

My FATHER

Knowing God As Your Father

My FATHER

Patrick Enega

My FATHER

My FATHER: Patrick Enega

Published by:
God's Standard International Ministry Publications
15a Lola Holloway Street, Omole Phase 1,
Ojodu, Ikeja, Lagos, Nigeria
+2348032165322, 8106231981

Copyright c 2013 by Patrick Enega

All rights reserved

ISBN 978-978-931-067-8

All scripture quotations except otherwise mentioned are taken from the New King James Version of the Bible.

This book is for the purpose of testifying to the gospel of the grace of Jesus Christ therefore any part can be used for this purpose only.

"O righteous Father! The world has not known You but I have known You; and these have known that you sent Me" John 17:25

Patrick without doubt is indeed called to be an apostle of Christ! He has again presented the truth in such simplicity, it is almost unbelievable. How can it be that simple, I can hear someone ask after reading this book; but like the author said, God similarly gave opportunity to the Jews to exist with him as Father, but they considered it a lofty idea from a prophet who they subsequently killed. Is it any wonder they similarly were offended when Jesus presented the same truth to them? They were simply walking in the steps of their fathers before them who killed the prophets. In Jer.3:19 the bible shows us something, it says of God, "But I said, how shall I put thee among the children, and give thee a pleasant land, a goodly heritage of the hosts of nations? And I said, Thou shalt call me, My father; and shalt not turn away from me". God was simply saying, "I am looking for an excuse to bless you to give you a pleasant experience in life, but the blessing is for children, so would you come into a father/child relationship with me so I can do things for you?" God is seeking opportunity to show himself strong on our behalf but that's a prerogative reserved for fathers; we must drop our raised hands of self effort, soften our hardened hearts of unbelief and come confidently to God as his children so we can activate the truth of his being our Father and have him do for us what only fathers will do. This is a true message and I approve it.

Dr. Eleazar Ulinfun
President, Verbatim Christian Network,
Lagos, Nigeria

It's quite strengthening a material for the body of Christ especially those who truly want and desire to walk in the love of the Father and to be at peace with themselves thereby really enjoying the Christian faith with the spirit abounding refreshing presence.

Dr. David Ogaga

It all happened on Sunday 7th of October 2012 after the Sunday fellowship. I felt very tired and went to bed to catch some sleep at about 5pm and woke up at 8pm. At about twelve mid-night, I decided to go to bed and sleep but I could not sleep; while on the bed, the Lord came for a conversation. He shared His heart with me that He is not pleased that His children are serving and worshipping Him out of fear: "It is the fear of hell that keeps My children from sin and it is the same fear of hell that makes them to serve Me. They are not serving Me out of appreciation of who I AM to them and what I have done for them. I don't want to be seen as a task-master because that is not who I AM. I want relationship with My children that is free of fear. I love My children and I want them to know this. I want them to enjoy My love that I have for them,"

This book detailed a conversation that lasted for two hours. My intention was to send it out as a bulletin but the Lord specifically instructed me to make it a book so that He will use it to heal His children, and then deliver them from the bondage of religion.

It is my earnest prayer that this book will help you to know the Fatherhood of God and be free from the bondage of religion and fear.

Contents

Chapter One

The Cross of Divine Exchange

Chapter Two

Knowing God as Your Father

Chapter Three

Jesus Came to Reveal the Father

Chapter Four

Your Union with Christ is Forever

Chapter Five

Jesus Came to Reposition Us

Chapter Six

Delivered From Fear

Chapter Seven

The Goal of the Devil

Chapter Eight

The Spirit the Gives Life

Chapter Nine

Enjoy the Holy Spirit as Your Personal Friend

Chapter Ten

Only Believe

Chapter Eleven

Abba Father

1. The Cross of Divine Exchange

The death and resurrection of Jesus is the best thing that has ever happened to humanity. Thank God for the cross of Jesus; I love it. I think and talk about the message of the cross of Jesus Christ with so much enthusiasm and joy. It's amazing that the cross that spells victory for the believers is also the same cross that brings defeat to the devil. The devil is a defeated foe because of the cross. The cross of Jesus Christ is the cross of our victory over sin; judgment, condemnation, shame, guilt, rejection, and everything that was against us. Jesus has nailed all that was against us to the cross. It is a new day and new hope because of the blood of the cross of Jesus.

Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross - Col. 2:14.

...Having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of the commandments contained in the ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace - Eph. 2:14, 15.

The matchless sacrifice of Jesus has made His cross to become the cross of divine exchange for creation. What I mean by divine exchange is that Jesus took the retribution we deserved for our disobedience and rebellion, and gave us forgiveness and blessing that we do not deserve. This is love beyond human comprehension. Jesus took our sin and gave us righteousness; He took our rejection and hate, and gave us acceptance and love; He took our condemnation and judgment, and gave us hope and mercy; for our shame and humiliation, He crowned us with glory and honour.

We have deliverance, freedom and blessing because He became our curse. He took God's wrath and judgment so that we can be loved and accepted by the Father, unconditionally. He became our sin and was rejected by the Father, so that we can become righteous and never to be rejected by the Father.

The unconditional love of God for you is evidently demonstrated on the cross. On the cross, Jesus said, "It is finished." Literally speaking, He meant that there are no more walls between you and God. The curse, judgment, condemnation, rejection, etc, that came upon the earth as a result of Adam's sin and the curse of the law has been paid for by the blood of the cross. Jesus met all the requirements. This means you have ceased to be the enemy of God. You are now God's beloved, and you are accepted and loved unconditionally (*Eph. 2:1-9*).

For your sake, God poured all His anger and wrath on Jesus while on the cross. Do you know what? God does not have any more wrath to pour on His children, but the exceeding riches of His grace for us. The scripture testifies in *Eph. 2:4* that God is rich in mercy, and He loves us with great love. This all-loving-God is not waiting to

judge and condemn us, or to pour His wrath upon us, but to show us in His kindness the exceeding riches of His grace:

That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus - Eph. 2:7.

Knowing the exceeding riches of His grace is paramount for every believer who wants to enjoy a victorious Christian life. My friend, this is what I am looking forward to every day. It gladdens my heart that my heavenly Father wants to rain the exceeding riches of His grace on me, and not wrath.

According to *Titus 3:4*, Jesus Christ is God's unconditional love and kindness for us. He is our unmerited favour, mercy, righteousness, redemption and blessing. Why? Because He took our sin, judgment, condemnation, curse, shame, rejection, etc.

Christ Is All and in All

The sacrificial blood of Jesus Christ is enough for your sin, judgment, condemnation, shame and guilt. Yes! The blood is enough. You don't need any other sacrifice, nor do you have to pay for your sins.

... For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross - Col 1:15-20.

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily - Col. 2:9.

The law and the prophets have been fulfilled in Christ Jesus. The Bible did not leave us in the dark concerning this understanding. The Bible gave us a clue of how it happened. In *Matt. 17:1-13*, Jesus took Peter, James and John to the top of the mountain to manifest His glory to them. At the mountain top, Moses and Elijah appeared to them. Moses represented the Law, while Elijah represented the Prophets. Peter who did not know what the Father was doing at that point in time requested that they should be allowed to make three tents for Jesus (the Living Word), Moses (the Law) and Elijah (the Prophet). While he was still speaking, the Father interrupted him and said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him." By implication, the Father meant, don't hear the law and the Prophets, but hear Jesus Christ. The Father has spoken therefore we should obey His command. Now the question that begs for our candid answer is who do we truly hear today? Do we hear Jesus Christ or we still hear the law and the prophets? You see, we have to hear Jesus Christ because He has fulfilled all that the law and the prophets said.

What the Father said is also pregnant with this truth that, you don't need the law and the prophets again, but Jesus. Do you know why? The reason is because the Law and Prophets have been fulfilled in Him. You will not be surprised to read "when they (Peter, James and John) lifted up their eyes, they saw no one but Jesus, the

Living Word alone.” So what happened to Moses and Elijah? They were swallowed up in Christ. My friend, it is important that you see Christ too. Jesus Christ is all and in all; therefore, every revelation from the word of God or the Holy Spirit must bring Christ to us or help us to hear and see Him better. We have to key into the present emphasis of the Spirit for the church (Rev. 3:13). The present emphasis is to **‘know, hear and see Jesus Christ’** and not the law and the prophets. Jesus is the exact revelation of the Father - John 14:9.

We have to connect to the present emphasis of the Spirit for the church (Rev. 3:13). The present emphasis is to ‘know, hear and see Jesus Christ’ and not the law and the prophets.

What God is presently giving to His holy apostles and prophets for the body of Christ is what Apostle Paul described as ‘knowledge in the mystery of Christ’

*If indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you
How that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already),
By which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),
Which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets Eph. 3:2-5*

Paul wrote about the ‘knowledge in the mystery of Christ’ that he received by revelation; and not by books, CDs, tapes and internet. This knowledge of Christ (which was a mystery – sacred secret of God) was hidden from the sons of men in other ages but it’s now being made known to His holy apostles and prophets. In these last days, God is revealing to His apostles and prophets the accurate knowledge of Jesus Christ so that the body of Christ can be fed and edified appropriately, and usher into the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Eph. 4:13). This speaks of ‘knowing, hearing and seeing Him’ like Peter, James and John did at the top of the mountain. Every true apostle and prophet of God is a custodian of the revelation of Jesus Christ and nothing else.

You see, we can’t come into this ‘knowledge in the mystery of Christ’ without the Holy Spirit who alone guides us into all truth, testify and glorify Christ Jesus (Jn. 14:6, 15:26, 16:13-15). Whatever we build or do that is not about knowing, hearing and seeing Jesus Christ as He is, will definitely lead to another Tower of Babel or Babylon that tends to defeat the ultimate purpose of God. What is this ultimate purpose of God? It is the revelation and expression of Christ in and through His people.

Today, we don’t have to hold on or build on the Law and the Prophets, but Jesus Christ; this is because the law and the prophets were given to point us to Him or better still, to bring us to Him.

But before faith (grace) came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed. Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith (grace/righteousness). But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor (law) - Gal. 3:23-25.

He first found his own brother Simon and said to Him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ) - John 1:41.

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph" - John 1:45.

The very moment they found Him, they knew that He was the Messiah. We need to find Jesus like Andrew and Philip did. Though, it is extremely hard in our time to find 'the true Jesus', because there are too many false presentations and representations of Christ (2Cor. 11:1-4). I am excited that the Holy Spirit is still living in us to reveal the 'true Christ' in and to us. As a result, we cannot be deceived. Deception starts when we start searching for Christ in churches, seminars and conferences. Don't be deceived, you won't find Him outside because He lives in you. The Holy Spirit will only use human vessels to help you to know Christ that is within you. Have you found Him? Or have you settled down for religion or a move of God?

Don't be deceived, you won't find Christ outside because He is within you. The Holy Spirit will only use human vessels to help you to know Christ that is within you.

Even, the writer of the book of Hebrews testified that Jesus is all and in all for us now. In chapter eleven, the writer started by telling us of what men and women did in the dispensation of the law and the prophets. He wrote about their great exploits of faith for the Kingdom of God. He then warned us that we should not make them our focus, but we should see through them, the revelation of Christ that was made manifest on the earth. In chapter 12:1-3, he made it plain that Jesus is the only one we must give our attention to. Glory to God!

Thank God for Moses, Joshua, Abraham, Joseph, Enoch, Nehemiah, Ezra, Elijah, Elisha, Isaiah, Ezekiel, Jeremiah, etc. and the life they lived; but now we see Jesus - Yeshua - (*Heb. 2:9*).

This reminds me of an Apostolic Conference I attended, one of the speakers took time to show us some outstanding qualities in the life of Joseph. Sincerely, I felt challenged by what I was hearing. As he was still speaking, the Lord spoke to me, He said, "It is not about Joseph, but Me. Any revelation that does not bring Jesus, who is the Christ, to you is heresy." (*Acts 3:20*).

We see Jesus, because He made the two to become one in Himself through the cross. He created in Himself one new man from both the two. He satisfied the

righteous demand of the law for us. Therefore, He is the end of the law. Instead of going to the law, we go to Jesus, the Christ.

For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes - Rom. 10:4.

Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfil (perfect, complete) - Matt. 5:17.

And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." - Luke 24:27, 44.

Freedom from the Bondage of Law

Or do you not know, brethren (for I speak to those who know the law), that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives?

For the woman who has a husband is bound by the law to her husband as long as he lives. But if the husband dies, she is released from the law of the husband.

So then if, while her husband lives, she marries another man, she will be called an adulteress, but if her husband dies, she is free from that law, so that she is no adulteress, though she has married another man.

Therefore, my brethren, you also have become dead to the law through the body of Christ, that you may be married to another – to Him who was raised from the dead, that we should bear fruit to God - Rom. 7:1-4.

In the light of the above scripture, it is very accurate to say that the law, our first husband, is now dead and lifeless. Therefore, we cannot be married to the law (flesh) now. It is only the dead that can be joined to the dead, hence, Jesus said, "Let the dead bury the dead" and the Angels said, "Why do you seek the living among the dead? But, child of God, you are not dead if Christ is in you. You have been quickened or made alive in Christ.

And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins - Eph. 2:1. Even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved) - Eph. 2:5.

God did not stop at causing you to be alive in Christ, but He also, made you to be the 'bone of Jesus' bones and flesh of His flesh'- (*Eph. 5:30.*)

But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him - 1Cor. 6:17.

The message for us here is explicit: we should stop romancing the law (dead), while under grace (life). Christians who have mixed up the law and grace cannot enjoy the freedom and abundant life that Jesus gave to us. Don't hold on to the two. You can either stand for the law or for grace. Let me tell you, candidly, that if you mix them together, you will find out that your relationship with the Lord will be boring, frustrating and you will not be free of judgment and condemnation.

The message for us here is explicit: We should stop romancing the law (dead), while under grace (life). Christians who have mixed up the law and grace cannot enjoy the freedom and abundant life that Jesus gave to us. Don't hold on to the two!

Indeed! This is good news. Jesus Christ is the I AM. He paid the ultimate price to set us free from the bondage of the law. He could boldly declare that He is, the "I AM" because the law and the prophets were fulfilled in Him. His declaration, "I AM" implies: I am your righteousness. I am your redemption. I am your unmerited favour. I am your forgiveness. I am your sanctification. I am your blessing.

Child of God, Christ is all and in all for you. All by Himself, He entered the Holiest of All and presented His own blood-sacrifice before the Mercy Seat for the atonement of our sins. This perfect sacrifice was accepted by the heavenly Father. Therefore, there is no need for rituals and sacrifice today. No more rituals!

Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption - Heb. 9:12.

This same sacrifice has qualified us to become partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. This sacrifice is enough for us. Our focus must be on Christ' sacrifice and obedience on the cross for us.

The sacrifice of Jesus Christ brought about our repositioning in the spirit. We that were oppressed and victims are now victors and more than conquerors. We are no longer at the mercy of the devil, nor is he in control of our destiny. Now, the Father has made us to sit together in the heavenly places in Christ (*Eph. 2:5-6*). By implication, we are far above all principalities and power and might and dominion, and every name that is named...*Eph. 1:21*.

The scripture testifies:

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree) - Gal. 3:13.

and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power ...Col. 2:9-17.

Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light, He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins - Col. 1:12-14, Eph. 1:7.

The law does not change anybody; it is Christ who changes us as we receive His revelation given to us by the Holy Spirit

It is my sincere prayer for you that you will see only Jesus as you read and study the Bible. I am sure you will see only 'Jesus' in the Old and New Testament of the Bible, when you take off your 'religious eye glass' and read the Bible through the eyes of grace. The reason why you will see only Jesus is because He fulfilled the law and the prophets. As we see Him, we are changed. The Law does not change anybody; it is Christ that changes us as we receive His revelation given to us by the Holy Spirit. The work of heart and soul transformation is done in us by the working of the Holy Spirit through the revelation of Christ.

Thus the scripture says:

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord - 2Cor. 3:18.

The apostles and the early church saw Jesus only. So, it shouldn't surprise you that they preached Jesus everywhere, and not another gospel. Today, we teach and preach what smells, looks, feels and tastes like Christ, but it is not the true Christ.

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ - Acts 2:36.

And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all - Acts 4:33.

And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ - Acts 5:42.

Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them - Acts 8:5.

But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized - Acts 8:12.

Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at the scripture, preached Jesus to him Acts 8:35,(Acts 9:20-22, 11:20, 17:1-3, 18:5, 18: 24-28, 19:8, 28:23, 30-31, 1Cor. 1:23).

If they preached Jesus as the Christ, should it be different with us today? We must declare accurately the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus the Christ. However, if we do not teach and preach Jesus as the Christ, it is because we do not know Him.

No more walls

There are no more walls between you and God because the walls have been broken and brought down completely. The cross of Jesus has broken the wall that once existed between you and your heavenly Father. Now you can draw near to Him boldly and relate with Him as your Father unashamedly and unreservedly because of the price Jesus paid. Jesus, the express image and character of the Father came to this earth, lived an exemplary life and died on the cross to reconcile us to our heavenly Father. Today, we see the Father in the Son, Jesus. As we see Jesus, we see the Father in Him because He came to reveal the Father to us.

Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long and yet you have not known Me, Phillip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father, so how can you say, 'Show us the Father? John 14:9

Has in these last days spoke to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things...who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person... Heb. 1:2-3

2. Knowing God as Your Father

Knowing God as your Father – your personal Father - is one of the best things that can ever happen to you as a believer. Knowing Him as your Father is not the same thing as knowing Him in the general sense and knowledge of God that created the heavens and the earth, though He is known by many people this way. While God can be seen as a universal concept, God is a Father to the believer, born again by His Holy Spirit. Knowing Him as your Father takes you into a more personal and friendly relationship than relating with Him as God. This should therefore be one of the greatest aspirations and obsessions of every believer.

And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Gal. 4:6

Having good knowledge of God without knowing Him as your personal Father makes you live like either a Pharisee or an orphan. It is not an exaggeration that many Christians have good knowledge and mental concept of God, but they don't know the Father-heart-of-God. In other words, they do not know that God is a Father. Except the Holy Spirit paints this portrait before you the truth that He God wants to relate to us as Father, no one can easily connect with the fact that He wants to have a Father-son/daughter relationship with him or her. Without this revelation you are most likely going to be contended with knowing God like the Jews during the days of the earthly ministry of Jesus.

Sometimes our upbringing hinders us from knowing and relating with God as a Father. I knew what it means to grow up without a cordial relationship with one's biological father, therefore, I can identify with the challenges of a young man or lady that is unable to relate with God as a Father because he or she never had a father-son/daughter relationship with his or her biological father. Let's reason together here – a woman remembers how she spent her life as a youth doing everything to make her father happy. She was always wrong while the father was always right. She waited patiently to hear her father say appreciative words like "thank you for your effort;" "I love you;" "I miss you;" "I am sorry for hurting you or for shouting at you" – even if he did not mean it. But she was the one that had to show appreciation and be thankful for being taken care of as a member of the family, apologised even if she was not at fault and received the blame for everything that went wrong. Her life was devoted to working hard to satisfy her father so as to ensure he had nothing to complain about whereas what she desperately wanted; a warm relationship with her father was not there. So pathetic!

No man can earn God's love – His love is unconditional. He loves us just because He wants to love us – not because He has to. This love - God's love - has nothing to do with our labour, efforts, works and obedience.

She got born again and found herself in a church where she was taught that she must pray and fast and do all the religious stuffs for her sins to be forgiven and her prayers to be answered. This was just alright for her; after all, she has been trained in her father's house to labour to please her father without expecting any appreciation. She served God and the Church vigorously and religiously. She believes she must labour so hard to keep her salvation and sweat for the Church system so that when she gets to heaven, God will tell her all the sweet words she longed to hear. She looks forward to hearing "I love and cherish you dearly, my daughter" from the lips of God. For her, anybody God tells "I love and cherish you dearly" must have done so much for God to deserve such validation and appreciation. What she does not know is that the Father speaks to our hearts daily. Perfect expression like "I love and cherish you unconditionally and forever" flows from His heart to our hearts. It is our responsibility to learn to listen to His heart so that we can hear His heart-beat and voice of love, correction, healing and restoration. No man can earn His love because the Father's love is unconditional – He loves us just because He wants to love us and this love has nothing to do with our labour, efforts, works and obedience. Again, I say God does not just love us because He has to, but because He wants to.

How can a young lady who was taken advantage of, abused and abandoned by her own father have respect for a man who calls himself a father? She sees all men as uncaring, unloving, cruel, wicked and abusive like her father. And she would rather relate to God as God that punishes you for every mistake, failure and sin rather than seeing Him as a Father who loves and cares for His children. Don't judge and blame her for her belief because, that is the picture of a father painted for her by her father or the father-figure in her life. God gives biological fathers to paint a picture of the heavenly Father for us, unfortunately, many of our fathers don't know their responsibilities and have failed their children, and this affects the way they relate to the heavenly Father. We relate with Him as God that is far away instead of seeing Him as a Father that is so near. There is a sense and feeling of distance and fear when we relate to Him as God, while there is sense and feeling of closeness, oneness, love and family when we relate to Him as Father. He is a Father that has great plans for every member of His family and everyone is special and has right to everything that belongs to Him.

Our heavenly Father wants to have a warm relationship with us free of fear and performance. He is not a tyrant or terrorist that is waiting impatiently to punish us for our mistakes and sins and throw us into hell for not pleasing Him enough. His love for you is greater than your mistakes, failures and sins. He wants you to enjoy Father-son/daughter relationship with Him. He wants you to feed on and enjoy His unfailing love. The Father cannot be pleased that you serve and worship Him out of fear. Your relationship with Him shouldn't be fear-based and performance-driven but love. Worship Him because you love Him. Relationship that is based on fear is bondage. The Bible tells us that fear has torment (1Jn. 4:18).

If you serve and worship God out of fear of hell, it means you have not really known the Father.

The truth is, many Christians serve and worship God out of fear of hell. And to such, service to God is an escape-route from the torture of hell. In other words, our service is the price we pay to receive good things from Him and to be with Him in heaven. This means we have not really known the Father (Rom. 8:15, 1John 2:13). The present church needs a fresh revelation of the Fatherhood-heart-of-God, so that we can serve and worship Him out of love, and not in fear.

Jesus promised to reveal the Father to whom He wills (Matt. 11:27) and gives an invitation to those who are weary and tired of religion to come to Him for a revelation of the Father that brings rest to the soul (Matt. 11:28-29). Religion doesn't bring rest. The more religious you are the more restless you become because, religion is a burden. Rest in our souls is connected to knowing the Father and resting in Him and His everlasting love.

The more religious you are the more restless you become because, religion is a burden. Rest in our soul is connected to knowing the Father and resting in Him and His everlasting love.

3. Jesus Came to Reveal the Father

"O righteous Father! The world has not known You but I have known You; and these have known that you sent Me" - John 17:25

These are the words of Jesus as He prayed for His disciples before His crucifixion. In His prayers, He said, He has finished the works the Father gave Him, He has revealed the character of the Father to His disciples and they believed Him, and the Father should not take His disciples away from the world but He should keep them from the evil one. He lamented that the world has not known the Father. It is obvious that Jesus desperately wanted the world to know the Father. And He was glad that His disciples received the revelation of the Father from Him and they would tell the world about the Father and how much He loves us.

There is no one that can come into the revelation of the Father except it is given to Him by the Lord Jesus.

Knowing God as your Father like Jesus did free your soul and positions you to enjoy His fatherly love, kindness and protection. But there is no one that can come into the revelation of the Father except it is given to Him by the Lord Jesus.

"All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him - Matt. 11:27

The word '**know**' speaks of to know fully; to know with a degree of thoroughness and competence; to be fully acquainted in a discerning, recognizing manner. The Greek -.epiginōskō Phonetic describes '**know**' as: to become thoroughly acquainted with, to know thoroughly, to know accurately, know well)

In the above verse of scripture, Jesus made it abundantly clear that He is the source of the revelations of the Father. In the next verse He invited the Jews that were weary and fed-up with Jewish religion and legalism to come into a trustworthy and burden-free relationship with the Father. The Jewish religion and legalism were such a heavy burden on the people that kept them in such an unending bondage (Matt. 23:1-4, Luke 11:46). In comparison with the Jewish legalism that is burdensome, Jesus' yoke (relationship) is easy (pleasant, good, comfortable, suitable, and serviceable) and His burden (righteousness) is light – 1John 5:3.

In comparison with the Jewish legalism that is burdensome, Jesus' yoke (relationship) is easy (pleasant, good, comfortable, suitable, and serviceable) and His burden (righteousness) is light – 1John 5:3.

The gospel according to John chronicled Jesus' relationship with God as His personal Father more than any other gospel. No other gospel gives detailed account of Jesus' relationship with the Father like John did. Going through the chapters and verses of the gospel of John, you will be amazed at the beautiful relationship Jesus had with God as His Father. Jesus knew God as His personal Father and called Him, "My Father" (Read Matt. 11:27, John 5:17, 6:65, 8:19, 28, 54, 10: 25, 29, 37, 14:2, 12, 17:5, 25).

He worshipped Him and prayed to Him as His Father. He preached and talked about Him as His Father. He loved, valued and cherished the relationship with His Father. In the Garden of Gethsemane when He realized that the sin of the world was going to separate Him from His Father's love, He cried:

And Jesus said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will - Mark 14:36

Jesus was sorrowful and deeply distressed not because of fear of death on the cross (Matt. 26:36-46). He did not weep because He did not want to die for us but because His relationship with His Father was going to be interrupted and broken momentarily (Matt. 27:46, 50, Heb. 5:7, Psalm 22:1). He wanted that relationship more than anything else – He was secured in it and satisfied with it. He was proud of and contended with the relationship, and was not afraid to tell the Jews publicly of His relationship, and that God was His Father.

God's Desire is Relationship with Man and not Religion

The Church in the Wilderness preferred Religion to Relationship with God!

The church in the wilderness (Acts 7:38) settled for religion instead of a relationship with God. After their incredible deliverance from the hands of Pharaoh, God came through Moses to invite them for a relationship with Him at Mount Sinai. The purpose of the deliverance from the yoke of Egypt was for a personal relationship with God.

You have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings and brought you to Myself...And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain

Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly.

And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice.

Then the LORD came down upon Mount Sinai, on the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up - Ex. 19:4-20.

Can you see that Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God? He didn't bring them out to show them who he was – how anointed he was and his gift. It is unlike the present day ministries and churches where the people know us and the vision of our ministry more than Christ. The people are being cloned and made to put on the image of the set-man instead of Christ. The people have relationship with us instead of the Father. The primary ministry of every minister of Christ is to bring the people into an encounter with the Lord. In other words, it is our calling to bring God's children into relationship with the Father through Christ. We do not have to use the grace and anointing of God in us, to raise sons and daughters for ourselves and ministries, but to bring them to the Father. God's people are in need of a Father that we love and cherish them, and not men. We shouldn't stand on their ways of meeting with the Lord.

The primary ministry of every minister of Christ is to bring the people into an encounter with the Lord. In other words, it is our calling to bring God's children into relationship with the Father through Christ.

Honestly, with or without us the Lord can reveal Himself to His people. So let's stop acting as if without us the people cannot know the Lord. People need to know Christ who is the true revelation of the Father. They don't need our denominations, titles, networks and the likes – but only Jesus Christ. We shouldn't be married to the people but we should strengthen their union with the Father through Christ. We shouldn't make ourselves indispensable in their lives to the point that they end up knowing us and singing our praises instead of Christ. Like John the Baptist humbly and carefully pointed his own disciples and the Jews to Christ so also we should be conscientious to point God's children to Christ (John 1:19-37). Again, your assignment is to help them meet with Christ and know the Fatherhood relationship of God.

We shouldn't make ourselves indispensable in the lives of people to the extent that they know us (more than Christ) and sing our praises instead of Christ. Like John the Baptist humbly and carefully pointed his own disciples and the Jews to Christ so also we should be **conscientious** to point God's children to Christ (John 1:19-37)

Now all the people witnessed the thundering, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. Then they said to Moses, "You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die." And Moses said to the people, "Do not fear, for God has come to test, and that His fear may be before you, so that you may not sin." So the people stood afar off, but Moses drew near the thick darkness where God was Ex. 20:18-21.

The people refused and drew back because of fear and they choose to hear Moses (law) instead of God. This is not the God kind of fear that God wants us to have. He wanted them under the same roof so that they would relate with Him as His children but they chose to hear Moses. All God wanted was a personal relationship with them. But fear robbed them of the opportunity of knowing Him personally. When the fear of God robs you of a personal relationship with Him as a Father – it means you are living in bondage of religion.

Fear can rob you of the opportunity to know God personally; until you have a personal relationship with him, you will remain under the bondage of religion.

Since the day they saw the manifestation of God's presence at Mount Sinai they have been living in bondage of fear and they believed it is a demonstration of their reverence for God. Just like Moses tried to bring them into a personal relationship with God but they stood afar off, likewise, Jesus came to bring us into personal relationship with the Father. Now the question is, are we standing afar off from God as well? Yes if we are standing afar off instead of drawing near to God, it is still the same religious spirit and system. We prefer men and women of God to speak to us instead of drawing near to know the Father personally and enjoy a relationship with Him. We prefer to hear the law, and even the commandments of men to the great gospel of grace (Gal. 4:21). Tell me, are you under the law or under grace? Do you prefer to hear the law or grace? Do you prefer a personal relationship with the Father or you prefer Moses to speak to you? Wake up, you are a son/daughter of the Father because of the perfect sacrifice of Jesus therefore you don't need anybody to mediate between you and your Father.

Before Jesus came, the Jews were so religious to the extent that they got into bondage of religion. They honoured and revered God to the level that they would not even call God by His name. They simply addressed Him as Yahweh. For them it was the best way to show their reverence for God.

The Jews and the world did not know the Father before the arrival of Jesus on earth. God was worshipped as One who created the heavens and the earth – One who demands our respect and obedience and must be feared. There was no insight about having and building a relationship with Him. It was when Jesus came to the scene that He introduced to the Jews that God is a Father who longs for a personal Father-son/daughter relationship with His children. Because of their belief and mentality that was already a major stronghold in them, it was difficult for them to receive the truth that God is a Father. For them, it was weird and blasphemous to hear someone call God his Father. In short, how could they call Him Father when they could not even call Him God? They were happy and satisfied with worshipping God as God and living in the bondage of fear.

Then they said to Him, "Where is Your Father?" Jesus answered, "You know neither Me nor My Father. If you had known Me, you would have known My Father" - John 8:19.

Jesus answered, "If I honour Myself, My honour is nothing. It is My Father who honours Me, of whom you say He is your God.

Yet you have not known Him, but I know Him. And if I say, 'I do not know Him, 'I shall be a liar like you; but I do know Him and keep His word.'" - John 8:54-55

And these things they will do to you because they have not known the Father nor Me – John 16:3, 15:21 (see also John 7:28, 8:41-44).

Jesus evidently revealed the Father to us and pointed us to Him through His preaching, teaching, and prayers. Jesus did all He could to show us that God is a Father and we should relate to Him as a Father – just like He did.

|

4. Jesus Came to Reposition Us

Jesus died to reposition and restore us, and not to relocate us!

Jesus didn't die to save us from going to hell or to relocate us to heaven but He died to save us from the sin that separated us from the Father, and to restore us into relationship and fellowship with the Father so that we can enjoy our Father's love, grace and glory.

Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father - Gal.1:4

This enjoyment is not something reserved for some special people or the future; it is for you now. How I desire to stand at the top of the roof to broadcast this good news to the whole world! We fell out of relationship and fellowship with the Father through the sin of Adam in the garden. Because we were in Adam when he sinned and fell, therefore God pronounced us guilty. For this purpose Jesus came to reposition us. Jesus did not come to relocate us but He came to reposition us spiritually.

The way we present the Father to the world and the Church should be reconsidered and redefined. Do we expect the world to accept and love the Father as one who loves and cares for them, when we present the Father as a tyrant, task-master and angry God that is so hard to please and waiting impatiently to cast sinners into hell? This is not true of a Father who sent His Son, Jesus Christ to die for us to reconcile us to Himself while we were His enemies.

If the Father loved us while we were His enemies what about now that we are His children, do you think He is angry or mad at us? Don't you think His heart is full of love for us and He rejoices over us? I am persuaded that He loves us extravagantly because the scripture testifies that the desire of the Father is *"in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus"* (Eph. 2:7). The Father wants to show us in this age the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness, and not His wrath and terror. He poured all His wrath and terror on Jesus Christ because of our sins.

Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world (John 1:29). Do you have any doubt that He took away our sin? If indeed He has taken the sin away - it means - it's no more there. Therefore, sin is no longer the problem of the world. What is the problem then? It is lack of knowledge of the truth of what Jesus did to bring us into Father-son relationship with God – just like He had with God. Without this relationship, identity crisis is inevitable. Jesus said, "It is finished" (John 19:30) or don't you believe it's finished? Thank God, I am a son of the Father.

Sin is no longer the problem of the world – Jesus took them away! The problem is lack of knowledge of the truth of what Jesus did to bring us into Father-son relationship with God – just like He had with God.

Identity Crisis

What is weighing us down and tearing our world apart emotionally, spiritually and psychologically is simply an identity crisis. When a man thinks that sin is his problem, then he will have more than enough sins to wrestle with. The more he tries to defeat one, another pops up like the limbs of an octopus. The reason you give attention to sin is because of lack of identity. When you understand that you are born of God and you cannot commit sin because you don't have the nature – that settles it. One may ask, what about the struggles and battles within me? Again I say, focus on your identity, your relationship with the Father like Jesus did. Don't even give attention to the devil – just ignore the devil. Study the word of God to press into this identity - as you renew and reprogram your mind. Then learn how to listen to the voice of the Spirit of God in you that bears witness with your spirit that you are a child of God that is genuinely and unconditionally loved and accepted by the Father.

The Father is always looking for ways and opportunities to show us the exceeding riches of His grace, mercy and love, even in our mistakes, failures and sin. His heart and desire is not to cast us away but to heal and restore us to fellowship with Him. Though there are many advocates and judges of God who believe God must judge and punish you for your sins before He forgives, that contradicts the Bible which teaches that the goodness of God leads to repentance. The Bible is an interesting book of different accounts that reveal the Father-heart-of-God for us and how the Father goes all out to save, heal and restore us when we are weak, when we fail and fall because He loves us.

One of such accounts is the story of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32. My friend, for a moment, think of how the Father had compassion on him, ran and fell on his neck and kissed his neck when he had not even apologised to Him. **The Father must have missed his son and the fellowship they shared together a great deal. The Father did not wait for his son to confess his sins and be sorry for them before He forgave, embraced and kissed him.** Because His heart was full of love for His son and He wouldn't want anything to come between Him and His son, He forgave him the very moment he sinned against Him, but the son didn't know. The son went into servitude, gave himself a different identity and lived a degraded life because he thought the Father was not happy with Him. The Father forgives us even before we acknowledge our faults and sins, and He looks for ways to communicate His love and forgiveness to our hearts. A religious mind calls the prodigal son a rascal and good-for-nothing fellow that must be punished for his sin and put behind bars to learn his lesson, but the Father does not see that way. The prodigal son was only separated from the Father in his thought. He thought his Father was mad at him and he had no place again in the Father's house. He thought he would not be welcomed by the Father back into the family. He felt unworthy, unqualified and saw himself as one of the Father's servants. All these happened in his thoughts; the problem is his thought. While he was going through

disappointment in himself, frustration and rejection, the love of the Father was still intact and with him. The Father did not stop loving him nor did He change His mind about him. You can never be separated from the everlasting love of the Father because He has qualified and made you fit to enjoy His love and inheritance, so take your eyes off your failures, works, performance and obedience.

You can never be separated from the everlasting love of the Father because He has qualified and made you fit to enjoy His love and inheritance, so take your eyes off your failures, works, obedience and performance.

Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins - Col. 1:12-14.

Fix your eyes on the Father's love for you that is demonstrated in Christ. God the Father wants you to enjoy His love through His Son, Jesus Christ and by the help of the Holy Spirit. You can never be separated from the everlasting love of the Father. He will not allow anything to come between you.

5. Your Union with Christ is Forever

You are never separated from God – your Heavenly Father – except in your thoughts!

God's word says nothing can separate us from the love of God demonstrated in Christ Jesus Our Lord. The problem is our thought. The way we think and see ourselves as believers is where the problem is. Doubtless, we don't see ourselves as the Father sees us. We see ourselves through the eyes of our human frailties and failures. Christians who have not understood the Father's love but see themselves as sinners waiting to be cast into hell want others to see themselves that way. Have you not heard? God's grace has restored us to fellowship with our heavenly Father and the same grace is keeping us in Him. You did not come to Him by yourself nor did you save yourself - He brought you to Himself and He is the One keeping you through His love and grace. So put away fear of sin, fear of missing the will of God, fear of not pleasing the Father well enough, fear of not being accepted by the Father, fear of failure and all the fears that are hiding within you.

Enjoy heaven now because heaven is a reality in you already. The Holy Spirit is a foretaste of heaven. What this means is that if you connect with the Holy Spirit - the giver of life - you will enjoy heaven on earth now.

It's unfortunate that a large majority of Christians are either living in fear or are full of fear. This fear of sin, fear of not ever being able to please the Father and fear of missing His will and fear of hell do not permit them to enjoy their relationship with the Father. Their goal is to get to heaven so that they can enjoy a delightful relationship with the Father. But this is what they ought to be enjoying now. Why will you wait to get to heaven before you enjoy heaven when you can enjoy heaven now? Enjoy heaven now because heaven is a reality in you already. The Holy Spirit is a foretaste of heaven. What this means is that if you connect with the Holy Spirit - the Spirit that gives life - you will enjoy heaven on earth now.

Like the prodigal son, the woman caught in the act of adultery is another message of the demonstration of the Father-heart-of-God for His children. This woman was caught in the very act of adultery (John 8:3-11) – please take time to study this reference. According to the Law of Moses she deserved death by stoning for her sin of adultery (Lev. 20:10). But when Jesus looked into the heart of the Father He saw love, mercy, compassion and forgiveness, and therefore declared her acquitted (John 8:19, 30). Do you know that Jesus did not ask her to confess her sin before she would be forgiven? Jesus did not ask her if she was truly sorry for her sin. Jesus forgave her because it is His nature to forgive and save. He came to seek and save the lost. He did not come to judge and condemn, but to save the lost.

These accounts negate some of our religious dogmas that have enslaved and imprisoned God's children and their destinies. Through our personal beliefs and interpretation of the scripture, we misinterpret the written word of God, and also misrepresent the Father who loves His people dearly. The Father is so loving, caring, kind, gracious and understanding yet we present Him or make Him look like a monster, task-master, and hard-to-please Father in the eyes of the world and fellow Christians. When we talk about His holiness and righteousness, we present them as things we must labour so hard to earn and keep by our works and diligence. We trust in our own ability to keep ourselves from sin, and see righteousness as something we can lose through sin. We forget that Jesus died to make us one with the Father and we are now flesh of His flesh and bones of His bones (1 Cor. 6:17, Eph. 5:30-31).

What happened in the Most Holy Place when Jesus presented His blood of sacrifice on the Mercy Seat is unbreakable and irrevocable. We were in Christ when He offered His blood as sacrifice on the Mercy Seat before the Father - just the same way we were in Adam when he sinned against the Lord. The sin of Adam made all mankind unrighteous and sinners (Rom. 5:12-21) before God, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ has also made all mankind righteous before God. In the Most Holy Place, Jesus atoned for our sins and received forgiveness for us. The Father was pleased with the sacrifice of Jesus and declared us acquitted. We were not only acquitted but joined to Christ. At the joining the Father spoke concerning the unbreakable union, "what God has joined together let no man put asunder." Therefore nothing can put asunder between you and the Lord Jesus.

We were in Christ when He offered His blood as sacrifice on the Mercy Seat before the Father - just the same way we were in Adam when he sinned against the Lord. The sin of Adam made all mankind unrighteous and sinners before God, the sacrifice of Jesus Christ has also made all mankind righteous before God.

Even if this does not taste in your mouth like your normal meal please trust the Holy Spirit to help you digest it. In a plain language, what I am saying is that, it wasn't our choice or what we did that made us sinners or unrighteous, but it was the sin of Adam that smeared on us. Likewise, we did not become righteous and accepted by the Father by our choice or by what we did, but because of the righteous sacrifice of Jesus. I pray that you see this truth because it will change your life. Or is it not simple and straightforward?

6. Delivered From Fear

Don't Serve and Worship the Father out of Fear

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." Rom. 8:15

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgement; because as He is, so are we in this world.

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who fears has not been made perfect in love - 1John 4:17-18.

Serving and worshipping the Father should flow out of our appreciation of His love and goodness in our lives. We worship Him because we love Him. Nothing must be done out of fear. We shouldn't give offering out of fear of being poor if we don't give. Religion makes us to see and focus on fear. For some believers, it is the fear of hell that keeps them from sin. They have not understood the love of the Father for them therefore they are in bondage to sin. Fear of sin and hell cannot keep you from sinning because sin is not what you do or what you say – it's simply a nature.

Nothing must be done out of fear. We shouldn't give offering out of fear of being poor if we don't give. Religion makes us to see and focus on fear.

A pastor said that he preaches the way he does to put the fear of God into people and to make them to pray. We shouldn't preach to frighten or scare people but to teach them to know the love of God and to love the Father. I am convinced if they love Him, they will reverence Him and give Him the honour He deserves. When we preach to make people fear God - to pray, fast and do all the religious activities – the truth is that after awhile they overcome the fear and go back to their true nature or an even worse state. Don't you think God's people will respond excitedly and actively to God's love when they understood how much the Father loves them? They will because it is a simple truth - love is reciprocal.

There are believers who are working hard and doing so much to please the Father but they feel disappointed and frustrated deep down in their heart because the devil works through their un-renewed mind to lie to them that they are not serving, worshipping, fasting and praying enough. Therefore the Father is not pleased with them. Nothing they do is ever enough. In the love of the Father, I speak to you, if you really want to please your heavenly Father (not a man or a system called church) just "believe that He loves you and accept His love for you." It sounds too simple to be true. Stop trying to do anything to make Him to love and accept you - He has loved and accepted you already. Set your heart to know the Father and how much He loves you (Read Rom. 8:31-39, Eph. 3:14-19, 1John 4:10). Then give

yourself to thanking and praising Him for loving you so much. If you live for this, you will be so free, happy and bold, and the Father will be pleased.

Stop trying to do anything to make God love and accept you - He has loved and accepted you already. Set your heart to know Him as your Father and how much He loves you.

You cannot qualify yourself. Absolutely, there is nothing you can do to earn the Father's unconditional love and acceptance of you. He has loved and accepted you unconditionally because of the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ for you and that settles it. We are all experts in the business, game and pursuit of trying to earn His love and acceptance through our religious works, activities and performances. You are the judge and jurist of yourself who qualify yourself when you feel you are doing well in your "religious world" and disqualify yourself when you feel you are not praying and fasting enough, loving and pleasing God to your satisfaction.

God has loved and accepted you unconditionally because of the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ for you and that settles it.

The doctrines of demons

Christianity is a relationship of faith towards God and love for the brethren. God wants you to love the brethren, but when you make them your enemies and pray earnestly for their destruction and death; then, you are not practicing love toward the brethren and faith toward God.

Fear and hatred has been so preached and promoted in the body of Christ instead of the love of God for His children, and love for one another. Do you really need a Christianity that tears your family apart and makes you to be suspicious of almost everybody? I don't think you need it. If your Christianity is one of fear, bitterness and hatred for your fellow human being, or waiting and watching to see or hear that they are dead - I must say that you have a religion and have not known the Father yet.

Christianity is a relationship of faith towards God and love for the brethren (Eph. 1:15, Col. 1:4). Like the early church, God wants you to love the brethren, but when you make them your enemies and pray earnestly for their destruction and death; then, I wonder who you are going to love? My heart aches when I hear and see the doctrines of demons that is being preached and advertised today. The pulpit is not intended for any other purpose other than to reveal Christ to His people by the help of the Holy Spirit so that God's children can exercise faith in the perfect sacrifice of Christ and, also to love humanity with the same love they have been loved by the

Father. Unfortunately, the pulpit is used to reveal the doctrines of the demons and their works, thereby sowing seeds of fear in God's children, and worst still taking away their ability to see Christ in His glory.

Another Jesus! Different spirit! Different gospel!

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons - 1Tim. 4:1

What it means to depart from the faith is to give up on the finished work of Christ and establish your own righteousness and spiritual platform through religious efforts. Paul also addressed this problem of departing from the faith in his letter to the Galatians when he said, "I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel - Gal. 1:6. The word 'different' in Greek speaks of 'another of a different kind' gospel. This is a distortion of the true gospel of Christ. Indeed a different gospel is being preached today that is not Christ focused. It takes the focus away from Christ and the message of the cross, and focus on the devil and humanism. This gospel is cumbersome and demanding, and it's popular and widely accepted.

Let's hear the cry in the heart of Paul:

Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly — and indeed you do bear with me.

For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted — you may well put up with it! - 2 Cor 11:1-4

Can you see it now from these verses that there is 'another Jesus' 'different spirit,' 'different gospel' being preached? So which Jesus and gospel do you have? It is your personal walk with the Holy Spirit that will help you to find the true Jesus Christ.

Faith is not believing God for what He said He will do but believing in what He said He has done.

Our faith must be based on the finished work of Christ. Faith should only be exercised on what Christ did. Let me say here what faith is and what faith is not. Faith is not believing God for what He said He will do but believing in what He said He has done. What He said He will do and what He has done already are two different statements. Faith sees what God has done already. It is what God has done

that He reveals to your human spirit. God reveals them to your spirit because you can only contact God with your human spirit (Prov. 20:27). Don't think the enemy will fold its hands and watch you birth what has been deposited in your spirit. The enemy will try to intimidate, frustrate and stop you from bringing forth what was revealed to you. The obstacles and enemies that are trying to stop you from bringing forth what God deposited in you are demonic illusions that must be resisted by faith. They are demonic illusions because they are not real – the only thing that is real is what God reveals to you. You will definitely see the salvation of the Lord, if you hold on enough to what God said to you or revealed in your spirit.

Personally, I believe every promise of God in the Old Testament has been fulfilled in Christ and the only promise of God in the Bible for the New Testament believer is the Holy Spirit. For me, the Holy Spirit is the only promise of the Father for us.

The Holy Spirit is the promise of the Father for us; if we receive Him, then we have access to all that Christ did on the cross on our behalf. Jesus died to redeem us from the curse of the law so that we may receive the blessing of Abraham and the promise of the Holy Spirit through Faith

Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father. If they had refused to wait they would have missed all that Jesus went to the cross to deliver to us.

Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you, but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high - Luke 24:49

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." - Acts 1:4-5

The written word of God tells us that Jesus died to redeem us from the curse of the law so that we might receive the blessing of Abraham and the promise of the Holy Spirit through faith

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith - Gal 3:13-15 (Read John 14:26, 15:26-27, Acts 2:33, 39, Eph. 1:13-14).

This is why I encourage believers to build intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit. When you received the Holy Spirit, He takes you on a spiritual journey into all that Christ is and what He did for you. Everything has been done already in Christ – there is nothing left to be done. The devil does not want us to believe and accept this

incredible truth so that we can stand our ground and enjoy the benefits of the cross of Jesus Christ which are the blessing of Abraham and the Holy Spirit. Believing in who God is and what He said He has done build confidence and boldness in you. The scripture rightly tells us that...*without faith it is impossible to please Him, for He who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him* - Heb. 11:6. Who did God say He is to you? Thanking God for who He says He is and the victory of the cross of Jesus is a genuine expression of your faith. Don't ever stop thanking the Father for the victory of the cross over curse, poverty, judgment, condemnation and death. It's the voice of your faith. Praise God! There is no more curse and judgment upon your life because of the victory of the cross.

An intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit will take you on a spiritual journey into all that Christ is and what He did for you. Remember that everything has been done already in Christ and there is nothing left to be done

These doctrines of demons do not allow Christians to see the victory of the cross of Christ and to believe that God is who He said He is. They give birth to rejection, fear, confusion and hatred in them. Those who have believed this doctrine can be very suspicious and fearful because they are full of fear, offence and bitterness. They are hardly joyful and free with people. They give hatred instead of love of God, and live in fear instead of faith. They don't know what true freedom is as they live in perpetual fear and bondage. Their goal is to see their enemies miserable or dead in contrast to the mission of Jesus Christ that came to show mercy, seek and save the lost.

7. The Goal of the Devil

The devil is not who you think he is!

I want you to understand that the devil is not really after you to get you to commit sin as much as he is after you to get you to doubt and question the Father's love for you. We see the devil as one who brings temptation to make us stumble and sin against the Lord – No! But to make us doubt the Father's ability to love, forgive and help us. The devil asks, 'Did God really say He loves you?' Did He really say He has forgiven you?' 'Did He really say He will help you?'

The goal of the devil is not to make us to commit sin and fall – he knows the Father loves us and He is compassionate, gracious and merciful to forgive us even before we ask for forgiveness. But his goal is to get us to doubt and question the Father's unconditional love for us. Sometimes, we don't stop at doubting and questioning the Father's love, we progress to hiding from the Father like Adam and Eve in the garden, and start living as orphans and victims. In the same process, we shut the door against ourselves in our world of judgment, condemnation and rejection.

The devil is not really after you to get you to commit sin as much as he is after you to get you to doubt the authenticity of God's love for you!

The devil is happy when we doubt and question the Father's love – His ability to forgive and restore us, save and deliver us from trouble, keep us from the evil one (Jn.17:15), keep us from sinning against Him, provide and make a way of escape for us in an impossible situation. The devil does not want us to see God as a Father who cares and loves us dearly, forever. He wants us to see Him as a task-master that has many "dos" and "don'ts". Of course, this will not encourage cordial relationship with Him but will make us to live in perpetual bondage of fear of not being able to please Him or have Father-son relationship with Him.

This was how the devil stopped the Jews from knowing God as a Father. Even when Jesus came to reveal God as a Father to them, they vehemently resisted Him and His ministry, and thereafter killed Him for allegedly making Himself equal with God because he called God his Father (John 5:18, 10:31-33). Jesus did not have serious problem with the religious folks of His days until when He began to talk about His Father-Son relationship and oneness with God (John 5:16-18, 10:22-39). The Jews saw it as blasphemy when Jesus said, "I and My Father are one" (John 10:30). Nobody ever talked like that before. The Jews will not even call God by His name because of the reverence they have for His name. Jesus must have gone too far to tell them that God was His Father, and He shared the same identity and uniqueness with Him.

He was proud, bold and confident of His identity which came from His union with His Father. One thing that nobody could take from Him was His identity. They could mock Him, call Him names such as a Samaritan and demon but nobody could take away His identity because it was heavenly and not earthly. Jesus knew who He was that He came from the Father. He knew God was His Father therefore He was not bothered by the names the Jews called Him (John 7:20, 8:48, 52, 10:20). His identity was everything to Him. He is the only man that ever lived without an identity crisis.

We shouldn't derive our identity from the world of appearance which fades, changes and misleads, but from the eternal relationship we have with the Father. All we need is the love and voice of the Father that bring healing, comfort and transformation. The Father's voice came to Jesus expressly at the river Jordan (Matt. 3:17) and at the mountain of transfiguration (Matt. 17:5). For me, this was all Jesus needed to hear. He was extremely happy and comforted that the Father loved Him. So, it doesn't matter what anybody says or calls Him. Identity crisis starts from believing in a world of appearance – what we see, feel, touch, smell and hear – instead of the unseen realm of the Father. And believing in the opinions of the people, what they feel and say about us more than our identity in Christ and the Father's affirmation of us.

The goal of the devil is to make us doubt our heavenly nature and identity as sons and daughters of the Father. He wants us to take our identity from the world of appearance that is not real. He wants to give us his own identity. This was what the devil did to Adam and Eve in the garden. The devil deceived Eve by making her to believe that she could have a better wisdom outside God. They ate the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil and broke the trust that existed between them and God. They did not need faith or power in the garden, all they needed was the Father's love and that was what they had. This love was replaced with fear when they sinned and covered themselves with fig leaves and went into hiding because they were afraid. They hid from the presence of God and covered their nakedness with leaves. What does this mean? They put away the original identity and took on a false identity. Why did God ask Adam, "Who told you that you were naked"? Because He had not taken back the identity He gave him. It is like God saying I gave you My identity and I have not taken it – so what happened? When we doubt or give up on our God-given identity the enemies rejoice because that is the beginning of self-judgement, self-condemnation, confusion and frustration, emotional instabilities and struggles and satanic oppressions in our lives.

The prodigal son stayed out of the Father's house longer than necessary? What kept the prodigal son away from the Father's house for so long when he ought to have returned to the house? He was stuck in slavery and poverty, even after the Father had forgiven him. The prodigal son did not suffer because of sin but because of lack of identity. I totally agree that he messed up and wasted his Father's resources but he was forgiven long before he realized himself and returned to his Father. Though the Father forgave him and longed to see His lost son but he did not know and was still living as a slave and paying for what the Father had taken care of, all because of

lack of identity. Sin was not the problem here but identity crisis. Obviously, he did not know his Father and how much He loved him.

Even his older brother who was very obedient and faithful to his Father was also suffering from identity crisis. He was so lost in service to his Father without enjoying the Father's love and riches of His glory. He sounded like a young man who gave himself to religious activities to please God without understanding the working of the unmerited grace of Jesus Christ. This is what the devil likes, when we live in doubt of the sincerity of the Father's love. If we take our identity and affirmation from what we do well and what we don't do well, then the devil we deal with us like he did to the lost son. It has to come from our personal relationship with the Father.

The present religious system listens to us, accepts us and even accommodates us because we talk to them about God but the system will become uncomfortable when we start talking about our Father-son/daughter relationship and oneness with Him. The devil hates to see us talk about our Father-son/daughter relationship and oneness with Him because he knows this is what Jesus brought us into through His death and resurrection. And this is the secret of walking in divine power, breakthrough, victory, dominion and glory. Without any controversy it is an established fact that a child has the exact nature – DNA – of his father. If this is true, of which I know it is true, why does the devil and the religious system want me to believe that I have to go through a process before I become a son. Why does it sound strange in the ears of someone that God is my Father and I have his nature, and share oneness with Him? Why does someone find it hard to accept that I am joined to the Lord and I am one Spirit with Him (1Cor. 6:17)?

I don't know of anything that pleases the devil like when a child of God doubts and question the Father's love. On the other hand, nothing displeases and makes the devil mad like when a child of God is boastful and proud of the Father's love for him or her. If you have learned how to hold on to the Father's love and declare it over your life - even while you are in your mess, the devil will be confused and helpless over your life. After all, you did not sin against the devil – so what business does he have in your relationship with your Father? The devil is not part of the Father-son/daughter relationship so he shouldn't be allowed to speak or bring any accusation or condemnation. Tell the devil that he has no part in your relationship with your Father.

8. The Spirit Gives Life

Christianity is neither a religion nor set of rules given to us to follow so that we can be blessed, favoured, protected and make heaven someday. Christianity is about being in loving relationship with the Father through Jesus Christ. It is a Father-son/daughter relationship with our loving and caring heavenly Father. Jesus brought us into the same relationship He shared with the Father so that we can have life and enjoy life fully now.

Jesus said, "Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to Me. Get away with Me and you will recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with Me and work with me – watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with Me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly" (Matt. 11:28-30 - The Message)

Listen to the heart of Jesus in the above verses when He spoke to the Jews to come out of Jewish religion of legalism and performance into a relationship with God as a Father. Jesus must have seen the helplessness of the Jews in the merciless hands of the Jewish religion and its leaders, and He offered them a way out of the burden of religion. He saw that the people wanted to have life and enjoy it, and they wanted freedom but they did not know how to have them because they were enslaved by religion.

People of all colours, races and backgrounds go to any length to get things that make them feel good and happy. This is seen in the ways unbelievers search for satisfaction, fun and life in things like fashion, sex, alcohol, fame, money, etc. While the Christians search for satisfaction and life in religious activities and programs. One of the reason people drink alcohol, take drugs, have sex, go to theatres to watch movies and listen to comedians is because they want to have life and fun. But do they really get life and lasting fun out of these things? The answer is no, they don't even get life out of them but momentary fun. Doubtlessly, everybody - believers and unbelievers - are searching for satisfaction, fun and true life or what gives life in things without realizing that it is the Holy Spirit that gives life. Jesus said *"It is the Spirit who gives life (He is the Life-giver); the flesh conveys no benefit whatever (there is no profit in it). The words (truths) that I have been speaking to you are spirit and life" – John 6:63.* Also in *2Cor. 3:6* it is written that *"the Spirit gives life."*

It is obvious that believers want to enjoy life and have fun but there is fear of not wanting to go to the extreme or fall into sin in the process. My friend, you can have life and enjoy life because that is why Jesus came. He did not come for us to have religion and become miserable people who are always fighting devils and demons, but He came to bring us into a relationship with our Father so that we can enjoy our Father's love and goodness. The death and resurrection of Jesus ushered us into a father-son/daughter relationship with Almighty God. And this relationship is meant to be enjoyed through the help of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus did not come for us to have religion and become miserable people who are always fighting devils and demons, but He came to bring us into a relationship with our Father so that we can enjoy our Father's love and goodness.

"The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance (to the full, till it overflows)" - John 10:10 - Amplified.

If you are not enjoying the life that Jesus has given you freely it means you are engaged in a religious system. In other words, if you are not really enjoying being a Christian – it is because you do not know the Holy Spirit as your personal friend – and you are simply in bondage to religion. So set yourself free because you are the only person who can set yourself free through belief.

Start relating with God as your Father if you really want to enjoy your relationship with Him. This is not what you can achieve by your intellect, power and might – you need the help of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit helps you to build a Father-son/daughter relationship with God when you know Him as your personal friend that must be listened to and revered.

Know God as your father! Start relating with God as your Father if you really want to enjoy your relationship with Him. This is not what you can achieve by your intellect, power and might – you need the help of the Holy Spirit.

9. Enjoy the Holy Spirit as Your Personal Friend

All you need is the Holy Spirit, a dependable friend!

We have friends in our lives because we need them. Everybody needs someone he or she calls a true friend. A true friend is someone you can trust and share your mind and heart with without being judged, condemned and rejected. The Holy Spirit is the only Friend that has the qualities you need in a true friend.

You can have and enjoy a friendship with the Holy Spirit more than any other friendship. All it takes is a desire and hunger for it. An intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit is indispensable if you really want to enjoy Christianity.

I want to invite you to a world of enjoyment. You may ask – what enjoyment? It's the enjoyment that is not found in religion and things created by God. There is nothing as wonderful as enjoying your friendship with the Holy Spirit. Some people have searched for enjoyment in the wrong places and ended up in dilemma of self-abuse. They were driven by their ungodly appetite into lifestyle like perverted sexual lifestyle and narcotic drugs. What they have not realized is that what they are searching for are not found where they think they are.

Communion with the Holy Spirit is indispensable for a believer who wants to grow in grace and the knowledge of Jesus Christ. And this communion must be free of religious forms and methods. While growing up as a young believer, my spiritual journey into God was full of religious practices and performances. I had this burning passion to know the Holy Spirit experientially and commune with Him deeply. This drove me into religious practices that resulted in internal frustration.

If you want to grow in grace and the knowledge of Jesus Christ, then Communion with the Holy Spirit is indispensable! You cannot even breath – spiritually – without Him; talk less of not having constant communion with Him – that would be disastrous to making any spiritual headway!

Honestly, sometimes, my time of communion was so religious, frustrating and boring. While at other times, the presence and glory of Christ would be so real to me. Everything changed when the Holy Spirit began to teach me how to enjoy my relationship and friendship with Him. He taught me how to put away religious performance and works when I am with Him for communion. One of the works is that – I don't have to sing or do anything – what is important is my availability and to know what He wants. There are times He wants to minister to me instead of me ministering to Him and at other times, He wants me to minister to Him with songs or just sit before Him to enjoy Him. Now, it is no longer a burden or duty to have communion with Him - it's a way of life for me. I don't have communion because I want His power, favour, wisdom, glory, protection and breakthrough. I have communion with Him because I love Him and enjoy being with Him.

The Holy Spirit wants you to enjoy Him and your friendship with Him because He is your Friend. A friend is someone who knows all about you - the good and bad - the beautiful and ugly – and still loves, accepts and respects you. The Holy Spirit is the only One who knows all about you, yet He does not judge, condemn and reject you, but encourages you to walk with Him so that you can be happy and fulfilled in life.

Nobody wants to be in friendship with someone who oppresses him. I don't think you want to have someone as your best friend who accuses and intimidates you or always watching out for your mistakes to judge and condemn you. The precious Holy Spirit does not oppress, accuse, intimidate or watch out for your mistakes to judge and condemn you because He is a true Friend, Comforter, Helper, Counsellor, Advocate, Teacher, Strengthener, Intercessor and Guardian. The Holy Spirit cannot be all these to you and still accuse, intimidate, judge and condemn you.

Jesus calls Him "another Friend" because Jesus was a friend too - *John 15:13-15*

"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Friend (Comforter, Helper, Counselor, Strengthener, Intercessor, Advocate and Standby)" - John 14:16, 26, 15:26, 16:17.

The Holy Spirit became my true Friend during my days of rejection, loneliness and frustration as a believer. During this season of my life, I had no one else to trust and share my worries, fears and confusion with – He was the only One I could trust. Everybody refused to understand that I was doing the right thing by answering the call of God upon my life to testify to the gospel of the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. I was rejected, despised and called names but I had only one true Friend, the Holy Spirit. He stood with me and saw me through those days of terrible fear and confusion.

I encourage you to enjoy your friendship with the Holy Spirit so that you can testify to others like David *".... taste, open your eyes and see – how good God is. Blessed are you who run to Him"* - *Psalms 34:8.*

The Holy Spirit is the Reality of Heaven

Enjoy heaven while on earth now. You don't have to die to enjoy heaven – the Holy Spirit is the reality of heaven in you.

Do you know that when you are enjoying the Holy Spirit you are enjoying the reality of the kingdom of heaven on earth because the Holy Spirit is the revelation of heaven in us? Why don't you enjoy the reality of heaven now by connecting with the Holy Spirit? If you want to know what heaven is – what heaven feels and tastes like, you need to know the Holy Spirit. Please I don't mean that you should get head-knowledge of the Holy Spirit but heart and experiential knowledge of Him. The kingdom of heaven is a present reality in the believers. The kingdom of heaven came into our hearts when the Holy Spirit came. The prayer Jesus taught His

disciples "let your kingdom come and your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6:10) became a reality as a result of the coming of the Holy Spirit into the hearts of the disciples (Acts 2:1-11). So wherever you find the Holy Spirit that is where the kingdom of heaven is. The Holy Spirit and the kingdom of heaven are one and cannot be separated.

You don't have to die to enjoy heaven – the Holy Spirit is the reality of heaven in you. Enjoy heaven while on earth now. Many believers are living as defeated Christians and orphans because they do not know the Holy Spirit and that Jesus said to us *"I will not leave you as orphans (comfortless, desolate, bereaved, forlorn, helpless); I will come back to you"* - John 14:18 Amp.

Jesus Christ came back to us in the person of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost in Acts chapter two. With the Holy Spirit in your life – you are too powerful for your enemies. You are able to overcome the power of darkness that wants to stop you from fulfilling your destiny. You shouldn't be afraid of your enemies or live as an orphan with the ever-abiding presence of God in you. You should see problems and trials as opportunities to demonstrate the power of God in you (1John 4:4). See yourself living a life of endless possibilities. Every good thing you need in life flows out of your heart – where Christ dwells, and not from the sky. Look inside of you for solutions to problems. Listen to the voice of the Spirit of God within you. One of the things you stand to enjoy as you listen and hear His voice is peace.

Hearing the Lord

The reason many believers are full of confusion is because they are not hearing the Lord and their identity in Christ is being attacked by the spirit of fear. Fear robs believers of their identity, peace, hope, strength, confidence and boldness. It births in them confusion, frustration, hopelessness, faithlessness and impossibilities. One of the sources of fear in the life of a believer is his or her inability to know the voice of the Holy Spirit in his or her human spirit for guidance. Sometimes, we become too careless or careful to obey the instruction of the Holy Spirit, and this gives room to fear. Divine instruction from the Holy Spirit should be obeyed without being unnecessarily careful. I wonder why we are either too careful to obey or not quick to obey Him. Paul the apostle describes it as 'being careful for nothing.'

Scripturally, it is inaccurate for a believer to pray to hear the voice of God but a believer should seek to know the Lord (John 10:4, 27). Knowing the Lord is the same as knowing His voice. As you know the Lord, you will definitely know His voice.

Why is it a problem for a Christian to hear the Lord? There is so much struggle and fear when it comes to hearing the voice of the Lord. Some Christians have fasted and prayed to hear the voice of the Lord for direction, but ended up confused and more worried. It is scriptural to wait on the Lord to know His will and direction for your life, but do not seek to hear a voice. Scripturally, it is inaccurate for a believer

to pray to hear the voice of God but a believer should seek to know the Lord (John 10:4, 27). Knowing the Lord is the same as knowing His voice. As you know the Lord, you will definitely know His voice. Many believers have been deceived, misled and oppressed by demons because they set out to hear the voice of the Lord instead of knowing the Lord. Demons deceive and mislead believers into practises that are contrary to the written word of God, thereby, putting them under demonic oppression. The Bible did not tell us to seek the voice of God but to seek Him!

Everyone has what it takes to hear God but not everyone understands what he or she hears.

Hearing God should be a normal phenomenon for believers, but understanding what He says is where we have problem oftentimes. Everyone has what it takes to hear God but not everyone understands what he or she hears. Lack of understanding of what God said or revealed to us, can get us into painful confusion. Christians who have no clarity or understanding of what they heard or received from the Lord may end up being confused. Confusion is a terrible state to be. It is good to know what the Lord said but what we really need is to understand what He said. The scripture rightly admonishes us to *...get understanding...and in all your getting, get understanding (Prov. 4:5, 7)*. The problem is not that we do not hear God but we hear God without understanding what we heard or seen. This is the same situation the disciples of Jesus found themselves until Jesus opened their understanding to comprehend the Scriptures in Luke 24:45. Phillip the evangelist knew what it means for someone to understand the scripture hence he asked the eunuch of Ethiopia, "Do you understand what you are reading?" We shouldn't read the Bible and follow the letters without understanding the inherent reality in the word. Every written word of God has within it an inherent truth. The Bible is a spiritual book with deep spiritual truth and insight. And it takes the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to uncover the truth in it. Thus it is written: *All scripture is given by the inspiration of God ...2Tim. 3:16.*

Understanding is having a true nature of things or having a full picture of situations.

The joy and peace that come from seeing things the way they really are is unexplainable, and this is what understanding is all about. Understanding is having a true nature of things or having a full picture of situations. Some years ago, a woman told me that she was going to move out of her matrimonial home due to a revelation she thought she had from God. According to her, in her dream she was oppressed spiritually by her husband's mistress and the Lord told her to move out of her home for sometime just like Elijah who ran out of Israel to escape from the hands of Jezebel. I counselled her not to leave her matrimonial home and that what she heard can't be from God but the manipulation of the devil and her husband's mistress might move in and take over her home. Thank God she listened to me and the Lord healed her. Now, can you see what lack of understanding was going to do to her marriage? She almost lost her marriage because of her ignorance.

Judge every Dream with God's Word

How many marriages and relationships have been torn apart and wrecked because of lack of understanding? When our dreams and visions become more important to us than the word of God and the Holy Spirit, the deception and problem that come from them can be very regretful and harmful. Don't place your dream above the word of God. God's word comes first. The Bible encourages us to study the word of God and be led by the Holy Spirit, and not to seek visions and dreams. Dreams and visions should be judged by the written word of God because they can be symbolic. Any dream or vision that keeps you in bondage of fear and treats people as your enemies or be suspicious of others is evil. This is not to say that God does not give us dreams and visions to instruct or warn us. He gives dreams and visions to warn us like the case of the wise men (Matt. 2:12) and Joseph (Matt. 2:13). One thing I want you to know is that satanic dreams and visions come for one primary reason - to put you in bondage of fear. They do not have the fruit of the spirit. The best way to judge a dream, vision and prophecy is by placing them side by side with the word of God and the fruit of the spirit. Satanic dream and prophecy generate fear, while dreams and visions from the Holy Spirit come with peace and the fruit of the spirit.

I don't believe there is any child of God that does not hear Him. I believe we all hear God but do not understand what He says. This is where many get confused and stumbled. Hearing God is good but we should not stop at hearing God, we should go further to understand what He meant by what He said. Ask for details and clarity. This takes care of walking with the Holy Spirit by presumption.

I have had my own painful experiences of walking with the Holy Spirit by assumption. I learned some spiritual lessons in a hard way because I wasn't patient to ask the Holy Spirit for precision and understanding. I ran when I should have been walking. I walked when I should have been running. When I should have been waiting on the Lord, I was busying for the Lord. I made some costly mistakes that could have been avoided if I knew what I know now. I was more interested in hearing the Lord than understanding what He said. Truly, I knew nothing about understanding what He says those days. Now I know that it is so easy to follow the Holy Spirit by assumption, and get into confusion and frustration. When the Holy Spirit leads you - you will enjoy peace and joy in your heart, though there may be troubles and trials around.

When the Holy Spirit leads you; you will enjoy peace and joy in your heart, though there may be troubles and trials around. Fear is as a result of not being led by the Holy Spirit, and not believing in the love the Father says He has for you.

In a summary, fear is as a result of not being led by the Holy Spirit and not believing in the Father's love for you. My friend, believe in the Father's love for you. Believe the Father loves you. And always remember that when you doubt this love – your doubt opens the door for rejection, fear and confusion to come into your life. People

who live in rejection and fear have not understood the depth of the Father's love for them. This is the same fear that took over the place of love that once existed between Adam, Eve and God in the garden of Eden.

Do you not know that rejection, fear, confusion, frustration, disappointment, oppression, depression, poverty, sicknesses and diseases are not part of the reality of heaven in you?

My friend, make the Holy Spirit your companion. He is the comforter of all times. It can be hard to trust people when you are going through either rejection or condemnation or disappointment - the only person that can be trusted in such a time is the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the best Person and Friend you can trust and share your heart with when you feel rejected, confused and troubled, abused and abandoned, judged and condemned, lonely and disappointed. It can be hard to trust people when you are going through either rejection or condemnation or disappointment - the only person that can be trusted in such a time is the Holy Spirit.

10. Only Believe!

Only believe that you are qualified because Christ qualified you - there is nothing left to be done!

Almost every believer wants to know what to do to please the Father. Do you want to know what to do for God to be pleased with you? Do you really want to please the Father? The answer is: only believe! The Father does not want you to do anything to please Him because He is already pleased with you, but the religious system of man wants you to work and pay for your salvation. The account in John 6:28-29 tells us of some people that came to Jesus and asked Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?" What they were simply asking is, we want to please God so what must we do to please Him. Let's give them the benefit of doubt that they really wanted to please God. But they saw pleasing God from the wrong perspective just as Jesus pointed out in His answer to their question. Jesus answered them, "The work of God is this: to believe in the One He has sent." Jesus gave them a very simple answer that may be difficult for a religious mind to comprehend and accept easily.

The Father does not want you to do anything to please Him because He is already pleased with you, but the religious system of man wants you to work and pay for your salvation.

Can you see that Jesus didn't tell them: keep all the commandments, keep yourself holy and stay out of sin, pray and fast often, give your tithe and offering regularly, be committed to your local assembly, read your Bible every day and do not miss any of your church or religious activities? Jesus did not say any of these things, but He told them to 'believe in Him.' Again, this is too simple for the religious mind that believes in works to earn God's love, acceptance and approval. How do we believe in Him today? Jesus is the demonstration of the Father's love for us. We need to believe in His perfect sacrifice for us. Because of what He did for us, the Father is now pleased with us – He is not angry with us or waiting to cast us into hell. Only believe in the Father's love and that you are very special to Him. Even if everything else in the world fails, the Father's love for you will never fail. Believe that the father is happy with you because He is happy and satisfied with the sacrifice of Jesus for you.

Some Christians think the reason they are not enjoying divine health, prosperity, peace of mind and God's favour is because the Father is not pleased with them or they are not pleasing Him enough, that is not true. It is because you don't believe in His love for you. What hinders you is not lack of faith or zeal for the Lord but not believing in who Jesus said He is and what He did for you – and it is called unbelief and rejection. Unbelief was the same problem with the Jews in the days of Jesus' earthly ministry. Have you not read in your Bible that the Father is not against you but for you and he has freely given you all things (Rom. 8:31-32), He has blessed

you already with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ (Eph. 1:3) and He has given you all things that pertain to life and godliness (2Peter 1:3)? You are joint-heir with Christ (Rom. 8:17) – what this means is that all that belongs to Christ is automatically yours.

You might be struggling with some issues, weaknesses and sins in your life – don't give up on yourself – surrender to the Father's love. Giving up on yourself or giving in to rejection, condemnation and judgement will not change the situation or make you a better person. The same love that saved you is still the love that will transform you. Don't fall into self-rejection, self-judgment and self-condemnation because of your mistakes and failures. Learn to thank, praise and worship Him for His love and grace that are able to restore and transform you – Praise God forever!

Don't you know that Abraham is counted righteous because he believed God? Abraham believed God and was counted to him for righteousness (Gen. 15:1-6, Rom. 4:1-3). What this means is that Abraham received the gospel of grace, and it is this same gospel of grace that Jesus came to communicate to us.

This gospel of grace speaks in this manner: you are saved by grace (Eph. 2:5, 8), you are justified freely by grace (Rom. 3:24, Titus 3:7), you are not under the law but under grace (Rom. 6:14), in grace we stand (Rom. 5:2), be strong in grace (2Tim. 2:1), grow in grace (2Peter 3:18), come boldly to the throne of grace (Heb. 4:16), let your speech always be with grace (Col. 4:6), and the heart be established by grace (Heb. 13:9).

The **gospel of grace** speaks in this manner as it is written in the holy scriptures: you are **saved by grace**, you are **justified freely by grace**, **you are** not under the law but **under grace**, in grace we stand, be **strong in grace**, **grow in grace**, come boldly to the **throne of grace**, let your **speech always be with grace** and your heart be **established by grace**.

Someone may say this sound like giving Christians too much freedom and they will abuse it. Is it not written in the Bible that 'where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty' - 2Cor. 3:17? My friend, God's people will be on fire for Christ when they are exposed to the revelation of the Father and His everlasting love for them. When someone experiences love – he gives love back. Love does not lead to bondage but freedom. Again, when people experience love – they will appreciate freedom and become responsible and accountable.

11. Abba, Father

And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, Abba, Father!" Gal. 4:6

And Jesus said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for You. Take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not what I will, but what You will - Mark 14:36

There is a place in God where you know Him intimately as your Father and not just God. It is a place of personal revelation knowledge and oneness with Him. This is the place where you are not living in fear of being rejected, judged and condemned by Him, but living in His love and for His love. In this place, you appreciate and value your relationship with Him and nobody judges between you and your heavenly Father. You don't need any judge, lawyer or advocate between you and your Father. If you mess up, He will be the One to correct you or do whatever that pleases Him with you because He is your Father.

This is where you give quit notice to all the advocates and solicitors of God in and around your life. I don't mean that you turn you back on God's ordained relationship for your life or people that God has set over you. I am talking about the advocates of God who are always digging out your past mistakes, failures and sins. They probably believe that they are trying to help you to live a stable life or to have the fear of God in your heart, but they don't know that they are bringing you under the ministry of condemnation and death - 2Cor. 3:7-11.

For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father." Rom. 8:15

In this Father-son/daughter relationship, you don't try to hide anything from your heavenly Father or cover your mess or nakedness before Him. Like David, you are willing to fall into His hands because He is merciful and gracious to forgive you and put your life together again. You may try to put up an act before others, but certainly not before your Father that loves you dearly. There is no fear in this relationship because His unfailing love casts out all fear of sin, rejection, judgement and condemnation (1John 4:17-18). We will only be able to appreciate how much the Father loves and cares for us beyond description when we are able to know and relate with Him as our Father. Unfortunately, we are yet to come into this reality fully – Eph. 3:14-19.

There is a place in God where you know Him intimately – a place where you can be naked before Him and not ashamed – a place of divine revelation of His love for you. He wants you there! He wants you to be in that relationship with Him where He becomes your 'All in All'. He desires a union of oneness where He becomes your father, friend, counsellor and judge - where nobody judges between you and him. It's a relationship where no accuser against you is found. It's a realm/place

where no one can touch or harm you. He desires you to be in His secret place. It's a place of divine relationship of rest (no worries and toils) and love (no fears).

The Father does not want to see us wounded or defeated by the enemy. He does not want us to worry about life, what to eat, drink and what to put on because; He is committed to supplying our needs. If only we can dare to believe in His love for us as emphasized in these verses - *Matt. 6:24-34, 7:9-11, Luke 12:22-32.*

...therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing...for after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble - Matt. 6:24-34.

Don't be afraid because your heavenly Father knows your needs. He does not only know your needs but He also knows all that you have been through in life and what you are going through right now. He does care about your fears, pains and wounds.

Thus the scripture tells us:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulations, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God – 2Cor. 1:3-4

As a father pities his children, so the LORD pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust - Psalm 103:13, 14.

For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin - Heb. 4:15.

He is committed to your life and He wants to heal you and put your whole life together again. For this reason, God who works through human vessels to bless and transform people on earth is sending me to you to help you experience His healing love, grace and glory.

Now, my dear friend, I release the grace of God upon your life and I command you to receive your healing and be made whole. God hears the cry of a bleeding and hurting heart because He is a loving Father. Let your heart and soul cry to Him today, Abba Father. He hears you and He will strengthen and put your life together again.

BACK COVER PAGE

Christianity is neither a religion nor set of rules given to us to follow so that we can be blessed, favoured, protected and make heaven someday, but it's a Father-son/daughter relationship we share with our loving heavenly Father. Jesus came to reveal the Father to us. Through His death and resurrection, He brought us into Father-son/daughter relationship with God. The same relationship Jesus had with His father is what we have with the Father now. He did this for us so that we can enjoy our Father, His extravagant love and the riches of His glory. More so, He wants us to have life and enjoy life fully and now. Knowing God as your Father is the only way you can enjoy your relationship with Him. I therefore encourage you to start a journey of knowing God today as your Father, so that you can be free from the bondage of religion and fear. The Father loves and cherishes us dearly, forever.

About the Author

Patrick Enega, a minister of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle and separated to the gospel of the grace of God. He is committed to the seed of God in people and wants to see every believer rooted and grounded in the extravagant love of the Father, growing in the amazing grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, enjoying the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit and experiencing the supernatural daily.

He oversees **God's Standard International Ministry**, a kingdom ministry that is operating from Lagos, Nigeria and reaching out to the nations of the earth with the gospel of the grace of our Jesus Christ. He is the president of **Healing Initiative for the Nations**, a project that is committed to healing the nations by giving hope to hurting families and young people who are disenchanting and in distress and providing for their education.

Author of the books: BURY THE DEAD OUT OF YOUR SIGHT and MARRIAGE and FAMILY...God's Purpose defined.

He presently resides in Lagos, Nigeria with his wife, Joan and their two sons; Oshiokhai Goodness and Oshioke DavidPaul.

To contact the author, write

In Nigeria:

God's Standard International Ministry
P.O. Box 4528

Marina, Lagos, Nigeria

Or call: +234 8032165322,

Email: godstandard@yahoo.com or patrickenega@yahoo.co.uk