

VICTORY OVER AFFLICTION



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Preface

Many years ago, I noticed things were not going the way I expected. It was challenges after challenges and issues after issues. I was highly committed to work but no fruition. The worst of it was when I got into debt. During that season, my hope was shattered and nothing suggested that things would change totally.

One morning, I got into intense prayers demanding from the Lord to intervene in my matters. As I kept praying, my understanding was opened to see that I was being afflicted. The sufferings were much that the only thing I got daily was my daily food. I kept having big visions but no resources to execute it. It was very tough for me and couldn't identify the way out. The only way I knew was God, so I pressed in prayers. The moment God enlightened me that I was being afflicted, I never gave it a second thought to think but to get brutal in prayers against forces that were afflicting me. Glory to God for He granted me victory.

This book in your hand were the revelation God

gave me concerning afflictions after my prayers. Prior before then, I had been such that didn't pay attention to messages or teachings that has to do with afflictions or oppression. I would rather read books or listen to teachings that would build me intellectually rather than getting information about afflictions or oppressions. But the experience and the revelation God gave me showed that a man can be highly intellectual but heavily afflicted. It is affliction that will make a professor to be poor. I want to counsel you to trust the Lord to enlighten you concerning this. He will surely do. Trust Him and your eyes will be opened to see how to get victory over afflictions.

What Is Affliction?

Like I wrote in the preface, many years ago, I disciplined myself not to be familiar with certain words or get associated with people who have belief in those words. One of such words is “affliction”. To me, I used to think that those who use a word like affliction are those who don’t know who they are in Christ. But, after the Lord enlightened me, then, I knew how ignorant I had been over the years.

There are certain words that best explain the word affliction. Let’s examine few of those words:

1. Affliction means suffering – Suffering brings set back. Nobody pray to suffer. When you are not enjoying life, you are suffering.
2. Affliction means troubles – a life full of unwanted situations of life is in troubles. Trouble

brings unrest. When your heart is not at rest, then, there is trouble. You cannot be afflicted and not be troubled.

3. Affliction means hardship – when life become so hard that you find it difficult to eat what you desire, wear what you like, live comfortably, then, you are afflicted.
4. Affliction means pain – pain of the body caused by sicknesses or diseases. To be sick or diseased is to be afflicted.
5. Affliction means adversity – anyone going through any form of adversity in life is really afflicted.

It should be noted that affliction can be persistent. When suffering or anguish refuse to change, then, affliction has entered.

WHAT CAN BE AFFLICTED

1. A nation can be afflicted: Like the nation of Israel were afflicted in Egypt, an entire nation can be under the siege of affliction. When life becomes hard and tough for citizens of a country, then, it could be said that that nation is under affliction.
2. A family can be afflicted: There are family that people don't succeed till old age. They would

do everything but no success, that is affliction. Imagine a family where the firstborn till the fifth born couldn't get a wife to marry. For some unknown reason, there is no relationship they attempt to get into that would work out. How could mature men in their late forties and late thirties couldn't get women to marry. Their mother couldn't see them marry till she died. That is affliction. A pattern of affliction is when the same sickness that affected the parent begins to manifest in the lives of their children. That is affliction. There are individuals who suffer the same condition like debt, smallness that their parent suffered from.

3. An individual can be afflicted: A person can be under the siege of affliction. Let's check few individuals that were afflicted.

Joseph

Genesis 41:51-52

[51]Joseph called the name of the firstborn Manasseh: "For God has made me forget all my toil and all my father's house."

[52]And the name of the second he called Ephraim: "For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction."

We look at Joseph as a man who left his father house and was put into the pit. Do you realize that

after he was brought into Potiphar house, he was still taken out into the prison before he later into the palace? We would say it is a process but Joseph didn't see it as a process but affliction. The above verses reveal that right from the time Joseph stepped into Egypt, he didn't see process but affliction. Joseph saw Egypt as his land of affliction. He named his first son **Manasseh** which is, God has made me forget my suffering and the second **Ephraim** which means, God has made me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction.

Joseph saw all he went through as affliction. In other words, slavery was affliction. When you are serving when you should be served, you are under the siege of affliction. In the end, God gave Joseph victory over affliction. I want to believe that God is going to give you victory over your affliction.

David

Psalms 132:1

[1] Lord, remember David And all his afflictions;

We can see what David uttered. The man called David was known to be a mighty man. From the scripture, we can see that David was afflicted. Nowhere in scriptures did we see that David was possessed with a demon. Do you remember that David was called to play harp so that the distressing spirit afflicting Saul could leave? While Saul was

afflicted, David was called upon to deliver him from his affliction by ministering through sound. However, it should be seen that David himself needed to be deliver from affliction. Years ago, I came across a word that says “When the deliverer needs deliverance.”

This is an aspect that ministers of God really need to understand. You may be helping people out of their difficult situations but life just become hard and tough for you. I hope you know that David was anointed by Samuel to be king, yet with his anointing, he still called on God to deliver him from affliction. You may be anointed, yet afflicted. You know this statement can be contradictory but that is true. A grace preacher will preach against that but that is true. There are ministers of God that life is hard for because they are afflicted, yet anointed at the same time. Don't be deceived that you are going through a process in life when you are afflicted. I believe in process, but I also know that the devil can manipulate a person into affliction. You have to react against affliction and never tolerate it around your life. God is ready to take you higher this time.

Hannah

1 Samuel 1:11

[11]Then she made a vow and said, “O Lord of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of

Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head.”

This is the prayers of Hannah. In other word, barrenness to Hannah is not lack of child but affliction and she said God look upon my affliction. If your life is fruitless, that could be a signal that affliction is at work.

Job

Job 30:16,27

[16]“And now my soul is poured out because of my plight; The days of affliction take hold of me.

[27]My heart is in turmoil and cannot rest; Days of affliction confront me.

Job was heavily afflicted with sickness, rejection, poverty, etc. Job had no food, no work, no house, bad health, etc. Many things came up for Job but God helped him.

Paul the Apostle

This man was afflicted so much for the sake of the gospel. He went through many attacks, prisons, allegations and persecution because of the gospel. There are afflictions that comes for the sake of the gospel. It is such affliction that Paul counseled

Timothy to endure.

EXPLANATION ON 2 TIMOTHY 4:5

“But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”

The affliction Paul told Timothy to endure are not troubles of life or hardship of life. The affliction he told him to endure were troubles that comes for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is wrong of you to endure adversity that comes from the devil to make life difficult for you. The Egyptians afflicted the children of Israel because they were multiplying, not because they were serving God. So, if you are going through troubles, pains, hardship that isn't connected to the gospel, you had better rise up to pray.

MISTAKES CAN PRODUCE AFFLICTION

Psalms 119:67 says “Before I was afflicted, I went astray, but now I keep your word.”

There are people in adversity caused by them. Many hardship of life certain people go through were harvest of what they had done in the past. You have to be careful how you treat people, because if you ever make a decision or do something that will cause others to go through troubles in life, you will eventually reap it. You can't sow adversity into the

lives of others and not reap in one day.

Eight Signs of Affliction

There are certain pointers and indicators that show a person is under affliction. You can't be afflicted and assisted.

1. POVERTY

What is poverty? Poverty is a state of having little. A man in poverty is still better than a man in lack. A poor person isn't someone who doesn't have, but one who has little. Provisions are for the poor, but prosperity is for the rich. If you are still saying God should provide for you, you are still poor. The poor wants provision but the rich wants prosperity. The affliction of the Israelites affected their resources and feeding. They couldn't eat what they liked but whatever they are given. Your desire should be that God should take you out the level of expecting provisions to the level where you have abundance.

It's what you think regularly that you will see in your life. It is what you desire that will manifest. The reason you are poor is because you think provision more than prosperity. It is time you stop desiring provision to desire prosperity.

Job 36:15 says

[15]He delivers the poor in their affliction, And opens their ears in oppression.

God delivers by sending His word. He then opens their ears to hear things that will bring them out. As a believer, you don't have any demon or anything but you have poverty. If you are poor, you are under affliction. Whoever is poor, God can deliver the person. What we lack in the body of Christ is balance. All believers have been delivered from their sins. The moment you become a believer, that reality becomes real in your spirit but to get that at work in your life, you need to get the word of God.

Psalms 106:44 says,

[44]Nevertheless He regarded their affliction, When He heard their cry;

He delivers them out of affliction but you have to call on God first. Getting out of affliction is not automatic, you have to get into prayers. If affliction in your life manifest as poverty, you can pray to God. I know that many people, especially the intellectual speakers have said that the poor doesn't need to pray to God but to work. But I have seen many

hardworking people who are so poor. It is not work that prospers, it is God that prospers. If you are poor, you can call on God to change your situation. The prayer to God to give you prosperity isn't religious as some had taught, but a reality that has brought many out.

Proverbs 10:15 says

[15]The rich man's wealth is his strong city; The destruction of the poor is their poverty.

You don't need to get to hell before you are destroyed. If you are a poor believer, poverty will destroy you on earth. An unbeliever who is poor will be destroyed by poverty on earth and destroyed in the lake of fire in the end. Poverty is a destroyer. It destroys glory, honor, prosperity, etc. There is something that can hinder you from serving God. The man truly wants to serve God but there is a pressure that comes upon him that he won't be able. Poverty is a sign of affliction and the simple thing to do is to pray.

God Can Make You Rich

1 Samuel 2:6-8

[6]"The Lord kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and brings up.

[7]The Lord makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and lifts up.

[8]He raises the poor from the dust And lifts the

beggar from the ash heap, To set them among princes
And make them inherit the throne of glory. “For the
pillars of the earth are the Lord’s, And He has set the
world upon them.

Some people say you don’t need God to be rich. Well, from the scripture above, God makes poor and makes rich. God doesn’t make poor by giving poverty. No! God doesn’t give poverty because He has no poverty. God makes poor by not giving to the poor the insight, ideas and opportunity given to the rich. Should the poor be poor forever? No! God can make the poor rich. So, if you are poor today, you can become rich. God can make you rich.

Proverbs 10:22 says,

[22]The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, And
He adds no sorrow with it.

As believers, we have been blessed with all spiritual blessing in the book of Ephesians but it is called spiritual blessing not financial blessing. There is a blessing that make one rich financially. In your spirit, all the abundance of God is in your human Spirit. The blessing of God will come as ideas, access, people and change of environment. If someone is poor, it is a sign of affliction. Someone who is poor will always pass through consistent and persistent sufferings. It’s possible to have suffered in poverty for long and keep enduring poverty. If you keep enduring poverty, it won’t change. It’s the blessing

of the Lord that changes it. Poverty is a state of having little, a poor man still has but it is just that he has little. The poor man still eat, drink, can go anywhere but just that, what he has is little the little will make you suffer.

When you pray to God, He will make you rich. God will make you rich by putting His blessings upon your life. Refuse to be poor and trust God for His riches. He will make you rich.

2. LACK

Lack is superior to poverty. Poverty is a state of having little while lack is a state of having nothing. If you have little, you are poor, but if you have nothing, you are in lack. Poverty makes people borrowers while lack makes people beggars. The moment you discover that you have to beg before you eat, you are in lack and lack is a sign of affliction. I have seen people who sold all their properties till they had nothing. This is an aspect civil servant need to deal with. There are some that before the end of the month, they will always come to the state of nothing. Many would assume it is a normal thing for a salary earner to always come to that state, but the question is that for how long will that continue? That is the reason you should really desire God to bless you so that you can destroy lack. The poor who failed to deal with his poverty early will some come to lack.

3. DEBT

Poverty and lack will always lead to debt. If you have little or nothing and you need to do something, you will be forced to borrow what you need.

Poverty is having little; lack is having nothing but debt is actually having nothing to pay. Debt is not what you borrow but what you cannot pay. There is hope for a poor man than a debtor. A poor person does not have but a debtor cannot pay. A poor person who isn't owing any debt will have more peace than a debtor. A poor person needs to get out of poverty while a debtor need to get out from debt.

Debt brings shame, dishonor, reproach, humiliation and sorrow. Debt is superior to lack just as lack is superior to poverty. A person in lack is still better than a person in debt. When you don't have but you are not owing, your heart may still be at peace. But if you are owing, your heart will be far from peace. The devil can make both the poor and rich get into debt. I have seen rich people; blessed people get into debt they didn't plan for. Anytime you are in need of something, don't think of borrowing, think supernatural provision. If He leads you to go borrow like the wife of the dead prophet was instructed by Elisha, then, you can make the move.

Don't Borrow

Romans 13:8

[8]Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law.

Deuteronomy 15:6

[6]For the Lord your God will bless you just as He promised you; you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow; you shall reign over many nations, but they shall not reign over you.
Generosity to the Poor

When you were in Egypt, you can borrow. I hope you catch this but when you get to the promise land, you should not borrow. God didn't send the word to the Israelites when they were in promise land, He sent it to them before getting into the promise land. Henceforth, you should have the mindset that you won't borrow. You will never enter into the fullness of abundance until you sustain the mindset that you don't want to borrow.

There are some people that use debt to settle debt and they will keep doing that without knowing that the devil is trying to afflict them. The devil can also help you to multiply your affliction. Anytime God send his word, He has delivered you. You need to sustain the mentality that doesn't borrow. It takes faith and discipline not to borrow. Sometimes, if you don't discard the thought to borrow, you may lose a blessing God has planned for you.

God's intention and plans for you is to reign over many nations. A borrower cannot reign over

nations. You cannot reign over those you borrow from. Do you know that borrowing can destroy blessings? Debt creeps into people's life because they are not disciplined enough not to borrow. God wants you to rule over many nations but if you are a borrower, nations you should reign over will eventually reign over you.

Proverbs 22:7

[7]The rich rules over the poor, And the borrower is servant to the lender.

Borrowing will force you to serve for another. There are people you will respect not because you wanted to but just because you are owing them. If you don't want to be dishonored in your life, you have to avoid borrowing.

One of the ways Satan moves people into slavery is through borrowing. The devil can move you from lack into debt by making you to borrow. The evil there is that borrowing will always come as an opportunity but will eventually end up in shame. You have got to make up your mind that you will not borrow. Yes, don't borrow. Trust God to bless you abundantly and He will.

Deuteronomy 15:11

[11]For the poor will never cease from the land; therefore I command you, saying, 'You shall open your hand wide to your brother, to your poor and your needy, in your land.' The Law Concerning

Bondservants

If the poor would not cease in the land, must you be part? Borrowing is the afflicting strategy of moving someone from poverty into debt. If the devil wants to move someone from poverty into debt, he asks you to borrow. If you can borrow, you enter into debt.

David Prayed to God to Deliver Him

1 Samuel 22:1-2

[1]David therefore departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. So when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him.

[2]And everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him.

If you are very familiar with the Bible stories, you will find out that there are some people who went to meet David in the cave of Adullam. Scripture reveals that those who came to David were people that were in debt and distresses. Here was a man who was in affliction, yet afflicted people came to him. If you are a leader in the condition of David, you don't have to be discouraged, you just need to do what David did. It is insightful to know that David

prayed to God to deliver him out of affliction, but you will never see a place where those who came to him ever prayed to God to deliver them out of their situations.

Insight for Couples

Before you marry, please tell your wife or husband not to borrow. What God has joined together, let no man put asunder. The man shall cleave to his wife and become one. If the wife is in debt, the husband is in debt. For one of the couple to be in debt means both are in debt. Scriptures reveal we should cast our cares upon God for He cares for us. If you can hold on to the word of God that says He cares for us, you won't make attempt to borrow. Don't say it's your wife or husband that borrow. It is ignorance that makes you think the debt of your wife or husband can't affect you. Your understanding need to be opened to this simple truth.

The reason God sometimes didn't make provision is because you always source for provision for yourself. The way you source for provision for yourself is that you have some people in mind that you run to so as to help you.

Insight into 2 Kings 4:1

[1]A certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets cried out to Elisha, saying, "Your servant

my husband is dead, and you know that your servant feared the Lord. And the creditor is coming to take my two sons to be his slaves.”

There are certain insights in this scripture that we need to unveil about the man that died.

1. He was a prophet. That man was referred to as one of the sons of the prophet. That you are anointed doesn't mean the devil can't get you into debt.

2. He was a husband to a woman. If you get yourself into debt indirectly, you get your wife into debt indirectly.

3. He was not just a husband but a father. The fact that you are anointed doesn't mean you can't be in debt. He has two sons, has he not multiplied? The man multiplied in bearing children but also increased in debt.

4. He fears the Lord. You can fear the Lord and be in debt.

5. He died a debtor. How could a man of God die in debt?

The anointing of the Lord was upon him, the fear of the Lord was in his heart, he has a wife, he has children, yet he was in debt. What else did he want God to give him after he got a wife and children? He has favor to get a wife but died a debtor.

Here are the following points I observed again:

1. What the wife later did, the husband should have done. The wife went to meet Prophet Elisha.

Elisha knew the man as a prophet while alive, he didn't know he was a debtor. There are many people, especially ministers of God who are in debt, yet nobody know except their families. If you are in debt, it is better you don't hide it or seek to bear it alone, you should either run to God or open your mouth so that those that can help you can help you.

2. That you fear the Lord doesn't mean you can't die in debt. It is the application of revelation and instruction that will bring you out of debt. The Prophet asked the woman what do you have in your house, yet the woman said she had nothing. Revelations from God words or his Prophet will make you to know what to do without selling your property. It is amazing to know that the man had what could settle his debt in his house but because he didn't know, he died a debtor.

3. Debt will push you to sell your properties to pay debt but revelation from God will make you know what to do to get out of your debt. Never attempt to borrow money to settle debt, let God guide you and you will discover a way out of your debt.

4. Elisha said to the wife "Go borrow vessels" not "go borrow money". It is rare for God to lead you to borrow money to pay debt.

5. The wife obeyed and did as she was instructed. With obedience to divine instructions and application of principles, you will settle your debt and have

enough.

Why People Sell Properties to Settle Debts

Poverty or debt can make you to sell your properties. Debt is a stream of affliction. One of the ways a person is moved into affliction is through debt.

One day, a young man told me he sold his phone to get food to eat. After he spent that, he went to borrow money and accumulated so much debt. At another time, this same person said he wanted to sell his shoes. I thought what was wrong with him? You can't be in debt and live a normal life. Elisha said go borrow vessels not money. If God will ask you to go and borrow, it will be something you can borrow that will get you something.

4. OPPRESSION

When a person or a nation don't have a freedom like they desire, they are oppressed. To be oppressed is to be in bondage. When you don't have the freedom or right expression to carry out what you desire for some unknown reasons, then, you are oppressed.

Exodus 2:23

[23]Now it happened in the process of time that the king of Egypt died. Then the children of Israel groaned because of the bondage, and they cried out; and their cry came up to God because of the

bondage.

When you are not free to make a plan or decision you are oppressed. You may have plans, but if you find it difficult to execute, you are oppressed. Regular sicknesses are a sign of oppression. When a person works so hard but got little, it is oppression. Oppression limit people from soaring higher.

5. LACK OF HELPERS

Lack of helpers has brought heavy hardship to the lives of many.

Psalms 72:12

[12]For He will deliver the needy when he cries,
The poor also, and him who has no helper.

There are three categories of people - the needy, the poor, those who have no helpers.

How will He deliver them? They will cry to Him. Anytime God wants to show Himself in your life, He will send a helper to you to represent Him. If you have no helper in life, you will suffer. That is the reason you should call on God to send helpers to you.

Who Is a Helper?

A helper is someone sent to your life to make things easier or possible for you. Anytime God wants to show Himself in your life, He will send a helper to you. If you have no helper, you have to

call on God.

Helpers differs. Israelites needed Moses while Peter needed the church to get into prayers. The wife of the Prophet needed Elisha. Joseph needed a Chief Butler. You are where you are today because you have no helper.

You will continue to experience difficulty in certain areas when there are no helpers. Your helpers are already on earth, they just need to take their responsibility.

Discerning Helpers

Your understanding need to be opened to discern your helpers. Sometimes, people God sent to you to help you won't appear as your helpers because they won't write it on their forehead. In fact, they themselves will just show up in your life and may not know that they have been sent into your life to help you. When the person shows up, will you be able to recognize the person?

Sometimes when God wants to send a helper your way, God will put that helper in a problem, He will now put his help in your own hand so you can help the person. You may think you are the real helper, but in reality, that person is the real helper. When people are in problem or challenges, don't despise them because God has actually done you a favor by being their first helper.

Sometimes, nothing would have made you come across them, it is their problem that will become the connectivity line. One of the trainings you must learn to give to yourself is to never look down on anybody. Recently, a man of shared that he traveled to Australia. He saw a family of about six staying in one room. He was shocked because he knew this family in the 80s. The preacher said in the 80s, he and his wife were staying in one room and they needed some financial help, so he went to this man who was comfortable and very rich to help him. The preacher said the man said, you need my help but you said you believe in Jesus, so tell your Jesus to help you. The preacher left in shame. The preacher was Bishop Tudor Bismack. He said the challenges and toughness continued like that for about seven years, then, after a time, God brought them out gradually in the ninth year, and things change tremendously.

Eighteen years after, the man of God was invited to preach in Australia and he came across the rich man that insulted him to tell his Jesus to help him. That man was now broke and couldn't believe what God has suddenly lifted Bishop Tudor. Bishop wanted to tell him his Jesus had done it, but didn't. The man took Bishop Tudor Bismarck to his house and said bishop I need your help, so Bishop Tudor Bismarck and his wife decided to package something for him. Bishop Tudor Bismarck said something that

struck my heart that he could have done more than what they did, if he had helped them that year. The fact is you are the one that will later need help. The point is, when your helper shows up, you need to discern and not be blinded by their situations.

God must grant you understanding to discern quickly because God is where he is and will always send people to represent Him to you. You need to trust God to recognize your helpers.

2 Kings 14:26 says “For the Lord saw the affliction of Israel was very bitter, and whether they bond or free, there was no helper for Israel.

One of the ways to know affliction is in a life is the absence of helpers. If there are no people to really help you, life will be difficult for you. God’s help comes through men. Men are vehicles of God’s help. Israel was afflicted because they had no helper.

Psalms 72:12 says “He will deliver the needy when He cries, the poor and him with no helper.”

If you have no helper, you should call on God. God will come as a helper through a person. Your prayers should be that God should send his help to you from the north, south, west and east, from above and abroad. Intense prayers for help will cause His help to be released on you.

Pray for Help

You are where you are today because there is

no or few helpers. If you have anointing, gift and vision but lack helpers, you will suffer. Thank God for vision, wisdom, anointing but pray to God for helpers. Don't pray to God for helpers, pray to Him to send multitude of helpers to you.

6. BARRENNESS

The barren should pray. We don't know how long Hannah had been praying but one day she prayed right. Prayer can cause God to end barrenness in your life.

Barrenness is lack of children. The state of not giving birth can be changed in prayers. Barrenness bring pains and troubles. 1 Samuel 1:11 reveals Hannah prayed and acknowledge that she was afflicted.

Psalms 22:24 reveals that God will not neglect the affliction of the barren when He prays to God. If you are barren, don't pray casually to God. Be intense in prayers and God will hear you.

7. MANIPULATION

It means to control someone in a dishonest way. A case study is between Jacob and Laban. He was to be given a wife after serving for seven years but was manipulated and given another woman overnight. There are many people who have been victims of demonic manipulations.

8. DEMOTION

It means to bring someone to lower rank or position. There are people who every time they rise to a higher level, they will be eventually brought down. If you find yourself going backward in life after you make a little progress, then, you are under affliction.

Psalms 107:39

[39]When they are diminished and brought low through oppression, affliction, and sorrow,

From the above scripture affliction can bring someone so low.

HOW AFFLICTION DEMOTES

1. Affliction would make you keep useless relationships.

Affliction will make you keep useless relationship that will keep bringing you down. I want you to reflect if you are not passing through what you are passing through now, will you be relating with some people? If you have gone beyond this level or the promises of God has come to fulfillment in your life, will you still keep the friendship you have?

There are some people you know that there is no connection of destiny between you and them, but affliction can make you keep useless relationship. If the Lord blesses you and you are lifted high, you

won't keep such relationship. There are people you know that your heart has disconnected with but for fear of what you may lose if you no longer relate with them, you will continue to be their friend. When the yoke of affliction fall off your neck, you will no longer relate with some people.

2. Affliction would make you sleep where you should not sleep.

There are many under the bridge who are under heavy affliction. People sleep in places they shouldn't sleep because they are afflicted. Affliction will make you struggle to have your own personal house.

3. Affliction will make you eat whatever you see or given.

When affliction has battered a man's life, if you ask him what he will eat, he will tell you anything. Affliction will make you eat whatever you see. An afflicted man doesn't have option or choices of food.

4. Affliction will make you do jobs below your status.

When you find it difficult to get quality jobs, affliction has come in.

5. Affliction will make you turn to strangers and scoffers for help.

Go and study the word scoffer. Never in your life relate with anyone called a scoffer. A scoffer can hinder your blessings.

Psalms 1:1-3

[1]Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful;

[2]But his delight is in the law of the Lord, And in His law he meditates day and night.

[3]He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper.

The presence of a scoffer in your life can make you not to prosper. A scoffer will pull you out where God has planted you. There are some people that God has planted in your life but the presence of a scoffer will chase them. I tell you, if you have been afflicted you can still decide to keep a scoffer.

The challenge or the mistake here is that people go to people for help instead of going to God first for help. If you go to God for help, He will help you willingly.

THE MISTAKE OF MANY

1. Too many people run to humans to help them when they haven't run to God to deliver them out

of their afflictions.

If human keep helping you when you are under satanic oppression, you will always end up in your former state. The siege of affliction has to be over in your life before you seek help from men.

2. Too many cry, lament and regret they belong to their family.

This happens when people begin to compare their families to other families. That you are born in a poor family isn't the problem, your mentality is the problem. Where you are born doesn't determine where you will end. Rather than crying or lamenting about the family you belong, why not call on God to turn your situation around.

3. Too many blame the government of their country.

In a country some are complaining about the government, there are many others who are appreciating the government. Leave the caucus of those who complain against God and focus on your life.

4. Too many keep hoping change will come.

You have to react against that unbearable situation.

5. Too many people think about materials and monetary as their way out.

Too many people think life is hard on them be-

cause they lack money. Well, sometimes, what you lack isn't money but the right thought of abundance or provision. The point is that you don't lack money. Lack is not absence of money but absence of knowledge. David suffered but Solomon didn't. You should trust God to take you to a level where your children will not experience sufferings. Rather than thinking about what you lack, why not get into prayers and step into actions as shown or instructed so as to activate your answers.

God's Recommendation to Break out of Affliction

The first thing I need you to understand is that a believer can be afflicted. Let's get this straight – in Christ Jesus, nothing can afflict you but as long as you are on earth, affliction may creep in if you don't resist it. It is established that affliction means sufferings, hardship, adversity, etc. That you are a believer doesn't mean you can't suffer or pass through hardship. God's plan for His children is not suffering, it is the devil that always bring in that. That is why a believer shouldn't just sit there claiming he can't be suffer. The point is that a believer shouldn't suffer, but a believer can suffer. So, if anyone is suffering or afflicted, there is a recommendation from God to break out of that affliction.

James 5:13

[13]Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms.(KJV)

James 5:13

[13]Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. (NKJV)

The Bible doesn't put us in the dark as to the fact that a believer can suffer or go through affliction. I hope you know that the book of James is a New Testament epistle. You know some preachers in an attempt to defend their claim that a believer cannot suffer have said that the book of James wasn't written to believers but to the Jews. What an error is that? Well, if that claim would be accepted, then, we should say that the Jews should not read some of the epistles Paul wrote to the churches because the churches he wrote to were not Jewish people but the Gentiles.

Ministers of God need to be careful how they ignorantly defend their claims using several logical ideologies from scriptures to defend their claims. Don't be deceived. James wrote to believers – whether Jews or Gentiles – they are believers in Christ Jesus. James understood that a believer can be afflicted. Yes, a Christian can suffer hardship. But the insight is that a believer shouldn't continue to suffer hardship. When hardship wants to come in, a believer has been given a recommendation so as to break out of all forms of sufferings and adversity.

The recommendation from God's word to anyone suffering or going through hardship of life is to pray. In fact, if you are going through some form of pain, all you need to do is to call on God. So, are you suffering? If yes, don't look for one rich man to help you. The recommendation to you is to pray. If you are experiencing some form of pain in your body and you are not pleased with it, then, do what the scripture recommend – simply pray. The afflicted is told to pray to God. And when you pray, God will surely answer you.

Are you in debt and covered with shame already? If yes, you've got to rise up to pray. Do you find it difficult to eat what you desire? Then, rise up to pray. You know intellectual capacity will tell you to work hard when going through some adversity or challenges, but the fact is that some adversity can't be solved by getting a job or hard work, you have to call the intervention of God so you can be delivered from anything attempting to limit you.

I want you to know that there are people who are eating in plenty and getting satisfied. So, if you are not eating in plenty and not getting satisfied, then, you have got to pray to God to turn your situation around. It is through prayers that God will break forces of adversity and oppression over your life. Don't be deceived, there are powers that keep people small, poor and make life hard. This

is what many poor professors need to understand. You can be highly educated and wallow in suffering. What is the essence of education when you can't live comfortably? You have got to rise up and call on God to intervene in your situation. And surely, He will do. Are you afflicted, then, pray.

TO TRULY WIN IN LIFE, YOU MUST PRAY

You have to understand that prayer is for winning. You can win over adversity or hardship through prayers. Prayers gives you authority over the inflicted affliction by satan. Those who understand prayers know that it is the greatest weapon to control earthly affairs.

Why do some people claim they pray but couldn't get result? You need to know that it is only earnest and heartfelt prayers that are answered. Heartfelt prayers such as Elijah prayed in James 5:16-18 is what compel lasting results. God is ever ready to answer all you ask in his name and according to his word (John 16:14, 23).

As a believer, don't wait for the devil to strike before you pray, you should always be ahead of him – 1 John 3:8. You must always be on both the defensive and offensive. You've got to regularly be such that will become a "no go area" to the devil.

Our God is a prayer answering God. He speaks according to His size. All you have to do is to

present the situation to Him. According to Jeremiah 29:11-13, God has plans for your life. But the plans of God for your life may not be actualized until you pray. The door to a glorious destiny are already open to you, but you will only access them through prayers. I want you to know that a prayerful Christian is a winning Christian. To prevail in prayers against adversity and affliction, you must be effectual, earnest and never give up till you see your desire. Those who stop in the middle of prayer lose the battle in the process of life. Prayer is the key to clear any resistance to your open door.

SCRIPTURAL EXAMPLE OF THOSE WHO PRAYED WHEN AFFLICTED

1. David

Psalm 102:1-28 reveals the prayer of David. David prayed to God when in affliction. Many people know the singing David but failed to know the praying David.

In Psalm 102:2 says “In the day that I call, answer me speedily...”

Do you see that the afflicted David prayed for speedy answer? You don't just desire answer to come speedily. No! You have to rise in prayers to get answers to come speedily. Many are wishing things to change, sorry, nothing will change until you rise

up to pray.

2. Jonah

Jonah 2:2

[2]And he said: “I cried out to the Lord because of my affliction, And He answered me. “Out of the belly of Sheol I cried, And You heard my voice.”

The story of Jonah showed that you can pray anywhere. Jonah prayed in the belly of the fish and God answered him. When Jonah was in trouble, he called on God to deliver him and God spoke to the fish to vomit him. If you have been swallowed by anything in life, with prayers, you will move God to command such situation to vomit you.

THE RIGHTEOUS NEED TO CATCH THIS

Psalm 37:28 says “I have been young and now I am old, I have never seen the righteous forsaken...”

And according to 2 Cor. 5:21, all believers have been made the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. As long as you are in Christ, you are righteous.

Psalm 34:19 reveals that many are the afflictions of the righteous but the Lord delivers him out of them all. Evidently, the righteous can be afflicted. So, why do some preachers claim a believer cannot be afflicted? If you say a believer cannot be afflicted, then, check what the Bible has to say about the great apostle who wrote some of the epistle you read.

2 Timothy 3:10-11 reveals that “The Lord delivered Paul out of all his afflictions.”

If Paul went through affliction, why do you say a believer can't go through afflictions. The afflictions of Paul were troubles on all sides but God delivered him. But I hope you know that Paul prayed. Do you also know that Paul acknowledged that some churches were praying for him?

Do you know there are troubles, afflictions and adversity that arise for the word sake? Mark 4:17 reveals that affliction can arise for the sake of the word.

Both believers and unbelievers can be afflicted. But there is a way of escape for the believer which is to pray. God didn't tell unbelievers to pray when they are in affliction. That provision is only meant for the believers. Ministers of the God need to know that God comforts us so we can comfort others (2 Cor. 1:4).

Paul reveals that our light afflictions which is but for a moment is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory (2 Cor. 4:17-18). Whatever you are going through will end up causing a weight of glory that is beyond your generation, time and this world to manifest in your life.

Isaiah 48:10 reveals that God tests you in the furnace of affliction. Whatever you are going through

is just a test.

FOUR THINGS YOU SHOULD BE CONSCIOUS OF WHEN AFFLICTED

1. God's presence – Isaiah 43:2

You may pass through waters, rivers and fire, God already assures you that He will be with you. Regardless of the situation, you have to know that God is with you. In affliction, the only thing you may receive from God may be His presence.

2. God's promises – Psalm 119:49-50

God's word is your comfort in affliction. You must know how to meditate and praise God for the promises He has given you. God knew affliction would come, so He gave you the word – promises – ahead so you have hope. People don't have hope when going through affliction because they don't have God's promises in them. To despise God's promises to you is to despise your hope in time of affliction.

3. Prayers – James 5:13

When afflicted, don't think of who to help you, rather, quickly run to God in prayers. If people are not helping you, take your mind off it, run to God in prayers.

4. Praises – Isaiah 49:13

God will have mercy on the afflicted. But there is a recommendation to activate that mercy. Scripture says you should sing and be joyful. You pray to get out of your affliction, you praise to activate God's mercy.

YOU PRAY TO BE PATIENT

Most people prayed but destroy their answer through their word. It takes time for things to form in the physical world. If the barren pray to God that God should give her a child, it takes nine months for her to have her baby. Whatever you have prayed for and you sure know that God has answered, be patient to get the manifestation. A sign of patience is that you continue praising God for the answer that is coming your way.

AFFLICTION SHALL NOT ARISE AGAIN THE SECOND TIME

Nahum 1:9 says "... Afflictions will not rise up a second time."

Actually, that scripture was God's speaking to Nineveh that He would destroy them once. But if you are to receive that prophetically, it means when your affliction is over, it will not rise up again. As you pray against your trouble, believe that it will be settled and will not rise again. That is why you

should take prayers seriously now.

UNDERSTANDING ISAIAH 30:19-21

If you read this passage, you will see bread of adversity and waters of affliction. What is the meaning of these words? The bread of adversity and waters of afflictions are simply food given to you when in troubles just to preserve your life. In other words, this is what you are given and not satisfied.

Scripture says the Lord will be gracious to you. The Lord will be gracious to you at the sound of your cries (prayers) to him.

SIGNS OF BREAKTHROUGH OUT OF AFFLICTION

1. God will speak to people about you to help you.
e. g. Moses in Exodus 3:7
2. You will see the speedy response to your prayers. E.g. Hannah in 1 Samuel 1:19
3. God will create a problem only your wisdom, counsel, anointing, gift can solve. E.g. Joseph in Genesis 41:38
4. God will rebuke men for your sake. E.g. Jacob in Genesis 31:24
5. God will speak to things for your sake like He spoke to the fish. E.g. Jonah in Jonah 2:10
6. God will open your eyes to see your teachers

(Isaiah 30:20).

7. God will give you instruction. You will hear a voice behind you. (Isaiah 30:20, Psalm 94:12).



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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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
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35. 20 Facts about the Human Spirit
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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
67. Shining like the Sun
68. 30 Channels of Wealth
69. Breaking into Laughter
70. The Power to Dominate
71. Enjoying Health
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73. Battle for Wealth
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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-Flyers
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
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