an herbal concoction to treat some kind of symptoms she had been experiencing lately and she did. I can't really say if anything was wrong with the 'agbo' (as it is popularly called in this part of the world) or its dosage administration. But I know most people take it to rid malaria symptoms and so on and so forth. My mum believes in herbal medicines and I also do too but hardly take them.

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That's not the story here. On this wonderful evening, she came running to my mum telling her how uncomfortable she had been feeling lately after taking this concoction. My mum in response had to do everything possible she knew to help from administering natural neutralizers like palm oil. Took her to a nearby hospital to check her condition, however, the medical attendants couldn't find anything wrong with this lady and assured that she will be fine after a while. They returned back to the house, but her condition persisted. She felt the same uneasiness and even more.

We prayed for her the way we knew how to then. Bind and cast every demon attacking her. My mum thereafter asked her to begin confessing God's words to her body having noticed she was confessing the wrong words. She did but after several hours she lost the battle for her life when she started seeing the wrong picture and started confessing the wrong words of death and disappointment.

I saw mum, my dad and her husband who later came, as they tried to stop her from confessing the wrong words but it was futile now. It was obvious to everyone at that moment she had lost the fight. She had given up. Now she wanted to go but cried about who will take care of her little children. Not even the thoughts of those little children gave her the courage to fight this fight of life. Why? this was because she was accommodating the wrong thoughts now. She was seeing the wrong picture and more negative words painted even for her more negative pictures. Not too long after, she sadly passed on while being rushed back to the hospital.

The point behind this sad story is the potency and inherent power of words to either give life or cause death. Like Jesus said, “By thy words, thou shall be justified and by thy words, thou shall be condemned.”

Words are an expression of innate competence and incompetence. They are a reflection of the real you. You are no better than your words and can never be. No wonder David had to teach Solomon that “as a man thinks in his heart so is he.” David taught him so because your words are the expression of your thoughts. Therefore, as a man speaks so is he.

With words, you can design the future of your dreams. Words are the colors you use in painting that future you want on the canvas of life.

Words are the best weapon you use to eliminate the wrong thoughts and pictures that come to you. You don't fight thoughts with thoughts or else you might be considered insane. You fight the wrong thoughts in your mind with the right Words.

Don't let the words of others destroy your self-value like Goliath. Never let their words paint a picture of defeat and failure. You are only who God says you are. Find out what God's thoughts and words are about you and your circumstances. If you will do (that is, find out God's words concerning you and your situation), you will become indomitable and invincible and declare “I Know who I am” irrespective of what people say or the circumstances you face.

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Like Paul, you will be unmovable and unshakable. Nothing bothers and worries you. You will always be at rest in the place of victory and triumph.

Words are potent but the Word of God is Omnipotent. This is the reason why you must give preeminence and utmost priority to the Word of God. The Word of God is the only offensive weapon that is available to us in the scriptures. While you protect yourself with the other armory and defend yourself with the shield of faith, you attack with the Word of God.

Words are premium, give precedence to them. Words are living things. They are armed forces. You make war with Words.

Words can be used positively or negatively. Your words, once spoken initiates creation, disruption or destruction. The scripture shows us how through words those things that were nonexistence were brought to existence. The scriptures also record that through words, things that existed were brought to nothing. Isn't this remarkable? Words are like dynamo which have the capacity to convert any form of energy to another. They carry dynamic power.

Blessings are conveyed in words. Each time the Bible shows us, someone whom God blesses, we see God do so with words. He blessed Abraham and we didn't see him hand over to Abraham any form of material. He simply blessed him with Words. When Isaac blessed Jacob with corn and wine, we didn't see him give Jacob Corn and wine, but words. There are many other cases when God blessed the Children of Israel, he did so with words. Words are conveyors of blessings.

Overcoming Wrong Pictures and Thoughts

There are times where certain thoughts of fear, failure, disappointment, sickness, lack, and poverty may attack your mind. At such times, remember you can't afford to let those wrong thoughts a room in your mind. It's too expensive.

It's highly imperative that you give no room to thoughts of negativities. They are pollutants to your pure and sincere mind. They are viruses with the sole aim of crumbling your thoughts processes.

Negative thoughts are cancerous. They spread like cancerous growth to every atom of your life's existence with a death-dealing blow at your vision. Negative thoughts have led so many into becoming cancer patient and this is true.

Negative thoughts blur the eyes of your mind from seeing the true light of success and victory. They blind your mind from possibilities and triumphs.

(For the weapon of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.)

Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; - 2

Cor. 10:4-5 (KJV)

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Strongholds are those wrong thoughts, ideas, principles, beliefs, and theories of men that hold sway in the mind preventing one from victory and success.

Furthermore, Paul in the above scripture tells us how to overcome the wrong thoughts and pictures. He instructed that we are to bring into subjection and captivity every of those negative and wrong thoughts and belief systems that have held sway in the mind to the obedience of Christ.

But what then is the obedience of Christ? The bible lets us know that all things including thoughts and circumstances are under the name of Jesus. The Christ mentioned here is not the person of Jesus because all things are already under the authority of Jesus. Christ here has to do with the knowledge of Jesus, that is everything that concerns who Jesus is, what he has done, what he is doing and what he will do (the gospel of Jesus Christ). Thus, the obedience of Christ is everything that aligns with the knowledge, judgment, opinions, and victory of Jesus. It means everything that corresponds with what Christ had done and all that he has revealed through his birth, works, death, burial, resurrection, and ascension.

So, when you are confronted with situations and circumstances that show up in your thoughts, you are to bring such thoughts to the knowledge, judgment, and opinions of Christ. Ask yourself, has Christ done anything about this situation? What has he said in relation to this thought? Are these thoughts consistent with what Christ has done for me? If no, then you must change them with words consistent with the knowledge of Christ.

Whenever you receive the wrong picture in thoughts that's not consistent with your visions, dreams, and that of success and victory, you are to release missiles of creative and constructive words - that are consistent with the Word of God- to tear down the wrong picture and to recreate the right picture.

This is how God recreated the formless and void earth. He saw the wrong picture of the perfect earth he had created and began to speak words into recreation until he saw that it was good. Until he was able to create and see the right picture, he never stopped using Words.

In Chapter 8, I explained more about Words, how you can talk the victor talk and use words to create that future you have always longed for.

The Problem is Your Mind

I have had many people tell me how they have been trying to stop one addiction or one habit or the other. But the problem really is not about that habit or the addiction they've gotten themselves into. The problem is their Mind – their Mindset. God never created anyone to be addicted or allergic to anything. God created you to in fact love all things. God created you in his image- to look like him and in his likeness- to function like him. Thus, if God is love and you look and function like him, then you are love. I hope you got this simple logic.

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See, you were made to love all things. There's no hatred of anyone or anything on the inside of you. No, no hatred at all! You can't even hate the devil neither can you love him because he can't receive love. So, the only reason you might say you hate so and so is simply a function of your mind. It's got to be renewed.

Some time ago, I had dinner with two interesting ministers from India at a reputable hotel in Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria where something really interesting happened.

It was a buffet and everyone in the restaurant was evidently eating what they served themselves. So my friends had served themselves some good portion of the meal and I did the same.

While dining with my new 'Namastey' friends, we discussed, shared cultural experiences, laughed and talked about the Work of the ministry in India and Nigeria. Nice and jovial guys really.

After a somewhat long time of discussion and dining, (from our discussion, it was obvious that they enjoyed their meal not until) one of them called the waiter's attention. At this time, my 'Namastey' friends have almost finished their meal. He expressed first, how he loved the meat and wanted to know what kind of meat it was. Boy! I wished this event never happened.

The waiter replied almost immediately that it was Pork Meat. "Pork meat?" he asked the waiter in a shocked mood. You needed to have seen the reaction on their faces as they immediately stopped eating. So highly irritating became the subject matter of an used to be a delicious meal.

Funny enough I had twice of the Pork Meat. Enjoyed it and continued to enjoy devouring the meat even after the discovery. The restaurant attendants made a terrible mistake by not putting a tag in front of the buffet service to specify what kind of meat it was.

But what happened to my India friends? They immediately lost appetite. I tried to find out why when one said: *“I stopped eating pork fifteen years ago.”* The other said, *“We don’t eat Pork.”* I could sense the disgust and intense irritation. Dinner was over.

I know there are many people who dislike pork too but it might not just be an allergy or dislike or something. It might even be an attitude or habit or character. I wondered for a while what had really happened to these men.

INFORMATION! NEW INFORMATION! Nothing changed except for the information. The meat was not the problem. They testified they loved and enjoyed the meat until they were told it was Pork.

You see, that habit is not the problem. That person is not the problem neither is the dislike the problem. The problem, challenges, and circumstances you are faced with at the moment are not the problem. The Problem is your MIND. The problem is in the Workings of your MIND – Your Mindset.

I once read a story about a man who saved money to be on a trip. He finally got the money for the boat ticket and got crackers and cheese with the remaining money left. He had planned to eat the crackers and cheese every day until the boat landed. During the

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trip, he would look at the people eating in the dining and then go back into his room and eat his little cracker and cheese for the day. He continued like this, every day, until the boat anchored on the Harbor. Then the steward approached him and asked, *“Sir, I have noticed that throughout the trip, you didn’t eat a meal. Is our service that bad and offensive to you? Are you not satisfied with the food?”* *“Oh no!”* the man answered. *“I’m not offended at all. It’s just that I only have the money for my ticket and no more for meals.”* The steward was shocked and then he said, *“Well sir, I am surprised because the meals were included in your ticket!”*

This is just the same mindset many people have. This man had a mindset of *“if you don’t have money, hide your face”* without knowing that his ticket already had his meal throughout the trip covered. The reason why they suffer defeat and shame is that they lack the right information.

Many Christians suffer failure and defeat in their lives because they don’t know what Jesus has done for them. Many are still not saved because they are not aware that their sins have been taken away and they no longer have to wallow in that defeated and failed life of sin. The situation most times is not always the problem. The problem lies in what you know. The problem lies most times in the workings of your mind.

The quality of your life is the sum total of the information you receive. Your life will be no better than what you know- the quality of information you have and have put to work.

Mount guard over your heart. It is the information storehouse of your existence.

Go for new and superior information to superimpose on that habit, that culture, that belief system, information and assumptions like David did against the myth of Goliath invincibility.

The problem is in your mind. It is in the content and processes of your mind. But God's word is the Perfect Renewal Agency for your mind. It will give you a Divine Shift, a Divine Reset.

Renew your Mind

Paul the apostle laid down a very powerful fundamental thought about transforming any man's life when he declared;

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...” Rom. 12:2 (KJV)

He was one of those phenomenal thought leaders in the bible who gave us a profound secret of changing any challenging situation and circumstances. In some of his writings, he quotes David. This means that he had read about some of David's psalms and was acquainted with the man, David. Paul had seen how David constantly detached himself from the corrupting influences of the world of his time. He must have read Psalm 100 where David declared ***“Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful but delights in the law of the lord and in his law doth he meditate day and night...”***

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Paul had come to know this principle for himself because it had produced a tremendous result in his life too. He taught that if we only renew our way of thinking and consciously manage our mind through constant meditation and study, we will cause a remarkable transformation in our lives and in any situation.

Let me remind you who this man was. Paul, who used to be Saul of Tarsus, had all his life been trained as a scribe, a Jewish lawyer and keeper of the Jewish Law of Moses. No wonder he talked so much about the law after he got born again. He grew up to understand all the law of the Jews and was bent on going all out to ensure that whosoever goes against this law must be prosecuted. He got permission from the leaders of his day to prosecute Christians. He was notorious and notable for the killings of Christian Leaders who go against the Jewish law. He terrorized the church until the very day he met Jesus on the way to Damascus for another regular onslaught. Jesus converted him and gave him a mandate. He narrates this experience to King Agrippa:

“At midday, O King, I saw in the way a light from heaven, above the brightness of the sun, shining round about me and them which journeyed with me.

And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice saying unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.

But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of these things in which I will appear unto thee;

Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,

To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Whereupon, O King Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision.

Acts 26:13-19 KJV

However, merely accepting the man, the Lord Jesus, his message and his mandate wasn't going to change his life. It wasn't going to wipe away all he had been brought up with. He needed a total transformation, hence, Barnabas was sent to help renew his mind and his thinking processes through the teaching of the Word and personal devotion to the Word.

When Paul was introduced to the Christian community, the Christians still had their doubts and were skeptical about him. You know that kind of attitude you put up when someone tells you that Shekau (the Boko Haram leader) is now a Christian and will be coming to your church. Well, Paul had to prove he was totally transformed by constantly renewing his mind with the Word of God and acting out his faith. You can imagine what disaster he would have caused the church had it not been that he renewed his mind. The renewal of your mind is too important.

Paul addressing the new creation church at Ephesus further stated “...***be renewed in the spirit of your mind;***” Eph 4:23 KJV.

The Living Bible puts it this way “***Now your attitudes and thoughts must be constantly changing for the better.***”

Notice the word ‘Constantly’. This means that it is an unending and continuous process. Every day of your life you are to become a new and different person with a fresh newness of thoughts and actions. This way, you will remain unshaken and unruffled in the face of daring challenges and circumstances.

The quality of your life is depended on the character of your mind. The life of a victor is determined by his mindset of victory.

The human mind requires a regular and consistent update of its content and processes just like the computer. However, it is the most magnificent tool that no computer technology in the world can substitute. It is so great to be compared to any technological advancement in the world. There is certainly no alternative for the human mind. It is the most unique resource on the face of the earth under man’s possession.

This act of renewing your mind is what Pastor Chris Oyakhilome Ph.D. Dsc. DD describes as the concept of Mind Management. Mind Management, he explains in his book “The Power of Your Mind”, refers to the concept of reorganizing or reprogramming your mind (its contents and processes) with God’s Word and aligning your thinking, perceptions, and mindset about God, other people, the world, and yourself, with His Word.

Focus - Staring Concentration

David, despite the distraction and pressure to wave him off his vision, remained focused. He stared with great concentration at the victory, the price - Micah, the fame and deliverance of his nation from shame and contemptuous defeat. He kept his eye on the goal.

Even when his eldest brother, queried him and almost sent him home, David asked “is there not a cause?” all he could see all those times was the cause of victory. His mind stayed on the cause of Victory. Nothing else mattered to him than to see this uncircumcised Philistine taken out of the way. He wasn’t going to let any sought of distraction or discouragement set in. No! The young lad had come thus far not to give up. He wasn’t going to back down simply because he had been belittled. No! Not David.

David must have been told that no one will be sent to help him when he gets to the battleground against Goliath. He maintained his focus. He announced “I will lift my eyes unto the hills from whence comes my help...my help comes from the Lord.” He fixed his gaze on the Lord, his helper.

The literal interpretation of Heb. 12:2 explains how we can maintain focus and stare with deep concentration when it says “Looking away from everything else unto Jesus...” the emphasis is about Focusing on the master. Looking away from everything else and staring your concentration on the focal point - victory.

Every time we focus on the master all we see is the finished works of victory he has won for us. When we look unto Jesus all we

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see is where he has brought us at the right hand of the Father, far above all principalities and power and rule and every name that is named in this world and in that which is to come (Eph. 1:21).

If you then be risen with Christ, set your focus on things that are above where Christ is seated at the right hand of God (Col. 3:1) Only set your gaze on things that count towards your success and victory. Refuse to be distracted. Refuse to be discouraged.

There are certain things you shouldn't get yourself involved in. As a good first class soldier, you are not to get entangled with frivolities, things that don't add value to you or others and things that don't count towards your success.

Don't associate with Obscurities. David must have taught Solomon this proverb; have you seen a man diligent with his work, he shall stand before kings and not before obscure men. He later declared in Psalm 1: 1 MSG

"How well God must like you-you don't hang out at Sin Saloon, you don't slink along Dead-End Road, you don't go to Smart-Mouth College

There are time wasters you must get rid of.

I made a decision to cut down my TV watching because I felt those who always appear on those TV screens hardly have time to watch TV. I made up my mind to be watched rather than watch others. I made up my mind to avoid vain babblings, chatting and talking (via social media as well) because those who do get poorer by the day are those who wouldn't invest in their personalities and

finances but will give their time and energy to things that don't count. Busy people don't have time for such.

When I talk or chat, I make sure I'm adding value one way or the other. I made up my mind to do what I must do now and avoid procrastination because it is the greatest thief of time. I made up my mind to spend my time investing in my personality by attending meetings, reading up contents and books, listening to podcast and watching a lot of audiovisuals to sharpen my focus and staring concentration.

Bishop T D Jakes said that one way to identify a great minister is in his staring, in other words, in his ability to Focus. In your focal point, you see and hear things that are not in the superficial. You see the unseen and hear the unheard.

Focus precedes creativity. Many revelations and insights that have caused a breakthrough in history and the world today came from staring concentration and focus. This staring concentration and focus ability are honed in the place of Meditation and Prayer.

Blessed is the man whose heart is stayed on the Lord. David knew this. No wonder he stayed his mind on the Word of God. He declared "I delight in thy word" in other words, he was saying that he rejoices and gets excited as he stays his mind on the word. The word of God gives us a Focus. It's indeed the focal point of Life.

CHAPTER 6

Divine Victory by Prayer

Great men and women are those who majorly gave themselves to commune with deity. Their prayer and meditation chamber or room is mostly their powerhouse- a place where strength and power, insights, visions and ideas are incubated.

No man ever became victorious without connecting with a supernatural force. It doesn't matter what supernatural force or being is involved. What matter here is that they never neglect a constant fellowship and communion with some form of spiritual force. This constant communion pulls them to function in the realm where only possibilities exit. This is the reason, Jesus emphasized that Men ought always to pray and not to faint (Luke 18:1). In other words, Jesus was saying it was impossible for man to function without a connection with the spirit realm- the supernatural realm for the spirit realm controls the physical.

In the natural world, there are limitations which do not exist at all in the supernatural. So to move beyond the limitations of the natural realm, there has to be activation and contact with supernatural forces. The Victor knows this secret and will never take this advantage lightly.

The major problem of most men is that they recognize the overwhelming challenges that must be overcome without realizing the spirituality of prayer as an effective strategy for divine victory.

If you will observe closely, meditation and some other form of prayer are synonymous with almost or every religion of the world. This is the reason for most fetish religions of the world. This is the reason many get involved in diabolic activities such as voodoo, witchcraft, and occultism. The sad truth, however, is that, because they have faith and trust in those objects of worship, it works for them until they discover the Only True God. Note this; the important principle behind the efficacy of their fetishes has nothing to do with the object of worship but with the Supernatural principle of Faith. Jesus says nothing is impossible to the one who believes (and has faith). I made more emphasis on this in the next chapter.

However, Prayer is one of the ways through which we connect with the supernatural force. Someone rightly said that it appears the God would do nothing on earth except a man prays. This is because of the law of the domination. The law of domination gives the man the sole responsibility to take charge of the happenings and systems of the earth. God made a sovereign declaration when he said to man “rule over the earth and all therein.” God doesn’t break protocol. He established the order with his word and he said: “I honor my word more than my name.” He has given his word that Man should dominate the earth and all that is in it. The man became the paramount ruler of the world systems until Satan robbed him of that right and so, whatever happens to a man on earth was either under

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his control or under the control of the devil. Hence, the only way he can get God involved in the activities on earth is through prayer.

Prayer is communication with Divinity which brings us into the realm of the deified. Prayer is a divine communication with God. Effective communication is made up of five elements; the sender, the receiver, the message, the feedback, and the medium. Jesus said to pray to the father in my name. Thus, praying in the name of Jesus is the only medium through which man sends his message or request to God, the receiver. Any other medium short of this falls short of God's standard for prayer. Communication is always incomplete without feedback. Therefore, effective prayer is incomplete without receiving a response from God. This is because God always responds. He speaks back but not many people are attentive enough to listen when he speaks. He sure speaks to your Spirit not your ears because God is a Spirit and spirit communicates to spirit.

When we pray, we are lifted into the realm of God-the supernatural realm where we belong to see the possibilities that exist therein and thereby birth forth those realities into the natural realm. This is one of the beauties of Prayer. It is a fellowship with God that completely takes away the consciousness of need, defeat or failure.

When we pray we receive answers. This was the principle of Prayer Jesus shared with us. He said when ye pray, believe that ye receive. This means that it is in our time of prayer, answers come. We receive answers not after we had prayed or before we pray but once our knees hit the floor in prayer - once we begin to pray.

If any is afflicted let him pray. If any is merry, let him sing psalms.

This is so remarkable because on normal circumstances people tend to do the opposite of the instruction given in this verse. You would notice that what many people do when they are afflicted is to talk about it, cry or visit a doctor or look for help. And when they are merry, they throw a party, eat and drink. However, we are to act differently and in accordance with the scriptures. The scripture says, Pray when trouble strikes. This is so instructive. We are supposed to pray when troubled or faced with an overwhelming challenge not cry or talk about it or seek human help. The first thing when in trouble or dire situations is to pray. David cried unto the Lord in prayer several times when he was faced with overwhelming circumstances. He looked up to God in prayer when he needed help for he realized that his help comes from the Lord, not from men. And when he was happy, he sang psalms of praise. This was the reason he was able to write over 160 chapters of Psalms.

David was a man of prayer. His prayers gave him that courage, strength, faith, and power he needed to overcome every challenge he faced. His prayer made him more dependent on the ability of the supernatural and less dependent on his own ability. His trust in God grew stronger and stronger as he prayed. His vision of victory and triumph became clearer in his mind by the day as he prayed.

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David was a man full of wisdom. Solomon testified that he had learned from his Father's wisdom irrespective of the gift of wisdom God had endowed on him. You can't give what you don't have. David became wise because he had learned to pray to God and sought God's wisdom in certain situations. Remember when he had to inquire of the Lord whether to pursue after the enemies that had taken captive his family and his people. He was always finding out what God's thought concerning a situation was. He was always seeking God's wisdom and when he got hold of any wisdom, he shared them with his son, Solomon.

God granted him wisdom and He's still granting wisdom to anyone who asks today. He can give you wisdom, ideas, and strategies to overcome that situation today if you will only ask him. James emphasized this truth when he said he that lacks wisdom should ask of God who gives freely.

Because of his prayer life, David had no consciousness of defeat. When he confronted the Lion, the Bear, and the Dog (Goliath), he was assured of victory.

Jesus is the Son of God but lived on earth as a man. He did everything man could do setting for us an example that if he could triumph and live above life's circumstances and challenges, then anyone can do the same. Being co-equal with God, he prayed throughout his lifetime because, though God, he was fashioned as a man. As a man in the natural world, he was subjected to natural and conventional principles of life. He realized that as a human, the only way to be able to live above these limiting principles and

overwhelming challenges is by having a constant fellowship with the Father. This is the reason he had to spend forty days and forty nights praying and fasting before he started his ministry on earth.

He later shared this same principle to his disciples in Luke 18:1 when he said “Men ought always to pray and not to faint” showing that for anyone to live above this world’s limitation and not be a subject to its limiting principles; such one must maintain a constant fellowship with Divinity through prayer.

He didn’t pray because he wanted God to do something about his situation or because he wanted to conquer the devil. He prayed because he loved and enjoyed to commune with the Father and to see what’s in the Father’s mind about the situation.

He achieved so much in times of prayer that everything he did on earth was done effortlessly. No wonder the disciples asked him to teach them how to pray. They saw him pray and realized he prayed differently and achieved an effortless result.

The efficacy of prayer is not in its volume or longevity, neither is it in the shouting’s, wailings and crying. The efficacy of prayer is in its connection with divinity. The potency of prayer is in its earnestness not in its multiplicity. James explained this further in James 5:

The heartfelt continued prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available dynamic in its working

The one who’s born again has been made righteous

For he hath made him be sin for us who knew no sin that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. - 2 Cor. 5:21

A heartfelt consistent prayer of this righteous man works like dynamite that can change any challenging situation. This shows us that one righteous man's prayer is potent enough to change the course of life. There's no telling how much impact the man who's born again can cause when he prays. When he prays the destiny of a whole generation can be altered. When he prays an entire nation can be seized. When he prays even mountains can move and be displaced. When he prays the walls of limitation can be brought flat. His prayer works as nuclear dynamite to annihilate any overwhelming challenges. When we pray we receive answers. This was the principle of Prayer Jesus shared with us. He said when ye pray, believe that ye receive. This means that it is in our time of prayer, answers come. We receive answers not after we had prayed or before we pray but once our knees hit the floor in prayer - once we begin to pray.

“If any is afflicted let him pray. If any is merry, let him sing psalms.” – James 5:13

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scriptures. The scripture says, pray when trouble strikes. This is so instructive.

We are supposed to pray when troubled or faced with an overwhelming challenge not cry or talk about it or seek human help. The first thing when in trouble or dire situations is to pray. David cried unto the Lord in prayer several times when he was faced with overwhelming circumstances. He looked up to God in prayer when he needed help for he realized that his help comes from the Lord, not from men. And when he was happy, he sang psalms of praise. This was the reason he was able to write 75 chapters of Psalms.

Content of a Victor's Prayer

The content of your prayer is important in the demonstration of your faith to overcoming every seemingly challenges.

Let's get this straight again. We don't pray to get God to do something. We don't pray for God to take away a challenge or situation. We don't pray to destroy whatever obstacles or evil forces there are. We pray to align ourselves rightly with the will of God concerning a situation. We pray to draw strength and courage and wisdom in taking out that challenging situation. We pray to rub minds with God in fellowship and to see from his point of view concerning any situation. When we pray like this, ideas and visions flood our minds on what to do.

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David showed us the importance of prayer when faced with overwhelming challenges. One time, he was faced with an overwhelming challenge where the people threatened to stone him to death. But the Bible said, he encouraged and strengthened himself in the Lord through prayer.

“And it came to pass when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amelikites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire;

And had taken the women captives, that were therein, they slew not any, either great or small, but carried them away, and went on their way.

So David and his men came to the city, and behold it was burned with fire, and their wives and their sons, and their daughters were taken captives.

Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept until they had no more power to weep

And David’s two wives were taken captives...

And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him because the soul of all the people was grieved...but David encouraged himself in the Lord his God

...And David enquired at the Lord saying...”

1 Sam 30: 1-6 and 8 (KJV)

At this time David was left with only two options – to either pursue, overtake the enemies or not to. He was a prophet and he knew the importance of taking it to the Lord in prayers. He prayed, wanting to know what is in the mind of God concerning the

situation. He wanted to know if going after the enemies was God's will or not. He prayed to align himself with God's will. This is why we must pray too. Because when we pray we see the way God sees, we think the way He thinks and we are positioned to doing what He wants us to do.

Note David's prayer;

“And David enquired at the Lord saying, shall I pursue after this troop? Shall I overtake them...” - 1 Sam. 30:8 (KJV)

He didn't pray and push the responsibility on God to restore his people. No! rather he prayed to know what God would have him do. If it were some others today, they will pray like this *“Oh God bring back my people”* as though He was the one who took them away in the first place.

Remember the challenges are there for you to gain mastery over them. They are there for your promotion. It's just like a student who's about to write an exam. He shouldn't pray that God should take away the exam from him neither should he pray that the exam shouldn't hold. His prayer will surely be that of wisdom to pass the exams.

The challenges are not the problem. For every problem gravitates to their solution. You are the Solution. If there ever was a challenge without a solution, then it's not a challenge. It is a challenge because it must be challenged and solved.

With the understanding of this truth, your prayer content must be well fine-tuned. David's prayers were mostly of faith and trust in

God. Notice his prayer in Ps. 27:1, ***“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; whom shall I be afraid?”***

In the sixth verse of the One hundred and eighteen chapter of Psalm, he said ***“The Lord is on my side; I will not fear what man can do unto me.”*** While in Psalm 23, he said ***“The lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.”***

Notice David never asked for light, salvation, strength or help. He only declared that the Lord had become all this to him. This was a man whose faith and trust in God was undaunted. He prayed with so much assurance that if God is for him, nothing and no one can be against him.

The apostle Paul drew our attention on how we should pray when he stated ***“Be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer, supplication, and thanksgiving, let your request be made known unto God.”***

The prayer content of the victor is mostly full of the Prayer of faith, intercession, and thanksgiving.

Prayer of faith

This is the prayer of faith in God and the supernatural. It is praying with the principle of faith. The principle behind the Prayer of faith is to pray once and receive answers. It is in the affirmation of the Word for faith comes by the Word.

This was the kind of prayer David was accustomed to. He did remember the covenant that God had with the Israelites. He had either had the opportunity to read the scroll recording the benefits of the covenant God made with Abraham or the stories of God's promises and covenant with Israel must have been told him thus stirring up his faith. No wonder he said, "*who is this uncircumcised Philistine to defy the army of the Lord.*" At his teens' age, he already knew what God's word said concerning his nation and he declared his unfeigned trust in the Words and promises of God.

...if you don't ask in faith, don't expect that the Lord will give you any answer. James 1:6

From his teens, David had started learning how to declare words of power like a King will do. The anointing was working for him. But without faith in the anointing- the power and ability of God upon his life, nothing was sure to happen. His prayer of faith was a key demonstration of his absolute trust in the supernatural power of God. He achieved so much and never suffered defeat in his reign as a King because he constantly prayed the prayer of faith.

Like I mentioned earlier, we receive answers to our request in the place of prayer. So after praying the prayer of faith, we are not hoping to receive any more answers, we have the answers already. The principle of the prayer of faith also states that "...if we know he hears us, we know that we have the petitions that we required of him." It can't get any better than that.

You know, there are people who think that when you ask God for something, he gives you either one of these answers; yes, wait

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and no. But this is not true. Nowhere in the bible does the scripture presupposes to us that God either says wait or no to our prayers. God, never says no to us; neither does he tell us to wait. There is no hold up with him, no traffic jam at all. The bible states that his answers are yes and amen (so shall it be).

There is a place of being patient, but that has nothing to do with God answers. Long-suffering does not mean that you suffer long. No, it actually means patience and Patience is not idle waiting. Patience is waiting in faith. Now don't think God is asking you to wait. You wait in the Lord to renew your own strength (faith). It might just mean that there is a level of faith you need to attain in order to receive your request. No one is holding it back from you. There's a level of faith that takes a hold of that thing you have ever asked for. Faith is in several dimensions even though we all received the same measure of faith when we got born again. The Bible shows us that there are Strong Faith, Weak faith, Great Faith and Little faith. Your patience, therefore, strengthens your own faith for the trial of your faith works and produces patience.

So, someone might want to ask, *"I have asked God for something, why have I not received it yet?"* That question only revealed faithlessness. Faith speaks in no wise. The answer is because there was no faith to receive when you asked. Always remember that receiving takes place when you are praying. In prayer, it is God's responsibility to answer and it's your role to receive. You are no longer going to receive after you have prayed. You've received already when you prayed. Now, you become a "Haver." You have it now!

“Is any sick...and the prayer of faith shall save the sick.”

James 5:14-15

I once asked a young man if he had prayed for his sick brother to be healed. He said yes he had. And then I asked him if his brother was healed of that sickness and he said no. I was amazed because he just told me he had prayed for him in faith. But that wasn't anything near the prayer of faith. How come the brother never got healed, when faith is an unfailing principle? The prayer of faith works every time. I had to let him know that he prayed without faith. I could see the shock in his eyes but that was true. If he ever prayed the prayer of faith, he would not have said his brother never got healed. He would have declared no matter the symptoms and circumstances that his brother was healed and now have sound health. This is the principle behind the prayer of faith. Once asked, you receive! Once you receive, you become a “Haver”, you are not trying to receive again. You have it now. Don't say “but I haven't seen it yet.” That doesn't change the fact that you have the evidence of the unseen reality.

There's a level you attain where you go beyond your needs and wants and begin to pray for others as though you were the one experiencing the overwhelming challenge they are going through. At this level, your challenges are so unreal that you no longer see them. You become a hero and a champion like David fighting and winning for others.

Prayer of Intercession

David was the first ever King-Priest the bible ever recorded. And we have been made King-Priest unto our God (Rev. 1:6). As a priest, David prayed for his nation. He stood in the gap for the people. For the first time in Israel, a king dared go into the temple to eat the shrewd bread. Such actions were mostly accompanied by an immediate death sentence. But not this time for David, showing God's approval of his Priesthood. He must have earned such guts. God must have seen how drawn he was to interceding and standing in the gap for the people.

God is continually looking for people who will stand in the gap for others because the universe yearns for such people. God is in search of people who see prayer as a Ministry and as a calling. God said to Ezekiel that he searches and looks out for someone on the face of the earth who will stand in the gap for the people, yet, he finds none. Everyone is out for their own course, their own selfish reasons and there is not even a single person that goes on his knees to pray for others who are dying in sins, in sufferings and humiliations and wickedness of the world. Everyone is thinking about "my family", "my business", "my work", "my school", and "my health." We have become so "My" conscious – self-conscious. Remember this is the Warriors mindset. We must go beyond this selfish consciousness to hear the cry of others – Victor's mindset.

When are you going to stop praying for the small things of life? God has not called you into a beggarly life, begging for money, for a job, for a car, for your own self. They are frivolities! Whenever I

pray I say “Lord if you will only give me the whole world, I will shake it all for you with the gospel. I will change this world.” You see I pray for the peoples of the world with the focus of changing their lives with the gospel.

We are in spiritual warfare against the kingdom of darkness to take a hold of those they have held captive through lies, strongholds and evil manipulations. The bible lets us know that Satan is the god of the system of this world not the god of this world for the world and all that is in it belongs to God. God has willed the world to Abraham and his seed - Jesus and we that are of Christ are the seed of Abraham. Hence, we are joint heirs with Christ. We own the world, not Satan.

The governance of the system of this world was lost to the devil by Adam through disobedience. This is the reason for the continuous evil we see in the world today. On that glorious day when we shall appear with Christ at his second coming, we will put to an abrupt end the reign of this already defeated Titan. But until then, he remains the administrator of the operations of this world. Thus, he has blinded the minds of men who believe not; for fear that they should see the light of the glorious gospel of Christ. Little do you wonder why men sometimes act so brutish and unreasonably wicked? It’s because their minds are blind to see spiritual realities and the truth.

Therefore, we must pray. We must pray and intercede for them. This is what the Spirit of God wants to achieve in us. He

wants to help us in times when we are without strength to intercede for us through groaning's that cannot be uttered Heb. . . .

The Greek word for that word Help is the word **“Sunanti Lambanomai.”** It is suggestive of a **“taking hold together against the forces of darkness.”** So when we pray in the Holy Ghost, we take hold together with the Spirit of God against the forces of darkness manipulating the minds of men and distorting the possible revelation of the gospel in their hearts.

Sometimes, God is expecting you to intercede for another even while you are going through that situation. I heard about the story of a lady who had been brought to a healing crusade for healing. During the service, she noticed others who had terrible cases than her present condition and was moved to pray for them. So moved that she forgot all about her terrible condition instantly and began praying for the healing of others. As she did, she felt a burden lifted up from her body as she instantaneously received her own healing. She didn't have to pray and expect healing for herself. Her healing was tied to the healing of others through her intercession.

Sometimes, the reason why you are going through that overwhelming situation even after praying the prayer of faith about the situation might not really be because of you. It might just be that you are going through that situation because of the salvation of another or so that through your experience you can help others out of those situations in the future.

When Jesus said to remove the beam in your own eye first before removing the mole in your neighbor's eye, he wasn't asking

you to first consider your own needs or wants or problems but to pay attention to removing the mole in the other person eye. How is this possible? Let me explain this truth to you. The removal of your own beam begins when you recognize the mole in the eye of your neighbor. When you pay attention to solving the problems of others you inadvertently solve your problems. When you realize that you are the problem solver to many, you think in ways to bring solutions to their problems. You begin to see yourself as their savior and the one they look up to. By so doing, you begin to invest in your personality. You consciously improve yourself and make sure that you remain on top of your game. This is because; you realize that it is the one who's standing strong that can lift the downtrodden up. This is what happens when we intercede for others - We demonstrate that we are above.

I shared a fascinating story in a mini e-book titled "One Night in that Hell of a Cell." It was my story of how I spent a night in a prison cell, not for any crime but because the Lord wanted to save Abdul, one of the inmates I led to Christ in that cell. It reminded me of how Jesus had to go to hell, not for his sins but to set captivity captive. It tells of how sometimes going through an overwhelming challenge can be because of someone else's salvation. You can order today for a free copy of that mini book through my contact details.

When in an overwhelming situation, we must learn to look beyond ourselves and to reach out to those going through even worse situations and intercede for them.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Kenneth Hagin testified that praise is the highest form of prayer. How true! Praise is an attitude of thanksgiving.

The prayer of thanksgiving simply gives thanks to God. It tells of adoring His wondrous works and His magnificence. You see, we must disabuse our minds from the popularly wrong idea of only giving God thanks for what He has done. Because when it seems as though He hasn't done anything in our lives, we seldom give Him thanks. This should not be so. We must give God thanks first of all for who He is. He is God and we must praise, worship and thank Him for His personalities and attributes. Thank Him for His loveliness, His goodness, kindness, graciousness, and all he had said He is. Learning to give thanks to Him this way proves how much we appreciate Him not because He has done something but because we love Him and He deserves our adoration.

Irrespective of your circumstances, let your life be an unending stream of thanksgiving. When you do – give thanks to God in worship and praise, you look away from the circumstances as they become so unreal to you. Like David, bless the name of the Lord at all times, in good times and bad times.

“I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise shall continually: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.”

-Psalm 34:1

The only reality for you when you give thanks to God is the glorious presence you are brought into. Worship and thanksgiving transport you into a realm where all things are possible, a realm where God dwells. The scriptures exposed to us that God inhabits the praise of his people. I have experienced this so many times in my life whereas I gave thanks to God through worship and praise, all my life's concerns vanished into thin air as though they never existed. When you live a continual life of thanksgiving, even people who are aware of the challenges you face will wonder at you. The enemy and the demons of darkness will be thrown into absolute confusion because they expect you to wallow in self-pity and defeat but here you are giving thanks. Hallelujah! What a revelation!

The apostle Paul reiterated many times in his letters to the church about the importance of thanksgiving when he declared "*Rejoice in the Lord and again I say rejoice!*" here he is saying that we maintain a consistent attitude of thanksgiving to God by rejoicing again and again.

You see, there are many things the Lord has done for you that you may not have taken notice of. Like the songwriter wrote, "*Count your blessings, name them one by one and it will surprise you what the Lord has done.*" Like David imagine what would have been your story if the Lord wasn't on your side. He declared in Psalm 124:1-8 KJV

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, now may Israel say; [2] If it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when men rose up against us: [3] Then they had

swallowed us up quick, when their wrath was kindled against us: [4] Then the waters had overwhelmed us, the stream had gone over our soul: [5] Then the proud waters had gone over our soul. [6] Blessed be the Lord, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth. [7] Our soul is escaped as a bird out of the snare of the fowlers: the snare is broken, and we are escaped. [8] Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

CHAPTER 7

Enthused for Victory and the Anointing

“So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on, the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David...”

1 Sam. 16:13 (NIV)

Many believe that what gave David the impetus and courage to know for certain that he would defeat Goliath was not just because he had learnt to use the seemingly insignificant but most dangerous weapon – the sling, nor because he employed the mind game strategy against his opponent, but because at this point in his life he had been anointed King. In other words, there was a force at work on the inside of this young lad that kept him continually stirred and aglow with confidence and gusto to cut off the head of Goliath. This was the Anointing!

How David used the anointing to his advantage

I believe that he must have read the account of his predecessors like Samson and how the Spirit of God moved from time to time. He had read how the Spirit of God powerfully came upon Samson and how he bare-handedly ripped open a Lion, how he killed thousands and thousands of their Philistine enemies and

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masters. He had read of how he successfully judged Israel for twenty years and how the departure of the Spirit reduced him to defeat.

I believe he must have heard how the anointing changed King Saul into a different man entirely that he prophesied with the Prophets. David became even more conscious, than he had ever been, of his uniqueness when the oil was poured upon his head. He knew something that his brothers were not conscious of. He knew something the army of Israel didn't know. He knew something King Saul was oblivious of – the same reason why the King could not summon courage to end Goliath's ridicule. He knew that without the Anointing, even the most powerful is but ordinary. But with the anointing, anything can happen. With the anointing, man becomes a supernatural being making happen supernatural things. Thus, he kept on stirring that force – the anointing with words.

Timothy was advised by Paul to continually stir the gift of the Holy Spirit that was given unto him by the laying on of hands. This shows that we can activate and stir up the Holy Spirit in us. Irrespective of the fact that he remains the Boss, we can always activate his ministry in our lives through several measures. The first of these is to acknowledge the person and the ministry of the Holy Spirit in our lives. There is really no victorious Christian life without the Holy Spirit. For without the Holy Spirit, Christianity is another mere and defeated religion.

The scriptures referred to the House of David as the house of the Spirit while the house of Saul as the house of the flesh. And as the House of David – the house of the Spirit grew stronger and

stronger, while the House of Saul – The House of the Flesh grew weaker and weaker. This was certainly because David had learnt how to depend and trust heartily in the ability and anointing of the Spirit.

He wasn't fleshly ruled like Saul. He was a man who knew how to stir the anointing which Saul dishonored and despised. He learnt the importance of using psalms, hymns and songs as a means to activating the anointing in his life. This is what Paul realized too whenever he got full of the Spirit. He realized that to live a continuous life of perpetual victory, the one who has received the Holy Spirit must stay aglow and be filled with the Spirit always. Therefore, he emphasized the importance of being full of the Spirit continuously through speaking to oneself in psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to mention but a few. That's exactly how he puts it in Eph. 5:18.

Be Aglow in the Spirit of Victory.

“And be not drunk with wine wherein is excess but be filled with the Spirit.”- Eph. 5:18 (KJV)

The word “Be” in the above scripture literally means “being” which connotes a continual process.

Here's how the Amplified version of that scripture puts it:

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but ever be filled with the (Holy) Spirit.

Therefore, it shows us that it is our responsibility to remain continually full of the Spirit. The Spirit here is the Holy Spirit of God who is the Spirit of Victory. He has been the one behind every victory. He appeared to Joshua as the extraordinary strategist to give Joshua the Victory Strategy. He was behind the Victory of Jesus' ministry. He was the force that parted the red sea. He was the force that drove the slung stone of David right into the forehead of Goliath who was completely armed with a helmet. He directed the stone into the only opening of Goliath's helmet, a target that would have seemed impossible for David to aim.

On the Anointing

When you got born again, you were anointed by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit smears and rubs off himself on you because He is the one who got you born again. The anointing in your life makes it possible for the Spirit to come to dwell in you.

You will notice in the scriptures that whenever anyone was anointed, the Spirit of God mightily came upon such one. Notice Saul and David after they were anointed. Even Samson had been anointed from the womb by God not with oil though but he was anointed for the job of rescuing his people from the Philistines.

The anointing is a consecration unto God for a task or a job. I explained this extensively in my soon to be published book "On the Anointing". The anointing is not the dynamic power of God the Holy Spirit brings into your life. The anointing is for an appointment, a specific job or task unto God. The anointing is for the office God calls you into. The anointing is for service.

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor, he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord” –Jesus, Luke 4: 18-19

Jesus was anointed to preach the gospel, heal, deliver, restore blind eyes, bring freedom and to declare that “This is God’s year to act.” (MSG) Oh Glory to God!

I also want you to notice that in Luke chapter three, Jesus had just been baptized and the Spirit of God had just come upon him. But he told us why the Spirit had come upon him. He said;

“the Spirit of the Lord is upon me because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel...”

So you see, it was because he had been anointed for a job that made the Spirit of God come upon him.

Many people have mistaken the anointing for the power of God. The power of God comes when you receive the Holy Spirit. It is the dynamic ability to cause changes and to carry out effectively the work you’ve been anointed for. This is why you receive the Spirit of God and his inherent power.

Notice again, Jesus, as at this time was already full of the Spirit (vs 1 of Luke 4). No wonder the people were amazed at his words when he spoke with so much boldness saying before the people that “this day is the scripture fulfilled in your ears.”

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The Spirit of God he had received made Jesus so bold and tenacious with words, just like David in the battlefield before the king and the entire army. This is what the Holy Spirit does to you too when you receive him.

This is not a book on the Holy Spirit but it is highly important that anyone who must overcome any overwhelming challenges must be acquainted with the operations of this glorious personality and must acknowledge His ministry in the believer today. The Holy Spirit is the source of victory power today. He has always been.

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead and co-equal with the Father and the Son. He is the doer of the Father's Word. He brings the presence of God into a man's life, transforming him into a supernatural and victorious man. The Holy Spirit impacts you with the unction to do the impossible and overcome overwhelming Challenges. The bible said that ***"You have an unction from the Holy One..."*** (1 John 2:20). That's the anointing of the Spirit that was rubbed off on you when you got baptized by the Spirit into the body of Christ. This anointing comes when you got born again – that's the baptism of the Holy ghost. It is the Holy Spirit's baptism not the infilling that brings this anointing to your life. This anointing makes you audacious and sagacious. You know all things. Glory to God.

David had an acquaintance with him. David so much enjoyed the person of the Holy Spirit more than any other prophet or king in the Old Testament. No wonder he cried out to God in repentance of his sin saying *"Take not thy Spirit from me!"* (Ps. 51:11). He knew

the Holy Spirit is his Joy of salvation, his strengthener and his advantage in life. He knew what it was like for men like Samson and King Saul to live without the Spirit of God. He was there when King Saul was terribly disturbed of the evil spirit, for the Spirit of God had departed from him. He was there when King Saul lived a defeated and struggling life even though he was still on the throne. He heard of how terribly a death King Saul died. He mourned him and declared “...let it not be heard in Gath...” in other words, it is a shame for anyone to live without the Spirit of God. He observed that he was who he was because of the anointing. He was who he was because of the power the Holy Spirit has brought in his life. He never wanted to let go of the impact of this divine and victorious personality of the Holy Spirit.

In David’s days, the oil was used to symbolize the anointing. The oil was not the anointing. David knew this. If not, the anointing would have disappeared from his life because after many days there’s a high tendency that the oil would have been wiped away completely from his head.

The oil had the smear nature of the anointing. When the oil was poured on him, he was consecrated by the Spirit of God whose influence smeared and rubbed off on him as the oil. The oil was used to symbolize the anointing and to indicate that an individual or thing has been consecrated and anointed for service unto God.

When the Holy Spirit comes into your life, he becomes one with your Spirit. And your body becomes his abode. He imparts and infuses into you Dunamis - the dynamic and inherent ability to cause

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changes, overcome seemingly overwhelming challenges and produce divine victory.

Paul describes this ability as “dynamite”, meaning that it has the capacity to change any circumstances. It is potent enough to destroy any obstacle on your path and create for you the life of triumph and victory you dream of.

However, Paul knew that knowing that you have such an inherent ability to cause changes and be victorious every time is not enough. Knowing how to use this dynamic power in your life is more vital. This was why he brought Timothy to the remembrance of stirring up the gift of God (the Holy Spirit, his power and anointing) in him that came upon him when hands were laid on him by praying in other tongues (2 Tim 1:6). Timothy was to do this because God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power and of love and of a sound mind (2 Tim. 1:7). In other words, the apostle Paul was saying to Timothy that he must remain conscious of the power, love, and soundness of mind, the anointing that the Spirit of God has brought in his life. No wonder that Paul said in Eph. 5:18, like I mentioned earlier, that it’s our responsibility to remain perpetually aglow and high in the Holy Spirit.

If you notice the artists and musicians of the world, you will realize that most of them don’t go on that stage until they are high on something like marijuana, cocaine, drugs and the rest. Some athletes even do so too. You know what I’m talking about if you’ve ever heard of doping in athletics. The WWE wrestlers are also a good example. Getting high makes them less conscious of any

obstacle and challenges on their way. If they ever had a public fright, they become as bold as lions even to the extent of pulling off their shirts and barely naked in public. As a result of those drugs, they are able to do what would have seemed impossible for them on the natural. An artist once testified that once she gets on that stage, she becomes altogether a totally different person. Why? She's definitely high I can assure you.

God doesn't want us to go that way. He doesn't want us to depend on external factors to become high and bold in doing the seemingly impossible. He wants us to depend on and charged up by the Spirit from the inside of us to get so high. That's why he gave us the Holy Spirit. That's why He charges us through the apostle Paul to charge up ourselves through praying in tongues. Through praying in tongues, we can be high twenty-four hours a day, seven-days-a-week, four weeks a month, twelve months a year. This is possible by the Spirit.

If this was not possible, the Spirit through Paul wouldn't have instructed us to do it. We don't have to be different from time to time. We don't have to be hot and sometimes cold. We don't have to experience good times and bad times. We don't have to be victorious at some times or in some things and be failures at other times or in some things. We can enjoy the upward and forward life of victory all the time and all the way!

Have you ever been so passionate and full of zeal for something before in your life and only to discover that after a while, you have lost that interest, passion, and zeal to continue that way?

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Well, I have. Oh, many times. Not until I found out this truth. Knowing it is not enough. It was until I began to do and act out this instruction of staying aglow in the spirit always through praying in tongues that my life has been that of a parallel advancement, progress, and victory. Praying in tongues had made me experience only one path- the upward and forward, the transcendental life.

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CHAPTER 8

Holding on to Your Resume...your proof for the next level

But David persisted. “When I am taking care of my father’s sheep,” he said, “and a lion or (and) a bear comes and grabs a lamb from the flock, I go after it with a club and take the lamb from its mouth. If it turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. I have done this to both Lions and Bears, and I’ll do it to this heathen Philistine too, for he has defied the armies of the living God! The Lord who saved me from the claws and teeth of the lion and the bear will save me from this Philistine!” – David

1 Sam. 17:34-37

One major reason why employers will always ask for the resume of a job applicant is that they want to see if the applicant’s experience matches with the requirement of the organization. No one wants to give out a job to an inexperienced and incompetent hand. The opposite is detrimental to the success and growth of any organization.

David knew just telling the King “*Don’t worry about a thing, I’ll take care of this Philistine.*” Was not going to be enough reason to convince and persuade the king of his competence. He needed to

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show the King his resume – his proof of experience and competency.

Thus, just merely saying you are goal driven, a goal getter, result oriented, passionate, etc. will not be enough to prove your competency. Always remember that past results and victories will determine your competencies. People are tired of mere talks, what they want is proof of your competencies.

David had to narrate to the king how he had killed a Lion and a Bear with his bare hands. That must have been Saul's first time of hearing a teenager talk like that. That must have been his first time of hearing a boy testify of how he killed a Lion and a Bear with bare hands. The last time he heard of such was a long time ago during the days of Samson and he was not a teenager. No other person had killed a Lion and a bear with his bare hands. Even though he was skeptical about letting this boy go, the resume was so tangible that he could not deny him his request.

David held on to his resume. He held on to his victory report. He kept reminding himself of this resume as he headed towards the Giant.

Your past Victories are your Resume. As you look back, only draw confidence and competence from those challenges you have overcome. Forget past failures. Someone rightly said the only credit we give to failure is to learn from them. How true!

There was once a time where it looked as though it was impossible for you to break through that situation. But you did

anyway. Here you are today and that circumstance lives in your past now but you must ditch everything in that past and only take with you the experience, the victories and the beautiful memories they brought.

You might not be where you want to be right now or where you imagined you should be at the moment, but you have already overcome many challenges to get to this point in your life. You must use those victories and experiences as the ladder to forge ahead in overcoming new challenges and achieve your goals and dreams.

PAUSE FOR A MOMENT

Grab a notepad and a pen now and let's do this brief exercise right away; write out all your victories and everything you've ever done in the past that added value to your life and the life of someone else.

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Then, write out everything you've ever done successfully using the present tense. So, using my previous example, it should look like these;

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Now, take a second look at what you've written in the present tense. I know it doesn't look completely like the CV formats you are used to but these are your credentials. This is your resume. They are tangible proofs of your competency for the next level. Each time you look at them, draw strength and inspiration for the next level.

The past is not for you to dwell in. Let it go! The past has fulfilled its own purpose just like the Lion and the Bear did. The past has fulfilled its purpose of producing today's greater glory.

"...Jesus... who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

- Heb. 12:2

The cross and all the sufferings it brought fulfilled their purpose. Jesus overcame them all through patience and endurance for today's greater glory.

“For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far exceeding and eternal weight of glory”

2 Cor. 4:17

That challenging situation – the Giant situation is a light one. It is but a dog! It is for a moment for it is producing for you a perpetual mass of magnificent result – an eternal weight of glory.

Imagine that by just killing Goliath, the women of Israel composed a song and declared David had killed his ten thousand. One Goliath (dog) was equal to ten thousand victories. Isn't this amazing! This is the eternal weight of glory the scriptures refer to.

Your resume is your victory that overcomes.

“...and this is the victory that overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.” – 1

John 5:4

Faith is Your Resume

“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”

-Heb.11:1 (KJV)

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David held up to Saul, tangible proof of his competences against Goliath when he testified of his previous victories over the lion and the bear on the field. He didn't present any visible document or picture to prove his assertions of victory over the lion and the bear. No one saw him when he killed the lion and the bear on the field. No one ever heard or knew that he had rescued his lambs from these two ferocious beasts.

Your Testimony is an act of your faith. We wouldn't have known that David killed the Lion and the Bear if he had not made that testimony to the King in proving his competence. All he did was to hold on to that testimony - The testimony of his victory. This was the only proof of experience he had.

Many people don't testify of the victories they have had in their lives and thus soon realize that they lack the courage to face and overcome the next challenging situation. This is the reason why testimonies are too important. Testify of your victories everywhere and every time.

Divinity and all of nature respond and identify with men of daring Faith. God always identifies himself with men of daring faith. He called David, "a man after my heart". He called Abraham "my friend". He called Jesus, "My beloved son in whom I'm well pleased". Jesus also recognized himself with men of faith who left all to follow him. He calls his disciples "Brothers".

Faith is the deep-seated assurance of that which we hope for and the conviction of the reality of things we do not see. It is the confident assurance of the realities of our hope. It is a deep conviction that the unseen is real.

Faith doesn't think of the process. Faith has in focus the end result of the victory. He constantly sees the victory ahead and holds on to it. It doesn't matter if he uses the king's armor or just five smooth stones and a sling, the dog, Goliath was going down.

Faith is the physical tangible proof of the things that no eyes can see. It is what gives substance – reality, and form to the unseen. Just like your certificate is the proof that you went through school, so is faith the proof of your victory. Not everyone might have seen you go through school, but with the presentation of an authentic certificate, no one can deny the fact that you went through school. Your certificate has given reality to that fact. Hence, Faith is the substance that gives Reality (truth) to Fact.

Faith is also a weapon. It is a shield that protects and guards. The scripture records that through faith you are able to withstand the fiery darts of the enemy. With your faith, you neutralize and put off every sweltering stratagem of the devil and those that come alongside the circumstances.

If you are in such problems where it seems as though the only solution is money, I am here to let you know that there is a greater currency that transcends what money can purchase. Faith is that currency. Faith is the kingdom currency. With faith, you can obtain

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anything. With faith, you can increase your financial status, your state and acquire an estate.

Never limit yourself to only believing for the possible, believe the impossible as well. David believed for the impossible defeat of Goliath and he did defeat him.

Let's take a closer look into the life of Abraham and find out why he was called the Father of Faith.

The Bible records that Abraham being old believed God for the impossible by not considering his body nor the deadness of Sarah's womb but was strong in faith giving glory to God.

Whenever God spoke to Abraham (then Abram), Abraham converted the unseen promises into tangible evidence by building an altar unto the Lord. The altar was to serve as a reminiscence of the words and promises of God to him. From time to time, Abraham would look at those altars and remember the unfailing promises of God.

Whenever God gives you a vision of victory, you must connect with a sacrifice. Sacrifice precedes Victory for there can be no victory without sacrifice.

David was called a man after God's own heart because he was a man of faith. He knew just how to connect to the heart of God through his faith. He knew how to connect to victory through sacrifices.

A sacrifice has to do with the forfeiture of something that is really dear to your heart. Your sacrifice could be a precious gift or pleasure or something that keeps reminding you of what you have forfeited to get to where God wants you to get to. That sacrifice would only increase and strengthen your faith.

David forfeited the royal armor and weaponry that was given to him. He forfeited them all for sticks, sling and a bag of stones. I believe, while on his way to challenging the defiant enemy, the thought about why he had forfeited the Royal armor and weaponry must have jeered at him but he waded those thoughts off like he said to King Saul, “The Lord who saved me from the claws and teeth of the lion and the bear will save me from this Philistine!” He had absolute faith in God. He knew that now that he had forfeited any kind of advantage, he must now only depend on God totally.

By sacrifice, I don't mean ablutions or rituals or even giving something to get something. You know there are those who tell you that for God to bless you with something, you have to give something of utmost value. That's not true even though it works. It works because when you sacrifice something of utmost value, as I explained earlier; it strengthens your faith to receive because you have forfeited something. It works because it's a demonstration of faith. It is your act of faith that prevails. So if you give anything like a demonstration of your faith in what God has done already for you, you are sure to have testimonies because faith works always.

The truth is God doesn't require you to give him something before he gives you something. His gifts, blessings, and victory stem

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from an unreserved heart of love that requires no condition. Grace has come!

For your victory, Jesus Christ has paid all the sacrifices there is to be paid except for just one. Only you are responsible for this one. The scriptures prove to us that all the sacrifices required for victory have been consummated and fulfilled by Jesus at the cross when he declared "It is finished!"

However, the only one that is expected of us in the New Testament is the Sacrifice of Praise. David so much offered this type of sacrifice more than any other type of sacrifice in his life. The apostle Paul understood this truth when he instructed that "we continually offer unto God our sacrifices of praise which is the fruit of our lips." This is the only type of sacrifice we continually give in connecting with our victory. This kind of sacrifice is an act of our faith towards God.

Dr. Mike Murdock once said, "Every step of self-sufficiency is one step away from God."

Every step towards God is a step away from your own self. You must learn to sacrifice your selfish desires. Die to your fleshly desires. Trust totally in God's dream for you. Live to fulfill his dream for you.

The greatest calling on earth is a call to live God's dream for you. The greatest problem there is on earth is the crave to "live for me" - selfishness. Selfishness always leads to frustration and dissatisfaction. Men of faith are selfless.

David was daring enough with faith to put his life on the line for his country. He was selfless.

Abraham was daring enough to sacrifice his only son of the promise.

Moses was daring enough to forfeit the princely pleasures of Egypt to identify with the sufferings of the Israelites.

Jesus was daring enough to endure the beatings and spitting, laying down his life for the salvation of the world.

The apostles and great ministers of the gospel were daring to suffer and die for what they believed in and to ensure the gospel gets to us.

What are you daring to do with your faith? Are you going to dare walk in uncharted territories? Is your faith daring enough to change the circumstances in your family, finances, and health? Is your faith daring enough to bend your knees to pray and to reach out to the unsaved and the un-churched? Is your faith daring enough to lend your voice and your patriotic responsibility for changing your nation for the better?

You've got to make up your mind to dare act out in faith because faith is demonstrated by your action. The world awaits men of daring faith who would steer right into the face of challenging circumstances, move right into it with no hesitation and come out triumphant.

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This book is not for overcoming Satan. If you are trying to overcome the Devil in your life, you've got yourself in the wrong fight and evidently the wrong book. Never engage in a battle you've already won. Don't be deceived into fighting with the Devil and the cohorts of darkness.

Someone once stated, in an attempt to mock people who are still fighting with the devil, that; over 6000 years ago till date people have been fighting with the devil. I immediately had to comment stating that those people fighting the devil have been wasting their time in the wrong battle.

Jesus has won the victory over Satan and the cohorts of darkness for us and has given to us the victory document. Thus, it is a waste of time to be entangled in an already won battle.

Jesus has overcome the world, its systems and its manipulations. And he gave us the victory. He says to be of good cheer for I have overcome the world. All that is required is as simple as ABC - Accept, Believe and Confess what Jesus has done for you. This is the principle of salvation.

The only life of overcoming there is for the one who is Born Again, is the fight of faith; putting your faith to work in the face of seeming challenges and denying the circumstances the power to rub you off your faith, joy, success, victories, dreams, visions and potentialities.

Your faith is the victory that overcomes!

The Apostle Paul stated that above all – that is, most importantly, taking the shield of faith, wherewith you shall be able to quench and put out all the fiery darts of the wicked. That was the unseen shield David had on himself after rejecting the physical royal armory before confronting Goliath. It is the primary weapon of our warfare, no wonder the scriptures say in Hebrews 11:6, “for without faith, it is impossible to please God.” We walk by Faith and not by sensory perception. That’s why we look not at the things which are seen but the things which are not seen for the things which are seen are temporal and the things which are not seen are eternal.

You can be all that God has called you to be!

CHAPTER 9

Talk the Victor's Talk

If you are ever defeated in life, your talk caused it. No one defeated you. You have defeated yourself. Jesus said, "you are snared with the words of your mouth." Someone puts this right when he said "You said that you could not, and the moment you said it, you were whipped. You said that you did not have faith, and doubt rose up like a giant and bound you. You talked failure, and failure held you in bondage."

Victory is in one direction only, so is defeat and failure. Life is in one direction only. Your life will only go in the direction of your talk. Your talk is the anchor of your life. Your words are propellers and the pilot of your life. The reason you are who you are today and where you are today is a result of the operations and workings of your talk.

Your words are spirit in operational and living motion. Like a shadow, you are right behind your words. Whether you know it or not, believe it or not, you talked your today into being and your talk today is a prototype of your tomorrow.

Someone might want to say but "I was born this way," then someone who had influence over your life had talked you into being. "So what do I do now that they have talked my life this way?" I hear you say. Well if you are reading this, it means that you are in control of your sight, your thoughts and mouth, go ahead and use your mouth to talk yourself out of that situation. Talk yourself out of

those circumstances and into your desired future. Talk the talk of a victor. The earlier you begin talking the better for you.

The writer of Hebrews 13:5-6 gives us the principle behind God's word when he says "Let your conversation be without covetousness, and be content with such things as ye have; for he has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you, so that ye may boldly say "The Lord is my helper, I will not fear what man can do unto me...

"...So that we may boldly say."

This is the principle behind why God gives us his words, promises, prophecies, and visions. He wants us to talk in agreement with what he has said for what he says is flawless and truth. We are supposed to act every time on this principle. We are supposed to constantly, consistently and only talk in consonance with what he had said. David did this a lot in his psalms. He was constantly affirming and talking all that God had said and revealed to him in the scriptures and in visions. The writer of the above scripture actually quotes David in Psalm 118:6 when he said: "The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?"

The writer of Hebrews draws inspiration from David. Who wouldn't want to? After all the successes he had? David got the secret, Paul caught it as well and that's what I have been sharing with you.

Paul states clearly the principle for salvation in Rom. 10:9-10 when he declared that "...with the heart, man believes unto

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righteousness but with the mouth, confession is made unto salvation.” This means that for anyone to be saved and enjoy the benefits of salvation there must be a confession that “...Jesus is Lord.”- A talk in agreement with what God had said about Jesus. This is what confession is. Paul states this in confirmation of Heb. 13:5-6.

Confession is from the Greek word “Homologeá” which means “saying the same thing in agreement with what God has said.” The principle for salvation is belief and confession. Thus, the principle for being saved from any situation is to believe there’s a way out and confess in agreement what God has said about your riddance (deliverance) in that situation.

Someone once asked me this interesting question: “Brother Daniel, what about the man who neither talks nor hears? Seriously, I find this intriguing because the principle says that there must be a conscious confession of the word in agreement. The principle of salvation has no exception at all. My answer to the question, however, is in the understanding of the gospel of Christ. The first thing you need to understand is that the gospel to the sick is healing and the word of God brings healing. The bible says Faith comes by hearing and Hearing comes by the Word of God. When Jesus unstopped the deaf ears, he spoke words- the Word of God. When we speak the Word of God in the demonstration of the spirit and power even the deafest of ears are unstopped. When the gospel comes to the mute who receives with faith, it gives him his speech back. This is what the gospel of Christ can do. The gospel of Christ

to the sick is first, healing. So the first thing the deaf and dumb fellow requires is to receive the gospel of healing.

Healing is for everyone who would act in faith as righteousness is for those who will believe with their hearts; salvation is for everyone who would confess it. Salvation is all-encompassing. Your belief and your talk give you salvation in every area of your life. Your talk will save you in times of trouble. It will save you in your darkest hours. It will save your finances, marriage, education, and family.

There is only one way to tell the difference between a child and an adult. James 1:3 states that the man who offends not in words is a perfect man – a man that has come to full maturity. He is in control of his words. He avoids careless and offensive words- words that carry no value. He is careful of every word he utters because he has placed a premium on words knowing that he will account for every single one of them. He dismisses words that quench the fire of the soul –words that demoralize the creative spirit and is void of inspiration, zeal, and fervor.

The Victor is a mature man, a perfect man, a man that has come of full age. He has learned to bridle his tongue through conscious rigorous talk training sessions. There's no guile found in his mouth. The same ocean doesn't protrude bitter and sweet water. His belly is an ocean of purity and a deep sea of oasis and love that pours out through his talk. His words are full of power and weight. Thus, your words should always inspire the consistent expression of irresistible affection, the expectation of a glorious future and the

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possession of the invisible force of possibilities. Your words and talk must be full of faith, hope, and love.

Your Words must carry power and speak volume. Your talk should henceforth be no ordinary, offensive and delimiting words. When you talk, you should dissolve doubts. When you talk, let your words answer hard questions and sentences. When you talk, let your words be salted and full of grace and blessing.

A very good friend of mine said to me that one of the reasons he loves greeting and seeing my mother is that he never leaves her presence without receiving a word of blessing from her. If you ever come in contact with my mother, you are sure to leave with the word “God bless you!” Let your talk leave a legacy, an indelible impact in the hearts of your hearers.

There is only one way to differentiate between the success and the failure, the rich and the poor. The same is the difference between the victor and the defeated; the way they talk. Jesus said you shall know them by their fruits. Their fruits are the products of their mouth. Whenever I come in contact with people, the foremost quality I look out for is the quality of their words. When I hear you speak for a while, I can quickly discern where you are from and where you are headed to.

Through my contact with people over the years, I have seen so many headed for the rocks. Many of whom I had to help change the trajectory of their lives. Many of whom there are no better words to describe than the words “nonentities”. Many of whom were gods but died like dogs. However, I have also met many whom their

words have become my legacy. Many of those words I'm in continual love, respect, and honor. I have met many whose words have actually changed and transformed my own life and many like you who see and hold my words of high value. These many, I will be eternally grateful to.

In chapter six, we emphasized the importance of Words and how they affect our lives and circumstances. Therefore, the focus here will be on how the Victor talk and what they say.

How does a victor talk?

Victors talk excitedly about challenges.

Victors don't talk about a situation, they talk to it

Victors don't talk about what they don't want; they talk about what they want.

They don't talk about fighting to win, they talk of victories. They are not trying to win or conquer. They establish victory by affirming victory over situations.

They don't beg. They speak authoritatively.

They are careful with their words. They choose their words. They say the right words at the right time.

They talk others up.

They talk excitedly about others victories.

They talk excitedly about themselves.

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They summon things that are not as though they were.

They talk boldly and unapologetically.

What do victors say?

They speak words of faith, hope, and love

They say words in agreement with God's Rhema word for the present hour reality.

They say positive words consistently.

They prophesy and speak forth wisdom

The victor alters words that are filled with Thanks, Affirmations, and Testimonies of Victories. If you will take note of David's writings and stories, you will discover that more than anything else, David gave thanks habitually and testified of his victories and trust in the Lord. David alone wrote half of all the psalms in the book of Psalm.

Someone rightly said that Great people are Grateful people. David knew that Thanksgiving is the password to overcoming challenges. He said, "Come before his gates with thanksgiving."

Meaning that one way to overcome the gate – challenge and gain access into the courts of victory is giving of thanks. Give thanks always because you are a Victor. Let it become your habitual default setting. The scriptures say "Rejoice in the Lord and again I say

rejoice.” Rejoicing here is from a Greek word which means to “Give thanks in celebration and exceeding gladness.”

David gave thanks to God in celebration and exceeding gladness till his royal robes began to fall off and he didn't care. This is the attitude of a Victor.

One place you will find the demonstration of the power of God is in Thanksgiving- giving thanks. Jesus only gave thanks and there was an unscientific multiplication of five loaves of bread and two fishes that fed five thousand men (women and children not counted) with twelve baskets of surplus. When he was about to raise Lazarus from the dead, I could imagine him leaping for joy giving thanks in celebration and exceeding gladness saying, “Father I thank you for you hear me always. When he prayed, he would jump for joy glorifying the father.

One day something happened to a friend of mine and she called me and said: “come please let's pray, oh let's pray o”. Immediately, I said “no, let's Rejoice!” because that's what them victors do. They talk no panic. They talk with exceeding gladness. They rejoice in tribulation. This is who we are- Victor's for life

Thanksgiving can be in two phases; one of which we have discussed earlier is the giving of thanks and appreciation with the fruit of our lips. In addition to that is the Shout of Victory. There is no victory without a shout. The defeated never shout in victory. In the game of football, you will never find the losing team shout at the end of the game. Only the winning side do. Victors shout with shouts of

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Joy. But the second has to do with Giving as an act of appreciation
– Thanks-Giving

VICTORY TALK

I am a success

I am rich, influential and powerful

I am the seed of Abraham. I have the seed of greatness. I am great.
I am advancing. I wax great until I become very great.

I have the wisdom of God. I know what to do in every situation.

I am productive and excellent.

No challenges before me. They are all bread for me.

I mount up with wings as eagles. I glide on eagle's wings.

By my God, I leap over the wall. By my God, I run through the
troop.

I am invigorated with miracle working ability.

I am a miracle worker. I am a healer.

I prosper in everything I do.

The walls are fallen down before me.

My profiting is evident for all to see.

I am financially prudent.

My light shines so brightly. I bring flavor and radiance to my world.

I am the cream of all God's creations. I am special, unique and one of a kind. There's no two of me in all the world. I am the beauty of God. The glory of the father.

I am healthy and strong. The Word of God is health and life to all my flesh.

I am full of life and vitality. The lord is my strength. The Lord is my riddance.

I am anointed to bless, heal and produce glory to God.

I am anointed for Victory!

The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places. I have good things going for me all the way. All things are working for my good.

CHAPTER 10

Act Swiftly, no Hesitation

One of the major reasons why people don't take action could be because they don't really believe in the success of their actions – lack of faith.

There are two major reasons for unbelief.

1. Ignorance
2. Fear

The cure for ignorance is accurate knowledge. The cure for fear is faith. The knowledge of the Word of God produces faith in the human Spirit, for faith comes by the knowledge of the Word.

All the while you've been reading this book, faith has been impacted to your Spirit. Your faith has increased even right now. Your faith is strengthened when the Word of God comes to you. But you must do something with your faith now.

Faith is not merely believing. It is not passive. It is active. It acts. Faith without corresponding action is dead. Your results are a proof of your faith. Pastor Chris says that you can't be a fool for faith. What that means is that no man will be mocked or ignored for so long acting out in faith.

When you take decisive action, it may not be smooth at the beginning, but sooner or later the result will be evident. You have the advantage if you act swiftly without any hesitation.

The man who hesitates is the man James refers to as the one that doubts in his heart. Only doubts will make you hesitate and not take prompt action. James said that that man should not expect anything from God.

When God gives you an instruction, act swiftly for delayed obedience is actually disobedience.

We must realize that having the knowledge and the inspiration to succeed without appropriate action will continually lead to frustration. If there was any time I felt so frustrated and disappointed at myself for not taking prompt action, it must be the experience I had one day at a General Hospital.

On a Saturday morning, one of my elder brothers who had been ill for some time asked that I followed him to a general hospital in Lagos to do a checkup as he has been experiencing some recurring symptoms. I had prayed for him and so I knew he was fine. I didn't see any reason why he should go there but yet I had to follow him since he has decided on going there. I just don't have a thing for going to the hospital except for evangelical outreach. When we got there, he approached one of the attendants at the reception who asked us to go to the emergency unit. I was startled at the sight of suffering people at the emergency unit.

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The one that caught my attention was a dying lady who was breathing and groaning lifelessly on the sick bed. I was so moved with pity for her as no one of the attendants even paid attention to her. I guess they must have tried their best and maybe realized there was nothing they could do to keep her alive. Thus, they left her there groaning and breathing lifelessly. I was so moved without tears. I knew she wouldn't make it.

While my elder brother was trying to get the attention of a very busy lady who was to attend to us, I was experiencing inner war within. On the one hand, I felt I should seek the nurse's attention and lay hands on the dying lady, casting out the demon of death tormenting her at the moment. On the other hand, I felt that my presence alone in that place should bring to stop that rubbish since I carry something. Haya! But there was this pressing to do something which I suppressed as I thought again that this wasn't what we came here for. Let's get down with what we came here for first. Nevertheless, during all this period I was feeling so uncomfortable.

The frustration intensified when the lady right there, after the battle for life, gave up the ghost. Her loved one came rushing towards her bed crying while there were other sympathizers comforting her. I was so aggravated, yet didn't make that move. My brother then asked that we moved away from that area, as I felt he too was disturbed about that. As we walked away, I separated myself for a while then I pulled up my phone, clicked on my bible app and read to myself this scripture again and again;

Matthew 10: 8

“Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.”

I believe! I believe!! I said. I went to my brother and told him that I would just go in there and lay hands on the lady bringing her back to life. It was as though he didn't hear me (maybe I didn't say it convincingly or he just chose to ignore what I said). He didn't even respond to that. Because I was still skeptical and needed some sort of encouragement from him which I didn't even get talk less of his opinion. I didn't make that move. He started talking about something different as though I had never said anything. I was inspired by the word of God, I thought I believed, yet made no move.

As we left the hospital, all through that day I was not myself. I cried on the inside and tried to hide my tears. I wasn't really crying for the lady who died but for myself and my inaction. I cried because I made no attempt. I had the knowledge, I was inspired to act and I believed but because I didn't act, that lady died. I felt terribly bad for myself. That was just belief, not faith. Believing is agreeing with the Word. Faith is a propeller- it makes you do the word. It makes you take Action now!

There was once a time you too were hesitant to act on something you believe will work. Maybe you were on the bus or somewhere and you felt inspired or moved to preach the gospel. But you suppressed your buttocks on that seat and made sure your mouth didn't open. Your spirit wanted to act, but your body will

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not just correspond. You regretted that moment right? You believed that the gospel of Christ can save any man but your belief wasn't enough. Just maybe if you had acted, one soul saved would have resulted in a generation or even a whole nation forever saved. Maybe someone wouldn't have to die and go to hell for the sin which Christ already paid for.

Maybe you had this skill, business idea, and knowledge that you are certain that will work out, give you victory and set you apart. But you will not just act. Let me tell you something;

Inaction most times is the bane of frustration, depression, regrets, and defeat. Having the knowledge and the inspiration to succeed without appropriate action will continually lead to frustration. Inaction is as worse as ignorance. The only way you will rise above the odds and challenges is to take actions.

Jesus is coming again very soon. You don't want to regret and be sorry that you didn't use the skill or gift he gave you or act out the knowledge, inspiration, visions, and instructions he gave you.

ACT NOW!!!

Act Differently!

Sometimes ago, in a LaLiga football match fixture against Girmona at the Camp Nou, the Barcelona football star, Lionel Messi, scored a goal that caught my attention and showed how taking untraditional and unconventional actions can lead to success.

The Barcelona team had earned a free kick few meters away from the 18 box region after a comeback from 0-1 to 2-1. And like football tradition demands that there be a vertical block of opponents standing by to barricade the ball from getting into the goal net. As usual, the celebrated best player in the host team was to take the free kick. Traditionally, it was expected that as the free kick taker kicks the ball, the blocking opponents jump to barricade the ball. Lionel Messi could read their minds (so I thought). He knew that they were used to jumping to prevent the ball from getting in. So, rather than kick the ball in a traditional overhead style, he released a low parallel quick shot which passed through the barricaded opponents after they had jumped. The ball went in smoothly into the net. I watched this replay again and again and laughed at such intelligence. The goalkeeper himself never expected it neither did the opponents.

Although, I'm aware he may not have been the first or only one to have used such unconventional technique I realized that whenever anyone decides to play by a different set of rules, they always tend to succeed.

Look at David once again. It was unconventional of any soldier to go to a duel battle without any shield and armor but David did.

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He didn't stop there he picked up stones and sling to confront Goliath who had the best Philistine weaponry. He went along uncharted territory. He dared to take action using the most unconventional style.

You too must play by a different set of rules. Don't subject yourself to doing what everybody is doing. Those who follow the crowd often get lost in it. Act differently as the Spirit of God leads you.

Once you have taken a stand or a decision to take actions, you will be faced with personal and interpersonal pressures to behave consistently with that commitment. Sometimes, your decision to act is tougher than your ability to maintain your decision. Consistency is the discipline to maintain your grounds and decisions in words and actions independent of circumstances.

Act with integrity and consistency. Match your words with your actions. You can't be trying to say positive words but your actions don't match. You can't be saying I am a Victor and act like someone with burdens and challenges. You can't say you're a winner and you run away from problems or challenges. Without them, how will you win? You can't keep saying "I am healed" and walk around like someone who's sick. You can't say you are rich and be acting like you don't have money like you are broke and poor. No, there must be consistency. Your words must match your actions. Corresponding actions is proof of your faith. James puts it this way; show me your faith by your actions, your works. Say it and act like

it. Fake it, if you must. Nobody will slap you for faking it. No, they won't beat you. Let them talk, you and I know that it's their mouth and we can't deny them the right to use it whichever way they like. Fake it until you manifestly become it.

Now by faking it, I don't mean you become a counterfeit of your real self. Neither do I mean that you become who you are not. No, that's not my postulation here. By faking it, I mean that you act in agreement with that to which you hope for. In other words, you act as though you are that person you want to physically become which you already are on the inside of you - in your real self. Let me give you an example.

If you are not without cash, it might look as though you are broke. But the fact that one is without cash at the moment doesn't really mean that such one is broke. Who knows if he has money in his account? Let's imagine he doesn't have cash in his account, still, this is not a good basis that he is broke. Who knows if he has money in form of investment and assets? We can go on and on to even imagine that he has nothing at all to prove he is broke, yet, there is no good fact to prove that such one is broke. Why? I will tell you.

The truth is that being broke or poor is a function of the mind. This is the same for being rich and affluent. In your Spirit, the real you, there are enormous great riches hidden therein. Remember, Man – Humans were created in God's image and likeness – to look like him and act like him. No wonder he said "Dominate and fill the earth." No broke man can do that! So no Christian is ever poor. The only one who is broke or poor today (in the world description) is

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the one who is acting differently from his real and genuine personality – his spirit. This is “genuine fake” but many don’t know. This is also true for the one who’s sick. The flesh we wear is a limitation. It limits us to function in the earth. It limits us to see things only on the superficial. But on the inside of us, our real self, there is a great and untapped reservoir of riches, wealth and health the world has never experienced. So when we fake it, we are not really acting in sham (so it may sound) but we are acting in consonance with our true self. When we act like this, it’s living out our true self but the worldly ignoramus will say of course that we are faking it. That’s why you must keep faking it.

Despite the overwhelming challenge, take action. Taking action in those times might not immediately bring the desired results. Just like a drop of water doesn’t just make an ocean. It is sometimes those little and insignificant steps of actions that count.

Take charge of your life. If you don’t do anything, nothing is going to change. Don’t act like “what will be will be”, because nothing will be that you have not caused to happen.

Many people are on the lookout for hacks and quick ways to success and victory. In a world of fast cars, fast internet, fast money etc., many people want to have victory and success on a fast track. Whenever trouble strikes, the first thing they think about is how can I get out of this overwhelming challenge fast and quick.

However, the truth is that there are no fast tracks to success and victory. There are only fundamental principles and steps, like those I have explained in the preceding chapters, which, if anyone would act on, success and victory will never elude such a one. Victory is not a miracle neither is a perpetual victorious life, a mystery. Victory like success comes as a result of taking deliberate and conscious actions towards the submission of reviewed principles. Every victory at any level makes the next level even easier. It goes from the Lion to the Bear and then the Dog.

If you are not born again yet, your first act of victory today is to believe and confess Jesus today as your Lord.

Simply say these words and mean them with all your hearts:

“Dear Heavenly Father,

Thank you for your love and for sending Jesus to win the victory for me. I believe what your words say about Jesus that he was raised from the dead in Victory. Today, I confess Jesus as the Lord of my life.

Thank you for now I am born again. I’ve got the Victory! Hallelujah!”

Congratulations to you, if you just said that

It’s time to receive the Spirit of Victory, the Holy Spirit, who will bring to you the power to live the transcendent victorious life in Christ. Say this words:

Thank you dear father for making me qualified to receive your Spirit. Like your word say that if I shall ask for the gift of the Spirit, you will give him unto me. I ask today that the Holy Spirit fills my heart now and makes my body his temple. Thank you Lord for I have the Spirit of God in me now. Thank you Lord for I have the Spirit of Power, of Love and of a sound mind. Glory to God!

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About the Book

The lion, the bear, and the dog symbolizes the three different major phases of challenges in life that must be faced on your journey to success.

Life is full of challenges. In fact survival itself is a challenge and there is nobody without real challenges.

Thus, understanding what level of challenge you are right now and how to successfully overcome at every level will place you on a path of perpetual victory.

The content in this book reveals that success, greatness and victory are a product of mastering the art of overcoming overwhelming challenges.

As against the traditional perception of challenges, challenges don't get tougher. Challenges get easier as you go.

As you go through the pages of this book, you will discover :

- * What level of challenge you are in presently and how to overcome them using The David Paradigm.
- * The difference between the Warrior Mentality and the Victor Mentality.
- * How to successfully play the mind game.
- * How to hold up your resume that wins always.
- * How to use the anointing to your advantage
- * ...and so much more.

Use these secrets and your victory over every overwhelming challenge is assured



About the Author

Daniel Odiwe, is a young inspiring leader, writer, and teacher with a special calling of building the lives of men and women around the world.

He host a Question and Answer session through his video blogs where he answers frequently asked questions from around the world.

He facilitates online classes where he mentors and guides hundreds of young people from many nations of the world.