

Volume 2 Number 3

ISSN: 2465-700X

# His Light Towers

...in your light we see light... Psalm 36:9

## Magazine

# Leading THROUGH CRISIS

Segun Akande page 5

**Love**  
*Language*  
IN THE HOME

DESTINY &  
READING (11)

 **owl:**  
Seeing Through Darkness

# Welcome



# Raise Your LEADERSHIP

*"And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee"*

Luke 15:17-18, (KJV).

Leadership is in you! God deposited a spiritual energy within you on the day you opened your heart to Jesus to become your Lord and Saviour. That spiritual energy is leadership. With that initial deposit, you have all it takes to ride above all life crises. And what you always need to do is raise your leadership.

For instance, when the lost son 'came to himself', he raised his leadership towards solving his troubles. Your life is like the pool of Bethesda of old. An angel used to stir the pool of Bethesda and any sick person who first stepped into the pool will recover from his troubles. In the same manner, if you stir the leadership in you, you will see beauty, victory, breakthrough...

God wired you to prevail over any circumstances, so He expects you to raise the leadership in you. For instance, the angel of God spoke to Gideon while he was facing national crisis in the light of this truth even in the Old Testament. The Bible says, "And the angel of the LORD appeared unto him, and said unto him, The LORD is with thee, thou mighty man of valour" Judges 6:12, (KJV). This goes far to imply that the angel expected Gideon to raise his leadership because it was in him.

You can overcome that crisis! This is what this edition focuses on. We believe you are on the winning side. Rise up; awake the giant in you, and God will be praised in your life. Remain blessed as you read in Jesus name!

**God wired you to  
prevail over any  
circumstances, so  
He expects you to  
raise the leadership  
in you.**

Your brother,  
**Segun Akande**

04

**TRACT**  
**HOW TO  
ESCAPE HELL**

12

**Happy Home**  
*I Love  
Language*  
**IN THE HOME**

16

**Discovery for Youth**  
**DESTINY &  
READING (11)**  
- Gideon Akanbi

21

**YOU AND THE LAW**

**THE  
Law Making  
in Nigeria**

25

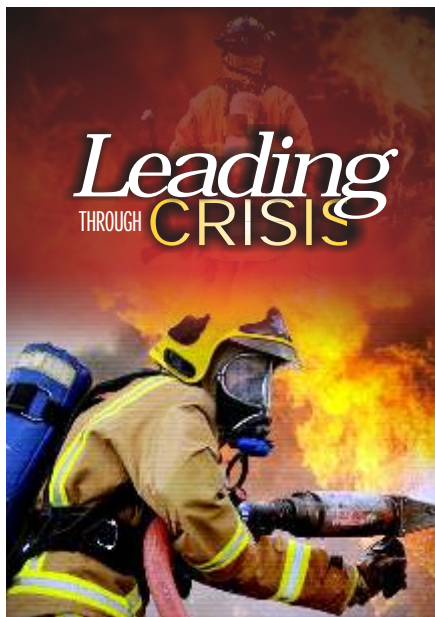
**By Kemi Dawodu**  
**Leadership Facts**  
*What  
Leaders  
Do* (II)  
**By Segun Akande**

29

**TREASURES FOR TEENS**  
**When sinners  
entice you,**  
**DO NOT GIVE IN ...**  
**By Bola Okunlade**

32

**NATURE**  
**Owl:**  
**Seeing Through Darkness**  
**By Segun Akande**



**Segun Akande page 5**

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**HIS LIGHT TOWERS**  
...equipping leaders

# ***How To Escape Hell:***

## **SEVEN TRUTHS TO CONSIDER**

### **1. THIS WORLD WILL END SOON!**

You won't be here forever, even if this world continues to be. So where will you spend your eternity after here? *"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever"* 1John 2:15-17, (KJV)

### **2. YOU WERE BORN A SINNER,**

Sin is not primarily about what you do or fail to do; it is about who you are. All of us came to this world with sinful nature and we are unfit for the glory of God. The Bible says, *"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"* Romans 3:23, (KJV).

### **3. GOD ACCEPTS PEOPLE ONLY THROUGH THEIR PERSONAL FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.**

*"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his unique Son so that everyone who believes in him might not be lost but have eternal life. Because God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of God's unique Son"* John 3:16-18, (ISV).

### **4. INVITE JESUS TO DWELL IN YOUR HEART.**

*"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me"* Revelation 3:20, (ISV).

### **5. BEGIN TO READ AND OBEY THE BIBLE EVERYDAY.**

*"Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves"* James 1:21-22, (KJV).

### **6. JOIN A LOCAL CHURCH WHERE YOU WILL GROW IN FAITH AND SERVICE.**

*"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching"* Hebrews 10:23-25, (KJV).

### **7. EXPECT THE SECOND COMING OF JESUS EVERYDAY.**

*"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last"* Revelation 22:12-13, (KJV).



# Leading THROUGH CRISIS

By Segun Akande

Crisis is important to leaders as examination is to students. If you run away from crisis or allow it to overwhelm you, your leadership will be undermined. On the contrary, you must wade through crisis intelligently and victoriously. Crisis is the crucible of leadership; it is an opportunity to showcase God in you.

Crisis is a time of intense difficulty or danger, a time when a difficult or

important decision must be made. It is a state of affairs involving great danger or trouble, one which threatens to have a highly undesirable outcome. Now, the sad truth is that most leaderships crumble during crises. But, I firmly believe that God doesn't want you and your leadership to crumble.

As I follow many leaders through their biographies, I see vividly that each leader waded through crises from time to time on their leadership journeys. Hence, I believe we stand to benefit greatly if we can just briefly look into their lives and learn how they overcame the many troubles of their lives.

**Crisis is the crucible of leadership; it is an opportunity to showcase God in you.**

## Abraham - Crisis of Faith

God chose Abraham to be a leader of note, a leader through whom God would bless the whole world. For such a destiny, it is required that its carrier must possess certain godly attributes. So, God spent many years sitting over the life of Abraham to help him incubate the

**The sad truth is that most leaderships crumble during crises.**

required attributes. While He asked Abraham to relocate to a foreign country, God kept Abraham waiting for the promised fruit of the womb for about twenty five years. Abraham went through all that patiently. Sarah got the promised son, yet God was not through with

Abraham. The last major crisis was the crisis of faith. God commanded Abraham to sacrifice Isaac unto Him on a mountain. And the next morning Abraham took the boy to the mountain for sacrifice.

This crisis was God testing Abraham's faith. God usually tests the heart of anyone who will serve in the kingdom of God. And crisis is one of the tools He uses to achieve this goal. The Bible says, "The crucible for silver and the furnace for gold, but the Lord tests the heart" Proverbs 17:3 (NIV). Abraham passed the test and he led through the crisis because he had genuine faith in his heart.

## Joseph -Crisis of Temptation

Joseph went through many things in life before he became the prime minister of Egypt. Having being sold by his own brothers unto the foreign merchants, he landed in Potiphar's house in Egypt as a slave boy. Even at that, the Bible



**God usually tests the heart of anyone who will serve in the kingdom of God. And crisis is one of the tools He uses to achieve this goal**

**In Joseph is a man who enjoyed God's presence and favour, yet knew his moral boundaries.**



reveals that God was with him and he prospered in everything he did. He prospered so much that Portiphar handed over unto him everything in his household.

However, a crisis broke out against Joseph. His master's wife took unholy interest in him; she desired to have sexual immorality with Joseph. Imagine the scenario. The woman pestered the life of Joseph with many lustful advances, but he turned them down. The crisis reached the peak one day when no other person was around in the house.

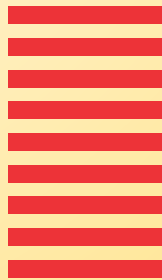
The woman saw that as a great opportunity to fulfill her vicious

mission. She grabbed the young man romantically and implored him to sleep with her. The Bible says, "But he refused, telling his master's wife, "Look! My master doesn't have to worry about anything in the house with me in charge, and he has entrusted everything into my care. No one has more authority in this house than I do. He has withheld nothing from me, except you, and that's because you're his wife. So how can I commit such a horrible evil? How can I sin against God?" Genesis 39:8-9, (ISV).

What a young man! In Joseph is a man who enjoyed God's presence and favour, yet knew his moral boundaries. Joseph overcame the temptation and led through the crisis because his heart was pure. Ultimately, Joseph feared God!

Moses - Crisis of Fear

Moses had successfully delivered



the children of Israel from the land of Egypt by the great power of God. The adults, the youth and the little children were full of joy and excitement as they were marching forward toward the Promised Land.

But suddenly they came to the Red sea on the way. As if that was not enough, the army of Pharaoh was also charging against them from the back. The army of Pharaoh was ready to consume them and apparently the Red sea was waiting to swallow them at once. So, fear came upon all the people of Israel.

Does that mean they are all going to perish here? Are they all going to be buried and forgotten in the desert?

These and many similar questions juggled in the minds of the people. They cried and blamed Moses for their precarious situation.

It was a crisis of great fear, but Moses led through the crisis. He sought the face of God for the way out. God gave His word and Moses calmed the people down. God intervened. Moses led them

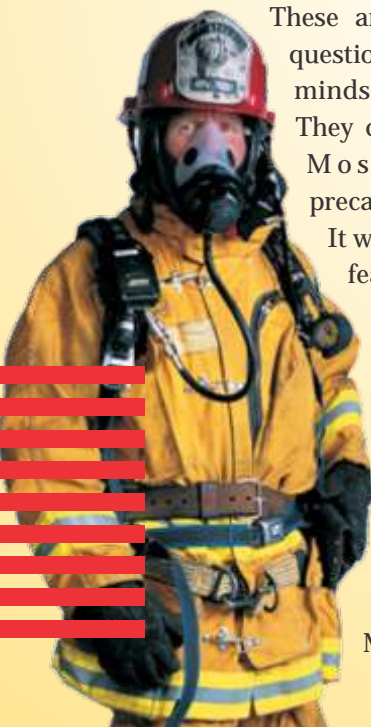
across the sea on a dry ground.

## J o s h u a - C r i s i s o f D i s o b e d i e n c e

Joshua enjoyed the help of God as he led the army of Israel in conquering the heathen nations in the Promised Land. Meanwhile, a crisis broke out against his leadership when he attempted to conquer Ai. The population of Ai was small, so Joshua sent three thousand soldiers to take the city. But, they could not take the small city; they ran back and 36 men died. Joshua was shocked to the marrow! Why? What went wrong?

The Bible says, "At this, Joshua tore his clothes, fell down to the ground on his face before the ark of the LORD until evening—he and the leaders of Israel—and they covered their heads with dust. "Lord GOD," Joshua asked, "Why have you brought this people across the Jordan River? To hand us over to

**a leader will  
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because God's  
purpose attracts  
many opposing  
forces**





the Amorites so we'll be destroyed? Wouldn't it have been better for us to be content to settle on the other side of the Jordan? Lord, what am I to say, now that Israel has run away from its enemies?" Josua 7:6-8, (ISV). He waited and cried before God till answer came. Joshua led through the crisis, he didn't back out.

**Daniel - Crisis of Consecration**  
Daniel was a young man who had resolved to live his life to please only God. He had made a personal decision to stay away from everything that could contaminate his life - spirit, soul and body. And he was fortunate to be one of the young men who were given admission into the University of Babylon. Everything was intact and the future looked very bright and promising.

Meanwhile, a strong crisis broke out against Daniel's leadership

**Authentic leaders  
help other people  
become leaders by  
helping them wade  
through their own  
crises.**

destiny. The king required all the students to eat the food that was sacrificed to the Babylonian idols. That, for Daniel, was a sacrilege. He knew if he should eat the food, he would become unfit for the purpose of God in Babylon and beyond. Hence, the Bible says, "Daniel determined within himself not to become defiled by the king's menu of rich foods or by the king's wine, so he requested permission from the chief officer not to defile himself" Daniel 1:8, (ISV).

What a personal determination! He didn't allow the opinion of his friends to sway him. He led through the crisis because he feared God.

## PRINCIPLES FOR LEADING THROUGH CRISES

All the many crises that confront leadership have many things in common. Meanwhile, if a leader will overcome any crises, he must understand the Biblical principles for victory. The following are some of the principles:

### i. Leadership attracts Crisis

Leadership is the process of fulfilling God's purpose, a leader will necessarily meet crises on the journey because God's purpose attracts many opposing forces. No one, whether in the Bible account

or in the contemporary world, serves the purpose of God without facing crises from time to time. Even the Lord Jesus had His own share of leadership crisis.

ii. God will allow crisis in order to demonstrate His power and manifest His glory in every leadership. He will use crisis to elevate and promote the leader if the leader does the right things at the right time.

iii. The devil loves to create crises in order to destroy the leader.

Consider Joseph in Egypt. The devil perceived that he would become a great leader. The enemy inspired the Portipha's wife to ruin the destiny through sexual sin. If Joseph had slept with the woman...

iv. A leader should be able to preempt the crisis before it comes. God, in His mercy, usually prepares His own servant against the

onslaught of the enemy. If you are sensitive enough, you will sense it coming and you will trust God for victory.

v. A leader should have an objective and balanced view of the crisis situation.

Sometimes, your ignorance or carelessness may be the primary cause of a crisis. Do well to appologise where necessary; change your approach; learn new way of doing things and victory will come.

vi. A leader should possess wisdom in dealing with crisis.

Leading through crisis requires divine wisdom. Deliberately ask for God's wisdom in every situation and you will prevail.

vii. A leader ashould seek counsel from wise father or mentors.

You may need to take time away and seek for elders' counsel, for in



the multitude of counsel there is safety (Proverbs 24:6).

ix. A leader must pray for God's intervention.

In between the Red Sea and the Pharaoh's army, Moses prayed to God. When Paul had a crisis of the thorn in the flesh, he prayed. Prayer is an effective weapon for leading through crisis.

ix. A leader should evaluate the past crises and learn from them so he may be prepared for future crises.

Leadership is a journey in fulfilling God's assignments. Overcoming one crisis is a learning experience for a future crisis.

x. A leader should guide other leaders in overcoming crises.

Authentic leaders help other people become leaders by helping them wade through their own crises.

Remain blessed!

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Segun Akande is a student of leadership. He believes that whether things are good or bad, leadership is the way forward. You can reach him on +234 8034490208 or hislighttowers@yahoo.com. He blogs at [www.lightforleaders.wordpress.com](http://www.lightforleaders.wordpress.com)

## Poem

# THIS TOO SHALL PASS

Sometimes in this life,  
We are by so many things compassed  
We fight to survive,  
But it seems we cannot pass

And sometimes with all our strife  
We cannot surpass  
All that against us conive  
But by His grace we shall bypass

If you have a vision in life  
You must learn to rehearse  
Even though you have not arrived  
At how it shall come to pass

Joseph had to thrive  
His brothers kicked his ass  
But his dream was revived  
And God's Word came to pass

God told Abraham, Isaac would arrive  
But that promise seemed like gas  
Then his faith came alive  
And it came to pass

You might be in the midst of life's hive  
Take your stand and don't trespass  
No matter the storm and the rife  
This too shall pass.

Olufemi Babalola  
April, 2016



# Love *Language* IN THE HOME

By E. A. FALADE

Dele and Mope have been married for nineteen years. God has blessed the union with three children, comprising of two boys and a girl. The first two elderly boys are already undergraduates in one of the Nigerian Universities. The only girl is still in the secondary school assisting mummy at home.

Mope keeps complaining about the non challant attitude of her

husband. To her, the husband cares less for her and her wellbeing. When confronted with these allegations from the wife, Dele was short of words because he rated himself as a very caring husband. When critically analysed and examined, it was discovered that Dele, like most other African husbands, lacks love language.



## What is Love Language?

These are verbal and non verbal expressions that flow exclusively from the husband to his wife and vice versa. Love languages are the special expressions of love the spouse receives and greatly appreciates as expressions of love from his/her better half. An author, Garry Chapman, identifies five love languages in the home. These include the following:

a. WORDS OF AFFIRMATION- complimentary or verbal expressions of your feelings to make your mate feel special. e.g.

- \*supper was great;
- \*you look wonderful;
- \*thank you;
- \*I'm proud of you;
- \*I love you.

b. SPEND QUALITY TIME WITH EACH OTHER TALKING

\*take a walk along the street possibly holding each others' hands;

\*sit together after children have gone to bed and talk;

\*watch your mate's special movies together or play favourite game together;

\*go to dinner in company of each other only to the exclusion of children and other guests.

c. GIVE EACH OTHER SPECIAL MOMENTOUS

\*present flowers or whatever will excite your mate;

\*give something your mate will be interested in to show you understand him/her.



d. DO SOMETHING NICE FOR YOUR MATE TO SURPRISE HIM

\*cook special meal even on ordinary occasions;

\*do the dishes without being requested to do it;

\*take care of the kids so that she can rest.

e. GIVE NON SEXUAL TOUCHES TO EXPRESS YOUR LOVE

\*hug each other;

\*kiss each other;

\*brush on the cheek or touch the hand specially in the way he appreciates it;

\*remember your mate is of same flesh with you and in fact part of yourself, hence your desire to please each other should be as

strong as you wish to please yourself.

## The Biblical Basis

The summary of all that Author Garry Chapman proposes is foundational to Christianity and Biblical injunctions. The following Scriptures describe the preeminence of love as endorsed by God the Originator of the Family:

1. LOVE sums up the Law and the Prophets(Matt. 7:12)

2. God's kind of LOVE is unfailing(Lam. 3:22,32; Dan. 9:4)

3. Husbands to LOVE their wives as Christ loves the Church(Eph. 5:25,28,33)

4. Women to LOVE their husbands(Titus 2:4)

5. God Himself is LOVE(1 John



4:16)

6. We are to LOVE as Jesus loved us (Jn. 13:34)

7. Since God LOVED us we are also called to LOVE one another (1Jn. 4:11)

Albert C. Fisher, 1886-1946, captures the subject matter of love when he titled his song "Love is the Theme". The first stanza of the song in Baptist Hymnal 293 states:

---

Of the themes that men have known,  
One supremely stands alone;  
Thro' the ages it has shown,  
'Tis His wonderful, wonderful love.  
Love is the theme, love is supreme;  
Sweeter it grows, glory bestows;  
Bright as the sun ever it glows!  
Love is the theme, eternal theme!

---

Also James Rowe, 1865-1933 led a great credence to the subject of love when he exuded in the chorus of his song:

Love lifted me!....  
Love lifted me!....  
When nothing else could help,  
Love lifted me.

Indeed love really and actually lifts people up when adequately and sincerely expressed in the home between couples and among

parents and the children.

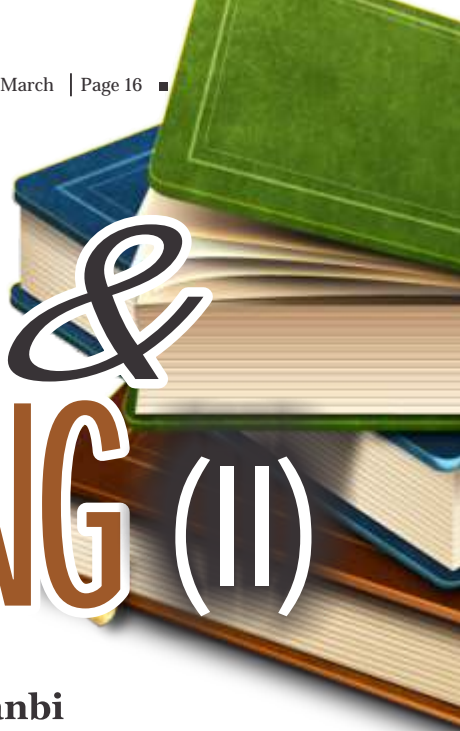
### Conclusion

The one language that holds the family together is love. When God commanded the husband to love his wife, He is just laying the solid foundation of harmony in the home. The only one language a wife appreciates and keeps her nourished as a wife in the court of her husband is LOVE. It must be emphasized and reemphasized that giving love does not stop with doling out money. That is just a part of the language of love. In addition to giving cash, you give attention, acceptance and appreciation. In fact, you make the entirety of yourself available to your spouse. Your spouse and children will need all of you, I mean your totality and not a fraction of you.



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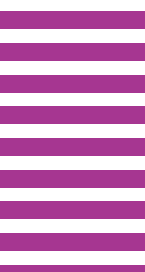
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# DESTINY & READING (II)

**By Gideon Akanbi**

“To read with profit, the books must be of a kind calculated to inform the mind, correct the head, and better the heart. These books should be read with attention, understood and remembered, and their precepts put in practice. It depends less on the number than quality. One good book well understood and remembered, is of more use than to have a superficial knowledge of fifty, equally sound.” - Anonymous



There's almost always someone we can learn from, who has overcome the same challenge. From books, video, to the internet, we have more access to useful information than ever, but few of us take the advantage of it as we could.

Almost everything we do in life requires the knowledge of how to do it and this is especially the case when pursuing an important goal

or longing to live an impactful life. As such, getting what we want out of life often requires a genuine commitment to learning, especially the art of reading.

Last edition, I shared with you the impact of reading on living an enviable life. Particularly, I pointed out several reasons why you need to read. In this second part, I will be sharing with you how to decide on



**Getting what we want out of life often requires a genuine commitment to learning, especially the art of reading**

the kind of book you should read.

Reading must be purposeful. If you don't define why you are reading, that is, the purpose for your reading, it is possible you find yourself reading just anything that comes your way. There are several materials out there as there are many authors begging for your attention. Authors write for different purposes addressing specific issues. So you need to find out why you read what you read, and for you to sort this out, I have classified the materials you should read into three categories:

**FIRST, BE COMMITTED TO THE WORD OF GOD**

The word of God is the foundation for everything. If a man lacks the knowledge of God's word, then whatever knowledge he has is dark knowledge. God's word is the true light that brightens the soul to understand the essence of life. If your life is not shaped by God's

word, you will simply be ruled by empty philosophy of men. Below are further reasons why you must prioritize your reading on God's word:

a. The Bible is God's thought expressed in written form.

“All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuking error, correcting faults, and giving instruction for right living” 2 Timothy 3:16, (LB).

b. The Bible contains proven Principles of success.

“Study this book of instructions continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in everything you do” Joshua 1:8, (NLT).

c. The Bible provides you with spiritual nourishment you can't get elsewhere.

**The word of God is the foundation for everything. If a man lacks the knowledge of God's word, then whatever knowledge he has is dark knowledge.**

**The truth is, somebody has done whatever thing you are doing right now; so look for information about it so that you can be better informed.**

“People do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God” Matthew 4:4, (NLT).

d. The Bible provides you with Light to navigate the dark path of this world. “Your word is lamp to guide my feet and a light for my path” Psalm 119:105, (NLT).

e. The Bible gives you enablement not to commit moral errors. “I have hidden your word in my heart, so that I might not sin against you” Psalm 119:11, (NLT).

**To be a man and woman of impact, you must be committed to an insatiable hunger for ever increasing insight in your field**

f. The Bible gives you the guarantee for all round fruitfulness.

“Instead, they find joy in obeying the law of the Lord, and they study it day and night. They are like trees that grow beside a stream that bear fruit at the right time, and whose leaves do not dry up” Psalm 1:2-3, (NIV).

## SECOND, READ BOOKS THAT WILL HELP YOU GROW IN YOUR PURPOSE

Everybody is born with a specific purpose to fulfill on earth (John 17:4). Upon the discovery of such purpose, you need to develop yourself to the level of competence in that area by seeking for every relevant information that will help you deliver results in your area of calling. One of the ways of achieving that is to stand on the shoulders of those who have gone ahead in the same direction by reading about them so that you can see farther than they did. The truth is, somebody has done whatever thing you are doing right now; so look for information about it so that you can be better informed.

To be a man and woman of impact, you must be committed to an insatiable hunger for ever

**If you want an outcome you have never had before, read something you have never read before.**

increasing insight in your field. No matter your calling, profession, or career, without relevant information you don't have a future. Your speed in life is determined by the quality of information at your disposal. The quality of your life cannot be better than the quality of information available to you. It therefore means that if you want an outcome you have never had before, read something you have never read before.

This is the secret of success men of old practiced. Myles Munroe, of blessed memory, used to read four books every month especially in the area of leadership development. That is why he was a global leader who affected millions of lives within his 60 years on earth. Also, Bishop David Oyedepo said, he read 39 different biographies of world class ministers before he started full-time ministries. He wanted to learn their success secrets to be able to apply the same

in the assignment God has committed to his hands.

**THIRD, READ BOOKS THAT WILL EQUIP YOU TO BE AN EDUCATED MAN.**

Paul had to counsel Timothy: "Study to show thyself approved unto God" (2 Tim.2:15). This means, he wanted Timothy never to stop learning. Learning brings approval to your life. You must keep educating yourself. This can never be too much for you. It was Derek Bok who once said, "If you think education is expensive, try ignorance."

Learners are readers; they are hunters of information. Realize that the amount of information available in the world is growing at a mind-numbing pace. In fact, it has been said that all human knowledge has doubled in the last 20 years. Don't expect this trend to slow down.

In today's world, a certain amount of improvement is necessary just to

**In today's world, a certain amount of improvement is necessary just to keep up with the rapid pace of change**



keep up with the rapid pace of change. New technologies are announced nearly every month. New words come into use anytime a trend or fad catches on. And what we learn about ourselves, about our health, about our environment and about the capacity for human thought continues almost unabated. Improvement is therefore necessary simply to survive and to remain relevant.

More alarming, the information that allows you to be successful – to be on the cutting edge of your career and profession is evolving at the same pace. That's why you must commit to lifelong self-improvement and learning –

improving your mind, increasing your skills and boosting your ability to assimilate and apply what you learn.

Let me conclude by saying that God's will for us is to grow, to continue to learn and improve. An educated man is the one that knows everything about something, and something about everything. We are not only to be literate; rather we should strive to be educated. The goal of education is not just to inform; it is the formation of the total man. Thorough education is supposed to expand your horizon and helps you to think.

**An educated man is the one that knows everything about something, and something about everything**



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# THE Law Making in Nigeria

By Kemi Dawodu



*"For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil.  
Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good,  
and thou shalt have praise of the same.."*  
Romans 13: 3 (KJV)

Some believers do not know their rights in Christ, talk less of their rights in the land. Many children of God, are of the opinion that their duties start and end in the church alone, and do not reckon with the laws of the land, therefore only obeying laws as they like and as they wish.

Also they do not think that they owe their community any sense of responsibility, this is not Christ like. The Gospels according to the Mark 6:30-4 ; Matthew 14: 13-21 and John 6 showed Jesus' love for his immediate community and not his disciples alone . Also in the Gospel of Mark 12:17 Jesus said *"Give back what is to Caesar and what is God's...."* (NIV)

In this edition we will be discussing the stages of Law making process in Nigeria in two parts, thereby encouraging children of God to influence the Country positively through sponsoring of bills that protect lives, help the needy and rebuke sin and iniquity as a nation. A nation with iniquity would be under the subjection of the adversary (Isaiah 1:4).

## How Are Laws Made?

Laws begin as ideas. The Law makers are members of the House of representative at the Federal level and Members of the House of Assembly at the state level and the Senate members also at the Federal

level.

First a representative sponsors a bill. The bill is then assigned to a committee for study. If released by the committee, the bill is put on a calendar to be voted on, debated or amended. If the bill passes by simple majority (218 of 435), the bill moves to the Senate. In the Senate, the bill is assigned to another committee and, if released, debated and voted on. Again, a simple majority (51 of 100) passes the bill. Finally, a conference committee made of House and Senate members works out any differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill. The resulting bill returns to the House and Senate for final approval. The Government Printing Office prints the revised bill in a process called enrolling. The President has 10 days to sign or veto the enrolled bill.

What is a Bill?

A bill is the form used for most legislation, whether permanent or temporary, general or special, public or private. A bill originating in the House of Representatives is designated by the letters "H.R.", signifying "House of Representatives", followed by a number that it maintains throughout all its parliamentary stages. Bills are presented to the President for action when approved

in identical form by both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

### The Legislative Process

Generally, in presidential systems of government, the process a bill goes through before becoming a law is essentially the same. Countries, however, have minor differences. The processes of law making generally requires a long period of deliberation and consideration of the many interests and implications of the bill. A highlight of the processes involved are discussed will be discussed in Stages.

### STAGE ONE

The first stage is the identification of the need for a bill. This bill can be a new one, introducing a new idea not yet covered by an existing law. It can also be an amendment to an existing law, which is thought to be inadequate either because of some changes in the policies of the government or changes in the society.

For example: The Anti-Corruption law recently passed by the National Assembly addresses corruption more than previous laws, which were found to be inadequate. It can also be that the existing law is considered to be infringing on another fundamental human right, that is, it goes against provisions of the Constitution that guarantees a right or rights of Nigeria citizens. This is always the case with military decrees.

A bill can be initiated by anybody but only a Member of the House or a Senator can introduce it on the floor of the House or the Senate. Bills are grouped into three categories: Executive, Member and Private Bills. A bill is like a proposal or an idea that has to be discussed thoroughly and passed into law by the National Assembly. Before a bill is introduced, a comprehensive list of its financial costs must be calculated and attached. In other

**A bill can be initiated by anybody but only a Member of the House or a Senator can introduce it on the floor of the House or the Senate.**

words, the amount that would be needed in executing specific aspects of the law when it is passed must be computed or calculated so as to know whether the government would be able to afford it in the current or the future budget. For example, in passing the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) bill, the government gave a breakdown of what it would take to make the Commission function in terms of staff, transport, accommodation and other facilities that would assist or enhance the work of the Commission. It also stated the sources of such funds the Commission would receive.

When a bill is prepared by the Executive (that is the President and or his advisers), it has to be forwarded to the Speaker of the House and the Senate President with a cover letter from the President. A bill from Members of the House of Representatives is presented to the Speaker of the House of representative, while one from Senate is presented to the Senate President. Bills from the Executive branch of government can at times be discussed concurrently (i.e. at the same time) in both the Senate and the House of Representatives. Bills from the member and private individuals are always discussed in the chamber of its origin first before it is sent to the other for passage.

All bills are numbered or marked according to their chamber of origin. For example, a bill from the House of Representatives is marked HB (House

Bill) while the one from the Senate is marked SB (Senate Bill). An Executive bill is marked with "Executive" printed on the title page of the bill. It is printed tiny and to the right hand side of the page.

On the receipts of a bill, the Speaker forwards it to the Rules and Business Committee while the Senate President sends it to the Committee on the Rules and Procedure. These Committees then look at the bill to determine whether it meets all the standards in draft and presentation. If not, the bill will be forwarded to the Legal Department of the National Assembly for re-drafting and further advice. After this, the Committee then sends the bill for gazetting and for subsequent stages: first, second and third readings. Executive bills are gazetted or published in the House/Senate Journal once, while those introduced by Members are published three times before they can be presented to the House/Senate for consideration. The House Rules and Business Committee or the Senate Committee on Rules and Procedures is also expected to determine the day and the time a bill is to be discussed in the House/ Senate. All bills must receive three readings before they can be passed into law and the readings must be on different days.

Some bills can receive accelerated consideration i.e. on the same day based on their urgency and significance for government policy. In that case, rules of the House/Senate are to be suspended for easy passage. Examples of such bill that might receive accelerated hearings are the ones that are needed to enable the president take urgent action on matters relating to national security.

## STAGE TWO

### First Reading

The Clerk of the House/Senate usually does the reading of bills scheduled on the



House/Senate Calendar (a schedule indicating the day and the time each bill will receive reading). S/he reads the short title of the bill for the first reading and then proceeds to "table" it. The word "table" is used to mean the action by which the Clerk places the bill on the table before the Speaker/Senate President. Normally, at this stage there is no debate on the bill on the floor of the House/Senate. The reading simply informs the Members that a particular bill has been introduced and received from here, the bill moves to the next stage.

### Second Reading

This period is when debate occurs on the bill. Usually speakers on a bill are allocated time of about five or seven minutes to speak. Debate commences with a motion by the Senate or House Leader that the bill be read the second time, if it is an Executive Bill. The motion must be seconded (supported) by any of the other parties' leaders. When it is not seconded, the bill cannot be debated but in most cases, Executive bills are allowed, as a matter of courtesy to proceed to a second reading.

However, if the bill is by a Member of the House or the Senate, the sponsor of the bill would move the motion that it be read the second time. The motion must be seconded (supported) by another Member of the House or Senate. Also, when a bill by a Member cannot get the support of another Member in the House or Senate, it cannot be debated and hence stands rejected.

The person moving the motion, whether in the case of Executive or Member bill, is expected to highlight the objectives, general principles and subject matter of the bill. He is also expected to state the benefits of the bill if passed into law. If the House agrees to the motion, the Clerk will

read the long title of the bill. Immediately after this, Members must signify their intention to speak on the bill.

Two things can occur at this stage:

- (i) The bill may receive the support of the majority of the House/ Senate and be allowed to move to the next stage. Once it gets the needed support, it moves to the Committee stage.
- (ii) The bill may be thrown out if it does not get the support of the majority of the House or Senate Members.

It is worthy of note that when a bill is taken off the table, it cannot be discussed until it is re-introduced at a later date.

After the debate on the general principles of the bill, it is referred to the appropriate Standing Committee. The Senate President/Speaker of the House is empowered by the rules of both Senate and the House to determine the relevant committee(s) to which the bill is referred.

To be continued!




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# What Leaders Do (II)

Segun Akande

Leadership is hardwork. So, it makes sense to discover what leaders do so you may effectively do leadership work towards becoming an authentic leader. Last edition I examined thinking as an important task of authentic leaders. As a leader thinks so his leadership goes.

Now, the next task of great leaders in the kingdom of God is believing. Leaders believe! The Bible says, "If we believe God, we can be completely sure about things. We will be sure about the things that we hope for. We will be sure about things that we cannot see. People who lived many years ago believed God.

And so, God said good things about those people" Hebrews 11:1-2, (EasyEnglish).

One important example of those leaders who received commendation was Noah. Amidst the entirely corrupt humanity, God found Noah with an

**Amidst the entirely corrupt humanity, God found Noah with an attitude far superior to anyone in his generation**

**While other men lived recklessly in the name of life enjoyment, Noah spent his time seeking for God.**

attitude far superior to anyone in his generation. God looked below the skin, He saw faith and He was pleased with the man Noah. This is the same attitude He saw in men like Abel and Enoch who were before him.

Like Abel and Enoch, Noah lived fully conscious of God. He loved what God loved and hated what God despised. While other men lived recklessly in the name of life enjoyment, Noah spent his time seeking for God. As his friends were marrying more wives, Noah was praying for revival... He placed great value on the word of God, striving always to hear God speak to him.

Noah grew in faith such that God developed trust in him. God found him to be useful for His agenda in his generation. God commissioned him to preach the word of righteousness and to build the Ark in preparation for the promised flood. The Bible says, "Noah believed God, and so he obeyed God. God told Noah about bad things that

would happen. Nobody could yet see those events, but Noah believed God. So, Noah was careful to obey what God told him. He built a large boat to save his family. As a result, Noah showed that everyone else in the world was wrong. And Noah became one of those people that God accepted. They are right with God because they believe him" Hebrews 11:7, (EasyEnglish).

By his faith in God, Noah stood out and stood alone against the common tide. He travelled the road of righteousness alone not minding the pain and difficulties that dotted the pathway. From the life of Noah and other leaders, I see two important virtues of faith. You must cultivate these virtues before God can take note of your life. They are the fear of God and risk taking (or obedience).

### The Fear God

The fear of God is not like the fear you have for a terrorist or an armed robber. It is a respect, regard or reverence for the divine; it is a love consciousness you have of God that makes you avoid everything that displeases Him. It is a reverence for God that has a great impact on the way we live our lives. The fear of God is the motivating factor for us to surrender our wish and life to the Creator of the Universe.

A biblical fear of God is to understand how much God hates sin and fearing

## **The most grievous sin is when a man refuses to fear God in all he does.**

His judgment on sin. The fear of God is the seed for godly character. For instance, Joseph forgave his brothers because he feared God. The Bible says, "And Joseph said unto them the third day, This do, and live; for I fear God" Genesis 42:18, (KJV). The Egyptian midwives spared the male children because they feared God (Exodus 1:17). The Lord instructs that we must fear God but not men. He said, "Stop being afraid of those who kill the body but can't kill the soul. Instead, be afraid of the one who can destroy both body and soul in hell" Matthew 10:28, (ISV).

The most grievous sin is when a man refuses to fear God in all he does. While Paul describes the life of the wicked and ungodly people in chapter 3 of Romans, he said "They don't fear God" Romans

1:18, (KJV). A God-fearing man is trustworthy and faithful anywhere, anytime. The man who does not fear God is a dangerous and useless man whatever title he carries.

Noah stood out in his evil generation because he feared God. He escaped the power and the effect of corruption because he feared God. As a leader in this evil generation, you must fear God if you will not perish with the wicked. The first element of faith is fear of God, and the second is taking risks (or obedience)

### **Taking Risks**

Moving forward in the direction of God's purpose for a leader involves risk taking. Risk is a situation that brings a

**Moving forward in the direction of God's purpose for a leader involves risk taking.**



threat of danger or loss; it exposes one to a seemingly uncertain future. There are negative and positive risks. Experts refer to the negative risk as pure risks; they are risks that feature some chance of loss and no chance of gain. The positive risks are the speculative risks, they are risks that feature the chances of loss and gain.

People take different types of risk in the world, but kingdom leaders take the speculative risks. I make this assertion because they take risks as they are commanded by God. Any step a leader takes in obedience is guaranteed to feature gains. Initially, obedience may appear risky, but it is certain to yield a lot of gains in the end.

For instance, Moses heard the voice of God to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt to the Promised Land. He obeyed. That was a big risk in the view of the people of this world. It appears like Moses was to carry the people on a suicide mission. Moses didn't plan for the food and water the people would take in the desert for the number of days or months they were to spend. But

anyhow, he took them out of the country.

For Peter, Jesus commanded him to walk on the water. As a professional fisherman, that was a pure risk. But he obeyed, and behold Peter walked on water. Noah demonstrated faith not only because he feared God, but also because he obeyed God to build a ship that will rescue humans and animals against the floody rain that had never fallen before on earth.

Therefore, an authentic leader believes. He fears God; he runs away from everything that God hates. He obeys God even when the obedience looks like a pure risk. Next edition, I will continue with another thing leaders do. Remain blessed!

Segun Akande is a student of leadership. He believes that whether things are good or bad, leadership is the way forward. You can reach him on + 2 3 4 8 0 3 4 4 9 0 2 0 8 o r hislighttowers@yahoo.com. He blogs at [www.lightforleaders.wordpress.com](http://www.lightforleaders.wordpress.com)



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A photograph of a brown dog and a grey tabby cat sitting at a dark wooden table. In front of them are several plates of food: a stack of burgers, a plate of meatballs, a bowl of grapes, and a bowl of salad. The dog is looking directly at the camera, while the cat is looking slightly to the side. The text 'When sinners entice you, DO NOT GIVE IN...' is overlaid on the image in a large, white, serif font. The word 'entice' is particularly large and stylized. The words 'DO NOT GIVE IN' are in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font, followed by three dots.

# When sinners entice you, DO NOT GIVE IN...

By Bola Okunlade

In *Temptation*, Tyler Perry told a pathetic story of Judith who got married to her heartthrob Brice in a small county after fighting so hard to get her mother's approval to marry him. Immediately after their wedding, the couple moved to the city and even though they did not have many of life's luxuries, they had each other and were contented. Trouble came when Judith met Harley, a famous young multi-billionaire who came to do some business with her boss. Before she met Harley, Brice was all she had and she was okay with that but meeting Harley brought a twist into their lives; it brought nightmares

that she was never able to wake up from.

Judith's boss assigned her to attend to Harley and along the line, she discovered that Harley was famous and rich and most of all, that he was interested in taking her away from Brice. She withstood him initially, but her resistance started weakening when she discovered many things that her husband Brice lacked but that Harley had. She had always dreamt of setting up her own business but Brice, who seemed not to be as ambitious as her, would tell her she would have to wait for ten, fifteen years.

Meanwhile, Harley was capable of



**Growing up as a teenager, I discovered that the pressure to fit in was very strong and if not for God's grace through my parents; it would have been very easy to get enticed and get lost.**

setting up for her in an instant. It was a tortuous journey of no return for her as she delved into Harley's world and lost all that she had – her husband, her mother and sadly, her life. She did not die but she had gone far into this illicit relationship with Harley before she discovered that Harley had HIV and invariably she was positive for it too...

Teenagers are in a world of stiff competition and fight for relevance and identity; and that is why they are easily influenced by one another. Growing up as a teenager, I discovered that the pressure to fit in was very strong and if not for God's grace through my parents; it would have been very easy to get enticed and get lost. I remember an incident when I was in SS2. There was this group of boys in SS3 who were popular and rich and had always been the *talk of the school*. I belonged

to another group of girls too in my class who were the *happening* ones.

There came this day when this group of boys decided to pick each one of us as girlfriend. We had discussed it amidst ourselves and every other girl felt good about it except me. They looked forward to this great meet with these guys but deep down within me, I knew it wasn't the right thing for me but I couldn't voice it. At the said time after school hours, the guys came to meet us as arranged. But as I saw them approaching, something told me that I was about starting a journey that I would ever live to regret. I remembered my mum, my dad and I told myself that they would kill me if they ever found out. Before the guys finally got to where we were, I picked up my bag and found a way to sneak out of that scene. I was in tears but I knew it was the right thing to do at that time.

Teenagers come face to face with





people and situations that challenge their loyalty to God every day. In these circumstances, you must choose either to stand with God (which may be costlier but better by far) or give in to these people and situations that would take you away from God. The object of temptation often looks attractive and promising, but if you can see through it with the eye of wisdom, you will discover that it is not as promising as it seems. The Scripture says, "There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death" Proverbs 14:12, (NIV).

The word from the book of wisdom says, "When sinners entice you, do not give in to them" (Prov. 1:10). Take

note that the Scripture says 'when' not 'if'. That underlines the certainty of temptation as long as we are in this world.

But you can receive help to resist temptation from the Lord Jesus. Scripture says, "For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted" Hebrews 2:18, (NIV). Are you being tempted to do evil today? You can receive help from Him who has been tempted in every way, yet was without sin.

Tyler Perry concluded his story with a song, the summary of which is – *Put Jesus in your heart; let Him lead you from the start; you will surely find a way...*



**Teenagers come face to face with people and situations that challenge their loyalty to God every day**

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# owl:

## Seeing Through Darkness

By Segun Akande

If you are a leader in the home, Church or market, you will have knotty issues to grapple with from time to time. Instead of running away from or falling under such crises, God expects you to ride over them towards providing authentic leadership amidst the people.

Crises could be a golden opportunity for you to shine the light of God in you. Perhaps you are facing a crisis currently, I am sent your way to help you dig out the gold that is hidden in the situation. With divine wisdom, you will come out of that crisis victorious.

I always believe that we can learn God's wisdom through nature, especially the animals. Now, the animal I call you to behold today is the owl. Owls are birds, very interesting birds. It symbolizes wisdom and foresight. While many birds are active in the day, owl is the monarch of the night. She is the eagle of the night. All owls are

carnivorous birds of prey and live mainly on a diet of insects and small rodents such as mice, rats and hares.

So many things are interesting about owl, but we shall focus on the features that make owl the queen of the night. These features, namely, are her flight skill, hearing ability and powerful sight. With these features, owl is able to overcome what is a common problem to other birds, namely darkness.

### Silent Flight

The owls have the ability to fly silently almost without noise. This natural ability gives them an advantage over the prey, which may not suspect when owl is coming. The researchers had got the scientific explanation for that natural ability. According to wikipedia, the surface of the flight feathers is covered with a velvety structure that absorbs the sound of the wing moving. These unique structures reduce noise frequencies above 2 kHz, making the sound level emitted drop below the typical hearing spectrum of the owl's usual prey (<https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Owl>).

In leadership, you ought to engage secret and silent flight over any crisis. Nehemiah is a vivid example here. The Bible says, "By

**Crises could be a golden opportunity for you to shine the light of God in you.**

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At night I went out through the Valley Gate toward the Jackal Well and the Dung Gate, examining the walls of Jerusalem, which had been broken down, and its gates, which had been destroyed by fire. Then I moved on toward the Fountain Gate and the King's Pool, but there was not enough room for my mount to get through; so I went up the valley by night, examining the wall. Finally, I turned back and reentered through the Valley Gate. The officials did not know where I had gone or what I was doing, because as yet I had said nothing to the Jews or the priests or nobles or officials or any others who would be doing the work" Nehemiah 2:13-16, (NIV).

What exactly is the crisis confronting your leadership in the home, market or Church? You need to do thorough and objective examination of the whole situation. Unless you adequately understand what is going on and why it is going on, you may never find the true solution to the crisis. Sit down alone; examine the matter!

**Hearing Ability**

Owls are noted for asymmetrical ear placements on the skull in some genera. Asymmetrical ear placement on the skull allows the owl to pinpoint the location of its prey. With ears set at different places on its skull, an owl is able to determine the direction from which the sound is coming by

the minute difference in time that it takes for the sound waves to penetrate the left and right ears. The owl turns its head until the sound reaches both ears at the same time, at which point it is directly facing the source of the sound (wikipedia).

A leader must put down his ear in order to accurately perceive the origin of the crisis and where it is going so he may know the best way to attack. The Bible says, "Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, "This is the way; walk in it" Isaiah 30:21, (NIV). God is speaking to you concerning every critical issue in your leadership; you must slow down to listen.

**Powerful Sight**

Most owls have the ability to see very well in the dark; this is why they hunt and feed in the night. While most birds perch and sleep in the night, most owls are awake during the night hunting.

Owls have several adaptations which allow them to see well at night. First, owls have very large eyes for their body size. Large eyes let in more light than small eyes. In addition, their pupils can expand greatly at night, enhancing their ability to see in the dark. Inside of an owl's eyes, there are a large

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number of structures called rods. Rods are sensitive to light, so a large number of rods help owls see at night. Humans also have rods, but we have a much smaller number than owls have. As a result, owls see 35 to 100 times better than humans can in dim light. (UCSB Science Line)

The ability to see through crisis is very important to authentic leadership. The followers may be discouraged and lose hope in a crisis situation, yet a leader must see through the darkness of the hour into the waiting glorious light at the end of the tunnel.

**The followers may be discouraged and lose hope in a crisis situation, yet a leader must see through the darkness of the hour into the waiting glorious light at the end of the tunnel.**

You need more than physical eyes to see through the tunnel. You need the inner eyes to see through the darkness of any crisis in your leadership. This is what Jesus had in mind when He said, "The eye is the lamp of

the body. If your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are unhealthy, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness!" Matthew 6:22-23, (NIV).

Attitude! That is the name for the eye Jesus is talking about. Attitude is your inner disposition that informs how you see and approach things in life. So a leader needs an enlightened attitude for him or her to be able to see well. And the only way to be enlightened to follow Jesus Christ personally.

Jesus Christ is the only light that lightens the world and that guides men (John 1:4). Draw closer to Him through meditation in the word of God, obeying the word, consistent prayer life and service in the kingdom of God. Anytime you think of the owls, God's message is: *Get more inner light, you will see through darkness no matter how dark it is.*

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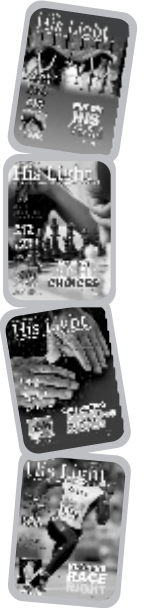
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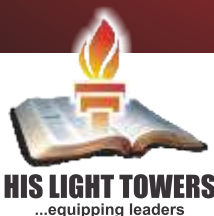
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through the waters,  
I will be with you;  
and when you pass  
through the rivers,  
they will not  
sweep over you.  
When you walk  
through the fire,  
you will not be burned;  
the flames will not  
set you ablaze”

Isaiah43:2, (NIV).



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