



FLOURISH AND GROW

volume 2

**FLOURISHING
IN FAMINE**

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Flourishing in Famine



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When Famine Hits

The global pandemic, COVID-19, that struck the earth has already passed away. At the time of writing, we are currently facing the after-effects of the pandemic. Many are complaining about certain challenges but they really need to understand that famine visits the world at certain times. The famine has nothing to do with a lack of food. The famine has to do with economic downturn – scarcity of money. We are in that season that many people will lack money to execute projects, accomplish the things they want to accomplish, get goals and vision off the ground. Many people who are working in some companies may be retrenched due to certain inabilities and replacement of human skills with tech machines.

But we know strongly that it was in a famine that Joseph prospered. It was also during famine that

Isaac prospered exceedingly till he became mighty. Isaac eventually became stronger than an entire nation. I want you to know that in spite of any economic downturn, you will not just survive but thrive. I believe that God's people should always thrive in the season of famine. You shall receive light and the insight to know what to do, not just to survive in famine but to thrive in famine. You have to permit the word of the Lord sits upon you. Let His light shines on your head and upon your spirit man to see the path that God has open before you.

Globally, there is an economic downturn, people are going through hardship and pain. Plans have been interrupted, even physically all odds and events are signaling loss. Many people are saying greatness and prosperity cannot happen. To them, they feel nothing good will happen in the year. In fact, people are really complaining about the situation of things in their nations. Many people are already prophesying evil into their lives which shouldn't be. God's children should be discipline not to say what is happening but what should happen. We have to say what God is saying. When you read the scripture, you will realize that the bible says **“when men say there is a casting down, you shall say there is a lifting up.”** In other words, God doesn't want you to say what people are saying, God wants you to say what He has said.

Your Year Is Crowned with Goodness

Regardless of what people are saying you have to know that God's word says something totally different. People will say this year is bad, but God's word doesn't say this year is bad. People will say this is an unfortunate year, but God's word doesn't say so. It can be an unfortunate year for unbelievers but it will not be an unfortunate year for you. It's going to be a great year for you. If you have received God's word for your year or month, you have to believe that word in spite of whatever is happening. What God said is more powerful than what is happening.

A culture I have built for myself over the years is to believe what God says to me. I don't give attention to what people are saying or join them talk about their difficulty and challenges. I boldly depend and believe that God's word will definitely come to pass.

I discovered something in scripture and I want to share it with you. For those who are saying this year isn't favorable and already given up, I want you to see what God is saying concerning all the years for all of His children.

“Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness.” Psalms 65:11 (KJV)

“You crown the year with Your goodness, And Your paths drip *with* abundance.” Psalms 65:11 (NKJV)

Scripture says that God crowns the year with goodness, other versions regard it as the freshness of the tree yearly. That is why I love to read either King James version or New King James version. Whatever year you found yourself is crowned with goodness. You've got to believe that every year comes with goodness and blessings for you. Unwanted situations may happen in the year, but as long as that isn't your expectation, then, that is not for you. If you really want to enjoy God's goodness every year, you have to believe firmly that God programs every year with goodness for you. In the same year that evil happens to others, goodness will happen to you. I want you to know that the same year that someone was demoted was the same year another was promoted. Remember the Psalmist declared that surely, goodness and mercy shall follow him... You have to be like the Psalmist and boldly declare that goodness follows every year for you. when others complain of bad happenings, you will testify to good happenings.

Daily Loaded with Benefits

**"Blessed be the Lord, who daily loadeth us with benefits, even the God of our salvation. Selah."
Psalms 68:19**

Now do you see what God's word says concerning

you? God's word says "you are daily loaded with benefits." In other words, it is not just your year that is crowned with goodness, but your days are also loaded with benefits. Glory to God!

Your days are daily loaded with benefits. You have to think this regularly and you have to speak it always. So, when you wake up in the morning, you have to say, "thank you Lord for granting me the privilege to see another day. One thing is certain, my day is daily loaded with benefits." You have to say that every morning and then watch out for the benefits that God has sent your way.

I want you to boldly declare this as you read -

"My year is crowned with goodness and My days are filled with benefit. Glory to God."

Make a habit of declaring into your days and into the year what God has revealed to you. Speak good words into your year and your days – boldly declare that all your days are filled with benefits. When other people are saying today is bad, what should you say? You should say "I am blessed and I am loaded with daily benefits." Think that regularly and let it be in your consciousness. I want you to know that this year is crowned with glory for you and your days are filled with benefits. There is an opportunity the Lord will bring your way, a blessing the Lord will send to you as you eagerly and confidently speak goodness into your year and blessings into your

days.

What Is Famine?

The word famine means severe shortage. Anytime we see famine, we see scarcity and economic downturn. If you have severe shortage or scarcity of something, then, you are in famine of that thing. Famine is the path to poverty and lack. All poor people live in famine of whatever they lack.

It can be frustrating to be in scarcity of something. I have discovered that sometimes, there is abundance in places where others experience famine. Do you know that when there was famine in Egypt, there was also food in abundance in Egypt? It is just that the abundant food was with Joseph while the famine was with the people. You have to trust God for abundance in places and time others experience famine.

Three Parameters of Famine

Famine can be defined from three parameters. Let's examine these:

Lack of Food

Famine can be seen as a lack of food for a long period of time.

“And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar.” Genesis 26:1

In the days of Abraham and in the days of Isaac, there was famine. And that famine was simply lack of food. There was lack of food in their days. And we begin to see that across the world, some regions are experiencing scarcity of food. Some people have moved from eating three times a day to eating once or twice a day. In the same time and situations, there are those who maintain their three square meals and some eat four to five times a day. But the point is that the pandemic has really affected a lot of people and beyond that, we also begin to see that the season and times are coming when people will be facing a lot of challenges. There will be a lack of food for them.

Lack of Money

The second parameter of famine is the lack of money.

“And when money failed in the land of Egypt, and in the land of Canaan, all the Egyptians came unto Joseph, and said, Give us bread: for why should we die in thy presence? for the money faileth. And Joseph said, Give your cattle; and I will give you for your cattle, if money fail.”
Genesis 47:15-16

You would see that there was famine also in the time of Joseph but here is it, the people used their money to buy food from Joseph but a time came that they have used all the money they had to buy food and there was no money again. So the people had to use their lands to get food. They gave all their lands to Pharaoh in order to get food. There was a time that all their land was gone and the people had to give themselves and say **“tell pharaoh to buy us.”**

If you are in famine, you will lack money. Lack of money occasionally isn't the sign of famine. But when you lack money consistently, then, you are in famine. Famine and poverty goes hand in hand. Those who lived in poverty all their days lived in famine all their days. You have to desire the flow of money consistently so that you won't end up in famine.

Lack of God's Word

The third parameter of famine is the lack of God's word. When you don't get God's word regularly and consistently, we can say there is a famine in the life of that person.

“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord:” Amos 8:11

You can see that the Prophet talks about the days where the people will not be able to get food to eat – spiritual food – and that means the word of God.

Understanding the Current Famine

Prophetically, the famine that God showed that will be coming to the earth is not a lack of food and it is not a lack of God's word. The famine that God showed that is coming to the world soon is a lack of money, just like it was in the days of Joseph. But one thing is certain, God's people are going to be blessed tremendously.

For you reading this, I declare that this is the time and season that you get into wealth, become rich, and get what is known as plenty. You have been explaining riches all these while, you are about to start experiencing riches. You are about to come

into wealth and riches this time. Your finance is about to grow now.

Someone may query this word and not appropriate it for the season but I want you to know that Jacob was a prophet, a man with an encounter with God but you know that Jacob experienced famine in his days. It doesn't matter whether you are spiritual or not, a believer or not; famine is for the world but one thing is certain you are going to scale above it and God is going to single you out. This is the time some families are going to experience what is called prosperity.

Causes of Famine

1. Lack of rain;
2. Pestilences and diseases;
3. Infertility of the land;
4. Tragedies such as earthquakes;
5. God's judgment.

Famine as God's Judgment

I want to expound more on the part of God's judgment. I want you to see that God's judgment can bring famine.

“Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David enquired

of the Lord. And the Lord answered, It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites.“ 2 Samuel 21:1

So we see here that the reason for the famine for three years in the days of David was simply because of God's judgment. And the judgment came because of the trespass of Saul.

“So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him, Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before thine enemies, while they pursue thee? or that there be three days' pestilence in thy land? now advise, and see what answer I shall return to him that sent me. “ 2 Samuel 24:13

Here is Prophet Gad speaking to David after David conducted a census for the people, giving him three options to choose from; famine, plague or to flee before their enemies. This clearly shows that famine can come as a form of God's judgment.

The fact is that this famine will come. In 2 kings 8:1, Elisha told the shunamite woman about the famine coming. In Genesis 41, God revealed to Pharaoh about the famine coming and Joseph was later called to interpret it.

Famines as Found in the Scripture

The Bible is filled with different records of famine. Let's check eight records of famine found in scriptures.

1. Famine in the Days of Abraham: **"And there was a famine in the land: and Abram went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land." Genesis 12:10**
2. Famine in the Days of Isaac: **"And there was a famine in the land, beside the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went unto Abimelech king of the Philistines unto Gerar." Genesis 26:1**
3. Famine in the Days of Jacob and Joseph: **"And the seven years of dearth began to come, according as Joseph had said: and the dearth was in all lands; but in all the land of Egypt there was bread." Genesis 41:54**
4. Famine in the Days of Elimelech: Famine made Elimelech, his wife and two sons leave their home for the land of the Moabites. **"Now it came to pass in the days when the judges ruled, that there was a famine in the land. And a certain man of Bethlehem in judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he,**

and his wife, and his two sons.” Ruth 1:1

5. **Famine in the Days of David: “Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David enquired of the Lord. And the Lord answered, It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites.” 2 Samuel 21:1. “¹So Gad came to David, and told him, and said unto him, Shall seven years of famine come unto thee in thy land? or wilt thou flee three months before thine enemies, while they pursue thee? or that there be three days’ pestilence in thy land? now advise, and see what answer I shall return to him that sent me.” 2 Samuel 24:13**
6. **Famine in the Days of Elijah: “And Elijah went to shew himself unto Ahab. And there was a sore famine in Samaria.” 1st Kings 18:2**
7. **Famine in the Days of Elisha: “And Elisha came again to Gilgal: and there was a dearth in the land; and the sons of the prophets were sitting before him: and he said unto his servant, Set on the great pot, and seethe pottage for the sons of the prophets.” 2nd Kings 4:38**
8. **Famine in the Days of the Early Church: “And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great famine throughout all the world:**

which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar.” Acts 11:28

Why Would God Permit Famine?

As we can see, there was famine in the days of the early church. Some believers may ask, “why would God permit famine while the church is on earth despite our prayers?” Some may say that “If God really loves us, why should there be famine on earth?” But here is the point, we need to make people understand clearly that in the days of the early church, there was famine. When the church just started, there was scarcity.

So anytime you see scarcity come on earth, whether scarcity of food or money, it should not be new to us. It is evident in scriptures that in the days of the early church, as prayerful as they were, there was a famine in their days. So if you are a pastor, leader or believer, don’t permit people to talk anyhow and say “with all the prayers you people pray, should there be scarcity in the world?” The question is that was there no famine in the days of the early church? I want you to know that just as God loves you now, he also loved the early church and yet they also experienced famine in their days.

There is nothing new under the sun. Whatever you see on earth today can be located in scriptures

where it has happened. And God is showing prophetically again that famine is about to hit the earth again. I want you to believe that famine will not come to your space any longer. You will never know what scarcity is in your life. You will never know lack in your life in the name of Jesus.

Where Famine Visits

A Person Can Experience Famine.

Famine can visit a person. A person can be in scarcity or lack money. When you understand this clearly, you will know that while everyone in the world was experiencing scarcity of food; Joseph, Pharaoh with all the priests of Pharaoh never experienced famine. Whereas the rest of the world were experiencing famine, even Jacob the prophet and his children, the covenant people experienced famine. The only difference was that God brought out His people out of it. A family can experience famine.

That was what happened to Jacob and all of his children – they experienced famine. When a family is in lack of anything, they are in famine of that thing. A land (community, town, villages, cities, group etc.) can experience famine.

A Nation Can Experience Famine.

When you get this, you will know that it is possible for some nations to be experiencing famine or scarcity while other nations don't experience such. Let me give you an example, in the book of Ruth 1:1, you will see that there was famine in the land of Judah and Elimelech and his family moved to the land of Moab because there was no famine in Moab. So it is possible for one country to be experiencing scarcity and for another country not to be experiencing scarcity. It is possible for one country to be experiencing scarcity of money or food while another is not experiencing it. For example, some countries in Africa may be experiencing economic downturn and some countries in the same continent may not have economic downturn. You will see that it is possible for some continents to have economic downturns and some others don't have it.

The Whole World Can Experience Scarcity

This is when all the continents of the world experience scarcity. Wherever you are, any country you are – I declare upon you today you will never know what is called scarcity. Take this word as a prophetic word because you will never know what is called scarcity. Even if the scarcity hits families, it will not

hit your family. The bible says “He sent his word...” I’m sending the word to you know, “You will never know what is called scarcity. Even if the scarcity hits the whole world, I want you to catch to this revelation so that you will know you are exempted.

“And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the Spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar. Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea:” Acts 11:28-29

Agabus prophesied about the famine that was about to hit the world and the Bible says the disciples contributed money and they sent to those in Jerusalem. In the midst of famine, some people were still sending money to other people. Any revelation that enters your spirit has become your property because if it worked for some people, it will work for you. Isn’t it amazing that in the midst of famine some people still had money to send to some other people?

I want you to know that God is going to bless you so much that you are going to send money to people in this season. When famine hit the whole world in the days of the early church in the book of Acts 11, some people still had money to send to other people.

In the days of Joseph, I hope you know that Joseph alone sent relief to the whole family in the land of Canaan. Imagine, he didn't send to one person, but to the whole family comprising of many families. In Acts 11, those believers sent relief to the church in another city but here is Joseph alone who sent relief to the whole family. He sent money to a whole nation — the whole nation of Israel. God is about to prosper you and bless you strongly that you are going to send things to an entire nation – I want you to receive that into your spirit because it is going to happen. You are going to send things to an entire family, that's what God is about to do for you. You are going to thrive strongly.

I declare upon you: You are blessed abundantly this season to begin to send money to people, especially in foreign nations.

God's People will be exempted from this Coming famine. In other words, this famine will not affect you. I'm going to show from scriptures what God says concerning you in times of famine. And I want you to receive God's promises.

God's Word to His People in Famine

“And God sent me before you to preserve a posterity for you in the earth and to save your life by a great deliverance.” Genesis 45:7

Joseph said God has sent me ahead so his people will be preserved. In other words, God sent Joseph to the land of Egypt so that the nation of Israel can be preserved in times of famine. The first promise I want you to receive from this scripture is that **“in this time of Famine, you are going to be preserved.”** You are going to be preserved in times of famine, your family will be preserved in times of famine. When other people are experiencing a downturn, you are not going to experience a downturn. God has prepared an escape route for all his people – that is very certain. Let’s identify God’s promises to His people:

1. God will keep you – alive - in times of famine. **“To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.” Psalms 33:19**
2. God will redeem you in time of famine. **“In famine he shall redeem thee from death: and in war from the power of the sword.” Job 5:20.**
3. In times of famine, you shall be satisfied. **“They shall not be ashamed in the evil time: and in the days of famine they shall be satisfied.” Psalms 37:19.** What does it mean to be satisfied? It means to have in abundance all that you need.
4. You shall laugh at famine – Job 5:22.

5. God will be with you and bless you in famine –
Genesis 26:3

I want you to meditate on these scriptural passages and keep them as the scriptures that will sustain you when the famine hits the world.

Why God Reveals Famine Ahead

1. So that His people can prepare ahead by saving – Genesis 41:35-36
2. So that His people can prepare an escape route.
2nd Kings 8:1...
3. So that His people can discipline their spending.
Luke 15:14... Prophecies are giving so that you can make plans.
4. So that His people can trust Him more
5. So that His people can send relief to others.
Acts 11:29. This is the time you must trust God to bless you so that you can send relief to others. God is going to bless you so much that you are going to begin to bless people around you.

Famines as Signs of the End-Time and Christ's Coming

“For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places.” Matthew 24:7

What Jesus stated in Matthew 24 are clearly the signs of the end time but looking at verse 7 we see clearly that famine is one of the signs of the end time. So now, COVID-19 is a pestilence. Scarcity of money and economic downturn is famine. So the pestilence is gone, it is scarcity and economic downturn that is coming now. Many people have died, COVID-19 killed many people but it didn't come near you. If COVID-19 did not come near you, it means that this famine will not come near you.

Flourishing in Famine

When other people are seeking to survive, God's promise to you this season is that you are going to flourish. You are not just going to survive; you are going to thrive – in the midst of famine you are going to thrive.

To flourish is

- to thrive;
- to succeed;
- to advance, to grow consistently, to increase in possession;
- to be known for certain qualities;
- to make wave;
- to shine;
- to attract or draw attention; and
- to be pursued (for your fruits or results).

When God says this is the time His people are going to flourish, He is saying this is the time his people are going to thrive so much, make wave and succeed maximally. His people are going to succeed – you are about to experience success at a higher level.

When you flourish, you will thrive and shine. Fruitfulness is different from flourishing. If you are fruitful but not flourishing, only you will know that you are succeeding, the world cannot know. And when the world are not aware of the wave you are making, how can they give glory to your Father in heaven? That is the reason you must flourish. It isn't just enough to be successful, you have got to make wave.

Strategies for Thriving in Famine

1. Trust in the Lord with All Your Heart

This is the time you have to trust in the Lord. That is the first key. The first key to thrive in famine is to trust in the Lord with all your heart; Proverbs 3:5-6. This is not the time for you to trust in one connection. This is not the time for you to trust that you have one brother or sister somewhere that can always bless you and give money to you – this is not the time for that. This is the time you have to trust in the Lord. Don't think that you have someone

somewhere that will help you and always respond to you when you have any need. This is the time to trust in the Lord. You should believe that your prosperity will come from God. Don't trust in any connection, or any brother, or sister, or someone somewhere that will help you. Don't trust that you know one politician somewhere. You have to trust in the Lord, if you trust Him, He will direct you to places where riches are hidden. Look, riches are hidden somewhere, and this is the time you need to trust in the Lord. And when you trust in the Lord, what is that thing that God will do? God will direct your path. How will God direct your path? He will open your inner eyes to places where riches are hidden. God will open your understanding to know what to do to command prosperity.

You have to trust in the Lord this season and this time. If you trust Him, He will bring you in contact with the people He has sent ahead of you. Remember He sent Joseph ahead of the Israelites before the famine began. There is someone God has sent ahead of you. When you trust in the Lord, God will orchestrate how both of you will meet. This is the time you are going to thrive. Don't trust any connection, don't trust in your job, and don't trust in your salary. I declare that as you trust in the Lord, blessing are facilitated to your life in abundance in Jesus name.

The Bible says “woe unto him that puts his confidence in man.” If you put your trust in anybody, the bible already declared woe on you. Trusting in the Lord will always cause you to go to God in prayer. Trusting in the Lord will always make you to thank him in all circumstances. Believe that God is for you, believe that God will prosper you – as you have this in your heart, you will definitely prosper.

2. Obey His Instructions and Commands

This is not the time and season to joke with instructions. This is the time and the season you have to take instructions seriously. This is the time and the season you have to take commands seriously.

“Blessed is the man whom You instruct O Lord, and teach out of Your law.” Psalms 94:12

This means instruction is a blessing. Anytime God gives you an instruction – God has blessed you. In other words, one of the ways God will bless you in times of famine is by instructing you. Those who receive instructions are those who thrive. So when God wants to bless you, God will instruct you. Whoever despises God’s instructions has despised God’s blessing. The way you despise God’s blessing is that you despise God’s instructions. When you pray to God to bless you, God will give you an instruction, because instructions are transmitters

of blessing. The quicker you obey instructions the faster your blessing comes. If you delay the instruction, you delay the blessing. If you obey the instruction, the blessing comes faster.

“Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father;” Genesis 26:3

Isaac did not just prosper like that, he obeyed instruction. It takes faith to receive and to obey instructions. I’ve learned by experience that divine instruction always looks foolish to the human mind. That is why you have to follow and obey every instruction that you receive. Those who will flourish are those who know how to carry out God’s instructions. Instructions are not difficult to receive – that’s the truth. You will always receive instructions as thoughts in your heart. Instruction gives direction. I want to announce to you that the prosperity, the thriving, the success you will experience this season is dependent on the instructions you will obey. Don’t just do things, follow instructions because instruction gives direction.

Jesus told Peter “launch into the deep,” my question to you is “what is God telling you to do?” Whatever God is telling you to do is the instruction God has given you. And whatever God is telling

you to do is the transmitter of God's blessing to you. The moment you receive that instruction; you have received the blessing. It is your obedience to the instruction that transmits the blessing. Don't neglect instructions, instructions are transmitters of blessing.

3. Work Hard; Work Right; and Work Well

This is not the time to be lazy or sluggish. Proverbs 13:4 **"The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat"**. A lazy man cannot thrive. If you are lazy, then you cannot thrive. That is why you must work hard. God will not bless you because you desire things, God will bless because you do things. It is only those who do things that God bless. God will not bless you by desiring things, God will bless you by doing things. This is not the time to be lazy. I hope you know that Joseph was not lazy. Hard work means diligence. Diligence is man's precious possession. Proverbs 12:27 **"The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious."** The word diligence is hard work, you have to be hardworking. Young people admire great people, but they don't admire their hard work. Don't just admire great people, admire their hard work.

Proverbs 21:25 **“The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labor.”** Then you must work right. Don’t just work hard, working hard doesn’t pay. Remember that Peter said, “we have toiled all night” – that is working hard. You can be working hard and not getting anything – you have to work right. Hard work doesn’t kill, it is wrong work that kills. It is not enough to work hard but you must also work right, don’t exert labor doing the wrong thing. And lastly, you must Work well. This means being the best at what you do. What are the skills to work well?

- Be creative.
- Be excellent.
- Keep Learning. Keep acquiring new skills. Ecclesiastes 9:10 **“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.”**

Your might there means, do it with all your mental power, with all your strategic thinking. Don’t just do things without thinking. Make plans, find a better way to do things – it is those who do that, that work well. And as you do that, you will always thrive.

4. You Must Be a Giver

This tends to be a no-go area for some people but I'm going to go there. If you miss this, you can't thrive – that's the truth. You must not miss this. Check everyone that thrive in the scripture, for example the man Joseph who thrived in famine sent relief gifts to people. His brothers came to buy food but he didn't collect their money from them, he gave them free of charge. Now those were people that hurt him and offended him yet he still gave to them. This is the time you have to be a giver because giving is one of the ways to thrive. Some People have a pre-conceived mindset when the subject of giving is being addressed, they say "those Pastors just want money," well despite the lockdown and the fact that people didn't go to church nether do they give offerings, are Pastors still not blessed? In fact, it was during that time many pastors carried many financial burdens of their members.

This is the time you must be a giver, and what do you give? You give tithes, you give special seeds – that's the way to prosper, that's the way to thrive. Let me say this, you can give to parents, to friends, and to the poor but this is the time you have to first give to God. Give to God, God is the superior entity you have to give to first. You know in times of famine and scarcity, that's when many people will want to

reduce what they give, that is the time people want to save for themselves and hoard things. In times of famine, people want to keep things, they are not willing to give but if you will thrive this is the season you have to give and I will show why you have to give. You don't just give to God because you love him but give also because you have faith in God. You have faith that when you give to God, God will bless you in return. It takes faith to give and expect that God will bless you back in return.

Why Should You Give to God?

- Proverbs 11:25 **“The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.”** In other words, if you are not a generous soul you cannot be made rich.
- Luke 6:38 **“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.”** God is not just a creator neither is he only a Father, God is also a Giver. God is the creator of all men and all creatures, God is the Father to believers alone. But God is a Giver to everybody but gives specially to those who give to Him. When

it comes to financial prosperity, God is a giver to those who give first.

- Acts 20:35 **“I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.”** Many people don’t know the meaning of blessing that’s why they don’t give. The word blessing means to add value. So when God blesses you, it means God added more value to you. That verse means that for those who give, God adds more value to them. I believe that you want God to add more value to you. When God adds more value to you, you are going to thrive. I declare that in this season, God will add more value to you. God has shown us the way he will add more value; he says give – when you give to God will add more value to you.
- Proverbs 11:24 **“There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.”** In other words, the reason some people will be poor is because they don’t know how to scatter. If you want to thrive, this is the time you have to scatter, the time you have to give in excess.

How Do You Give to God?

Giving to the poor is different from giving to God. (Prov 19:17, Prov 28:27), giving to poor means to lend to God not give to God. You don't give to God by giving to the poor, giving to the poor is lending to God and God will repay you what you have lent him - he will repay what you have given.

Here are three ways by which you give to God:

- Give to His house: When you give Offerings and tithes, you are giving to God, not the church.
- Give to His work: Maybe there is a project going being embarked on by the church or in the church and you give to that project, you have given to God by giving to his work.
- Give to His servants: When you give to God's servants you are going to be blessed tremendously and abundantly.

I want you to know this that when you give to God, you will receive instructions and Insights that will cause you to flourish. When you give to God, God will not give money back to you, He gives you ideas and insights that will cause you to prosper. Now here is it, whatever insights you receive, whatever instruction you receive, you must ensure that you put them to work, because if you don't put them to

work, it cannot work for you.

5. Praise God Regularly

Cultivate the habit of praising God regularly. Isn't it amazing that when you praise God regularly, you are going to thrive? This is the time and the season that you must be praise dominated. Praises must possess you this time and this season.

Psalms 67:5-6 says *"Let the people praise You O God; let all the peoples praise You. Then the earth shall yield her increase; God, our own God shall bless us."*

So from this scripture, it is very clear that when you praise God, you are going to increase, and when you increase, you are going to thrive. Praises is one of the ways by which you increase. You don't only praise God when things are going well with you, you don't only praise God when you have all you need. You don't only praise God when everything is going well with you. You've got to be intentional with praising God even when the unexpected are happening.

Remember, the year is crowned with goodness for you and you are daily loaded with benefit and if God has done all these for you, what should you do then? You must develop the consciousness – the spirit of praises. "Bless the Lord oh my soul and all that is within me bless his Holy name." When other

people are complaining, that is the time to bless and praise the Lord. When other people are lamenting, that is the time for you to praise the Lord. When other people don't know what to do, that is the time for you to praise the Lord. When other people are talking about challenges here and there, that is the time for you to get into your privacy and praise the Lord. You must be a praiser. This is the time for you to praise the Lord. The time of economic downturn is the time for you to praise the Lord. Don't just trust in the Lord, cultivate the habit of praising the Lord.

The proof of trusting the Lord is that you pray to God and you hold on to the belief that God has heard you – that's the proof of trusting the Lord. Then you realize again, that the way through which you also thrive is that you obey His instructions - when God speaks to you and you do whatever He commands you to do, you will flourish. Another key is when you work hard, work right, and work well, you are going to thrive. Another one is when you are a giver – God is going to bless you more because it is more blessed to give than to receive. And the fifth is when you praise God regularly.

I want to leave you with this, and I'm ending on this note, **YOU MUST CULTIVATE THE HABIT OF PRAISING GOD REGULARLY.** Increase comes when you praise the Lord. The reason there is

sorrow in the heart of people is because they don't praise the Lord. When you praise the Lord, joy will break out of your spirit. Anytime you are disappointed, don't regret or be sorrowful – Praise the Lord. When you praise the Lord, Joy will break out from your inside.

What is joy? Joy is strength, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.

Isaiah 40:31 talks about renewing strength. One of the ways we renew our strength is not by fasting and praying alone, but also by praises. We renew our strength when we get into praises, because joy brings strength. You renew your strength by fasting and prayers, you renew your strength by praising God also. As you praise God your inner eyes will be opened to see what to do, blessings and opportunities will be sent to you. And you will suddenly see that when others don't know what to do to thrive – you would know because you know that there is a God with you. When others don't know where to sow – you would know where to sow.

Thank the Lord because in the midst of financial scarcity, you are going to flourish. Regardless of whatever is happening to you, don't be discouraged. I want you to be rest assured that God is on your side and will never permit you to wither.

Scriptural Examples of Those Who Flourish in Famine

The reason I want you to capture the pictures of these people in scripture is so that you can have the revelation of how God will cause you to flourish in spite of the economic downturn, scarcity or lack. It is confirmed all through scripture that God's people always thrive in the midst of scarcity. Let's examine these scriptural figures:

1. Abraham

"Now there was a famine in the land and Abram went down to Egypt to dwell there, for the famine was severe in the land" Genesis 12:10

The above scripture clearly reveals that there was scarcity and economic downturn in the days of Abram. That shows that whatever happens today happened to some faith heroes too.

"Abram was very rich in livestock, in silver and in gold" Genesis 13:2

Do you see clearly that in spite of the famine, Abraham became rich? I want you to really believe God for His manifest blessing in your life, that regardless whatever is happening in the world, God is going to make you rich and cause you to flourish. When others become dry, you shall flourish because

you are going to be planted by the Lord in a place that is filled with abundance of water.

2. Isaac

“And there was famine in the land...” Genesis 26:1

This clearly showed that there was famine in the days of Isaac.

“Then Isaac sowed in the land and reaped in the same year a hundredfold and the Lord blessed him. The man began to prosper and continued prospering until he became very prosperous; for he had possessions of flocks and possessions of herds and a great number of servants. So the Philistines envied him.” Genesis 26:12-14

In the midst of famine, Isaac had great possession and plenty members of staff. He prospered so much that the entire nation envied him. His prosperity made the king of the nation to send him away for he was mightier than them.

Get ready because in the midst of scarcity, you are going to grow mightier. When others are losing wealth, that is when you will acquire plenty. In famine, people suddenly go fruitless, but for you, you shall not only be fruitful, you shall flourish. Where and when famine make wave, your success shall also make wave. Famine is always the talk of the society when it hits, I believe that as people talk about famine in the season of famine, that is how

people will talk about your blessings and success. You shall make wave.

3. Joseph

Do you know that Joseph alone brought all his entire family into prosperity during famine? God is going to do things that will make people connected to you to flourish in the midst of famine. You are going to flourish so much that it will be too much for you and will extend to many around you.

Do you know that Joseph suddenly became known to everyone in Egypt and to foreigners? That is flourishing indeed. God permitted the famine so that what caused the fall of others could lead to the rising of another. As Joseph became notable and prominent in a strange land, so God will make you prominent both in your nation and foreign nations. Many are going to be kept alive and remain relevant simply because of you.

4. Israelites

When famine hits in Egypt, all the Egyptians lost their money and lands to Pharaoh. But do you know that the Israelites didn't lose anything? In fact, they acquired more because they got lands they didn't pay for, got supply of food regularly from Joseph

without paying for it and so on. In spite of whatever happens, I want you to know that you are going to grow stronger and increase in possession and offspring. It is your time to flourish.

I pray for you that you shall flourish in Jesus name.
Amen!



About the Author

Niyi Makinde is a leadership expert, quotient coach, consultant, author and a Christian minister with an apostolic calling. His passion is to raise Christian ministers and leaders like himself, as well as to help organizations and businesses maximize their potentials.

Apostle Niyi Makinde has been in Christian ministry for over 15 years. He is the President of Rebirth Global Church, a network of churches across the globe on a mission to empower believers to fulfill their God-given tasks on earth. He is an apostolic oversight and covering for many other ministries, networks and churches.

Niyi Makinde has written many books that are fast spreading across places. His books are always

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Also by Niyi Makinde

Apostle Niyi Makinde has written many other insightful and powerful books, among which are:

1. Divine Instructions
2. 12 Laws of Divine Instructions
3. Breaking Life Code
4. The Revolutionary Apostle
5. The Power to Prosper
6. The Power to Become
7. 53 Laws of Excellence
8. Church Shift
9. Business Sense
10. Dealing with Human Enemies
11. Wisdom for All-Round
12. Wisdom Power
13. Prayer Force (1)
14. Multiply
15. Tithing
16. You Are Different
17. Phronesis for Dating
18. Dating, Marriage and Sex
19. Managing Divine People
20. The Power to Get Wealth
21. Spiritual Fatherhood
22. Managing Divine People
23. Understanding Honor

24. Flourish And Grow (1)
25. Faith Dimension (1)
26. Ministry Laws (1)
27. Secrets to Supernatural (Financial) Abundance
28. Running like the Deer
29. Prayer Force (2)
30. Making Things Happen
31. You Are a Seer
32. 79 Insights Into Favor
33. New Creation
34. Prayer Education
35. 20 Facts about the Human Spirit
36. Supernatural Visions
37. Understanding Church Systems
38. 11 Facts about the Human Mind
39. The Holy Spirit
40. Dominion in the Realm of Abundance
41. Soul Winning Manual
42. Maintaining Sound Health
43. Faith for Abundance
44. New Levels
45. Wisdom for Abundance
46. The Power of Meditation
47. Understanding Supernatural Dreams
48. Stop Multiplying in Affliction
49. Communication Ethics in Ministry
50. Ministry Ethics (1)
51. Warfare for Honor

52. Wave of Increase
53. Praise for Favor
54. Ministers Training Manual
55. Breaking Joy Code
56. The Power of His Name
57. You Are a wonder
58. Roar and Soar
59. The Minister and the Ministry
60. Grace Factor
61. Subdue and Dominate
62. Flourish and Grow (2)
63. Overtake
64. Victory over Afflictions
65. The Power of Patience
66. Stand out to Step out
67. Shining like the Sun
68. 30 Channels of Wealth
69. Breaking into Laughter
70. The Power to Dominate
71. Enjoying Health
72. Stronger than the stronger
73. Battle for Wealth
74. Wealth Transfer
75. Maximum Protection
76. The Power to Be on Time
77. Power Activators
78. The Essence of Obedience
79. The Power of words

80. Planting a Branch Church
81. Power Dimensions (1)
82. The Power to Live Long
83. The Power to Deliver
84. The Power to Bless
85. Raising the Dead
86. The Power to Heal
87. The Power to Separate
88. The Power of Diligence
89. Financial Prosperity
90. Business Success
91. On Top
92. How to Live Long
93. Warfare for Long Life
94. The Hand of God
95. On Pornography
96. 11 Streams of Healing
97. Fresh Insight
98. Money Sense
99. The Power of Prophecies
100. High Fliers
101. Be Creative
102. No Limit
103. Understanding
104. Dealing with Impossibility
105. Highly Favored
106. You Can Prophecy
107. Expand

- 108. Entering into Fullness
- 109. 8 Kinds of Men
- 110. The Headship Anointing
- 111. God is with You
- 112. Church Formation
- 113. Ministers' Personal Development
- 114. Time-Planning
- 115. Manifesting Excellence
- 116. Your Reality Today (Yoreto)

