

Volume 1 Number 1

His Light TOWERS *Magazine*

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

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CHARACTER**

**Instilling Godly
DISCIPLINE**

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FOR IN A LEADER**

BE Holy

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Welcome

Without Holiness...

*"Because it is written,
Be ye holy; for I am holy"*

1Peter 1:16, (KJV).

Holiness is possible! God doesn't ask anything from a man which the man has no capacity for. From what God has done through Jesus for us, you have all it takes to live holy today and always.

'Be ye holy' is a divine command. It is not a subject to argue about or object of discussion but an order to personally obey. The command is directed to one person - you! Group holiness does not last, but you must daily pursue personal holiness because without holiness no person can see the Lord.

Without holiness you have no destiny in God; without holiness you have no place in paradise; without holiness you stand to share the same end with sinners - eternal damnation.

The truth is, without personal holiness, no pastor, no evangelist, no doctor, no teacher can see the Lord. Without holiness you have no destiny in God; without holiness you have no place in paradise; without holiness you stand to share the same end with sinners - eternal damnation.

Being holy is not by power or might, but by faith in God. The primary attitude for living the life of holiness is the attitude of total trust in God. The Bible says, "For in the gospel God's righteousness is being revealed from faith to faith, as it is written, "The righteous will live by faith" Romans 1:17, (ISV).

To this end, our editorial burden this month bears upon the subject of holiness. We are trusting and praying that the Lord will open your inner eye to see the truth beyond the letters in Jesus name!

Your brother,
Segun Akande

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...spreading light

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).

BE Holy

By Segun Akande

Be holy! It is a command you can't afford to ignore every moment if you want to effectively serve the purpose of God, if you want to be rapturable and make heaven after all your transactions here.

Sinfulness is the opposite of holiness. If you know how grievous sin and sinfulness is, you will make holiness the hallmark of your life and living everyday. What God revealed to me about sin and sinfulness makes me afraid and I have the obligation to share the revelation with you.

Sinfulness is Grievous

Sinfulness is a severe spiritual condition. Lying, malice, sexual immorality, stealing - all these vices weaken and enfeeble human soul. It drains your spiritual strength and envelopes you with thick spiritual darkness. Note that sinfulness is more severe in the spiritual life of a man than Ebola in the physical



Sinfulness is a severe spiritual condition because it puts God's hand away from a man's life; it goes far to spoil a man's relationship with the Almighty God.

state of its victim.

When you commit a sin, it causes pain in your soul. The severe condition of sin is felt in form of emotional pain that is also known as guilt. Although sinning has the promise of certain temporary pleasure, but shortly after the sin is committed, the sinner realizes that the pleasure is pseudo and short-lived. And after all, the sin leaves a

damaging effect in the soul of the sinner

Furthermore, the spiritual condition of a man becomes more severe if, when he commits a sin, he doesn't feel any pain namely, guilt. That indicates a state of spiritual deadness. It is like a leper who puts his infected hand in the fire. He is smiling while his fingers are burning because the leper has lost pain sensation in his body. How similarly bad is it for a man who has lost the sense of sin!

Again, sinfulness is a severe spiritual condition

Through your faith in Jesus, God had conferred on you the holiness status of Jesus

Ultimately, all sinners have a common future: it is the future of pain, anguish, sorrow and eternal destruction.

because it puts God's hand away from a man's life; it goes far to spoil a man's relationship with the Almighty God. The Bible says, *"See, the LORD's hand is not too short to save, nor are his ears too dull to hear. Instead, your iniquities have been barriers between you and your God, and your sins have concealed his face from you so that he won't listen. For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your tongue mutters wickedness"* Isaiah 59:1-3, (ISV).

Sinfulness makes you become an enemy of God. Because God hates sin and sinning, anyone who delights in sinning directly becomes an enemy of God. Who is strong enough to strive with his maker? Are you?

Ultimately, all sinners

have a common future: it is the future of pain, anguish, sorrow and eternal destruction. God has set a day to fight all His enemies, those who hate what He loves and those who love what God hates. The Bible says, *"Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish"* Psalm 1:5-6, (ISV).

Repentance Is Refreshing

Meanwhile, since you are privileged to be alive reading this truth, it is God's second chance extended to you, an opportunity to repent of all your wrongdoings. The Bible says, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins

Holiness has its root in genuine repentance, it is the first step towards a personal walk with the Holy God.



A transaction occurred when you believed in Christ Jesus: your sinfulness and pervasion was replaced with Jesus' holiness and righteousness.

may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord* Acts 3:19, (ISV).

The word, repent, simply means a change of mind or a change of thought. Since both virtues and vices are products of human thought, therefore, to repent is to have a change of thought pattern after the pattern of God as revealed in His written word. Holiness has its root in genuine repentance, it is the first step towards a personal walk with the Holy God.

The Imputed Holiness

After your genuine repentance, God did a cleansing work in your soul: He washed you clean by the blood of Jesus Christ. Through your faith in Jesus, God had conferred on you the holiness status of Jesus. This is the status of every genuine child of God. In all the letters of Paul to the early Churches, he addressed them as the holy people of God. This does not imply that they were morally perfect, but it presupposes that

Remember that you have no righteousness or holiness of your own; it is God's holiness He imputed in you through Jesus Christ that you ought to labour to maximize.



the punishment that made us whole was upon him, and by his bruises we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray, we have turned, each of us, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all" Isaiah 53:5-6, (ISV).

Therefore, God expects you to live with holiness

God had conferred the status of holiness on every believer. The Bible says, "But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people to be his very own and to proclaim the wonderful deeds of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light" 1Peter 2:9, (ISV).

A transaction occurred when you believed in Christ Jesus: your sinfulness and perversion was replaced with Jesus' holiness and righteousness. When Jesus died on the cross the sin of the world died in Him because the Father laid it on Him. He was made sin for us. He didn't know sin, but He took our sin and the punishment that we deserve so we may take His holiness and righteousness (2 Corinthians 5:21; Colossians 1:22-23; Colossians 3:12). Isaiah saw this truth ahead before it happened and he said, "But he was wounded for our transgressions, and he was crushed for our iniquities, and

**The only menu
for holy living
is the word of
God.**

mindset; He wants you to manifest to everyone around you that you are holy. God wants you to live away and apart from the corruption and the decay of this generation. For instance, when other people tell lies, you ought to realise that the nature of God in you should not lie. You are holy before God and you can't afford to stain that holiness with evil and corruption.

Remember that you have no righteousness or holiness of your own; it is God's holiness He imputed in you through Jesus Christ that you ought to labour to maximize. God had given you the holiness

of Jesus; you ought to live in it by saying NO to evils in all its dimensions.

Tips for Holy Living

Feed on holy menu.

You must regularly consume holy food. The physical food produces physical life; the spiritual menu equally produces spiritual life. What you feed your soul determines the strength of your inner life.

The only menu for holy living is the word of God. The Psalmist says, *"I have stored*

what you have said in my heart, so I won't sin against you" Psalm 119:11, (ISV). This was the testimony of the holy men of old. They found strength to stay holy in the word of God. If you can get more devoted to reading and meditation in the word of God, you will secure permanent deliverance from your besetting sins and consistently manifest the holiness of God.

Wait upon God in prayer and fasting. Prayer and fasting is a spiritual discipline; it strengthens your



God had made you holy through your faith in Christ Jesus. You must live in the world with holiness mindset.

soul to connect with God through your spirit. Fasting humbles your flesh and communion through prayer charges your mind to vibrate in the frequency of your spirit. More than any material benefit you can derive from prayers, the Spirit of God moves to change you more into the image of Christ Jesus. And the ultimate profit is a sanctified mind that results in holy living.

Walk with holy people. About the first five people who are most intimate with you will naturally determine your character. The Bible says, "Whoever keeps company with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools suffers harm" Proverbs 13:20, (ISV).

It is your personal responsibility to locate disciples and mentors in the body of Christ. Such people will rub on you the attitude of holiness; they will influence your life with godly devotion. Your most intimate friend also ought to have a burden for a life that pleases God.

Acquire holy information. The information you allow to enter your mind do greatly give colour to the kind of life you live. Therefore, you ought to remove all worldly music and video files from your handset. Replace them with godly videos and music. Also, you ought to avoid pornographic

books, websites and magazines because they are loaded with spiritual poison; their contents will contaminate your consecration towards God. Whoever indulges in materials such as these cannot manifest the holiness of God.

Tell others about the gospel of Jesus. Seek opportunity to share with other people the goodness you have found in Jesus. This will open door for more grace for you to stay away from the world corruption. It will increase your boldness in righteousness.

Finally, run away from all appearances of evil; stay away from the corruption of this generation. God had made you holy through your faith in Christ Jesus. You must live in the world with holiness mindset. Create a holy environment for yourself wherever you go. Stay blessed!





Instilling Godly **DISCIPLINE**

By E. A. Falade

Introduction

Parents have a unique responsibility to discipline their children in order that God may be happy with them and reward them for that privilege of parenthood. It is however needful that parents must depend on God's leading and wisdom in the pursuit of the arduous task of Godly discipline.

Godly Discipline

Temi and Tayo are the first two daughters of Mr. & Mrs. Douglas. The dad experimented with gentle admonition/correction coupled with spanking in very rare cases. Mr. Douglas' discovery was that Temi the first daughter loved to be spoken with while the junior sister Tayo preferred spanking. An incident happened one day that their father concluded on the necessary discipline to be meted to both girls. He called them to a

conference and started talking to both girls on the need to be obedient and take simple instructions. Within a space of five minutes, Temi was sobbing profusely because of the weight of the words with which their father spoke to them.

On the part of Tayo, she just rose up and said, "Daddy, thank you." There and then their dad resolved to give strokes of canes to Tayo each time she erred. With Temi, he discovered that words were enough to train, correct and discipline her. As good as discipline is, for it to accomplish the intent of the discipline, children must be studied critically and correct/appropriate method that will help a particular child to be disciplined be applied.

But whichever method parents decide to apply, discipline must start very early in life. In fact discipline is best as soon as the child can recognize right from wrong. A child left to himself/herself will become stiff to discipline and may become unbendable as the years roll by. The first five years of the child's life is very crucial as far as Godly discipline is concerned. Once a child is formed and 'cured' in character, any discipline applied may be counter-productive and turn the child rebellious rather than corrective.

Godly discipline centres around the principle: *"example is better than percept."* Parents must be Godly and be exemplary figures to their children. When a parent is not disciplined, he has nothing to pass on to his children. In fact a child who never receives discipline in the home will find it more difficult to understand and accept his need for a Saviour.

I love fruits generally, but especially the garden egg. Whenever the season comes and mummy buys for the family, I would normally eat about half of what was bought for the family. When my wife discovered this she resorted to serving garden-eggs as appetizer before meals. On a particular day she served everyone four garden-eggs each but gave me (daddy) two additional eggs. She reserved the remaining garden eggs for the evening meal. After lunch everyone retreated into his/her room to relax. I got up, headed for



the refrigerator and picked two other garden eggs. I hardly had a bite when one of the children also came around picked two and was about to leave when I came out to him from my hiding place. He immediately started to plead with me for forgiveness. I found it difficult there and then to mete out any discipline. I showed him the ones I was also holding and both of us returned those 'stolen' garden-eggs back into the refrigerator. We both went to mummy to apologise to her.

It was the case of *"Like father, like son."* For discipline to be godly and effective, parents must not be hypocritical about it. 2 Corinthians 7:10, (NIV) says *"Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death"*.

**Spanking can
be good
sometimes
and can
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of children.**

The Bible enjoins parents not to spare the rod:

Proverbs 13:24 "He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him."

Proverbs 22:1 "Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him."

Proverbs 23:13-14 "Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death."

Proverbs 29:15 "The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother."

Hebrews 12:11 "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it."

Spanking can be good sometimes and can create fear for evil in the simple hearts of children. However, the necessary



cautions are spanking must not be out of proportion with the offence, there must be an agreement with the child on the number of the strokes of the cane he agrees to be given per time. Even at that, parents/guardians must not spank when they are angry. Remember the Bible says, *"for man's anger does not bring about the righteous life that God desires". (James 1:20 NIV)*



There is no age a child reaches that he/she cannot be disciplined. It is the method of discipline that differs.

Conclusion

Of all the established agencies of education for children; the family circle is the most potent and basic. It takes precedence above the agencies of the church and the school. But at whatever level, Godly character is next to none. Children will understand and learn more about God, their heavenly father, through their

biological father/mother who they interact with everyday. When parents tackle children when they misbehave, it will be easier for them to appreciate God's discipline as they grow older. The effect is that whether or not their parents are around them, the fear of the Lord in doing only what is right would have been settled in them.

There is no age a child reaches that he/she cannot be disciplined. It is the method of discipline that differs. A child is always a child for as long as his parents are alive. Parents should see it a great and Godly privilege to carry out this great and profitable oversight function which is profitable for this life and for eternity. Remember Godly discipline works effectively through Godly disciplined parents/guardians.

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Destiny & CHARACTER

By Gideon Akanbi

"As a man thinks in his heart, so is he"
- King Solomon

In the last two editions, I have established the fact that God has a great destiny for you; he had planned a future filled with hope for you (Jer. 29:11). However, I also established the fact that you will need to master some factors that can accelerate your pace in actualizing your destiny. These factors are the *power of mentorship and unwavering faith in God*. The third factor you must embrace to be able to maximize your God given destiny is *character* and that is the focus of this piece.

A great destiny is built on the foundation of strong character. Although human beings could be very quick to embrace charisma at the neglect of character, the truth is, while charisma has the propensity to project you; you need

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to protect you.**

character to protect you. In other words, charisma may bring you fame; it is character that gives you God's favour that will guarantee longevity and sustenance.

Charisma can enhance your destiny and help you make it into limelight, but if you neglect to develop a strong character base

Authentic life is a combination of charisma and character. That is the kind of life that guarantees stability and enviable future.

you will definitely not be able to stay at the top for long. Authentic life is a combination of charisma and character. That is the kind of life that guarantees stability and enviable future. Character is the nature of Christ expressed in your life on the daily basis. That emphasises the fruit of the Holy Spirit in you (Galatians 5:22-23). While Charisma is the power of Christ at display in your life. That talks about the gifts of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:1-7). You must labour to build a lifestyle of a colourful character. Actually, character is one great factor that guarantees an enviable future. When your life is not properly set on this foundation, failure is inevitable in the journey of life.

Description of Godly Character

What exactly is character? I believe the words of David in

Psalms 19:14 perfectly describe what character is all about: ***"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer"***(NIV).

Looking at these verses we can sum up character as follows:

CHARACTER is the matching of your heart with your words

CHARACTER is your "Fixed", "Predictable" nature.

CHARACTER is more or less your unchanging "Statue"

CHARACTER is what you will do when no one is watching.

CHARACTER is being who you are in the light even when it is dark.

It is very clear therefore, that character is an internal virtue that you must develop consciously. You are like icebergs. There's much more to you than what people see about you with the naked eye. When you look at an iceberg, only 15% is visible – that may represent your talents or charismatic disposition. The rest - your character - is below the surface, hidden. It's what you think and never share with others. It's what you do when no one is watching you. It's how you react to terrible traffic and other everyday aggravations. It's how you handle failure - and even success. The greater you are progressing in realising your destiny, the greater your need will

be for strong character “below the surface” to sustain them.

Development of a Colourful Character

Character is rooted in the thought-pattern. I believe the starting point of building a strong character is to develop a healthy thought pattern. This is a process that must be understood and mastered.

Building a healthy thought pattern, therefore, requires you to monitor what goes into your mind.

This old cliché holds tenaciously true: A little seed of bad thought will turn to a bad action which in turn will lead to bad habit. When bad habit is consistently indulged, then a bad character is formed. Interestingly everything starts from your thought. That means the ball is in your court to shape a solid character. If you don't monitor your thought pattern, then you may lose the control of your entire body system and thereafter ruin

your destiny. Building a healthy thought pattern, therefore, requires that you monitor what goes into your mind.

Your heart has gates or entry point that allows information to go through. These gates are your eyes and ears. Jesus said: *“The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eyes are bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light within you is darkness, how great is that darkness”* (Matt. 6:22, 23). Again, Isaiah also said “The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears, and I have not been rebellious; I have not drawn back.”

So, the more you keep watch over these gates to screen what passes through them, the more you keep your mind in a wholesome state and the more you refine your character. Your character follows the pattern of your mind and this ultimately is a function of what you feed your mind on. Interestingly, the Bible talks about different kind of minds which are bedrock of different character traits.

First, we have a **depraved mind**. *“Furthermore, since they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, he gave them over to a depraved mind, to do what ought not to be*

done" (Romans 1:28 NIV). A depraved mind is pervert and lacks the right judgment on every matter. A depraved mind finds pleasures in inordinate affections. Those who are engaged in immoral activities of all kinds are of a depraved mind. Anyone with a depraved mind can never please God; he is of a distorted character. Are you of depraved mind?

Second, the word God talks about a **carnal mind**. *"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be"* (Romans 8:7KJV). A carnal mind is very hostile to God and His purpose. A carnal mind is always against the purpose and plans of God. A person with a carnal mind only minds the things of this world alone. In other words, they are worldly in their dispositions. They operate by world system. A carnal mind lives and is controlled by the beggarly elements of this world. When you are of a carnal mind, your character remains questionable.

Third, the Bible made mentioned of a **sound mind**. *"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of sound mind"* (2 Tim 1:7 KJV). A sound mind is void of confusion and is very clear about the purpose and plan of God. A sound mind understands what God demands per time and is ready to go God's ways. A person with a

sound mind is always under the influence of the power of the Holy Spirit. He is always ready to move by the Impulse of divine destiny. By implication, it means you cannot demonstrate a sound character without possessing a sound mind.

Fourth, the word of God, of course, mentioned the **mind of Christ**. *"For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ"* (1 Cor. 2:16). This is a close associate of sound mind. It should be the ultimate pursuit of everyone. The mind of Christ is a regenerated mind. It is a kind of mind that had undergone a crucifixion process with Christ. A person with this kind of mind has lost sight of his own personal ambition. The mind of Christ operates under the influence of heavenly wisdom. The mind of Christ results when the fruit of Spirit is integrated in your life and this will give birth to a colourful character.

Deployment of a Solid Character

Character has components which you must constantly put on display. Your character will be on demand on the constant basis. I love the way David McLendon puts it: "Character is the pedestal that determines how much weight a person can sustain. If your character is the size of a tooth pick, you can only sustain a

postage stamp. If your character is as thick as a column, you can sustain a roof." So what exactly comprises character?

John Maxwell gives us a good insight into this question. The first component is **Self-Discipline**. Self-discipline is the ability to do what is right even when you don't feel like doing it. Joseph expressly came to mind here. He was a man of unquestionable character. When he was under pressure to commit adultery with his master's wife, he refused, counting it as a sin against God (Gen. 39:9). He had a sound mind and so was able to overcome such temptation thereby preserving his destiny.

The second component is your **Core Values**. Your core values are the principles you live by every day. They define what you believe and how you live. Remember Daniel; He had clearly defined core values. One of such was to live on simple diet like vegetables and peanuts. With this it was easy for him to reject the king's offer of food (Dan. 1:8). This helped him at the long run to secure his destiny.

The third component is a **Sense of Identity**. When it comes to character, you must be able to answer the critical question, "Who am I?" When you are able

to answer this question correctly, it provides motivation to practice self-discipline and helps you to define your core values. When the three Hebrew guys were asked to bow down to the graven image set up by king Nebuchadnezzar, they simply refused on the basis of the clear understanding of their Identity – king's seed from Judah with Yahweh as their God (Dan. 3:16-18). Do you know who you are? If you don't have an answer to this question, then you will fall for anything. That is why you need the mind of Christ.



The final component in deploying a strong character of course is **Integrity** which is an alignment of values, thoughts, feelings, and actions. When this is in place, it makes you a person of focus and your character is strengthened. But when it is lacking, it results to confusion and internal conflict. As you put these divine secrets to work, your colourful future is guaranteed.

You Put A Smile On God's Face

by Cate Russell-Cole

I've been through some really hard times over the past few years with serious health issues, financial pressures, losing a job I truly loved and the various other rigours life puts us through. One day I felt so low, I went into our local Christian bookshop for comfort. I'd been in there before and felt the presence of God. I made a special trip there that day, as all I wanted was to be near my Dad!

God did something really special. As soon as I went through the door, I had a really strong feeling in my heart, that God's face lit up in a huge smile.

For many years God has placed burdens on my heart to uphold others in prayer. Countless times I have been woken in the night to pray for people, or I feel Him tugging at my sleeve during the day to ask me to pray. Quite often He wants me to pray immediately. When we have a need He responds THEN. We aren't scheduled or stuck on hold in some kind of queue. Whether we can see or feel it or not, His attention to how we are feeling and His overwhelming love for us means we get absolute immediate attention, one hundred percent of the time: totally without fail.

Learning that has changed my life. I have gone from being a Christian who sat in church depressed and hopeless, to someone who knows that if God will disturb my day or my sleep for someone else, He will do the same for me. We are all loved equally. I too am the sheep He would turn the planet upside down to look for when lost. I am the one He wants to pull under His protective wings and keep safe. I am loved so much, when I seek Him for any reason, He smiles, as He wants to be with me too.

So all of us being equally loved: yes we are! You also put a smile on God's face. Every time you think of Him, want to be with Him, or do anything which shows that you have a love in your heart for your Father, He smiles. You make Him happy. You too put a smile on God's face.

Article Source: <http://www.faithwriters.com-CHRISTIAN WRITERS>

RIGHTS & PRIVILEGES OF A LANDLORD

By Kemi Dawodu



*"...there was a landowner who planted vineyard,
put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and
built a watch tower then he leased it to tenants and
went to another country ..."*

Matthew 21:33-34

Landlord means the owner or lessor of parcel of land or property.

Landlords have very little recourse, and it can be very difficult for a landlord to evict a Tenant. As mentioned in our last

edition, some of the Rights of a tenant double as the responsibility of the landlord. The rights of landlord over his property are mainly statutory and partly derived from judicial pronouncement from courts over the years. Some these rights include:

a) Rights to have vacant possession of Property: While a tenancy relationship subsists between a Landlord and a Tenant, the actual and physical possession of the property lies with the tenant. However, the Landlord is entitled to have the actual possession of the property given back to him. Hence if the tenant breaches the tenancy agreement, thereby infringing on the Landlord's right, he would be said to be running against the law. This explains why it is unlawful for the tenant to sub-let the property to a third party without the consent of the landlord.

b) Right to Protect Property: Although the Tenant reserves the right to quiet enjoyment of the property he took from the landlord. This does not excuse the landlord from ignoring any damage that is being done or

has been done to his property which he has given to a tenant or if he has reasons to believe that his tenants are harbouring criminals, wanted by the law, or that criminal or illegal activities are being carried on in the premises. This is a reason why the law recognises the right of a landlord to inspect his property from time to time.

In standard Tenancy Agreements in recent times, it is common to find a clause that gives the Landlord the right to inspect during a tenancy inserted into such agreement. Although it is common law that the tenant has the right to sue his landlord for trespass, this must be balanced with the landlord's right to protect his property even during the course of the tenancy.

Duties of a Landlord

The Landlord has a duty to answer any question regarding his title as the Landlord of the demised premises. This explains why it is generally considered as his duty to pay ground rent which is directly connected to his title. Payment



of ground rent is one of the fundamental conditions in the grant of statutory titles over land by relevant government authorities under the Land Use Act.

Also, it is the duty of a Landlord to carry repair on any damaged part of the structure of the property like the roof of the property provided there is nothing suggestive of the damage having been caused by the acts of the tenant or his agents and co-occupants.

The extent of the Landlord's rights and duties may be curtailed or extended by the content of a tenancy agreement. While it is generally believed that payment of utility bills is the duty of a tenant, this may be regulated by the agreement. This could become the Landlord's duty where payments for such utilities have been included in the rent paid by the tenant. This is common with serviced apartments.

i. Limitations

All the rights of the tenant discussed in our last edition constitute limitations to the Landlord's rights over his property

ii. Rent Control

Each state of the Federation has its own laws governing Landlord and Tenant relationship. Some States like Lagos, Oyo and Osun have rent control legislations for residential premises. These are statutory interventions to ensure that there is no arbitrary fixing of rent by Landlords.

iii. Recovery of Premises

One interesting aspect of the Landlord and Tenant Relationship is the issue of how the law lays down the procedures for recovery of premises from tenants.

It must be pointed out that the law frowns at crude and illegal ways of helping one's self. Hence, the landlord must serve the tenant prescribed statutory notices under the Recovery of Premises Laws of the various states. These laws are generally speaking similar in nature. For a weekly tenancy, a tenant is entitled to seven



days notice to quit; a monthly tenant is entitled a month's notice and a yearly tenant is entitled to six months. Notice of Owner's Intention to Recover Possession is mandatory to be given a tenant after the Notice to Quit before the landlord proceeds to court for recovery of the property.

It is worthy of note however that, the nature of the statutory notices to be served on a tenant can actually be agreed upon in a tenancy agreement. A landlord can insist in a tenancy agreement

that a tenant who wants to take his property would only be entitled to shorter length of notice once the tenant signs the agreement, it becomes binding on him.

Most of the legal arguments in court are usually centred on whether the appropriate prescribed notices have been served on a tenant or not. Parties to a tenancy agreement are therefore enjoined to be certain of what they want before they append their signature. If any of the parties is unsure of his position, he should consult a lawyer for advice. The common trend we see these days is that some landlord would not even bother to enter into a written agreement with the tenants because they are reluctant to pay a lawyer to draw up a tenancy agreement embodying their intentions even when they have charged the tenant for a legal fee.

In reality, most of the cases on recovery of premises usually border on failure of tenants to their rents. In a case decided by the Supreme Court of Nigeria in 2007; the Court held that, a tenant who enters

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into a property with the consent of the Landlord but has refused to pay rent, is a "tenant at will" who should only be given seven days notice to quit.

In conclusion, landlords who are children of God should remember that everything belongs to the Lord (Psalm 24:1) and should therefore explore, legal channels, if the tenancy agreement is breached. Also, in a bid to keep watch over and maintain their property,

Parties to a tenancy agreement are advised to reduce their agreement into writing

agreement into writing and must ensure that they clearly understand their respective positions clearly before they commence their tenancy to avoid any ambiguity or situation that could turn their tenancy into a living hell.



landlords should avoid being hostile to their tenants as they are also bound by the Law, regardless of the fact that they own the property. Also, parties to a tenancy agreement are advised to reduce their



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WHAT GOD LOOKS FOR IN A LEADER

By Segun Akande

LEADERSHIP FACTS

Be careful of people's public opinion about your leadership. Don't allow praise songs of some sycophants to inflate your ego beyond normal range. People-approval mindset is a tendency that portends serious danger for godly leadership; it can make a leader lose God's favour and eventually lose leadership too soon.

King Saul's story is a timely leadership warning for everyone who longs to serve God's purpose in this generation. While he occupied the throne and enjoyed people's accolades, he didn't bother to secure divine approval. Sad! Few years into his reign, he lost real leadership

and he became mere figurehead for about forty years.

God has no business with leadership figurehead. This explains the reason He asked Samuel to anoint another man for the throne while the king was yet alive. The Bible says, "The LORD told Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul, since I've rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and go. I'm sending you to Jesse from Bethlehem because I've chosen for myself one of his sons as king'" 1Samuel 16:1, (ISV). What could make God reject and abandon a serving pastor, preacher, lecturer, lawyer or doctor?

God has no business with leadership figurehead.

Samuel nearly missed the will of God because he was carried away with what men look for

Meanwhile, Samuel went down to Jesse's family. He demanded that all his sons be present before the Lord. The most interesting thing was that God didn't mention any name to Samuel. I imagine that the next king could be anyone of the Jesse's sons, but the one who would be chosen must possess what God is looking for in a leader, the quality king Saul lacked. Samuel nearly missed the will of God because he was carried away with what men look for.

WHAT MEN LOOK FOR

What men look for in a leader is not the same thing God



looks for. For instance, the first son was Ellab: he had impressive curriculum vitae. He was very tall and handsome. He had everything a king should have except the thing that God was looking for. I imagine he was dancing towards the prophet assisted by drummers, dancers and singers. He thought his time of honour had arrived; he thought his hour of glory had come...

The Church and the society will continue to get poor leadership if our reason for choosing leaders are based only on the externalities - eloquence, degrees, high IQ, age ...

Samuel was also carried away by what he saw in Ellab. I imagine he had already opened the bottle of oil to anoint the man, Ellab. He said surely the Lord's anointed is here. If not for the timely Intervention of God, Samuel would have ordained Mr. Ellab for the throne.

The Church and the society will continue to get poor leadership if our reason for choosing leaders are based only on the externalities - eloquence, degrees, high IQ, age ... While all these have their place in godly leadership, yet they alone don't make a great leadership.

The Bible says, "The LORD told Samuel, "Don't look at his appearance or his height, for I've rejected him. Truly, God does not see what man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD sees the heart" 1 Samuel 16:7, (ISV). God's eyes are powerful and piercing; it sees beyond the skin into the inner being - the heart.

WHAT GOD LOOKS FOR

While human beings see only the skin, God looks into the inner recesses of the heart. God looks and searches to know the hidden motive inherent in the heart of every man. When a man smiles, God looks to check the motive for the smile. When a man cries, God searches the heart to find the reason for the emotion...

Prophet Samuel became confused because God rejected all the sons of Jesse present at the sacrifice. He asked Jesse whether he had any other son. Jesse remembered there was one in the bush, tending the sheep. The

God searches every man's heart who elects to serve His purpose. What is He looking for? He is looking for a particular kind of heart, a heart that fits His work.

prophet ordered for him to be brought home quickly. Although David came raw from the bush, yet he was permitted to participate in the worship session. The Bible says, "So he sent and brought him. He had a dark, healthy complexion, with beautiful eyes, and he was handsome. The LORD said, 'Get up and anoint him, for this is the one'" 1 Samuel 16:12, (ISV).

What did God see in David that He did not see in all his seven elder brothers? God saw two things. The Bible says, "Then God removed Saul and made David their king, about whom he testified, 'I have found that David, the son of Jesse, is a man after my own heart, who will carry out all my wishes'" Acts 13:22, (ISV). God searches every man's heart who elects to serve His purpose. What is He looking for? He is looking for a particular kind of heart, a heart that fits His work.

The Bible says, "Indeed, you do not delight in sacrifices, or I would give them, nor do you desire burnt offerings. True sacrifice to God is a broken spirit. A broken and chastened heart, God, you will not despise" Psalm 51:16-17, (ISV).

A Broken Spirit, a chastened Heart...

The first thing God looks for is a *broken or contrite heart*. Please understand that both spirit and heart mean the same thing. They refer to the inner you, the man inside. So a broken or contrite heart is God's delight; it is the first principle for godly leadership.

The word broken is an agricultural term. Before a farmer sows seeds in his farm, he has to ensure that the soil is broken, made soft so that the seed may flourish very well. Remember Jesus' parable of the sower. The only ground that brought fruit was the good soil that was devoid of hardness, rock and thorns.

The contrite heart refers to the heart that is broken and soft, that is quickly responsive to the word of God, that readily

accommodates and retains the truth until it produces results.

Again, the contrite heart refers to a heart that is very sensitive to sin, that quickly shows regret for sin or wrong behaviour. It doesn't trivialize sin and evil and has zero tolerance for wickedness.

Once God finds your heart soft, chastened, contrite, He then searches deeper for the second thing namely, *Integrity*.

The second thing God looks for in a leader is *Integrity*. Having a soft heart is not enough; God expects a leader to possess integrity therein. Other Bible versions render integrity as *uprightness, righteousness, sincerity, truth*, etc. In his conversation with God, Solomon said, "And I know, God, that it is you who searches the heart and you who finds pleasure in righteousness..." 1Chronicles 29:17, (ISV).

It gives God pleasure when He finds integrity in the heart of a leader. This will make Him join Himself with such a leader in his leadership; it will also allow Him room to manifest His power in all its colours.

The Bible says, "Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden part thou shalt make me to know wisdom" Psalm 51:6, (KJV).

Integrity is a moral state of being sincere and void of hypocrisy. It simply means wholeness or completeness in character. A leader with integrity is a person who practices what he or she preaches; his public life is not different from his private life.

In God's work, no man lacking integrity is fit no matter how superb his social or academic

In God's work, no man lacking integrity is fit no matter how superb his social or academic credentials may appear to be



credentials may appear to be. It is therefore safe to say, no integrity no genuine leadership. Leadership flows from your heart; it conveys the content of your heart into the lives of the followers. If your heart is broken and there is integrity, the people will be blessed and built to serve God faithfully. Imagine the opposite!

In conclusion, pay little attention to human commendations; seek to win God's approval on your leadership everyday. Adopt this prayer of King David: "God, create a pure heart in me, and renew a right attitude within me" Psalm 51:10, (ISV). Remain blessed!



PARENTING BABIES THE FIRST MONTH OF LIFE

By Comfort Ayanrinola

Last edition, I started sharing with you on parenting babies the first month of life. I stopped on the sleeping pattern of a new born baby. I shall continue this edition with baby crying.

Baby Crying:

Infants do not have the ability to verbalize their thoughts neither do they have a way of expressing their needs. The best means of

communication is through crying. Some babies cry immediately they are born. It was difficult for us to understand my younger brother's baby girl. For the first week of life, she cried all the time except when sleeping or eating. The doctor asked us to leave her and let her cry. Then, I remembered that the father did the same when he was born. The baby is now 9 years old and she does not believe when we tell the story. While

some newborns cry naturally, parents need to help reduce their cry by providing them with the necessary comfort.

There are different reasons babies cry apart from nature. A baby will cry if his diaper is wet, if he is hungry, sick, tired and wants to sleep, hot or too cold. He will cry if he needs the comfort of an adult or experiencing discomfort. To prevent babies from unnecessary cry, parents should determine the source of a cry and provide the needed assistance. Here are few reasons babies cry and the solution to the causes.

Wet diapers: Most babies will sense when the diaper is wet. Wet diapers can make babies itchy and uncomfortable. Some of them do communicate to parents by crying while some will squeeze their faces. The parents can check for wetness by putting a finger to feel the diaper and if the diaper is wet, it should be changed immediately.

Hunger for food: When babies are hungry, how will you know if they do not cry? Babies can feel hungry between seven to ten times a day and for those who are breast-fed, it may even

be more depending on the quality and the quantity of the food.

Tiredness: When children are tired, they want to sleep. Some would prefer to sleep while they are eating, others sleep when they are backed or carried in a certain manner. Parents should discover the best way their infant sleep and render the necessary support.

Too hot or too cold: If a baby is too hot or too cold, he will cry. Check and reduce the layers of clothing if he is hot and if cold wrap in a warm cloth.

Need for comfort: Some children just need intimacy; they want to be held or backed. Do not leave your newborn baby for a long period; if you do, they will cry for you to come and pick them up.

Sickness: If a baby has been fed, his diaper is not wet and you have done everything to make him comfortable and he continues to cry for about 30 minutes or more, then, it will be necessary to see a doctor to be sure he is not sick.

Bowel Movement

Many babies grunt and groan



before they have bowel movement or pass gas. Some will squeeze their face as if they are in pain. It is actually difficult to know what they are going through since they cannot verbalize how they feel. Notwithstanding, mothers should watch their food in-take because babies who depend on the breast milk share in the food the mother eats. If a new mother eats dried bread all the time, drinks Cassava grains ('Gaari' - one of the local food in Western and southern Nigeria), unbalanced meals of this nature will reflect in the way infants pass stool and the colour of the stool. The three main characteristics of baby's stool are frequency, colour and texture. During the first week, the baby's stool may be green or black. This is the substance

which has been stored in the baby's intestines. This substance must first come out before normal digestion can take place. Later the bowel waste will eventually turn mustard yellow for babies feeding on breast milk or light brown for babies feeding on formula. It is also possible for a baby to pass as many as eight stools per day and as few as one in three days. I know many new parents always get worried especially when their babies could not pass stool until the third day. Some parents do use pressure pump or menthol cream to assist in the bowel movement. A breast-fed baby usually pass more stools than a baby fed with formula and the stool will slightly have runny waste with seed-like pieces (watery 'egusi' (melon) soup) throughout, while the one fed with formula will be a little bit firm with light brown colour. I will say more on this when writing on feeding the newborn babies.

Frequent Hiccups

There are certain things foetus do in the womb. One of them is hiccup. When they are



born, some of them continue to hiccup. Murkoff et al (2003) said, "If your baby hiccupped a lot inside of you, he'll hiccup plenty in the first few months when outside, too." The causes of newborn's hiccups are unknown though some suggestions have been made. One is that newborn's hiccups may be a reflex action; one of the things they do involuntarily (Heldl et al.)

Another one is that, it is as a result of disorder in the diaphragm (muscular wall below rib cage) which may cause the baby to inhale quickly and change the movement of his diaphragm (Borgenicht 2003). The issue of newborn hiccups should not bother parents. It is normal and with time will soon be over after all, it is not harmful to babies and newborns don't get bothered about it.

In the Yoruba culture, older and experienced parents have a way of stopping hiccups in newborns. Sometimes they would take a little thread from the baby's cloth and place it at the anterior fontanel, at the centre of his head and when no one worries about it again the hiccups would just stop. I do not

believe that it is the thread placed on the head that stops the hiccups, but placing it distracts everyone from focusing on the hiccups until it is gone. So even if you do not put anything, the hiccups will still stop. However, Borgenicht (2003) suggested that parents can do the following:

Blow on the baby's face. This might cause him to inhale quickly and change the muscular wall below rib cage.

Feed the baby. The regular swallowing and breathing might reset the muscular wall below rib cage.

Take the baby outside. A sudden burst of cool air might change the regularity of her breathing.

I will continue in this matter next edition by God's grace. Remain blessed.



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