

THE GREAT HERITAGE

(A biblical account of children)



*adapted from Jeffery Opoku's
classic "the crying blood of
an aborted child"*

Jeffery Opoku

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Accra, Ghana



Unless otherwise stated, all scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version of the bible.

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The Great Heritage (a biblical account of children)

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to the second person of the
Triune God, JESUS Christ, Who is my Shepherd,
My Brother, My Friend, My Prophet, My Priest, My
King, My Lord, My Life, My Way and My End

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PREFACE

We evangelicals of contemporary times have an ostensibly fine saying. With this saying, we somewhat assault the personality and the Deity of God and abuse the so-called weaker brethren who have learnt to count on none other than God. Though this saying sounds very religious, it is in reality a secular jargon of which I implore the sons and daughters of the new creation to throw down with every fleeting breath of theirs as though they had seen the very altars of Baal or the image of Dagon.

That so-called wise saying goes this way, “The days of MANNA are over.” Men and women standing on lofty intellectual peaks have it in different version by which they do not only contribute their voice to this popular brouhaha but also exhibit their proficiency in the English language with which they settle men in the class of illiteracy.

It gets more disappointing when Christian leaders in the circles of impeccable orthodoxy betray the trust of the Lord God of Abraham in making that so called saying a part of systematic theology.

I well know the number of smooth arguments they can marshal in support of this great misleading. Do not we seek to salvage men from slothfulness and fooleries? Have you not heard the new catchphrase,

“No pain, no gain”? And who today will have bread on his table without first suffering or sweating for it? These are the arguments along many other frivolous still which are brought forward to give an appearance of rationality and reality to what they say.

It sounds sweet and convincing in the ears but very bitter in the heart of the regenerated human spirit of which faith alone can diagnose and remedy.

That saying can't be true and I fear it has no scriptural accreditation. The days of manna are never over. MANNA still falls from heaven.

What do I mean by that, Prophet? I mean it is God that gives you those timely visions and bestows upon you that marvelous wisdom to encrypt and decrypt spiritual messages (both the plaintext and cipher text) though you are not a number theorist or an RSA cryptosystem. They never sprung from you. For what hast thou that thou didst not receive? And if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it, Prophet? I mean tell the congregation that the visions you see and the prophecies you give are just your portion of God's daily bread and that your own body (senses) never manufactured them. Tell them you are nothing and very little without the grace of God. That is what I mean Prophet.

What do I mean, Evangelist? I mean the souls you claim to have won into the kingdom are not from you; neither did their conversion happen through your eloquent and fair speeches of which you boast. They are all MANNA from heaven and God gave them. So enough of the intimidation and the insult you have been drizzling on your poor pastor and how that you psychologically threaten to get those converts out of the church when he refuses to succumb to your antics in a board meeting. The reason why he has every moral right to resist you is because you didn't manufacture nor give them (the converts) to the church. It is the Chief Shepherd that gave them all. That is what I mean Evangelist. Please do well to appreciate it and admit for once that you are wrong.

What do I mean, Bishop? I mean stop making salvation so expensive to the sinner by preaching sanctification before justification. I mean tell the sinner that a redeemer has died and the portion of bread (or should we say MANNA) that falls unto him is eternal salvation if only he believes and surrenders everything to He who died and rose triumphantly on the third day. Tell them to only believe and their faith in Him would be counted for righteousness. Tell them that faith is and is the only necessary condition for justification and that they need not depend on works to obtain that justification. I mean tell them to only "look unto Jesus" as the "whole propitiation for their

sins” and they would be found in him and also receive the righteousness which is of God by faith. That is what I mean Bishop.

Brothers, what do I mean? I mean God still rains down conveniences upon people. I mean there can be many gains without the slightest pain. I mean you don't have to frame up figures on the balance sheets and lie to an oath before the Judgment debt committee just in your quest for bread. I mean you don't have to busy yourself as the tables of sines and tangent attempting to outsmart the intelligence of the private auditor. I mean you are of more value than many sparrows. And if sparrows neither sow nor reap but are still fed by God, shall not He then give you your daily MANNA, O you of little faith. That is what I mean brothers.

All I mean is MANNA still falls from heaven. Even Our LORD and Saviour Jesus fell as MANNA to us. “I am the living bread which came down from heaven . . .”, said He with all articulacy. John Newton in his wonderful hymn even sang of His name this way:

How sweet the name of Jesus
Sounds in a believer's ear!
It soothes his sorrows heal his
Wounds and drives away his fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole
And calms the troubled breast;

**Tis MANNA to the hungry soul
And to the weary rest.**

God is still in the business of raining down blessings upon people. He did it before and He still does it. He is the Substance of all things, and is in Himself unchangeable and immoveable. For Himself has said, "I AM THE LORD, I CHANGE NOT . . ." As he was in the days of Adam, so is He now in our days. He never changes. It is rather His nature, supremacy, attributes and sufficiency that changes things. He is the GREAT I AM and the One Unchangeable.

Therefore to ridicule the providing power of God with such a saying is to denounce the validity and authenticity of God's miraculous power in nobler times.

And to this point it is clear, that the MANNA of which I speak is not that bread God rained on our forefathers with all the semblance of a coriander seed, tasting very much like wafers made with honey. When I speak of MANNA, I only speak of the effortless gifts we receive from God by reason of his manifold mercies towards us.

God can virtually embarrass us with any of such gifts or necessities so to speak. Some even pray that these very gifts be taken away from them. An example is that furious man who went on his knees and prayed

to God to gently take away his life from him. He felt God was embarrassing him with breath (one of life's greatest gifts) of which he implored the Giver of Life Himself to take it gently away from Him not wanting to commit suicide. He felt his life was a great mistake.

To feel embarrassed by a gift of God is weak-willed nature and to such weaker souls, God pardons every time. But if there is ever one gift God will never embarrass us with, then it is children or the fruit of the womb. He can drop money from the skies to men, but he doesn't drop children from the skies to us.

He always allows us to ask for them first before releasing them: a kind of asking where one is ineligible to ask save two under a mutual contract on bed. When no one asks for them through sex (the procreative prayer), he makes no release of them. So the fact that children are with us today, means that in one way or the other, they were requested for. We asked for them, God did not force them on us.

But rather unfortunately, these precious heavenly gifts have suffered a great deal of violence since the days of Adam. We kill them, We abuse them, We torture them and also fasten upon them many reproachful terms. The reason for these great and abnormal defects, I guess, is because there are not enough portraits in current evangelical circles painted

by Apostles and Prophets, to speak the mind of God on their behalf.

Another reason for this defect is simply a libel on their moral character. Many nourish their minds with ill-thoughts of them and conceive them in the heart to be something other than what they really are.

These wrong notions about them have always being the fountain from which the polluted waters of abortion (and other evils done against them) flow.

But you would well agree with me that they will all dissipate into thin-air with disgraceful smoke if they are brought anywhere near the Fire of Him who consumes the meat and the unleavened cakes upon rocks and altars.

Perhaps, they will even be burnt into ashes if some Bible teachers amongst us would stand and instruct as watchmen both in written and spoken words. But hardly would anyone stand let alone instruct. It is of this predominant deficiency that I am motivated to mount this design.

The whole configuration of this book is to unravel the mystery behind these heavenly gifts (from the perspective of the scriptures) and to encourage the brethren in prizing them properly.

I believe nothing in this book will be found contrary to sound doctrine and all who wade through its pages would find nothing other than sublime devotion and chivalrous attraction to the infants God sends down to us.

Nothing here is new except in the sense that it sprung from an inward inspiration of the Holy Ghost.

I can also say that many who lived before me have presented much insightful and deeper exposés than I have here. Though it might not be powerful enough to kindle light in any mortal soul nor rend the garment of any troubled man, I trust that there may be some who would see the Light of Christ at its gentle warmth.

Jeffery Opoku
Accra. April, 2014

FOREWORD FROM THE PUBLISHER

This book is adapted from one of Jeffery's first titles; *the crying blood of an aborted child*. It happens to be one of the first titles he wrote in his teen years and he consistently preached it with much passion. He is one person of great love for children. He personally believes that a country, an institution or a church which has no children or lacks godly children has no future at all.

The reason for this adaptation is simply to quicken the engines to productive work that lay asleep for centuries in failing to manufacture godly and unfeigned love for children.

It is also intended to turn the turbines of the heart to generate light for the human soul in order to well appreciate the substance of children and to accept them which ever way they come.

It is my hope that this small book will instruct many unstable hearts and bring many minds and souls into divine confinements which are at this moment contemplating abortion.

Should also a few persons reading it be motivated to receive and accept children (or better still

pregnancies) as a gift that God gives and as a faithful reward, it will more than repay the efforts required to produce it.

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Chapter 1

THAT AMAZING GIFT

“Lo; children are a gift from God and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.”

Psalm 127:3-5

As the scripture above says, children are a heritage of the Lord and are a great reward from Him as well. They are a category of people God loves to be with the most. He is also very particular about them. They are very special to Him and based on that, he only gives them out as His special heritage and reward to His sons and daughters.

Despite the fact that they all come in different ways and under different conditions, they are still a blessing from the Most High to us.

Irrespective of how children are born and irrespective of the circumstances surrounding their birth, they are

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still a reward from God to us. By which ever means a child may come; whether by fornication, incest, rape or whatever, they are still a heritage and a reward from God. He pioneers their existence. He gives them to his people as a reward and a gift and not to bring them shame. They are a blessing and not a curse. They are also meant to bring us honor and not dishonor.

They are never given to us by God to disgrace us or to bring us ignominy as we sometimes think. According to the scriptures, they are mainly a gift and a heritage from God and they are meant to put smiles on our face other than tears. Their worth can never be measured. They can't also be quantified in monetary terms: they are inestimable; they can't be bought at any price.

As verse 5 of Psalm 127 explicitly says, "Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them." That man might not necessarily have material wealth to show forth as the fruit of his living, but he having them alone by his side is enough to show him forth as a rich, wealthy or a gifted man.

Their existence alone is enough to confound critics, silence accusers, hypnotize mockers and also put to shame enemies. By them by your side, you will have all the boldness to speak to the enemy in the gate. Isn't this amazing?

That Amazing Gift

These little ones become more terrifying to the enemy when their infant lips and tender hearts are able to call and believe on God respectively.

They are indeed a great heritage and a wonderful creation: they restore peace into homes, churches, and ministries. Their presence, participation and involvement alone can revive dead churches and also bring tremendous growth to them.

There is no way a man, a church, a ministry or a couple will have them around and be sad. Because the bible has clearly said "**Happy is the man** that hath his quiver full of them." A country full of them shall always be happy and a church full of them shall in no wise lack growth and happiness.

Receiving them is like receiving Jesus and turning your back on them is also just like denying Jesus. "And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me" (Matthew 18:5).

Opening avenues for children to come in to us is an open invitation for Jesus to come in to us. I believe He is more bonded to them than we the mature ones.

As far as I am concerned, they are the greatest gift a person can ever receive from God. They are a symbol (or should we say a token) of his love. When He so

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loved the world (the human race) as John accounts to us, what he gave us was his son, I mean a child, a little boy in a manger. From that little child Jesus came all the eternal blessings we enjoy and seek to enjoy. Children indeed are the greatest gift God ever dropped and drops down to humanity.

Throughout the bible and History, we see the frustrations and vacuums created by their absence in the lives of great men and women of God.

Abraham with all his wealth, fame, reputation and even relationship with God was unhappy and sorrowful because he didn't have a child of his own. He desperately needed a child - a heritage of the LORD - and was in great fear of losing everything he labored for to his servant, Eleasar. So he asked God saying, ". . . what shall you give me seeing I go childless"

He came to a point in life where he was willing to give up everything he had just for a child. It is therefore of no big surprise to us when the call for the sacrifice of that son was resounded in his ears. God only sought to verify from Abraham whether he still treasured and loved Him above his son.

Not wanting to delve much into the latter end of that transaction, the inference we can draw from the

That Amazing Gift

inauguration of that story is that, he was a man of great love for his son.

We can also speak of the frustrations and the pressures of women like Rachel, Hannah and Elizabeth.

Rachel with all the boldness of a Caesar declared to Jacob and implicitly to God, “. . . give me a child or I die” (Gen 15:3).

Hannah also under the pressure of her rivals made this promise to God, “. . . if you will indeed look on . . . and give unto your handmaid a male child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life” (1 Sam 1:11).

Elizabeth also under great discouragement gave up her confidence.

Personally, I think it should have been enough for these great men and women of God to be happy and to enjoy their blessings and wealth without thinking the least about having children of their own. But it wasn't so. Their hearts were tugged towards insecurity and night of sorrows and weeping, not having children of their own. The reason, I guess, is because they knew the worth of children and were

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not ready the least to stand the barrenness created in their life by their absence.

Children indeed are a heritage and a great reward from the Lord. Let's keep them whichever way they come and I can assure you that the blessedness will follow in no time.

Chapter 2

SUPERNATURAL GRACE ON THE LIPS OF A CHILD

“. . . Fear not; for God hath heard the voice of the lad where he is”

Genesis 21:17

“Out the mouth of babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength because of thine enemies, that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.”

Psalm 8:2

The infant lips of children carry tremendous power, supernatural grace and ordained strength that is capable of stilling and mystifying the enemy and the avenger. They can provoke the Heavens to an instant work and also cause a mega shift in the supernatural with just their little and inexperienced lips.

With their simple prayers also, the whole counsels of the enemy are frozen and disabled. God capitalizes on their prayers a lot to overthrow satanic devices and accessories. They are blessed with a prophetic

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utterance. He cherishes their prayers and listens to them a lot.

Ooh! If only we will humble ourselves and sometimes solicit for the prayers of these little ones, we will save ourselves from going through needless pains and carrying unusual burdens.

I once heard a testimony of a woman who was diagnosed of breast cancer. According to her, she would always shut herself up in a room and weep for fear that she would die. This woman endeavored very much to keep the news and her secret tears from her only daughter. Her situation kept on deteriorating with time and her hope of survival also was fast passing like a shadow.

Her greatest fear was to die and leave her child behind in much sorrow. She would spend all the night crying and praying for mercy and healing.

On one auspicious day, her daughter came back from school, entered her mother's room, only to see her in a lethargic state with streams of tears drenching down her lean cheeks. The girl flinched and out of depression and sadness, moved slowly towards her mother to inquire of the problem. Slowly wiping the tears off her mother's eye, she also began to cry.

Supernatural Grace on the Lips of a Child

At this particular juncture, the mother deemed it necessary to let out the problem to her little girl. There was nothing to hide anymore.

She began lamenting, “My daughter, I’ve been diagnosed of breast cancer and according to the doctor my case is so bad that the diseased breast has to be cut off. I’m in great fear of loosing both my life and yours.”

“I don’t think I will make it. It is obvious I’m going to die”, she tearfully conjectured.

“No! you are not going to die mother”, the child tearfully interpolated.

I suppose it was a very bad day for both mother and daughter. Mother wept for fear that she would die and leave her little angel behind. And daughter also wept for fear of losing a wonderful mother.

But after sometime of weeping, this little girl gathered enough courage (or should we say momentum) and faith and asked for mummy’s permission to say a prayer for her. I wonder how soothing that might have sounded in the ears of a dying mother.

The doctor had given up on her and I presume everyone around her did. But fortunately for her, the

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hope and aspirations her daughter had in her were still intact and alive: she believed her mum would make it and not die. After her mom had shown her the diseased breast, she gently placed her tiny hands on the breast and then said a simple but a tearful prayer for her. I trust her words did not even sum up to fifteen and frankly speaking, many of us are even at great risk of looking upon such prayers with contempt.

But surprisingly, the next moment this woman went to the hospital to pick up her medication, she was taken through further screening of which the result came out negative. The result proved her a breast cancer free patient. The doctor also confirmed the complete disappearance of the lump. She has completely been healed.

What a miracle! She quickly remembered and said, "My daughter prayed for me" This is how powerful and prophetic the tongue of these little ones can be.

It is always a blessing to have godly children around your home, school, ministry and church. Their lips are initiated and baptized into power. Indeed like the scripture said, "**Happy is the man** that has his quiver full of them." They will have all that boldness to speak to the enemy in the gate. Clearly, the gate of which the Bible refers to is not that one with all the modern securities leading to a little mansion. It is

Supernatural Grace on the Lips of a Child

undoubtedly, the gate of frustrations, the gate of sicknesses, the gate of spiritual barrenness and the like. It is in these gates that we will have the boldness to speak to the enemy when these little ones are by our side.

Every church or ministry with a strong children department is a solid and a growing church. In the same way also, every country with a high dependency burden (I mean many children) has a blessed and revived economy.

It is rather unfortunate that many individuals and churches seeking increase have shut their doors to them.

Yes I agree they can't give heavy offerings or tangible assistance to the church. But the secret is that, they can give something more than that; something more valuable. Their prayers alone are enough to cause revivals and revolutions in churches.

If only the church will humble itself on certain occasions and call on these little ones to intercede on their behalf, they will be surprise of the mega change that will take place.

Think how pleasant it will be in the ears of God for a child to go on his or her knees to pray on behalf of the

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church. Trust me, my dear friends, that prayer will never go unanswered.

They are a great reward not only to their parents but also to all who accept them. *“Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: **they shall not be ashamed...**”*

It is always a blessing to have them around you. Never see them as a burden, a curse or a mistake. See them as a blessing and they will indeed be a blessing to you. They might not be capable of going on errands for you or giving you physical assistance. But you being faithful and considerate to them alone is enough to make you blessed and favored.

Dear pastor or minister, be willing and ever ready to accept these little ones anytime they come to your church. Invest in them by creating a ministry or a department for them. Also provide them with teachers to bring them up in the knowledge and admonishing of God. And as the bible have said, “. . . you shall be blessed”

Chapter 3

SUPERNATURAL PROVISION SURROUNDING THE EXISTENCE OF A CHILD

“Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your Heavenly Father feedest them. Are you not much better than they?”

Matthew 6:26

There is a mystery of supernatural provision surrounding the existence of each and every child. The Great Father that gave them provides for them personally. He never allows and will never allow them go hungry. He supplies them with food in abundance even to the extent that, their parents have enough bread on their table for their sake.

Their existence alone provokes bread and water, irrespective of the geographical location. They are agents of multiplication. Jesus described them in this way to his disciples: “...for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” This clause in a way means that, every good

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thing that comes with the kingdom comes with their existence. Amazing, isn't it?

The more they multiply, the more God increases their provision.

It is so wonderful Looking at how He even deposits milk in their mother's breast. It is amazing and mysterious. It should even communicate a great sermon to us that their Provider is mighty and awesome. We really can't fathom out how God provides for these little ones.

There is something quite unusual about the existence of children and it often beats my imagination. Because you can come across situations where both parents of a child may not be working, yet you see them eat "unbeggd bread" with their child to the full. It is so amazing.

God sends forth His latter rains to revive dead grounds in order to bring forth their increase on the account of these little ones we have in our midst who can't endure hunger even for the least polynomial time.

I have noticed that no matter how long a tree may stand dead, unfruitful or barren in a house, it would begin to blossom and bring forth healthy fruits when

Supernatural Provision Surrounding the existence of a Child

it senses the presence of children around it. Dry springs and rivers are also likely to overflow their banks and issue forth fresh water when it feels their presence. I will encourage anyone seriously in need of the fruit of the womb to entertain children around and to show them love. Trust me, a miracle will follow in no time.

Even as a preacher and a revivalist, I have realized that if you have them around your home, ministry or church, you don't struggle preparing sermons or messages to preach. You don't even struggle in getting the spirit to move in your meetings.

They are agents of Divine Provision.

In the book of 1 Kings 17, we see one of such supernatural provision demonstrated by God. It was to a widow and her son. This widow was petitioned by Elijah to give him a morsel of bread. But according to this widow, she had nothing besides a handful of meal (flour) in a barrel and a little oil in a jar. This, she couldn't afford losing to anyone. Moreover, they were also at a time that the heavens were shut putting their whole land under the ravaging hands of famine and drought.

She further explained and lamented to the man of God that, even after she and her little boy have eaten

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of **“that little”**, they would die (presumably of hunger) because they had nothing more. But miraculously, God gave her a word through Elijah the prophet and the flour and oil which could have only sustained them for a day, sustained them for many days until God finally released the heavens.

*“And Elijah said unto her . . . For thus saidth the LORD God of Israel, The barrel of meal shall not waste, neither shall the cruise of oil fail, until the days that the LORD sendest His Rain upon the earth. And she went and did according to the saying of Elijah: **and she, and he and her house did eat many days. And the barrel of meal wasted not neither did the cruise of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD which He spake by Elijah”** (1 Kings 17:13-16)*

Another illustration of how God supernaturally provides for such little ones is seen in Genesis 21. It talks of Hagar the bondwoman, and her son Ishmael. They were cast out by Abraham from the house, and were only given bread and a skin of water for their journey.

Supernatural Provision Surrounding the existence of a Child

According to scriptures, when they (she and her little boy) departed, they went wandering in the wilderness of Beersheba. But unfortunately for them, the water they were given got exhausted in the bottle. When this happened, Hagar out of frustration and fear of death of the boy threw him under a shrub and said sorrowfully, *“let me not see the death of the child”*. She then went a reasonable distance away from his little boy, lifted up her voice and then began weeping. It was indeed a pathetic scene.

This frustrated woman threw her son under a shrub and it was all out of motherly love. All she wanted was not to see with her two eyes the death of her only son. She knew the child would die at all cost since they had no water, but only did she not want to see that with her eyes.

The child was panting and his heart was also failing him for lack of water. Her mother couldn't stand it; she couldn't look upon him in that dying condition. She couldn't afford seeing her only son die in her arms, hence that barbaric decision to cast her away.

Hagar had a very good reason for doing that but her actions can never be commended. It was a bad and demonic one anyway. It's obvious she forgot of the aura of Supernatural Provision surrounding the existence of such children.

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In verse 17 of the chapter 21, it is recorded that, God heard the voice of the Lad, called out Hagar from Heaven and opened her eyes to see a well of water with which she quenched her thirst and that of her son.

“And God heard the voice of the Lad and the angel of God called to Hagar out of Heaven, and said unto her, What aileth thee, Hagar? Fear not; for God hath the voice of the lad where he is. Arise, lift up the lad and hold him with thine hand for I will make him a great nation. And God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water; and she went, and filled the bottle with water, and gave the lad a drink”
(Genesis 21:17-19)

God came alive for them. He gave Hagar a prophetic eye with which she was able to discover a well of water which never pre-existed, and they both quenched their thirst. This is remarkable: Hagar had a divine and a supernatural encounter with God on account of his little boy. This should tell us of the love and compassion God has for them.

Supernatural Provision Surrounding the existence of a Child

He is ready to increase visions and revelations on any ground these little ones are. He doesn't only give the vision; He also makes room for provision.

Endeavor never to complain of your large family. As Adam Clarke once said, **“Because thy family is large, know that it is for their sakes that God feeds thee”**

Chapter 4

THE UNFLINCHING FAITH OF A LITTLE CHILD

Children are a unique category of people in possession of reckless faith. They believe strongly in the unseen and have great hope in any promised substance: Promise to buy them the world or to take them on an excursion to the moon and they will believe you. They will wait patiently for it.

In their eyes nothing seems impossible or unattainable. They believe in each and every little thing they are told – whether it be a lie or the truth.

They also believe strongly in their parents or guardian hence their unusual boast about them. There is nothing they believe their mother or father can't do. That's why when they are beaten or maltreated by other children or mature individuals, they threaten to tell their mother or father and give illustrations of how they will come with large armies and deadly weapons to attack them and defeat them in revenge.

The Unflinching Faith of a Little Child

They never have confidence in themselves. All their confidence is in their parents or guardian. They always make mention of them in all talks.

No matter how poor, malnourished and confused his or her parent may look, they still believe in their ability to do the impossible. That's why they always want their parents to be around them. They are confused as to what to do when they have their parents around: they don't know whether to climb, to kiss, or to hug them. They feel like heroes when sitting on the laps or shoulders of either mummy or daddy.

In their absence also, they would cry, shout, and wallow themselves on the ground. Because they don't only see a mother or father departing from them (either to work or on a church mission), but deep down in them, they see their strength fading and their confidence departing.

This is the more reason why parents must endeavor to keep their tears and frustrations away from their little ones, because it breaks their heart and kills their faith. There is a great emotional wound inflicted on the heart of children anytime they see their parents cry. They lose every hope and aspirations thereby.

I remember walking by a high street one morning to catch a bus to school, when suddenly I saw a man

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come from nowhere to attack a fellow man passing by. He held this man by his trouser and tossed him maliciously around, letting out streams of vulgarity. This tiny man struggled and remained helpless in the hands of his attacker. Not knowing the exact correlation existing between those two men, I could tell from the look of things that, it had to do with service delivery: it is either the attacked man failed in delivering a paid service, or delivered but did a shoddy work and had been on the move for some time.

Irrespective of what really happened, the unfortunate thing about this tragic episode was that, the attacked man was with a little boy of about 7 years in school uniform. He was getting him some breakfast and snacks early that morning for school when the attack came in.

As the child stood and saw his father struggle helplessly in the hands of his fellow man, he loosed concentration over the snack he was holding and dropped them. He then began weeping on top of his voice and throwing his hands and legs about on the ground. I could read from that shrill voice of his that, if he had the power, strength and tenacity to match up that of “the devourer”, he would have stood in the gap himself and would have contended with “the accuser and the attacker”, delivering “the prey”, his father, from further destruction and harassment.

The Unflinching Faith of a Little Child

It was a very bad day for that boy - to see a father he trusted so much, maltreated in the hands of another man.

Perhaps all this while he felt his father was the strongest man on the planet. So in seeing him struggle helplessly in the hands of a fellow man, I suppose, it raised a thousand doubts in his heart and mind. It was just unbearable for him. He couldn't stand it and I couldn't either.

I strongly believe that boy learnt his lessons that day. He would never be that bold and daring type again. He would never stick up his head and boast of his father to his friends again.

In just a single day, all the faith and trust he had in a father was gone. All in a day.

It was an agonizing scene to behold and it struck me to my very heart. That encounter really enlightened me of the bond that naturally exists between children and their parent - either mother or father – and it kept me thinking for days.

These little ones have an overwhelming and an abnormal trust in their parents and wouldn't love to see anything bad or evil happen to them. Their

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father's joy is their joy and their happiness, their happiness.

This makes them fearful to the devil especially when they are taught to believe and trust in God at their tender years.

One of such children is Isaac. He began believing and trusting God at a very tender age, and was ever willing to embark on a journey any mature person would have backed off, believing in God's ability to provide. This is astounding.

“And it came to pass after these things that God did test Abraham; and said unto him, Abraham, and he said here Am I. And he said, take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, Whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and Offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountain which I will tell thee of. And Abraham rose up Early in the morning, and saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and Isaac his son, and clave the wood for the burnt offering, and rose up, and went Into the place of which God had told him. Then on the third day Abraham

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lifted up his eyes, and saw the place afar off. And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass: and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you. And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together. And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is a lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, ***My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering: so they went both of them together.*** (Genesis 22: 1 – 8)

In the scripture above, Abraham was told by God to sacrifice his only son Isaac to him. He obeying, took his son, and embarked on a three day journey into the land of Moriah just as the LORD directed.

On their way to the specified mountain, Little Isaac asked his father a mind-boggling question, which to me is very unusual as compared to children of such age.

He said, “Father, **behold the fire and the wood; but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?**”

“My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering”, his father replied.

The reply Abraham gave to his son (Isaac) alone would have been enough to discourage any mature person from continuing the journey.

I personally would have said, “Dad I know you are my father and you deserves to be respected, but excuse me to say, Are you very serious? How can we come all the way from home to this mountain to sacrifice and expect a miracle lamb to show up? Why then is it called a sacrifice? It is something which should be coming from you and not from Him. I’m disappointed Dad. In fact if I had known, I wouldn’t have followed you to this juncture.”

Any mature person would have quickly retreated. But Little Isaac believed in the words of his father and in God’s divine power to provide and followed enthusiastically. That was a boy of reckless faith. He believed in God and followed. “. . . **so they went both of them together**”

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It was when they got to the mountain that Little Isaac got to know that he was indeed that lamb for the sacrifice. The writer spared us a detailed account of exactly what happened on that mountain but I believe Abraham communicated his intention to his son in these words, “My son, I don’t mean to do this. But the LORD that created you and me says He wants to be with you. He says I should give you out as a sacrifice to Him”

Little Isaac disillusioned, might have also replied, “But father, what wrong have I done to Jehovah? Have I offended him in any way? Why does He want me dead?”

“No Son, He doesn’t want you dead. He only wants to have you by His side. He wants to take you around the beautiful and golden cities in His Kingdom. Wouldn’t you love to be with Him?” Abraham asked his son.

“I would really love to be with Him and the angels but I can’t afford your absence. I’m going to miss you dad.” Isaac added.

“Yes son, I’m also going to miss you. But do you know the good news? Your mum and I will be making preparations to join you guys in some few days.” Abraham continued.

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It was then that I perceive Little Isaac consented saying, “Ok father, if this is really what God wants you to do and wants to do with me, why not? Go ahead and carry out His will”

He humbled himself presumably and His father bound him and was made ready for the sacrifice.

“. . . Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven . . . And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him . . .” (Genesis 22:9-12)

After Isaac was miraculously spared by God, and released from his bonds, he neither ran from his father nor reported him to any security agency or Department of Social Welfare for an attempted murder.

But as described by scriptures, he still followed His father and they made their journey back home again.

“. . . and they rose up and went together to Beersheba.” Isn't this awesome?

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How many of us can be so reckless to go through such situations apart from these little ones? Even after attempting to kill them, they still follow you and believe you. They have an unflinching faith.

Another child also that demonstrated an overwhelming faith of such magnitude is the little boy (lad) whose bread and fish was used by Jesus to feed over five thousand people.

Jesus once organized a powerful crusade in the desert and it was attended by many. This crusade started in the morning and continued deep into the evening. At the end of the service, the congregants were very tired and hungry and it necessitated that He fed them before releasing them to go.

Jesus asked His disciples and followers whether they had anything to give the multitude. But they all became cynical, thinking it was impossible for such a great number of multitudes to be fed at the same time. Phillip with his strong intellect in economics surveyed the situation and then said to Jesus, "Two hundred penny worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little."

It was not long that a little boy - a lad - came with five barley loaves of bread and two fishes to the platform where Jesus and His disciples were sitting. Perhaps, he

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overhead them discussing the issue or better still eavesdropped their conversation. This little boy was however withstood by Andrew as he drew nearer to Jesus to present his little donation to Him.

There was something burning inside of that little child. I perceive he saw a realm of abundance which Andrew and the other disciples never saw.

Despite the relentless opposition, he still insisted on seeing Jesus and giving out his donation or better still lunch to Him. He kept on pressing and struggling with Andrew. This confrontation attracted the attention of Jesus and he called Andrew and asked, " Andrew, what is the problem and what is going on there"

It was then Andrew said, " There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fishes." He said he wants to give them as a donation to enable the feeding of these multitudes, but as a professional Quantity Surveyor, with over 20 years working experience in my field, I know it can't even feed four hungry men. ". . . **What are they among so many**", he added.

Even Andrew, Simon Peter's brother didn't have the kind of faith the child had.

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Jesus however allowed the boy and accommodated his gifts. And by those bread and fishes given to Him by the lad, He fed over five thousand people and even had in excess twelve baskets full of the fragments of the loaves.

Wow! What a blessing to have such little ones on your crusade grounds, Pastor.

Chapter 5

THE PROPHETIC FORESIGHT AND INSIGHT OF A LITTLE CHILD

*"At that time, Jesus answered and said, I thank thee O father, Lord of Heaven and earth, because **thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent and hast revealed unto babes**" (Matthew 11:25)*

There are many things God has hidden from the wise and prudent men of our times but has miraculously revealed them unto babes.

Children have insight and foresight into matters that the mature individual will struggle finding solutions to. Nursing infants and sucklings are the category of children endowed the most with this gift. Their eyes are very prophetic in nature: it can even see deep into the invisible. Their problem is that they can't administer anything.

As they mature and begin to speak, they lose this foresight but rather tend to have acute insight into matters. It is all dependent on how early they are exposed to the Kingdom of God.

The Prophetic Foresight and Insight of a Little Child

Parents, pastors and teachers should therefore endeavor to bring them up in the love and admonition of God, teaching them to pray and to love God's Holy Book and day. And just like the Psalmist said, " . . . you shall not be ashamed"

When children are taught the word of God with precision and accuracy at their formative years, it feeds their insight into matters and are physically and spiritually filled with strength and vitality.

We see all these traits in young David. Whilst the grown up and the powers of his day were seriously retiring from the battle grounds, he was unflinchingly approaching and to dare the enemy, that giant of Gath – Goliath. Neither his brothers nor the King - Saul- himself could stop him. He was seriously on fire.

When everyone was quiet, he was ready to speak, and when all the men of war were busily throwing down their weapons, he was seriously putting on his armor. The whole army of the Israelites went into hiding. They hid themselves like chicks seeking refuge in the sight of a famished hovering hawk. They were all afraid to face Goliath. But I love the boldness of little David. He took an unprecedented decision, read into the situation and saw that it was useless to fight that giant, who claimed his purpose was to defy the armies of Israel. David interpreted it as blasphemy against the

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living God and His people and used it as the main charge against him before His God.

He said boldly, “. . . who is this uncircumcised philistine that he should defy the armies of the Living God.”

Perhaps, David didn't know much scripture because he was only a boy. But because he had insight into the little that he knew, he attributed the offense of Goliath to one single offense in the Mosaic Law which states, ***“And he that blasphemeth the name of the LORD, he shall surely be put to death, and all the congregation shall certainly stone him . . .” (Leviticus 24:16)***

It was then that David said to himself, “This uncircumcised Philistine must not be entertained. The punishment for his offense is a very simple one. He has to be stoned to death and that I will do.”

This is how insightful Little David was. Even the priests, scribes and prophets of His days couldn't reason that far and deep. He had a superior insight into the things of God and indeed brought down Goliath with a stone.

“So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone . . .” (1 Samuel 17:50)

Chapter 6

THE NATURAL WEAKNESS OF A LITTLE CHILD

We have spoken a lot about children in the previous chapters and they all seem to be very positive. Indeed there is a great blessedness that comes with their manifestation or physical presence and I believe you are greatly inspired.

But one other thing I would like us to consider at this juncture is their natural weakness. Every child by nature is very weak. Weakness is part of the childish package given to them by nature on their birthday. Despite how rich they are in faith and in insight, they are also very weak and we don't have to forget that.

Everything about them betrays their weakness which is a clear indication to us that they need us badly. They are highly independent and they need us by themselves at all times.

They need us by themselves to soothe them into sound sleep with lullabies when the day has made them tired with childish plays and also to wake them

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up when sleep seeks to consume in them more than it is suppose to take. They need attention at all times and it all betrays their natural weakness.

It is out of weakness that a baby, for example spurts out urine into his mother's eye when his diapers are being fixed. His urinal bladder is not strong enough to retain urine for the least constant time (or should we say polynomial time complexity). It is also weakness that makes them send anything they grab into their mouth for consumption. Though their intentions are simple and their affections pure, it is weakness that enslaves them.

They have a will yet they are unable to exercise it and often times, it is through signs that they make known to others their sensation.

The weaknesses they exude are in its totality a continual amazement to me. I also believe it is a great delight to every mother's heart. But if you ask me, I will say it is very disgusting when it persists into adulthood. Because what actually may be nice and beautiful when seen in a child may be disgusting when seen in an adult or a grown individual.

For all I know, the 1 year old boy who beats the fists of his daddy and wallows himself on the ground when denied his toys is better off than that fifteen years old

The Natural Weakness of a Little Child

boy who jumps and cries when his daddy is leaving home for work. The former is only exhibiting his weakness (for he is being taught how to be denied) whilst the latter is gloriously exhibiting his folly which to me is very disgusting. It is the latter that we are advised by the scriptures to discipline. If we spare the rod from his buttocks, we will spoil him.

The same way also, the little boy who unconsciously spurt out urine into his father's soup is to be applauded and admired for being a child. He is only being weak. However he is to be whipped or beaten if he does the same thing after years and time has brought back his consciousness and has made him a boy or a man.

It is the duty of the parent to differentiate between the weak acts and the foolish acts of his/her child. They are to strongly admire the weakness and to strictly forbid any folly.

Foolishness, the scripture says, is bound in the heart of a child and that the rod of correction will drive it away far from him.

Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him. (Proverb 22:15).

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The rod of correction the scripture refers to here is not always the physical rod with which children are flogged or beaten. It is a great theological crime to always assume that. The cane, whip or belt is not the only rod with which children can be corrected. Sometimes parental love or care can do the work of the rod of correction. At times too, just looking at the child with the mere eyes can stop him or her from being foolish. The whip will not always correct the child and we have to get that. Using the whip always will only make the child develop a kind of resistance to them with time.

So again, it is the duty of the Christian parent to know the type of rod to employ in correcting each foolishness of his/her child. If you spare the right rod, you will spoil the child and in that case the great heritage will be corrupted.

Chapter 7

BREAKING THE PAINS OF BARRENESS AND CHILDLESSNESS

Before proceeding with this chapter, it is imperative to know that there is a difference between barrenness and childlessness.

Barrenness simply has to do with the inability to conceive whilst childlessness is normally fastened to individuals who have the ability to conceive or have conceived and put to birth before but did lose the child. It is also used to refer to individuals or couples who have lost their only child or should we say all their children. It is such the English people refer to as childless.

I can go on and on to paint the differences between the two but that will not do any good to the subject I seek to clarify. One important thing to notice is that they all have a common need which is the heritage of the Lord or better still children. They are all in need of children, if I am not mistaken.

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Just as eagles are drawn by the scent of a carcass, as infants are drawn together by the sight of a lion, as people flock to a coronation, and as a man is drawn to his beloved object, so are these drawn to the seeking of the heritage.

As the sick is drawn by the credit of a physician, as the poor drawn by the liberality of a King, as the devout drawn by the fame of the Holy, and as the curious drawn by the noise of a miracle, so are the childless and the barren to children.

The only difference in their seeking is that, the barren seeks what she has never had whilst the childless seeks what she once had or was close to having. The former is always in great expectation whilst the latter continuously entangle herself with much pains and sorrows. Because it is always the hungry man who mistakenly throws away his lunch that cries much. That man will sob and continue sobbing himself to stillness in the bewilderment and perplexity of that accident. He will never be a happy man until dinner is ready. But on the contrary, the man who is hungry but has no food will be on the safer side if he sleeps and dreams off his pains. But his friends have to be careful not to wake him up. Because to wake such a man from his slumber and to trouble his sleep is to resurrect his appetite and to impress on him the pains and hunger he felt at noon day. It is better we allow

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such a man to continue sleeping until the evening dishes are ready to be served. He will wake up a happy man and bless the God of Abraham.

So like I said, one is always in expectation whilst the other is in pains and trouble.

Childlessness and barrenness is one major problem facing a lot of couples today. Some have been married for a very long time yet with no children of their own. There are many biblical examples of such couples or individuals. We always see them, in the scriptures and in the so called religious movies of our times. The Bible is wet with the tears they shed in the times of their barrenness or should we say childlessness. Their stories are not too hidden in the scriptures.

My assignment in this particular chapter is a very simple one. All I seek to do is to help out couples seeking children with some few lessons I find very helpful and also to help them break the shackles of any pain holding them captive. These lessons are not ends in themselves. They are only means to an end and I believe many will find it helpful and useful.

Learn to prize the heritage well

The man or woman who is seeking a child from God must learn to prize children very well. Your seeking is

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never right, till you esteem every child so great a treasure as our Saviour does: and that you love them all in a perfect manner.

Your seeking and prayers for a fruit of the womb is useless and never right until you see every child as your own child and every nursing infant as your own baby. It is by this that you make yourself eligible and a potential candidate to receive the heritage of the Lord. UNSELFISH LOVE FOR CHILDREN IS ONE PRAYER THAT OPENS THE WOMB OF THE BARREN AND ALSO GIVES GRACE TO THE CHILDLESS. There is nothing as powerful and potent as Love and true sacrifice. True Love will always bring a lasting solution.

Children are a gift from God, a Holy and a perfect gift indeed, and until we learn to prize them well, we only weary ourselves with seekings. The couple who attacks and hates children and later prays to God to bless them with one are but deceiving themselves. They are only playing with their emotions and they have to be told so now. How I wish I were that man to tell them! To seek what you attack is to attack your seeking. And to hate an object of your prayer is to hate the substance thereof.

One of the greatest deficiencies in man is in his inability to prize things properly. This deficiency is the monster behind the abuse and misuse of the universe.

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We live in a very expensive world, a very expensive planet for that matter but with the poorest creatures you can ever imagine. Our planet is full of goodies and marvelous treasures. God made them all for us. He gave them to us to minister to our needs. From the sun that stands over our head to the sand that surrounds our feet, all were made to minister to man. But until now, we have not really used any of them and the reason is because we do not prize them.

The healing sun has become to us a scorching sun, and that nutritious herb in the garden has become a poisonous gall in our meal. The reason for this tragic and unholy substitute is very simple: we do not properly prize the gifts of God.

Indeed the prophet that is accorded no honor can work no miracle and so the Lord's words come true. He only became a friend and at most a brother to them that received Him as the son of Joseph (or the Son of David). But to them that received Him as the Son of God and the very Christ, he became a Saviour, and One that restores hope to the hopeless.

Herein lies the secret lesson I learnt from my mystic mentors who lived some few centuries ago. It is only by prizing things that we learn to appreciate and deprecate the value of things, and until things are properly prized, they can never be a blessing to us.

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May God help us to properly prize his gifts of which children are an essential part and also to prize in everything the service which they do us by manifesting His glory and goodness to our soul.

She can never be called barren the woman who calls every child her child and doth truly acknowledge them as so.

Avoid selfish seeking

Our world today is full of selfish seeking. Everything we do is for ourselves. It is all about 'the me', and the "I".

Our deepest sorrows are all for ourselves, I mean 'the me'. So are our sacred prayers and tears. They are all for the gratification of self. They are selfish and self oriented. With this me and I, man has made himself a god unto himself. The **ME** and **I** has become a mirror with which man always beholds himself.

The existence of self in man is the beast that makes man a beast. It is also the sickness that makes man obsess with his own self. That is why to save

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humanity, Jesus taught it best to save man from himself. And of course he is truly save the man that has no will or self.

The man with a will or a self is a carnal man and that man is undoubtedly a beast because he lives for himself and to gratify himself. On the other hand the man without himself or his will is the truly spiritual man. That man lives for his neighbor and above all his Maker. He is the man that has denied himself and has picked up his cross after Christ. That man will be at peace and at rest, though society may fail to understand him.

Any seeking that is self oriented is selfish and that seeking is wrong and evil in itself since it has not God in the picture. In the same way, couples that seek children for their own selves are being selfish. Until they have God in the picture, they are in for an evil fixture.

All seeking have to be to the glorification of God. To seek a thing for your own glory is to seek your own trouble. Such was Abraham's trouble. He wanted a child and the reason he wanted that child was for himself. He wanted an heir and a successor and it was all because of himself. But not long after God blessed

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him with that child, He taught him a great lesson from which he learnt to remove Isaac from the deep altars of his heart and to seek the Almighty first in all things.

God through that incident has erected for Himself a sort of scare-crow to show all generations the danger and contempt in seeking things for themselves.

Therefore whatever our seeking, if there is no place for the glorification of God, then I am afraid it is selfish and evil.

Yes, it is very appropriate to fast and pray for a fruit of the womb or for a child. But in doing so, first ask yourself this question, "Where is the glory of God in this transaction, Is it all about me?" After asking yourself this question, go into your inner chamber and search your heart. If you are able find a place for the glorification of God in that seeking and are able to diagnose that it is unselfish, then right there you have found what you are looking for. It is as simple as that. It is the force behind every miracle.

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Cor. 10:31).

Desiring a child just to prove to men you are capable of conceiving is selfish and to your own glory. It is an evil and an unholy

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desire since it has no place for God. That desire only makes you more barren or childless. Let your desire for children be planted on a motive that will bring exaltation to God and you will laugh in no time.

Learn to guard yourself against offences and bitterness.

I am not afraid to say what I fear that, the issue of barrenness and childlessness are often times self inflicted, that is to say many couples branded as childless or barren are the reason for their own predicament and frustrations. All I mean is that their barrenness or childlessness is self exacted.

If not at all, we know it to be so in the case of Michal, David's wife: she was responsible for her own barrenness. She locked up her own womb with offence by holding with contempt what the Lord held very precious. She despised in her heart the dancing and celebrations of David as the ark of the Lord was being brought down to the city of David after its three months stay in the house of Obedom. She took offence in David's celebration of which she paid the price of that offence with her womb.

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“Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death” (2 Samuel 6:23).

That not withstanding there are also instances in the scriptures where God himself shut the womb of certain women. We see that in the case of Sarah, for she said of herself saying, “. . . *the Lord has restrained me from bearing . . .*”

We see it also in the case of Rachel when Jacob out of animosity declared to her *“Am I in God's stead, who hath withheld from thee the fruit of the womb?”* (Genesis 30:2).

And we have also Hannah of which the scriptures recorded that the Lord shut up her womb. “. . . he loved Hannah: *but the LORD had shut up her womb*” (1 Samuel 1:5).

It was God himself that shut the womb of these noble women. But not in many expositions we are also told that he later opened up their womb and honored their patience and long suffering with children.

This tells us that their barrenness was not self inflicted; it was their test by fire of which they proved themselves worthy by never failing in the crucible.

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Many of God's children who are to this called, might as well prove their faith by standing strong in the furnace of barrenness or childlessness as those noble women of old did, receiving the end of their faith, even the salvation of their souls.

You would well agree with me at this point that there is a huge gap between the barrenness of Michal (who never conceived in her lifetime) and that of women like Sarah and Hannah (who later conceived). In the case of Michal, she inflicted herself with those pains whereas in the case of Sarah and the like, I say, it was their test by fire (or should we say God himself took them through that furnace of affliction).

From the little observation I have made, I have realized that many couples or better still women just like Michal are the reason for their own barrenness or childlessness. They intentionally hurt themselves by basically deploying two dangerous weapons against themselves. They battle God's work of conception by allowing those weapons to gain root in their heart.

The first is offence. It is one great thing that fights many sons and daughters of the kingdom. Many are unable to enter into rest because of it. There is a great danger in being offended and men like Moses, Jonah and John the Baptist can well testify to this point besides Michal. They all paid a price in allowing

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themselves to be offended. In the case of Michal as we already know, she died a barren woman. Time would fail to tell of Moses, Jonah and their other brethren and how they frustrated themselves with offence.

My word of caution to couples seeking the fruit of the womb is to keep away from all offences because it hinders prayer as well as any productive work. As much as lies in you, try not to offend anyone intentionally. Also endeavor to exercise yourself in longsuffering so as not to take offence in the contempt and the sayings of men on earth.

Know this for sure; that after certain years of marriage without conception, people will definitely offend you (both in deeds and in words). Many will provoke you, like they did to Hannah, but exercise yourself in much patience so as not to be offended in any word or deed of men because he who is offended hurts himself much than he who offends.

After offence is the weapon of bitterness. This weapon surges into action after offence has done its work. It nurtures the seeds that are sown by offence by making sure that they grow deeper into the heart. It kills no less than the weapon of offence. We can effectively deal with it by first giving no room to offence.

Trust me, breaking the chains of offence and rooting bitterness from the heart is tantamount to breaking the chains of barrenness and childlessness in the case of some couples who are unable to conceive. If you are able to do this, expect a miracle in no time.

Why does a little thing spoken against you make you sad? Only lift your heart unto God in heaven and you will not weigh the flying words of men above their value.

You will have to deal with unforgiveness.

Unforgiveness is one evil hindering many from their divine requests. How do you expect God to be merciful unto you if you are not merciful unto your neighbor? How do you also petition God to release you if you have bound your brother? No! It doesn't work that way. First release or forgive your brother and God shall in turn forgive and release you.

Trust me; most medical conditions diagnosed by medical practitioners to patients are the work of unforgiveness in disguise. Many patients that lie frail in our hospitals do not really need injections or sophisticated medications; all they need is to forgive and to root out bitterness from their heart and they will be free.

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I am not afraid to say that the barrenness and childlessness of many couples is as a result of their unforgiving (hardened) heart. They withhold themselves from the heritage of the Lord with a bleeding and a bitter heart. The chains of barrenness and childlessness hanging over many marriages would be broken if those couples would forgive and let go all the wrong done against them by others.

Most of our pains need just this unique therapy; forgiveness. It is the cheapest as well as the most potent treatment any man can give to himself. As far as I am concerned, it can heal many of this world's ailments. Many of our problems would be solved if we learn how to forgive.

Always remember that he who knows how to forgive best knows to conceive best.

Let God's time be the best time for you.

As the preacher rightly declared in Ecclesiastes, there is a season to everything and a time to every purpose under the heavens. The time of which the preacher speaks of here is none other than God's time.

Basically, there are two times in the world: God's time and the believers own time (which operates just like

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the world's time). To know the time to stick to is a symbol of wisdom.

God's own time is to makes all things beautiful.

“He hath made every *thing* beautiful **in his time . . .**”
Ecclesiastes 3:11

However, the believer's time is to make all things possible.

Again, God's time comes with promises which are sacred and pure, whilst the believer's time comes with pains so difficult to endure.

God's time is meant for the right season whilst the believer's time is built upon human reason.

God's time is at God's will but the believer's time is at his own will.

God's time is full of celebrations whilst the believer's time is heaped with frustrations.

In God's time, events are certain to happen whilst at the believer's own time events are left to chances.

These are but a little difference I can draw between the time of the Lord and our own time.

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We can see from those differences drawn above that God's time and the believer's own time are diametrically opposed. They are mutually exclusive, that is they have no intersecting regions.

It is either we allow God work things in His time or we work things out in our own time. But it is great wisdom to give up our own time for His time, because it is in His time that all things are made beautiful.

God has allotted time to each one of His promises and agendas. He has ascribed unto them times and seasons by which they are to come into manifestation.

But since creation, man has never left the revealed promises of God alone. In every promise He reveals, in every vision he makes open and in every word he utters, we busy ourselves as the tables of sines and tangent figuring out ways by which we with our own time and calculation will bring it to pass.

We all commit this crime. Not the weak-willed man only is guilty, but the noblest saints whom we so much adore in the scriptures also conjured figures with their pen. They also spent sleepless night solving and analyzing congruence modulus to obtain discrete answers.

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A perfect example is Abraham. After God has promised him Isaac at His appointed time, he calculated for himself Ishmael at his own time.

But the latter end of that transaction is vivid in the very scriptures: he was persuaded by his wife to send out the calculated Ishmael and to retain only the promised Isaac. This however came with God's approval and while not stated in so many words, a fair inference is that God's time is the ultimate best and His Promises, the most sacred.

Another great saint who fully possessed his own time was Zachariah, who in the middle of executing his priestly vocation, eloquently declared unto God saying, "How shall I know this . . . ", when a promise of a child was rung in his ears by a visiting angel. He weighed that promise by his own time and found it unworthy of manifestation hence that comment.

Again, we can never read the stories of the Disciples of Christ and the apostolic comment upon it without sensing instantly that they also were men that figured out ways and means to fulfill the promises of their blessed Master at their own discretion.

These were all men that at certain times held on fast to the pen to calculate a miracle or a move of God.

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Though the saying, God's time is the best, is seen nowhere in the scriptures, there is no doubt that it is an actual truth and that it always comes true.

You might desperately be in need of a child or a fruit of the womb but please let it be at God's time and not at your own time. Wait patiently for an Isaac and frustrate not yourself with an Ishmael.

I say this because, many in seeking the fruit of the womb at their own time have defiled their marital bed (with extra-marital affairs), corrupting the sanctity of their matrimonial home. But I admonish you not to take such a path but to wait patiently for the Lord's time. Time, I say, Time. Like the poet wrote in his last line, "Time will bring you your reward for if you will persevere, you will conquer never fear"

It doesn't matter what men have said concerning your case. Neither does it matter what you have said concerning your own case. Once the time of the Lord is up, he will make all things beautiful and you will smile irrespective of any adverse condition.

You are never barren until you call yourself one, neither are you childless until you declare yourself to be. You are who you say you are and not what men say of you.

If you can faithfully conceive with your mouth the children you desire to have, then you can gloriously conceive with the womb. You are what you say.

Couples must learn to love each other

Couples seeking the fruit of the womb must learn to love each other. They should be of one mind and of one accord. Though they might have certain differences at times, they should endeavor very much to live together in harmony.

Strife and dissension in marriage is one major factor hindering couples from conceiving. “For where envying and strife *is*, there *is* confusion and every evil work” (James 3:16).

Couples who are always seen fighting barely see the hands of God. They only give way for the devil to reign in their midst and hardly will God plant his special heritage in such marriages

God is Love and we touch Him best when we love.

To do away with marital strife, couples must pay earnest heed to the admonition of St. Peter with all simplicity and purity.

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To the wives, he cries, “. . . ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands . . .” (1 Peter 3:1).

And to the husbands, his plea is, “. . . ye husbands, dwell with *them* according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life . . .” (1 Peter 3:7).

But one question remains to be answered; why did Apostle Peter so caution the husbands and the wives. The answer he gave was very simple and straight forward; **“THAT YOUR PRAYERS BE NOT HINDERED”**.

Learn to appreciate and love Sex (the procreative prayer)

Sex is a natural and a unique way by which men speaks to God. It is a special type of prayer and anyone who engages in it indirectly makes a demand to God irrespective of that person’s age, or status in life.

This prayer is however different from the one we make in our evangelical circles. Unlike the normal prayers we make with our lips or heart, this special type of prayer is initiated with the very sexual organ that lies betwixt our thighs. Again unlike the prayers

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we know were one person can stand and travail all night long, this kind of prayer can only be articulated by two individuals precisely of contrasting sex. One person is ineligible to pray save two under a mutual contract on a bed. It takes two individuals of the opposite sex to pray that prayer.

Take it or leave it, sex is a petition and it begins immediately the penis gains admission into a female's vagina.

That noble petition made in sex is a simple one: it is a petition for a child. As the bible describes, Children are a gift from God and the fruit of the womb, His reward. God gives them out as a gift to couples, families, schools, churches and to the world at large. But more especially, He gives them out to honor the petition made to him through sex. Children are a kind of gift God never embarrasses us with. Until we ask for them through sexual intercourse, he never sends them down to us.

Unlike His numerous gifts He sends down to us here on earth, the way and manner he sends down this particular gift is very special and unique. He doesn't drop them from the skies to us like He normally does

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to his other gift like the sun, rain and many others. He sends them to us in a special way.

Friends, you can ask for a million gifts and The Lord, can drop them on the ground for you. But it is not so with children.

I know some of you would be asking at this moment, “Does manna still fall from heaven?” The response is a big yes. Manna still falls from heaven. The days of manna are never over.

What do I mean by that, Prophet? I mean it is God that gives you those timely visions and bestows upon you that marvelous wisdom to encrypt and decrypt spiritual messages (both the plaintext and cipher text). They never sprung from you. For what hast thou that thou didst not receive? And if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it, Prophet? I mean tell the congregation that the visions you see and the prophecies you give are just your portion of God’s daily bread and that your own body (senses) never manufactured them. Tell them you are nothing and very little without the grace of God. That is what I mean Prophet.

What do I mean, Evangelist? I mean the souls you claim to have won into the kingdom are not from you, neither did their conversion happen through your

eloquent and fair speeches. They are all MANNA from heaven and God gave them. So enough of the intimidation and the insult you have been drizzling on your poor pastor and how that you threaten to get those converts out of the church when he refuse to succumb to your antics in a board meeting. The reason why he has every moral right to resist you is because you didn't manufacture nor give them (the converts) to the church. It is the Chief Shepherd that gave and gives them all. That is what I mean Evangelist. Please do well to appreciate it and admit for once that you were wrong.

What do I mean, Bishop? I mean stop making salvation so expensive to the sinner by preaching sanctification before justification. I mean tell the sinner that a redeemer has died and the portion of bread (or should we say MANNA) that falls unto him is eternal salvation if only he believes and surrenders everything to He who died and rose triumphantly on the third day. Tell them to only believe and their faith in Him would be counted for righteousness. Tell them that faith is and is the only necessary condition for justification and that they need not depend on works to obtain that justification. I mean tell them to only "look unto Jesus" as the "whole propitiation for their sins" and they would be found in him and also receive the righteousness which is of God by faith. That is what I mean Bishop.

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Brothers, what do I mean? I mean God still rains down conveniences upon people. I mean there can be many gains without the slightest pain. I mean you don't have to frame up figures on the balance sheets and lie to an oath before the Panel of Judges just in your quest for bread. I mean you don't have to busy yourself as the tables of sines and tangent trying to outsmart the intelligence of the private auditor. I mean you are of more value than many sparrows. And if sparrows neither sow nor reap but are still fed by God, shall not He then give you your daily MANNA, O you of little faith. That is what I mean brothers.

He did it before and He still does it. He is the Substance of all things, and is in Himself Unchangeable and Immoveable. As he was in the days of Adam, so is He now in our days. He never changes. It is rather His nature, supremacy, attributes and sufficiency that changes things. He is the Great I AM and the One Unchangeable.

Therefore the saying held by the devotees of popular Christianity that goes, "the days of manna are over" is biblically not valid. It has no scriptural authority or accreditation.

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To ridicule the providing power of God with such a saying is to denounce the validity and the authenticity of God's miraculous power in modern times.

All I mean is MANNA still falls from heaven. And to this point it is clear that the MANNA of which I speak is not that bread God rained on our forefathers with all the semblance of a coriander seed, tasting very much like wafers made with honey. When I speak of MANNA, I only speak of the effortless gifts we receive from God by reason of his manifold mercies towards us.

God can virtually embarrass us with any of such gifts or necessities, so to speak. Some even pray that these very gifts be taken away from them. An example is that furious man who went on his knees and prayed to God to gently take away his life from him. He felt God was embarrassing him with breath (one of life's greatest gifts) of which he implored the giver of life to take it gently away from him not wanting to commit suicide. He felt his life was a great mistake.

To feel embarrassed by a gift of God is weak-willed nature and to such weaker souls, God pardons every time. But note that if there is ever one gift He will

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never embarrass us with, then it is children or the fruit of the womb.

He can drop money from the skies to men but he doesn't drop children from the skies to us. He always allows us to ask for them first. They are so special to Him and He would never embarrass us with any of them. Until we ask for them through sex, He would never make a release of them.

God doesn't make mistakes neither is any child from Him a mistake. Irrespective of how a child may be conceived whether by rape, fornication, incest or what have you, trust me, they are still not a mistake because The One who gives them never makes mistakes. They are a gift and a reward from God. And like we all know, gifts are meant to be a blessing and not to frustrate or to punish us. "It is a good and a perfect gift that comes down from above and from the fathers of light with whom there is no variableness or shadows of turning."

God does not and would never embarrass us with that precious gift. He only gives them to us after asking for them through sex.

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Irrespective of the nature of a sexual intercourse, whether pre-marital, marital or extra-marital, once there is a penetration of an erect penis into a female's vagina, a petition for a child is made unto God and He chooses whether to honor or to dishonor it. For He being the Almighty and the Eternal Good also have a will. "So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth but of God that showeth mercy;" that is to say, it is not of mortal man to choose the condition on which he should find acceptance before God but it is of God's own free love and will does He show mercy and goodness.

I once asked the Lord saying, "Lord, your word strongly forbids fornication, adultery and other sexual evils but why do you sometimes bless those who transgress in it with your glorious gift (children) of which they often abort whilst some lawfully and divinely wedded couples are in dying need of one?" Immediately, the Spirit prompted me and said, Son, etc. etc. What followed was a sharp quotation and a lecture on divine will and judgments. He chooses to do what he so wishes and he makes no mistakes as well. "Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with

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mine own” said He to those frustrated laborers who tried to question him of the distribution of his wages.

“My Son,” wrote Thomas a Kempis in his beautiful classic (*The Imitation of Christ*), “beware you dispute not of high matters and of the hidden judgments of God; why this man is thus left, and that man is taken into so great favour; why also this man is so greatly afflicted, and that so highly exalted. These things pass all man's power of judging, neither may any reasoning or disputation have power to search out the divine judgments.”

“When therefore the enemy suggests these things to you, or when any curious people ask such questions,” says Thomas again, “answer with that word of the Prophet, Just art Thou, O Lord, and true is Your judgment, and with this, The judgments of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether,” and to this admonishment, I exhort all to heed to.

Instead of questioning God and disputing over His judgments, I have rather leant to reason and to plead with Him. True justification comes by pleading (simply believing or should we say faith) and not by contention (that is of them that willeth nor runneth).

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Sex is undoubtedly a kind of prayer. It is a prayer for a child and just like the normal prayer we make, it is in two fold: God has a part to play and the couples also have a part to play. It is simple. When men get to work on bed, God also gets to work by making at least one child ready to send down to earth or better still honor the request made unto Him.

There is no amount of prayer that can be uttered with the lips or heart to convince God in sending down a child to a couple when they refuse to engage in sex. It doesn't work that way. Until they are both naked in bed and bond their genitals together in tranquility, God would never honor them with that request.

Therefore the couple in dying need of a child should learn to appreciate and love the sex on their matrimonial bed. Because that is the only naturally designed means by which God blesses humanity with children. It is the prayer that procreates.

However, couples should love and appreciate sex not because they seek children from it but because they love and delight in it and that it points them to God. To engage in pleasure with your spouse because you want a child is an abuse to that holy institution - sex.

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Everything God created had Him in the end. He created them that man may see Him in the end and glorify Him. The chief end of man is just to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, **and for thy pleasure they are and were created**” (Revelation 4:11).

Sex was created first to be enjoyed by married couples, a kind of enjoyment that will lead them to glory in God and to delight in him. This is the whole reason for man’s creation: that we will glorify God and enjoy Him forever.

Behind every created or invented thing stands the inventor of that thing. He stands solemnly behind his product for a reason and that reason is very simple. He awaits that the man who comes to buy or patronize his product sees and enjoys him in the end. To appreciate his product without giving thanks to him is like hitting him with a blow hard in the face. Also to see a different personality other than himself at the end of his product is to abuse his purpose of production.

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We have artificial light with us today, and behind it, is the face of Thomas Edison. He invented that light and that he did it to solve a problem. But above all, that we may remember him anytime his work comes before our eyes. And truly, many do appreciate the personality of that man than the light he created.

Every inventor had that in mind including the scientists and mathematicians who proposed and left conjectures unproven. Their conjectures as well as theories and concept are being named after them and thus are always remembered. If these human inventors know how to stand behind their invention and claim some honor for themselves, how much more the Creator of all things (The Creator of the Inventors).

God always stands at the end of all his created things even including the man he created. He stands there for a simple reason: that after we have enjoyed his product, which is in part, we would see and enjoy Him, Who is the all Perfect and delight ourselves in Him as the Chief End.

Everything God created for man is in part. He made them in such a way that after we have enjoyed them

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(which is in part), we will discover Him at the end who is the All Perfect and then do away with that which was in part.

This is what St. Paul meant by saying, “But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away”

Sex is undoubtedly one of such created things or should we say gift. It is a gift from God to man, that is to say, married couples. He created this gift for them to enjoy and that they through it would delight themselves in Him Who is the All Perfect.

To receive a gift of God without seeing the God of that gift to glory in Him is one cause of man’s rebellion. Also to see a different object other than God is another cause of man’s rebellion.

Adam, contrary to what we are often taught by our bible teachers, sinned not because he ate the apple. His sin was because he saw a different personality behind the tree he usurped which was not God. Guess what he saw. He saw himself (the “I”) and robbed the glory of God for himself.

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I agree with the anonymous author of the ancient classic, *Theologia Germanica* when he wrote, *“Sin is nought else, but that the creature turneth away from the unchangeable Good and betaketh itself to the changeable; that is to say, that it turneth away from the Perfect to “that which is in part” and imperfect, and most often to itself”*

This, I agree with him when he went further to point that as the cause of man’s rebellion.

So back to my subject, I will say that many couples have it all wrong when all they seek to see or have in sex is a child. The child that is anticipated to stand at the end of any marital sex is an idol. For all I know, that sex may never work a miracle since it is never enjoyed (or should we say received with thanksgiving); it is only used as a baby making machine and for this reason it hardly touches God. Though, it is also a prayer, trust me, it is a prayer of contempt.

One thing I have really noticed is that couples seeking the fruit of the womb often times do not really appreciate or enjoy sex. They lie on their matrimonial bed and all they seek from the pleasure is a child.

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They allow the frustration of their childlessness or barrenness to infatuate their fancies to the extent that they do not even feel (enjoy) and appreciate the pleasure on their matrimonial bed. They hold on to sex as a baby making machine defiling the whole purpose and sanctity of that noble gift.

Sex doesn't give or make babies; it is only a request or prayer to God for them. God is the sole giver of children. He only created sex as a means for couples to reach out to Him, with that request, but more especially for them to enjoy and love it.

Like I said, sex (which is in part) is first created by God to be enjoyed by married couples and then by it pronounce that the Lord is good. That is the delight the Lord seeks from his creation; that He may be glorified in the end. For this reason, He stands at the end of all that is in part as The One and Only Perfect awaiting all to discover him as the Chief Good and to delight in Him as the All in All.

Sex, which happens to be a kind of prayer is in two fold as already stated: you have a part to play and God also have a part to fulfill. Your part is to first enjoy and appreciate that sex (without anticipating a child at the

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end) and by it delight in God as the Chief end and Creator of it who deserves praise as well. Whilst the Lord's part is to choose to honor or dishonor the petition made unto him.

*“Delight thyself also in the LORD;
and he shall give thee the desires of
thine heart.”* (Psalm 37:4)

The whole deal is so simple and free: if we would delight ourselves in the Lord, He shall give us the desires of our heart, which in the case of sex is a child. If we know how to appreciate and praise God in sex, He also will appreciate us with children through it.

Two things remain to be said. One, that every thing God created had a light shining in it.

All created things including man himself has some kind of light in them. The purpose of this light is to shine before other creatures in order that they may see the good work God has wrought and by it glorify Him.

The wind for example sees the light of the sea and it praises God. The tree also sees the light of the sun and it does the same.

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To see a creature without seeing the light that points us to the glorification of the Creator and to delight in him, is also mark of sin.

That is why even Jesus admonished us with His Sermon on the Mount to let our light shine (our value be seen) that others may first see (or enjoy it) and by it glorify Him who is the End.

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16)

“O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him” (Psalm 34:8)

Here is my final admonishment to married couples seeking children: Learn to appreciate and love sex and see it as your divine lot which is yours to enjoy. Do not just engage in it as your matrimonial duty, enjoy and appreciate it as well. It is a unique way by which couples delight themselves in God.

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^{1 1} The sex made mention of in the entire document is marital sex and specifically that which is on the matrimonial bed, that is among married couples.

A SINNER'S PRAYER TO RECEIVE JESUS AS SAVIOUR.

If you do not know Jesus as your LORD and personal SAVIOUR, please seize the opportunity now and be to Him as a son or a daughter. Only humble yourself and pray the prayer below with confidence.

Dear Lord Jesus,

I know I am a sinner deserving of death because your Word says, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Rom. 6:23).

Lord I come to you just as I am, modifying nothing, sparing nothing and excusing nothing. I come to you as one bound by sin, poisoned by bitterness, full of carnal affections and one who cannot save himself.

I come to you because you have said in your word that he who comes to you, shall in no wise be cast out (John 6:37).

Lord, I pray for the forgiveness of sins and also rest for my soul after death.

Jesus, I believe you are LORD. I also believe you died on the cross and resurrected on the third day for my sake. Please be the LORD and SAVIOUR of my life

that I may be a son/daughter to you. Write my name also in the Lamb's Book of Life that I may spend eternity with you.

Thank you for saving me and for calling me your child.

Amen.

Congratulations if you have recited this prayer. Please proceed by finding yourself a Bible Believing Church and be a part. Devote yourself also to the WORD OF GOD and allow it to remold you.

I strongly recommend that you get a copy of A. B Simpson's classic, "*The Fourfold Gospel*". It will be of great help as well.

You can drop us an email via jeffery.opoku@yahoo.com and share your experience with us.

Other titles by the author

Concise Lectures on how to die (the greatest art ever man
can learn)

Vessels : Are you fit for the Master's Use?

The Blood Jesus Shed (The Power Factor)

The Crying blood of the Aborted child

Relating to the poor (. . . ye have the poor with you
always)

The true Worshippers, etc

Children are a gift from God

To feel embarrassed by a gift of God is weak-willed nature and to such weaker souls, the Lord pardons every time. But if there is ever one gift God will never embarrass us with, then it is children or the fruit of the womb. Children are a gift from God and the fruit of the womb thereof his reward.

The whole structure of this book seeks to unravel the mystery behind these heavenly gifts. It is a must read for every son or daughter of the kingdom

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Jeffery Opoku is an anointed preacher and a writer. His deep insight into God's word has earned him many platforms within the evangelical circles to minister to hungry souls and avid seekers of God. He is the president of the Jeffery Opoku Ministries, a non-denominational intercessory body positioned to unite the Body of Christ through revival and also to kindle the Spirit of Love among Gospel Believers of these last days. He is an evangelist and a revivalist by calling. He is also a prolific writer and has authored

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