**Volume 2 Number 6** 

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# IS LIGHT TOWES Winyour Lightwe see light... Psalm 36:9

SPOUSE STRENGTH WIND: BEATING ALL ODDS

DESTINY & **READING** 

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# Welcome



You will get problems solved easily if you develop your leadership consciousness. Consciousness is the state of being awake to understand what is happening within and around you in order to take the right action. Now, leadership consciousness is your ability to know the right thing to do to move forward in every situation. While many people take actions that either stagnate or set them backward in God's purpose, a leader with consciousness takes actions moving forward always.

In His leadership seminar, Jesus said leaders are salt and light. Salt and light are a symbol of high level consciousness. If salt is salt and light is light, nothing stops their effect in the environment. You will know that salt is present in the food through its effect, and you will know that light is available through its shinning. You cannot have a light that shines not and salt that is tasteless.

In the same way, God expects you to produce deep effect in your world, He wants you to have a great leadership impact in your generation. The key to this is you must develop your leadership consciousness. You must recognize the need you were born to meet, the personal disciplines you ought to cultivate

and the things you ought to avoid as a

Leadership consciousness teaches leaders to avoid certain pleasurable things other people embrace.

leader. Consider Joseph of Egypt! Why did he decline the offer of free sexual enjoyment from his master's wife? His leadership consciousness helped him to know that a leader doesn't do that. Leadership consciousness teaches leaders to avoid certain pleasurable things other people embrace.

Through leadership consciousness, you will know the war you ought to win and how to position yourself on the

winning side. Our burden borders on this matter. We believe that the Lord is going to take you to a higher level in your leadership as you read this edition in Jesus name. Stay blessed!

Your brother, **Segun Akande** 

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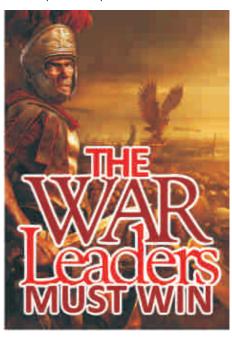
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# How To Escape Hell:

#### 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).



#### By Segun Akande

avid grieved the death of King Saul and his son, Jonathan, in battle. He lamented, "How the mighty have fallen! The weapons of war have perished!" 2 Samuel 1:27,(NIV). David was a leader and he was passionate about the well-fare of other leaders. How do you feel when you hear that a leader falls?

Leadership is warfare. It is a truth that cannot be repeated too often. Many people are ignorant of this and that is why we have many casualties in leadership today. While some leaders are falling, you and I must not be in the number. May the fallen ones rise again!

Many people consider leadership position as an opportunity to just enjoy and rule over people, but leadership in God's kingdom is different

Many people consider leadership position as an opportunity to just enjoy and rule over people, but leadership in God's kingdom is different. The people of Israel knew that very well. When they asked for a king, their expected qualities of such a candidate were that of a warrior. The Bible says. "Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles" 1 Samuel 8:19-20, (KJV).

That was not peculiar to the Old Testament alone. In the New Testament, the Lord Jesus said, "From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it" Matthew 11:12 (NIV). This

Christian, you have leadership mandate over your life and you must learn to fight wars.

There are two types of wars leaders must fight. They are: the war within and the war without. The war without is the struggles you have with the external forces such as men and the evil spirits. The war within is the internal struggles you have with evil thoughts and attitude inside your heart. It is the most dangerous war. A leader who has victory within will have victory without. But a leader who is defeated within will not be able to stand the enemies without. So, the war every leader ought to strive to win first is the war within.

#### The War Within

The strongest war takes place within; it happen



#### Let us first seek to be fit in the inner life before aspiring to occupy big positions!

s at the realm beyond human observations. It happens silently and secretly. Apostle Paul says, "For we wrestle..." The wrestling starts where life flows from: it starts in the heart. This is why the Bible says, "Keep vigilant watch over your heart; that's where life starts" Proverbs 4:23. (MSG).

The war within started with Adam when he ate the forbidden fruit. God created him to provide leadership on earth. He however lost his place to the devil. The devil

fought with him at the heart realm and Adam was defeated. On the day he disobeyed God, the devil captured his heart and he was defeated. So, all of us were born defeated.

One day, the Jewish leaders declared the disciples of Jesus defiled because they ate without washing their hands ceremonially. In reaction, Jesus said, "For out of the heart come evil thoughts-murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them." Matthew 15:19-20. (NIV).

Note that the word 'defile' means to make unclean, corrupt or unfit. It comes from the French word





Everyone who has received the gift of salvation already has the capacity to enjoy victory within.

defouler, which means to trample under feet. This is a picture of total defeat. It really means to become defeated within. A man who is said to be defiled is defeated and useless for God's purpose.

God banished Adam from the garden because he was defeated within. It doesn't matter if people are still admiring a defiled leader. God will not commit to him or her the treasures of heaven. He/she cannot be a blessing to people; he is shut out, making motion

without movement. For instance, God had rejected Saul as king but he remained on the throne for forty years.

Check your heart. Bitterness towards a colleague, hatred towards another person, lustful thoughts towards the person of the opposite sex — all these are indications of a defiled heart. Churches, homes and the society suffer today because of this inner defeat. Let us first seek to be fit in the inner life before aspiring to occupy big positions!

Jesus talked about His victory within when He said, "I will not say much more to you, for the prince of this world is coming. He has no hold over me" John 14:30, (NIV). Jesus remained undefiled, undefeated till the end. He became the Master of life and the



Leader of leaders. And the reason He came into the world is to make provision for our victory too.

#### Winning the War Within

The hottest war rages within. Both good and bad affections do contest for the control of your heart, and the outcome of this struggle determines your leadership destiny here and hereafter. Bad affection defeats a man; godly affection makes a leader fit for God's service.

I have this good news for you: God has made provision for your victory through Jesus Christ. This provision is called salvation. Salvation simply means deliverance, and it is only found by putting your faith in Jesus as your Lord and Saviour. It is deliverance from the moral and spiritual corruption that is within the heart and the conversion of natural life into eternal life. Salvation is a

The key to winning the war within is by setting your mind on the things above, the truth that is from above - the things

Jesus did

The war within is the internal struggles you have with evil thoughts and attitude inside your heart.

comprehensive gift of God, containing purity, holiness, prosperity, power, righteousness, etc.

Everyone who has received the gift of salvation already has the capacity to enjoy victory within. Meanwhile, this capacity can be maximized through knowledge, the knowledge of the truth about Jesus and all He did for us. In order for the Colossian Christians to experience this inner victory, brother Paul instructed them thus: "Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above,



The word of God has the potency to cleanse your inner life; it has the power to purify your heart from all corruption and pervasions of life.

not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory" Colossians 3:1-4, (NIV).

The key to winning the war within is by setting your mind on the things above, the truth that is from above - the things Jesus did. Note that every leader who failed did so



because they set their minds on earthly things. For instance, Adam and Eve failed in the beginning because they set their minds on what the devil told them. King David failed because he set his mind on a woman who was bathing; Samson failed because he set his mind on strange girls.

Securing victory in the inner life requires sincerity to yourself. You must be frank with yourself. No one knows what goes on within your mind from time to time. And no one can fight the war within for you. Unless you ask for help, everybody around you may think all is well with your life. The war within is most dangerous because it happens silently and secretly and it happens always, as long as the mind is thinking.

Therefore, you must consciously set your mind. The mind or heart is very versatile and fragile. Like a faulty wall clock, it can easily lose its grip on what is right. So you have the personal responsibility of setting it right from time to time. Jesus said, "Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap" Luke 21:34, (NIV). Let me show you what you ought to do to set your mind right towards securing inner victory.

Renew your mind. Brother Paul instructed the Roman Christians to renew their minds because it is the major key to winning (Romans 12:1-2). The first step in renewing your mind is paying attention to your mind, being conscious of what is going on from time to time. The writer of Proverbs says, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it" Proverbs 4:23, (NIV).

Wash it by the living water. The only thing that has power to wash the mind or heart is the word of God. It is the only thing God usually recommends to every man who seeks to serve Him. Anyone who ignores the word of God in his life will have his inner life destroyed and his leadership destiny ruined.

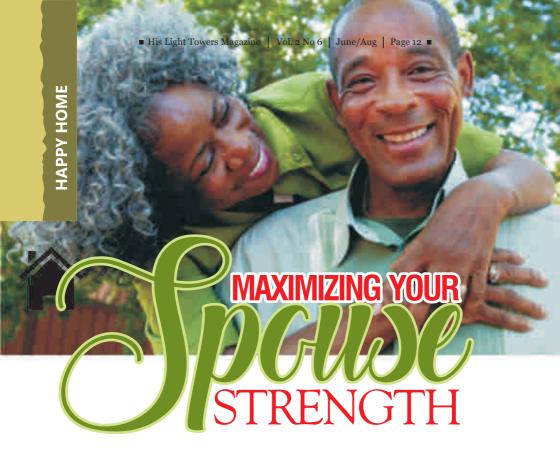
By the time Joshua entered into leadership fully, God said, "Keep this Book of the Law always on



your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful" Joshua 1:8, (NIV). This is important for Joshua because the word of God will give him the right orientation and keep him fit before God.

Jesus revealed the efficacy of the word of God after He had instructed them on leadership. He said, "You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you" John 15:3, (NIV). cleansed leader is a winning leader. The word of God has the potency to cleanse your inner life; it has the power to purify your heart from all corruption and pervasions of life. Whether you read it or listen to the word being taught or preached, it will lift and cleanse you from the inner decay that ruins many leaders. The war leaders must win is the war within. Wake up. Fight in the strength of the Lord. Victory is sure!

Segun Akande is a leadership coach. He believes that whether things are good or bad, leadership is the way forward. You can reach him on +234 8034490208, akande03@yahoo.com



By E. A. FALADE

mma and Kate were classmates in the university while studying law. They got attracted together by the diligence of the two as both always met in the law library reporting cases studied in the class. While in the final year, Emma noticed that Kates' GPA was so high that with a little effort she would end up in first class honours degree. His own GPA as at then was just in

third class. Because Emma had proposed to marry Kate and she had agreed, he had to work hard and he finally finished with second class honours (lower division) while the wife, Kate graduated with second class honours (upper division).

It was Emma who raised a poser while discussing a marriage seminar he would be foolish to look down on his wife who actually is highly

The strength of the home is in the potentials of both the husband and the wife.

intelligent. Though initially, he had made efforts to trivialize her suggestions and contributions. Of course, he confessed that he had lived to regret such foolish actions in the past.

The coming together of a man and a woman in agreement of marriage is mystery which Paul likens to the union of Christ and the Church (Ephesians 5:32). Jesus as the Lord of the Church declared, And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. Matthew 16:18. (NIV). Jesus in union with the Church makes the Church almost invisible and impregnable to the powers of darkness. In fact Jesus watches over His Church to save, justify and vindicate her, no matter the accusations of the evil one.

In a like manner, the home where the wife agrees with her husband has such a formidable power that the scriptures affirm, "Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven" Matthew



18:18-19, (NIV). There is not only power but synergy when the husband and wife agree as touching anything about them.

#### **Maximizing Strength**

Strength is the quality or degree of being strong; it is synonymous to power, capability, expertise, fortitude. Everything and every creature of God is made with its own strength. For example, the strength of a house lies in the foundation, the strength of a horse is in its hind feet and the strength of the home is in the potentials of both the husband and the wife. What will make a home great, virile and successful is inherent in that home. The earlier couples recognize this fact, the better for them.

Unfortunately, instead of spouses to follow and recognize the gift of

Your spouse is a God's special gift for you and your life. He or she has been positioned for you to take you to your haven of rest.

God in the life of their spouses, there are tendencies for them sometimes to trade blames and see their spouse as the problem when in actual fact, the best thing that can happen to you is your spouse. Your spouse is a God's special gift for you and your life. He or she has been positioned for you to take you to your haven of rest. No one else can and should replace him or her.



Your spouse strength may be in iii. his or her intelligence like in the case of Emma and Kate. In some iv. others, the strength may lie in the spiritual others may exhibit courage, physical fitness, forgiveness, patience, gifts of the **Conclusion** Holy Spirit, service, selflessness Every home instituted by God is and giving. The strength of some unique and special. The home is may appear as small as making designed to be a solution to one himself or herself available, major problem of life and that giving invaluable pieces of advice generation. God had equally and supporting his or her spouse packaged in the couple all that financially. In fact, there is no end they will need to fulfil destiny. Do to what the strength of the not despise the strengths in your spouses can be.

are:

- a. Study your spouse very critically and discover the strength he or she possesses.
- b. Nurture the strength and nourish those areas of his or her strength.
- c. Praise God for those strengths and verbally acknowledge and appreciate them.
- d. Pray for God to bless your spouse for those divine deposits.
- e. Celebrate those deposits in your spouse by:
- i. Mentioning them.
- ii. Employing them.

- Requesting specifically for them.
- Treating him or her specially because of those strength.

spouse, running them down All that the spouses need to be because of a few weaknesses in his or her life.



Rev. E.A. Falade, 08037149566

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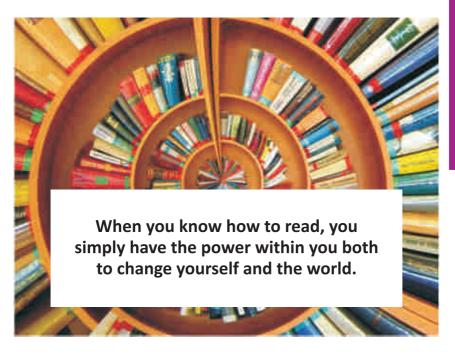
# DESTINY AND READING

(Part IV)

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."

- Charles Spurgeon



Your destiny needs a solid foundation of knowledge. Someone once asked Benjamin Franklin what sort of person he most pitied. Franklin replied. "A lonesome man on a rainy day who does not know how to read." This statement underscores the power of reading. When you know how to read, you simply have the power within you both to change yourself and the world. In the last three editions, I have established reasons why you need to read as well as what kind of books you should feed

your mind with. In this edition, I want to share with you how you can make the most of every opportunity to enhance your reading. You will especially learn how to set up your personal library and certain factors you should consider when reading.

#### When to Read

sometimes hear people complain that they don't have enough time to read, but the fact is that those who are addicted to books make time - in waiting rooms, on a commute, in the backyard, etc.

What do you think? Where do you like to read? Traditionally, the library has been designated as the place where reading takes place. This however may not be applicable all the time depending on individual.

As you grow in your reading habit, you will discover that you can easily convert any place under any circumstance to your own reading room. The implies reading can be done anytime such that no idle moment is entertained. I need to remark.

though, that you need to take charge of yourself and the environment where you are reading to ensure you are not just whiling away time but actually getting the best of the reading.

I want to also encourage you to begin to build your library and set up your own reading room. A personal library is the hallmark of all successful people. Your personal library should contain the following set of materials: your lecture notes; your text books and recommended reference



books; your seminar materials; photocopies of relevant following rules if you really want materials; inspiring books, tapes, DVDs and CDs; articles, newsletters or magazines; dissertations or theses; printouts, and all the books you have read and intend to read for the year and beyond.

#### Ways you need to read

Acquiring information demands discipline, as it doesn't jump on people. It is only available to explorers. It is a product of an intelligent search. Jesus said, "You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). However, for you to discover the truth, you must employ the weapon of discipline. So, as you read, you

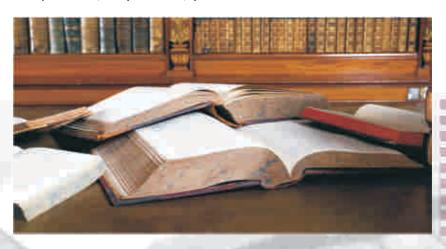
should take note of the to get the best of your reading.

**Read Thoughtfully:** Give careful thought to the content of the book you are reading.

Read Repeatedly: Sometimes, you need to read more than once to grasp the message in the book.

Read Patiently: Don't be in a hurry to finish the book: take time to understand what the book is saying to you.

Read Prayerfully: Pray for quick understanding before you start reading any material of your choice.





Read Meditatively: Take time to ruminate on whatever you have gleaned from your reading.

Read Selectively: Don't just read anything; read materials that will aid you in your journey to fulfilling your destiny.

Read Imaginatively: Think along with the author what he actually has in mind to pass across to you.

Read Purposefully: Don't be a casual reader; read with the aim of getting something out of your reading.

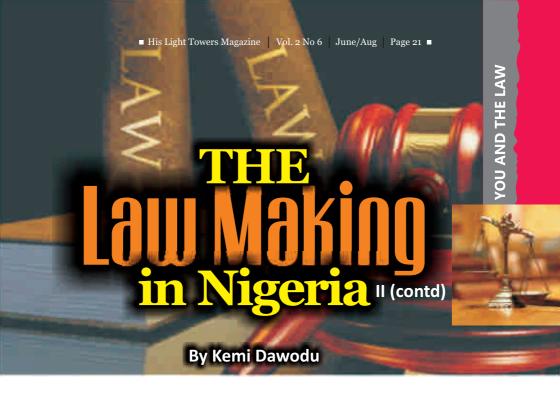
Read Acquisitively: Read with deep intention to learn something.

**Read Telescopically:** Try to see beyond the pages of the book you are holding.

Let me conclude with these words from Ben Carson: "If we commit ourselves to reading thus increasing our knowledge, only God limits how far we can go in this world."



Gideon Akanbi The Godly Brains Ministries, Ibadan 08033101332



"Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God"Romans 13:1, (KJV).

I have shared with you three stages of law making process at the National Assembly in Nigeria in the last two editions. In this series sharing the fourth stage.

#### STAGE FOUR

#### **President**

Another way in which the President is involved in the act of law making is by signing bills into

laws. A bill does not become law until the President signs it. The Clerk of the National Assembly will "enrol" the bill for the edition, I shall conclude the President's signature. Enrolment is the production of a clean copy for the assent of the President. The Clerk of the National Assembly produces the clean copy, certifies it and forwards it to the President.

The President has thirty (30) days to sign a bill sent to him/her by the National Assembly. If s/he disagrees with the provision of the bill or some aspects of it, s/he can veto by withholding his/her signature. Within the 30 days, the President must communicate to the National Assembly his/her feelings and comments about the bill. The President must state the areas s/he wants amended before s/he signs the bill. If the National Assembly agrees with the President, the bill can be withdrawn for deliberation on the amendments suggested by the President.

However, the National Assembly is empowered by the constitution to overrule the veto of the President. If, after 30 days, the President refuses to sign the bill and the National Assembly is not in support of the President's amendments, the two chambers can recall the bill and re-pass it. If the bill is passed in the form it was sent to the President by two-third majority vote in both chambers, the bill automatically becomes a law even without the signature of the President. This happened in the case of the Niger Delta Development Commission Bill. The two chambers passed the bill into law after the President failed to sign it within the time that is prescribed for him to do SO.



Let us not leave our house desolate but with prayer and participation lead our nation on a righteous path.

The role of Christians in the law making processes of this country cannot be over emphasized neither can it be ignored. As children of God, we should pray for our leaders in the executive and legislative arms, as well as the judiciary for

direction, integrity, selflessness and uprightness in the laws /decisions to be made with respect to the country's affairs.

It should also be noted that there are opportunities open to the general public for their useful input to the law making process such as sponsoring of a bill and public hearing at the committee stage. As children of God, we have a role to play in nation building and national development. Examples of bills that can be sponsored by Christians include bills against child marriage, immoral or

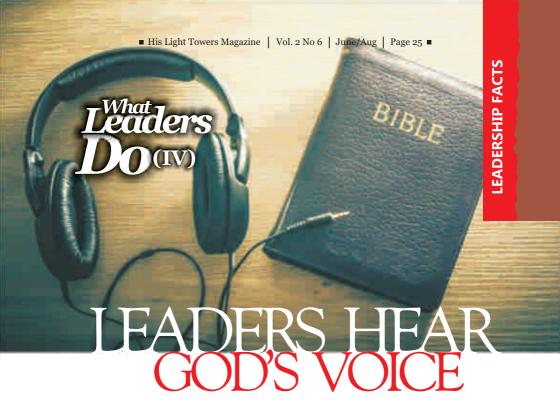


indecent sexual behaviours; righteousness exalts a nation bills to preserve freedom of and sin is a reproach to any worship and approve places of people." Proverbs 14:34 (NKJV) worship; bills to protect persecuted Christians in various References places in the country; bills to www.nassnig.org give refuge to Christians, who www.house.gov are being persecuted, in www.votesmart.org/education neighbouring states.

In conclusion, let us not forget that our Christian journey is embedded in the love and laws of God. As a result, we should not shy away from involvement in the law making process as Christians, either by not praying or not actively participating in the process. In the Gospels, according to Matthew (23:1-12) Mark (12:38-40), Luke (20:20-26) and John (8:3-4), Jesus Christ met with law makers of that period at certain times, and condemned every unholy and hypocritical act of the rulers. There were times this nearly cost him his life, but a way of escape was always provided for him. Let us not leave our house desolate but with prayer and participation lead our nation on a righteous path. "For



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#### Segun Akande

eaders pursue purpose. That was the fact I pointed out last edition. Leaders are not depressed, confused wanderers on earth; they quickly discover life purpose and pursue it immediately. Now, for such a pursuit to be a success, leaders also hear God's voice.

Yes! Leaders hear God's voice. They develop personal ability in sensing what God says to them from time to time. As a leader, God is thinking about you and His thought for you is good, not evil. He wants you to make

good success of your leadership endeavours. So, His thought is propelling Him to speak to you always, especially now.

What are the attributes of God's voice? The voice of God is subjective. It is a personal affair between you and God. When God speaks to you, the closest person in your life cannot hear it except God speaks to him or her on the same matter. It is only you who can hear what God says to you. Do not wait on another person to hear

God's voice for you; the most spiritual person may make mistake.

Do not wait on another person to hear God's voice for you; the most spiritual person may make mistake.

God's voice carries divine power. This implies that the voice of God can bring about tangible effect on your life and your leadership; it can cause visible changes in your life. The Bible says, "The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is majestic. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon" Psalm 29:4-5, (NIV).

The voice of God shatters obstacles. Leaders, of themselves, cannot overcome obstacles in life. So, to overcome obstacles, you need to connect God's voice on any matter of concern in your leadership. The Bible says, "The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon." The voice of God terminates fruitless toils. Peter and his friends laboured all night to catch fish but all was to no avail. But, when Jesus came around, He spoke to Peter on what to do. The Bible says, Simon answered, "Master, we've worked hard all night and haven't caught anything. But because you say so, I will let down the nets." Luke 5:5, (NIV).

The voice of God ushers men into genuine leadership. The Bible says, "In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar—when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea. Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene- during the highpriesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" Luke 3:1-3, (NIV). The voice of God distinguished John among the religious and political leaders of his days.

#### **HOW GOD'S VOICE COMES**

The political leaders of our days engage various media to communicate their policies to the public. These media include the television, radio, newspaper, the internet, etc. In a similar way, God has many channels through which He communicates His mind to His children. The first channel is the inner quiet voice. God speaks to us

To overcome obstacles, you need to connect God's voice on any matter of concern in your leadership.

Dreams are a channel through which we see through into the spirit realm of our life, and God does engage it too

through our heart. It may come to you like a thought, a deeper feeling, an intuition, etc. The best way to recognize it is that it brings peace with it.

God's voice may come as an audible sound. You can hear him like your friend is talking to you. The audible voice may come while you are alone. God may speak through dreams and visions. Dreams are a channel through which we see through into the spirit realm of our life, and God does engage it too. God can speak to you through trance. Trance is a form of vision, but it comes like a flash. While dreams and visions often happen while one is

asleep, trance happens when one is awake, but one's consciousness is usually suspended.

God can speak through circumstances. Depending on how sensitive you are in the Spirit, God can speak through any situations. Jesus condemned the Jews for their inability to read the signs of the time. They could do weather forecast but they couldn't recognize the time of God's visitation. God can speak to you anywhere, anytime. You don't need to patronize the so-called prophets before you can know what God is saying to you. You only need to position yourself for Him like the young Samuel of old.

# Getting Positioned to Hear God's Voice

Prophet Habakkuk said, "I will stand at my watch and station myself on the ramparts; I will look to see what he will say to me, and what answer I am to give to this complaint." Habakkuk 2:1, (NIV)

Through Prophet Habakkuk, we learn that a leader can position himself for



Prayer and fasting is a spiritual discipline that strengthens your spirit to catch the things of God.

the purpose of hearing the voice of God. You can't stand aloof, thinking that God would speak when He wants to speak. No. you ought to prepare yourself for hearing Him. This attitude will help you not to miss whatever God intends to pass across to you. The following are few of the things you ought to do in order to catch God's voice for your life.

Change your mindset. Certain mindset will always block your ears from hearing the divine voice. You need to change your mindset from negative to positive. Negative mindset or attitude like malice, hatred, lust, doubt, fear, will always block your ears. Do yourself a favour to remove them from your life.

Engage in prayer and fasting. Prayer and fasting is a spiritual discipline that strengthens your spirit to catch the things of God. Daniel and his friends faced a difficult situation in Babylon. The king demanded the wise men and astrologers of Babylon to remind him his forgotten dream and to interpret the dream. None of the wise men

could do it. But Daniel did it through prayers (Daniel 2:17). Daniel engaged prayer and fasting to discover what was to happen to the people of Judah and the entire world.

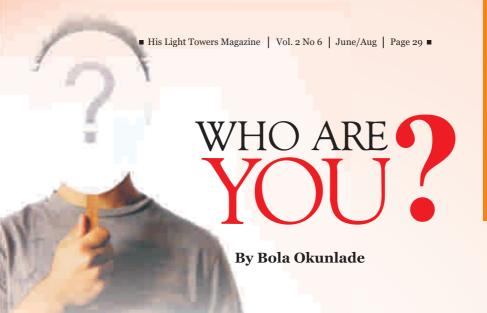
Go on personal retreat. A retreat is a time you set apart to be alone with God for the purpose of having communion with Him. It is a time of quietness and focus on God. There, you can easily sense what God is saying to your life.

Have fellowship with God's children. God usually speaks to us through His other children. God may speak through your pastor's sermon, Sunday School lesson, choir ministrations, congregational singing, etc. Missing church fellowship is missing an important channel through which God's voice comes. The Bible says, "not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching" Hebrews 10:25, (NIV).

God is speaking to you today. Tune your ears to catch it. Keep a journal for God's words to you, and obey it at the appropriate time.

Stay blessed!

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Rachel had always been a good girl. Her parents and people in her neighbourhood considered her a model for others. About a year and a half ago, during summer school, she started hanging out with Nora, the most popular girl in her school. Nora was pretty, outgoing, and every boy at school wanted to talk with her. Rachel saw in Nora everything she (Rachel) thought she wanted to be. She would also like to be that girl that boys love to talk to.

They hit it off right away and started spending every day together. With a couple of other girls, they formed a clique. In order to be friends with these girls, Rachel had to break every rule as she put aside all the principles she had always lived by. She would have loved to obey mum and dad like she had always done but she was determined to be friends with these girls and become popular.

Who are you? This is the question of identity. Just like Rachel, everyone has to answer the question of identity at one time or the other because identity is an integral

part of every life. One who is not sure of his or her identity is said to be having an identity crisis. In today's rapidly changing world, people tend to experience identity crisis more than before.

Although identity crisis is not confined to the teenage years, psychologists say the crisis is heightened in adolescence due to the developmental changes associated with puberty. Teenagers experience rapid changes in body build, hormones, emotions and cognitive abilities. These changes come with a contemplation of their identity and roles in the society. Answering the question of identity during the teenage years is important because it will help prepare you for the developmental tasks that lie ahead.

One of the things that come with the onset of adolescence is a new awareness or realisation of who we are.

What's with teenage identity? One of the things that come with the onset of adolescence is a new awareness or realization of who we are. The physical and physiological changes that take place in adolescence often bring curiosity in the teenager - curiosity about the reason for these changes. Adolescence is a time of great change not only physically, but also emotionally, mentally, socially and spiritually. It's a time when teens are asking questions like "Who am I?", "What do I believe?", "How do I fit into life in this world?" One timeless question that teens seek answers to as they grow into adulthood is 'Who am I?' Psychologists say this is one question at the centre of teenage rebellion. Because teenagers are having a hard time figuring out who they are, they often rebel against authority especially when that authority is trying to 'force' them to accept a definition of themselves they are not comfortable with.

Why do you need an identity? Identity is a major building block in a person's life. Getting to know who you are during the period of adolescence is very crucial because it would form a foundation for many other things in your life. Identity is central in life because it is the springboard or propeller from which so many great achievers and even the never-do-wells have soared to their prospective destinations. While a right sense of your person would enhance your perception of things around you as well as your response to them, a wrong perception would colour your view of things and also affect your reaction to them.

Among many other things, your identity will determine your approach to life, the choices you make and how well you are able to harness your God-given potentials.



Among many other things, your identity will determine your approach to life, the choices you make and how well you are able to harness your God-given potentials. Many teenagers who missed it at their adolescence never get the opportunity to fix the issue of identity. Someone said "there are so many crises in life but 'none is as serious and critical as identity crisis." One who suffers identity crisis does not know who he or she is and so struggles to be someone else. Deeply seated beneath the crises of identity is the need to belong and of unhealthy comparing of oneself with another.

This need for acceptance and respect often makes many teenagers look for meaning and answers to their questions amidst their peers. They often allow teenagers like themselves define this period for them. The Scripture says, "... When they measure themselves by themselves and compare themselves with themselves, they are not wise." (2 Corinthians 10:12) The truth is: your real or perfect identity is not in what others think, feel or say about you. Sometimes, the definitions people give of you are not perfect. Your personality, chosen career path or family background might give you a form of identity but that also may not be accurate.

# Your correct or accurate identity is in knowing who you are in God.

How then can you attain the right identity? How can you solve the problem of identity crisis? The journey of getting to know who you really are begins when you commit your life to Jesus. Blaise Pascal said "Not only do we only know God through Jesus Christ, but we only know ourselves through Jesus Christ... apart from Jesus Christ we cannot know the meaning of our life...." The great Christian thinker John Calvin said there's no knowing that does not begin with knowing God. Your perfect identity is the picture God has of you and until you get

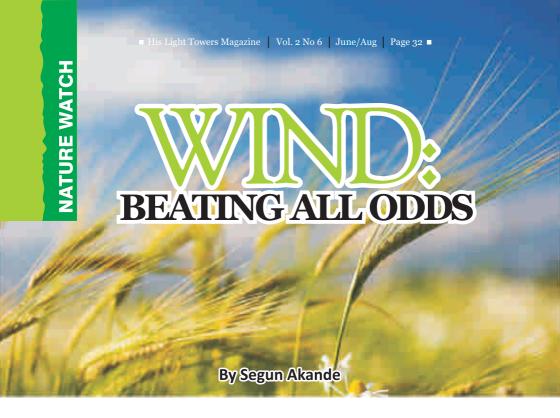


that, you will never be able to solve the frustration that comes with identity crisis. The Lord said to Jeremiah, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." (Jeremiah 1:4-5) Until you find your identity in Christ, all other definitions of you aren't going to be perfect because He was the One who formed you and He knows your frame; He knows how and what He has designed you for.

In Elizabeth George's description, without Christ, "one is like a man with a great car...but without a key. You can't get the car started. You can't make it work. You can't go anywhere. A relationship with God is the key – the key to all of life – including getting to know who you are." The psalmist rightly says, "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." (Psalm 139:13-14)

There is no authentic identity outside God. Psychologists have done a lot in defining the teenager but the most accurate perspective is the one God gives about you. Reinhard Bonnke said, "we become what we were born to be only when we are born again." Your correct or accurate identity is in knowing who you are in God. Anything outside that is not it. God has endowed you with great potentials but the key to unlocking them is in getting to know God through Christ.

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ou can see the invisible and do the impossible. Even when certain obstacles refuse to give way, you can step over them to your destination. My heart vibrates with passion about this truth I want to share with you.

I love talking about nature to drive home divine truth about human life. Can you perceive a natural phenomenon called air? When air is set in motion, it becomes wind. The Lord Jesus illustrates the life of a member of God's kingdom with the wind.

The Lord said to Nicodemus: "You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it

comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit" John 3:7-8, (NIV). Jesus shows that if you are born again, you are unstoppable.

Have you heard about hurricanes, tornados, cyclones and monsoons? They are all powerful winds. The scientists had attempted to explain

Jesus shows that if you are born again, you are unstoppable.



their behaviours, but they could not go beyond explanations. They have not been able to stop them on their paths. That exactly is the picture Jesus paints of a you in the kingdom of God.

#### You Are Free

God was not tired neither was He slumbering when He formed you in your mother's womb. In fact, He was fully awake forming you in the womb with the intention of bringing the best you into the world. He really desired that you would be a showpiece of His glory and honour among the people of the world

. The truth about this is that by your faith in Jesus Christ you are free, totally free to become that which God created you to be. Please pay attention here! God desires that when men look at the outcome of your life, they will be dazed. The King David of old knew this truth and he pursued it. He said, "I praise vou because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be" Psalm 139:14-16. (NIV).

God went into all that trouble forming you because He had a particular thing in His mind as your life purpose. The truth about this is that by your faith in Jesus Christ you are free, totally free to become that which God created you to be. Don't live by people's opinions. They may not know God's plan for your life. You have the personal responsibility to discover your life purpose and pursue it with all you have got.

#### **Generate Great Effect**

Some men of old didn't leave the world the way they met it: they caused a great change before they left. That is the kind of effect God wants you to make in the world. It was said of the early apostles that they turned the world upside down. The life you have received from Jesus is not an ordinary, passive or inactive life. It is a life that is designed to greatly affect others.

Jesus gave you eternal life, a life that is superior to a normal life that so many people live. It is a life that has no end; it is superior in quality and longevity. It is the life of God Himself that you are carrying.

#### **Beating All Odds**

Wind doesn't fear obstacles: it beats them. If Jesus compares you to the wind, then, His expectations of your life are very high. He expects you not to run away from challenges. He wants you to face the present challenges of your life with faith in Him until you secure permanent victory.

Apostle Paul identified a problem in his body, a problem that was packaged to stop his progress. He prayed three times for God to take the problem off his life, but God's response shows that no problem can stop a child of God in fulfilling his God-given destiny.

God asked Paul to shift his attention from the problem but focus on His provision which He had made available for him in the redemption package. This provision of God is called grace. Think of the exploits Paul did by this grace of God. I don't know if anyone can beat his record in the entire Christendom.

What are your limitations or weaknesses? Look away from them. Hook up to the grace of God. Stop talking about what you don't have but wake up to engage what you have. God indeed has given you all it takes to get what you need. You can be who God wants you to be; do what He wants you to do and have what He wants you to have despite the present difficulties and challenges.

Anytime you perceive the action of a wind, listen very well because God is speaking to you. When you listen very well, you will hear a voice saying: Rise up, nothing can stop you; you have what it takes in Christ to beat your challenges.

Wind doesn't fear obstacles: it beats them.

**Segun Akande** is a leadership coach. He believes that whether things are good or bad, leadership is the way forward. You can reach him on +234 8034490208, akande03@yahoo.com

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Ephesians 6:12, (KJV)



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