# YOU & 2023

A PROPHETIC INSTRUCTIONAL MANUAL ON GOD'S INTENTIONS FOR YOU IN 2023.

Emmanuel Hayemi

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## YEMI EMMANUEL

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#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

"But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out His special favour on me... 1 Corinthians 15:10 (NLT)

Olabisi, my dear wife, thank you for your immense support and for making life and ministry easy for me.

Attah Goodness, thank you for your numerous contributions and immense commitment to the success of this book. God bless you!

To everyone who played a part in the success of this project, thank you!

## **HOW TO USE THE BOOK**

This book should either be used personally or as a group. It is recommended that you accompany the reading of this book with seven (7) days fasting and prayers. There are seven prophetic themes in this book and each lesson should be treated daily for the seven-day period. It is highly advisable that you engage in the discussions and prayer section of the evening sessions for each day with others for a minimum duration of one hour. This book should not be shared as you are expected to personalize the action points.

# 2023 CONFESSION

Father, I thank you with all of my heart. You do amazing and wondrous things. Everything you do reveals your glory and majesty. Your righteousness never fails. You are gracious and merciful. I shout for joy and with gladness of heart. I acknowledge that you alone are good!

Thank you for calling me Your own. I enter Your gates with Thanksgiving and into Your courts with praise. I give thanks to You oh Lord and I praise Your name! Your unfailing love continues forever and Your faithfulness continues from generation to generation.

You are my King and my God. You command victories for me. Thank You for fighting my battles! By Your power, I push back my enemies and by Your name, I trample upon snakes, scorpions and every power of the enemies. Father, I do not trust in my bows and I do not trust my swords to save me. You are the one who gives victories to Your children and in You alone I will trust!

Father, we pray, long and wait patiently in faith for the day Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, would come to earth to reign. We long to see the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ. We long to see Christ reigning again in the affairs of men forever and ever in Jesus' name!

This year, I walk in Light, I do not walk in darkness. I arise and shine for my light is here and the glory of the Lord is risen upon me. Even when darkness covers the earth and gross darkness, the people, I shall not fear, for God is my Light and my Salvation! Therefore, rejoice not over me my enemies when I fall because I will arise!

God keeps my lamp burning, He turns my darkness into Light because His word is a lamp unto my feet and a light to my path. Therefore, this year, I stay in and with God's word.

I have an understanding of times and seasons, I am not ignorant of the wiles of the enemy. My mind is sharp. I am anointed for supernatural exploits. I am productive and relevant to God's plan and agenda for His people this year in and out of season. I enjoy grace to maximize all resources at my disposal. God's Grace is sufficient for me. I walk in abundance, I lack nothing! My needs are met, my efforts are amplified, I walk in my inheritance in Christ Jesus and my profiting will appear unto all to the glory of my Father in heaven.

I am a city that is set upon a hill that cannot be hidden. I shine bright in darkness. God is my glory and the lifter of my head. I declare peace within my walls and prosperity within my palace. I walk in dominion, I pull down strongholds, I cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself above the knowledge of God. God is my shield. He is my Fortress. My confidence is in Jesus, I CANNOT FAIL!

No weapon formed against me shall prosper and every tongue that rises against me in judgment is condemned. I am no longer slave to fear and sin. I am a Child of God. I walk in light. I love the body of Christ and there is no hatred in me because the love of God has been shed abroad in my heart by the Holy Ghost. Amen!

The church of God is indeed the ground and pillar of truth. The gates of hell cannot prevail over the church because God is able to keep us from falling and to present us faultless before the throne of the Father. God's servants are equipped for the supernatural. There is an outbreak of revival and a massive invasion of the spread and reign of Christ over every godless nation of the earth in Jesus' name.

Now, may the Lord bless me and keep me. May He make His face shine upon me and be gracious to me. May the Lord lift up His countenance upon me and give me peace. Amen!

# INTRODUCTION

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1 NKIV

This is another beginning in your life; the beginning of a new year. Every project that you start with God will always have a great end, and the secret to having a glorious year is beginning the year with God. When God appeared on the scene in the book of Genesis, He was on a mission: the creation mission. The earth was in disarray when He came and He immediately began to create order out of chaos.

The earth was without form and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. Genesis 1:2a.

The word 'was' in this verse means that the earth became void and this tells us that this wasn't the way God created it initially. God created the earth in a perfect form before the devil came to destroy God's perfect order. The prophet Ezekiel fills in this gap for us when he describes the fall of Lucifer, the son of the morning who later became Satan because of his rebellion.

You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you.

"By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned;

Therefore, I cast you as a profane thing
Out of the mountain of God;
And I destroyed you, O covering cherub,
From the midst of the fiery stones.

Ezekiel 28:15-16

After Lucifer was driven out of heaven because of his rebellion, he was cast down to the earth. His presence on earth defiled the perfect creation that God had made and made the earth without form and void. (Isaiah 14:12, Revelations 12:12) Satan has nothing good to offer you this year. Don't give him any space in your life and family. His destruction of the earth led to the re-creation project that God embarked on in Genesis 1. Just as God embarked on this process of remaking the earth, He wants to reorder your life this year. Your current situation isn't God's perfect will for your life. The reason your life is dark, empty and shapeless is because of what the enemy did while you slept in previous years. God never intended for any man to suffer. His thoughts for you are always perfect. (Jeremiah 29:11).

Even when God created a perfect man, the devil came to make his life empty, dark and shapeless as in verse 2 and then God began to reshape man. Regardless of what the enemy has done in your life, the good news is that this year, a transformation will begin. For seven days, we will carefully look into how God reshaped the formless, dark and empty earth and how He restored it to its original state. If you carefully follow and painstakingly digest the process for each day, you will enjoy great restoration and transformation. You will end the year and proclaim as God did, 'this is very good. (Genesis 1:31).

In the remaking of the earth, God spoke every day. We will also be speaking into the year. Every day of this retreat, I charge you to speak God's word and proclaim it into the year. Command your morning so that you can fully enjoy what God has prepared for you this year. A day must not pass without you speaking out what God has told you!

"Have you commanded the morning since your days began, And caused the dawn to know its place That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, And the wicked be shaken out of it? Job 38:12-13 God boldly proclaimed what He wanted every day of creation. Boldly proclaim what God has revealed to you. He will hasten His word to perform it in your life this year. (Jeremiah 1:12).

Lastly, just as God evaluated what He had spoken into existence each day, evaluate your life and activities as the year progresses. Check to see if your realities line up with what God has said and be grateful for everything the Lord brings your way. This year will be your best year ever! Get ready for a massive transformation.



# A YEAR OF THE LIGHT, THE WORD AND THE SPIRIT

Then God said, "Let there be light" and there was light. Genesis 1:3

### **MORNING SESSION**

In a small village, a potter sat on his workbench, waiting. In his hand was the most exquisite urn that had ever been made. Its handles were delicate and its brim was designed intricately. Just outside his workshop stood a crowd of people who wanted to see the latest design. They, too, were waiting but they were becoming impatient. What separated the potter from the crowd was a small opened door but since it was night and there was no light, nobody could see anything. The potter couldn't show off his design nor could the crowd see the beautiful urn because the workshop was pitch black that night. Suddenly, there was a gasp and then, another. The light had been restored and all eyes could see the beautiful urn in the potter's hand.

Even though God was present at the beginning, He couldn't commence creation until there was **light**. Like the potter who had an exquisite vessel, He had the grandest design for a badly devastated earth. The earth was in a chaotic and empty state, and darkness filled the expanse until God commanded light into existence.

As you begin the new year, light is one of the vital instruments you must have.

Light represents God's presence and His word. It also represents Jesus.

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. John 1:4

When Adam and Eve fell, they plunged the earth into darkness once again and it was only when Jesus came that permanent light became reintroduced into the earth again.

The people which sat in darkness saw great light, and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up. Matthew 4:16 To put an end to every chaos and to establish a good foundation in 2023, you have to start with Jesus, the light of the world. Jesus came to save us from our sins and to restore us to the place of intimate union with God. If your walk with Him in the last year wasn't right or fervent, this is the time to make amends. Start the year by getting in tune with Him. Begin the year with the light of His presence. Nothing is more chaotic than a life without Jesus Christ, such a life is darker than Roque de los Muchachos Observatory, the darkest place in the world.

God's light is also His word as stated earlier.

# The entrance of your words gives light; it brings understanding unto the simple. Psalm 119:130

God's word brought everything on earth into existence. 'And God said'. God said so that you too can say. (Hebrews 13:5-6). He wants you to hear His word and to speak them too and this first day is the time to position your heart to hear what God has to say about the year. It is the time to listen to what God is saying about your life in order for you to speak them out. Allow His word to gain entrance into your heart so that you will know and understand what His will for the year is.

I want you to wake up every morning to say, "LETTHERE BE LIGHT!" God didn't start anything until there was **light**. The first thing He addressed was light. You also should not start anything this year **until** there is light and for that light to appear, you have to call it out!

Another person that was present at the beginning was the Holy Spirit. The Trinity was fully represented at the beginning of Creation.

# And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. Genesis 1:2c

You also cannot afford to launch into the new year when you haven't submitted to the movement of the Holy Spirit upon your soul. Before God spoke and commanded the light to be, the Holy Spirit hovered over the earth to prepare it for newness. God used His Spirit and His word to redesign and reshape the earth according to His will. You also need the power and presence of the Spirit and the Word as 2023 begins.

To reiterate most of what has been said, in the beginning, God the Father came on the scene to recreate the world but He couldn't do anything until God the Spirit had prepared the earth for the newness of life after God the Word had been released. In the same vein, as 2023 begins, your submission to the Holy Spirit in the place of prayer and the study of the word will cause God to release the light of His word to you. When light comes, it comes as revelation, empowerment, understanding and wisdom. Light also releases grace to your heart and helps you to walk in love.

# He that loves his brother abides in the light and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. 1 John 2:10

Darkness represents ignorance. It also represents the works of the flesh. All of these must be shunned in 2023 if you want to fulfil God's will in the year and enjoy His Presence. The first word God released brought light into existence because God cannot and will never work or dwell in darkness.

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 1 John 1:5

God also wants you to be flooded with light in this new year. He doesn't want you to stumble in the darkness of ignorance or carnality. True transformation begins when you submit to His Spirit, engage His word and allow His light to flood your heart.

#### **QUIET YOUR HEART**

Read John 12:35-36

What is God telling you through these verses?		

#### **ACTION POINTS**

- 1. Download this book to kick-start your journey through God's word. It's an exposition of the book of Ezra. <a href="https://thetroopsministries.org/product/home-coming/">https://thetroopsministries.org/product/home-coming/</a>
- 2. Every day, ask for the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

3. Every day of this year, every time you wake up whether at night or in the morning, pray in the spirit for at least 10 minutes.		
4. Read Genesis 8:9. Think about those things that won't allow the Holy Spirit to find rest in your life. They are things you must separate yourself from this year. Write them out. (These things can be addictions, stealing, bad relationship, and pornography among others.)		

- 5. DownloadtheYouVersionapptostartabiblereading plan for the year. Also, check out Bible study plans on thebookofGenesisontheapp. www.bible.com/app
- 6. Check this page (The Troops Ministries) on Instagram and Facebook every Monday morning for Bible verses that you can memorize. When you do this, by the end of 2023, you would have memorized 52 verses of the Bible.

"I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you." Psalms 119:11 NLT

## **EVENING SESSION**

And God saw the light that it was good and God divided the light from the darkness. Genesis 1:4NKJV

After God commanded the light to be, He checked it to ensure that it was what He really wanted. God is a thorough God and He does all things perfectly. (Deuteronomy 32:4). He saw that the light was good before He moved on to the next activity: Separation. He divided the light from the darkness. Just as we learnt in the morning, whenever God begins anything, He first introduces and enforces light and as we engage God this year, we must also ask earnestly for His light.

However, God doesn't just stop at turning on the light, He makes sure that the light stands out by separating it from the darkness. You also have the same responsibility because you are a co-creator with God. As you receive instructions and revelations from His word, make sure you don't mix them up with your personal opinions or traditions. Darkness, as we learnt in the morning, represents ignorance and the works of the flesh. Allow God's word to drive away and kill every tendency to walk after the flesh in you. Stay with God's word and eat it until your soul loses every craving for those things that don't please God. Be ruthless like God about separating the light from the darkness.

Another important resolve you must make is to choose to stand out from the crowd. This year, decide to follow Jesus wholeheartedly. Don't mingle with the world because you are the light of the world. As the light, you have been given the responsibility of revealing Jesus to the world. Make this your goal for the new year.

#### DISCUSSION

Read Isaiah 60. Discuss God's promises for you in this chapter.

#### **PRAYERS**

#### **THANKSGIVING**

- 1. Thank the Lord for bringing you into the new year. (Psalm 100:4).
- 2. Thank Him for the good plans He has for you in 2023. (Jeremiah 29:11).

#### **SUPPLICATION**

- Ask the Lord to brood over every darkness in your life and to turn every darkness to light.
- 2. Ask Him to flood your heart with the light of His presence.
- 3. Ask Him to increase your appetite for His presence, His word and His light.
- 4. Ask the Lord to search out every darkness in your heart and to lead you with His light throughout the year.

Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:

And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139:23-24

#### **INTERCESSORY PRAYERS**

- 1. Ask the Lord to fill your family, community and nation with the light of His presence and glory.
- 2. Ask Him to destroy the power of darkness in your nation and to enforce His light in every sector of your nation. (Mention them all; education, financial, economic, political, agricultural, health, information, media etc.)
- 3. Pray in the Spirit for at least 15 minutes.



# A YEAR OF SEPARATION

"Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." Thus God made the firmament and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament, and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day." Genesis 1:6-8 NKJV

"God spoke: "Sky! In the middle of the waters; separate water from water!" God made sky. **He separated the water under sky from the water above sky**. And there it was: he named sky the Heavens; It was evening, it was morning— Day Two." Genesis 1:6-8 MSG

## **MORNING SESSION**

My friend shared a story of how she recently got some new pots for her new house. Before she left the house, she inquired from a friend about the most durable pots available in the market presently and her friend told her the name of a pot brand. In the market, she was shown different types of this brand and she eventually settled for one. The one she bought had the name of the brand pasted on it. It looked very good and strong. Joyfully, she took her new pot home and showed it to a family friend who was around. Her friend looked at the new pot and immediately flipped it over. Then, she shook her head and pronounced solemnly that she had just bought a fake pot for the price of the original.

Confused, she showed her the paper brand of the pot and her friend laughed. In her words, 'the makers of this pot don't put their brand name on paper, they etch it at the bottom of the pot and that's why I flipped the pot over when you gave it to me.'

In a world where the originals and the fakes almost always look alike, we need great discernment to know who is who. In our verse for the day, God embarked on a deeper work of separation. Remember that yesterday, we learnt about how God called light to be and how He separated the light from the darkness. Today, we see that the light made it easy for God to call forth the firmament-the sky- and to divide the waters from the waters.

It is easier to differentiate light from darkness but how do you differentiate waters from waters? Often, the things that slow us down in our Christian race are not necessarily bad things. Paul discerned such inexpedient things when he said:

All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any. 1 Corinthians 6:12

Still speaking to the Corinthian Church, he also said,

All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not. 1 Corinthians 10:23

Indeed, you will always face the battle of choosing among lawful things. However, just as God divided the waters from the waters, you must grow in discernment so that you can always make the right choice. In this new year, you must be very intentional about cutting away from legitimate time-wasters. This might be a very close friend who always gossips about others or a loved one who always complains about the economy. It might be a favourite TV show that takes up the time you should spend in prayers or a good activity that leaves you high and dry.

Another way to divide the waters from the waters is to discern the things that are good but are untimely. Having a relationship with the opposite sex is good but if it is not yet God's time to commit to such, you will end up muddling the waters of your life. Buying the latest iPhone is good but if the time is unripe for such, you might end up wasting your resources. Some things are ultimately good for you, but right now, you need to stay away from them because the time is not yet right.

Thirdly, dividing the waters from the waters means setting your priorities right. In this new year, don't read when you should pray and don't pray when you should read. The waters above have their place and so do the waters below. God wants you to learn to set your priorities right and this starts with how you plan your day. Jesus told those that came to tempt him with the question of whether to pay tax or not to give unto Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God. (Luke 20:21-25). God will not do for you what you should do for yourself and He doesn't expect you to do for Him what He should do for you.

Lastly, making the choice to be spiritually minded is another way to separate the waters from the waters, just as the waters from heaven were separated from the waters on earth. You cannot be earthly-minded and still be heavenlyminded at the same time. You have to let go of one for the other. When you are not heavenly-minded, then, you are carnal and when you remain carnal, you muddle up your spiritual vision and stunt your spiritual growth. A carnal Christian cares more about his comfort and convenience than about the will of God. Such a person lives for the present and not for eternity. Carnality makes believers babies who have to be pampered and spoon-fed. God wants you to grow up and mature into sonship. Nobody in his right senses commits an estate or a nation to a baby and God will never commit the weighty matters of His Kingdom into your hands if you remain carnal.

This year, God expects growth and fruitfulness from you. He expects maturity from you. He wants to commit His secrets and the keys of His Kingdom to you. He wants to give you great treasures but He can't do this until you are spiritually minded. To be spiritually minded, you have to:

- 1. **Be led by His Spirit.** Romans 8:14. You are led by the Holy Spirit when you listen to His voice and do what He tells you to do. As a son, you live to honour God and do His will. If you are still struggling to hear and recognise the voice of God, start by making sure you read and obey His word every day. His word makes it easy for you to discern His voice.
- 2. Lay up your treasures above. Matthew 6:19-20. You can lay up your treasures above by engaging in spiritual activities such as evangelism, giving to the poor, giving towards Kingdom work and investing in lives by raising disciples for Jesus.
- 3. Set your affections on the things above. Colossians 3:2. Paying attention to your thoughts will help you know where your affections are. If all your thoughts are directed towards yourself and how to make a name for yourself, your affections are earth-bound. However, when your heart burns with the passion to see Jesus glorified, your affections are fixed on the things above. Following Paul's instructions in Philippians 4:8 will help you redirect your mind in this new year towards the things that truly matter: the things above.

#### **QUIET YOUR HEART**

Read and meditate on Romans 8. What is God saying to you about being spiritually minded from this chapter?		
Note them down.		

#### **ACTION POINTS**

In preparation for the evening session, read Ephesians 6 and 2 Corinthians 10:3-6. How are the believer's weapons described and what weapons can a believer use to stand strong in the faith and firm against the devil?

# Write out your discoveries below.

WEAPONS	SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE
Belt of truth	Ephesians 6:14

DESCRIPTION OF OUR WEAPON	SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE
My weapons help me to stand against the wiles of the devil.	Ephesians 6:11
My weapons are not human weapons but mighty in God.	2 Corinthians 10:4

### **EVENING SESSION**

And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day." Genesis 1:6-8 NKJV

After God separated the waters on earth from the heavens by building a firmament, he called the upper firmament heaven. According to the scripture, there are three heavens.

- 1. The atmosphere above us which we can see with our natural eyes. Psalms 19:1
- 2. The stellar heaven, called the outer space where we have the sun, moon and star. Bible theologians believe that this is where the devil and his minions dwell. Ephesians 6:12
- 3. The Home of God.

Every new year is a reminder to the devil, who dwells in the second heaven, that his time is shorter. It is his reminder that his ultimate judgment and destruction are closer than ever before and as a result of this, he always unleashes great mayhem on the inhabitants of the earth.

Therefore, rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time." Revelations 12:12

The devil and his minions who reside in the second heaven (who are all referred to as the spiritual wickedness in high places) are squarely focused on waging a war with you who live on the earth. You don't need to look for his trouble for him to look for yours. As a child of God, you must also understand that our adversary is working overtime and that he wants to make sure that he drags as many people as possible with him to hell. You should not give him that chance and the only way you can be fortified against his attacks is to put on the whole armour of God. Even though Jesus has given us victory over the devil, you still have your own part to play in maintaining and enforcing this victory.

In Ephesians 6, Paul teaches us about the importance of decking ourselves with the whole armour of God because our warfare is not against human beings but against principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world and spiritual wickedness in heavenly places. According to him, the following pieces in our armour are nonnegotiable.

- 1. The belt of truth: Since our enemy is a liar and the father of all lies, strapping ourselves with the belt of truth is one of the ways we defeat him. The word of God is Truth and this is our first weapon of defence. (John 17:17). We must also be careful to speak the truth in our hearts and to live a life free of every form of deceit and falsehood. (Psalm 15:2). When we hold the truth dearly, the devil loses his hold over our lives.
- 2. The breastplate of righteousness: Just like the belt of truth, this piece in our armour has to do with our right standing with God. Jesus became our righteousness after He took our horrible place of sin on the cross. As our righteousness, He has also given us the grace and power to do the works of righteousness. The works of righteousness are the things that are right in His sight.

Putting on the breastplate of righteousness is, therefore, knowing and understanding that we have been made righteous in Christ Jesus and as a result of this, living a righteous and holy life before Him. Just as the breastplate is strapped on both shoulders, we must understand both sides of righteousness and live in the fullness of this light.

3. The sandals of the gospel of peace: Another weapon in our arsenal is our proclamation and preaching of the gospel of peace. The devil loves to cause mayhem and disaster in the lives of people and when we tell men about Jesus, we destroy his works in their lives. This weapon is very powerful because it is a tool for massive take-over. God told the Israelites that they will possess wherever the soles of their feet touch; and when you put on this sandal, you will possess hearts and nations for God. We also shut down the operations of the devil when we preach the gospel of peace, which is the gospel of salvation and reconciliation.

- 4. The shield of faith: The shield of faith is a great defence tool in our armour. It talks about our faith in Jesus as well as our unshakeable conviction in His word. Our faith is fueled by the word of God (Romans 10:17) and it releases the supernatural into our lives and on the earth. Jesus said that even if our faith is just the size of a mustard seed, we can make the impossible possible and move mountains. (Matthew 17:20). Satan wants men to live naturally but when we hold on to our faith in Jesus, we change the narrative and enforce God's life on the earth. Faith also strengthens us to stand in the heat of battle and it helps us quench all the fiery darts of the devil.
- 5. The helmet of salvation: Just as we place the helmet on the head, the helmet of salvation speaks about our union with our head, Jesus Christ. Paul spoke about certain believers who were not the Head and as a result, didn't have nourishment ministered to them. (Colossians 2:19). The devil always wants to separate us from our Head, Jesus, so that we will be left exposed. We must not allow him to do that to us this year. The helmet of salvation also helps us to stay with Jesus to the very end so that we can be saved. It is only those that endure to the end that will be saved to the uttermost. (Matthew 24:13).

6. The Sword of the Spirit: In our armour, this seems to be our only weapon of attack and it is a very powerful one. The word of God is powerful and active. It is sharper than any two-edged sword and it pierces, divides and discerns. (Hebrews 4:12). This year, do not allow the devil to keep you away from the word of God. Read it, study it and meditate on it day and night. Anything that wants to separate you from reading your Bible wants to make you defenceless so that it can attack you. Don't allow it!

#### **DISCUSSION**

One of the weapons that Peter mentioned is humility. Discuss how a Christian can remain humble. Use 1 Peter 5:5-6 as a reference.

#### **PRAYERS**

#### **THANKSGIVING**

- 1. Thank the Lord for being mindful of you and of all that concerns you. *Psalm 8:4*
- 2. Appreciate Him for being meticulous and thorough about your life. *Ephesians 1:11*
- 3. Thank the Lord for graciously empowering you with weapons of war to stand against the attacks of the devil.

#### SUPPLICATION

- 1. Ask the Lord to do a deeper work of consecration and sanctification in you.
- 2. Ask Him to sharpen your discernment this year and to help you always make the right choice.
- 3. Ask for grace to cut away from every legitimate time-waster.
- 4. Ask for help to be spiritually minded this year and beyond and for an obedient heart that is always willing and ready to follow the Holy Spirit.
- 5. Pray for strength to always put on the whole armour of God.

#### INTERCESSION

- 1. Pray for your local assembly that the Lord will stir up the hearts of every believer to desire spiritual growth and to pay the price to grow.
- Pray that your spiritual leaders will not be carnally minded but that they will be spiritually minded in all they do.
- 3. Pray that the church at large will be equipped for war. Warriors, not babies, will be raised in this end-time.
- 4. Pray in the Spirit for at least 15 minutes today.



# A YEAR TO ESTABLISH BOUNDARIES

"Then God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear"; and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good."

Genesis 1:9-10 NKJV

# **MORNING SESSION**

It is only a small garden.' farmer Merit always said when his friends told him to raise a small fence around it. From sunup to sundown, Merit worked in the garden behind his house. It was truly a small garden but it was big enough to grow some basic vegetables and flowers; and it was one of the most flourishing gardens in their small town, thanks to Merit's diligence. For many months, nothing disturbed the small, unfenced garden and Merit gleefully told his friends that they had nothing to worry about. A few days before the harvest, Merit got up early as usual to check his little garden. There wasn't much work to do but he just wanted to make sure that all was set for the harvest. His shout was the last thing the neighbours heard before he fainted. Friends later told his relatives that a wild boar had attacked him in his garden and that before neighbours could rush him to the hospital, he had given up the ghost.

No farmer in his right sense plants a vineyard without building a fence around it. No gardener plants a garden without protecting it. Those who leave their hard work exposed and unhedged, learn the hard way that correct boundaries are life-savers. After God spoke the light into existence and created the sky, even though the earth was beginning to take shape, God knew how important it was for Him to set boundaries for the waters. Therefore, He created the dry land. The dry land was to serve as a border for the seas and oceans. It was their boundary line.

When he set a boundary for the sea so the waters would not exceed his limits, when he marked out the foundations of the earth. Proverbs 8:29 (ISV).

When water is not contained, it has the tendency to overstep its boundaries and that is why God set a boundary for it; the boundary of dry lands. You must also do the same for your life this year. You must set healthy and correct boundaries around your life. It is very important that you set boundaries around these areas:

- 1. Your walk with God: You cannot afford to be careless with your relationship with God this year. Don't leave it to chance and pray when you feel like it or read your Bible when you can create the time for it. Be very intentional about creating time for God and boundaries around that time. Your Bible study time is not the time to chat with a friend online neither is your prayer time the time to visit people. Samson got into trouble when he began to share holy secrets with a common person. Don't expose the things God has spoken to you in the secrets until He gives you permission to do so. Guard your relationship with God jealously. Put boundaries around it.
- 2. Your close relationships: This includes your relationship with your spouse, spouse-to-be, children, spiritual leaders, mentors or any other godly intimate relationship you have. Concerning your spiritual leaders, don't be caught speaking negatively about them and when others do such in your presence, firmly rebuke them. Put a boundary around your close relationships. Don't allow satan to attack your loved ones through your carelessness and foolishness.

- 3. Your academics/work/business: If you are still in school, don't be careless with your studies. Be wise about giving it what it takes so that you won't have to pray unnecessary prayers later. Some students end up wasting the time they should have used to study and end up praying for divine intervention when they are threatened with failure. Don't be like that this year. Set boundaries around your study time and as much as you can, don't allow anything unnecessary to encroach on it. Your work or business should also receive its due attention. Don't use work time for personal purposes. Don't cheat your boss. Also, don't use the money you should invest in your business for personal purposes. You will soon go bankrupt if you continue that way.
- 4. The gates of your heart: Your ears and ears are the gates of your heart. What you listen to and what you watch find their way into your heart to either edify or pollute you. It is important that you watch what you watch and what you listen to. Don't expose yourself to lewd or ungodly content because you want to fit in among your friends. Set boundaries around what you listen to as well.

It is not healthy for a Christian to listen to ungodly songs. Don't say that the lyrics of the song make sense and then, expose yourself to it. Songs are powered by spirits and if a singer is not under the influence of the Holy Spirit, he will bring you under the influence of the spirit that controls him/her. Set healthy limits around every aspect of your life so that the waters of other things will not destroy what you have worked so hard to build.

Jesus told the parable of a certain householder that planted a vineyard and hedged it round about.

Hear another parable, there was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country. Matthew 21:33

Just as this man did, we must learn to hedge what God has given to us round about. We must also be careful not to break the hedge we have made.

He that digs a pit shall fall into it: and whoso breaks an hedge, a serpent shall bite him. Ecclesiastes 10:8

There is a popular proverb that when a handshake extends beyond the elbow, it has become an attack. Be wise to know when you are extending a handshake beyond the elbow level. As an unmarried brother/sister, visiting the opposite sex in their room alone at night is extending a handshake beyond the elbow. You are asking for trouble and you might get more than you have bargained for. Be wise and if you lack wisdom in the area of setting boundaries with the opposite sex, ask the Lord for it. Also, seek godly counsel from others and always make sure you carry someone else along in every decision you make concerning the opposite sex. On the flip side, also be discerning to know when others are encroaching on your boundaries. Don't encourage the opposite sex to keep giving you gifts and taking you out when you are in a committed relationship with someone. Don't start what you cannot finish this year. Count the cost of all your actions, inactions and reactions. Be wise!

# **QUIET YOUR HEART**

Read and meditate on Job 1:6-11. What do you notice about
Satan's conversation with God about Job? Note them
down.

#### **ACTION POINTS**

1. Decide how you plan to limit the amount of time you spend on the following:

2. If you are in any relationship or courtship, what are

- Internet and Social media
- Games
- Sports
- Chatting
- the boundaries you need to set to help you obey
  God's commandments concerning sexual purity?
- 3. How safe are the songs and movies on your devices? You have to delete the unsafe ones. A song/movie is unsafe when it gratifies the desires of your flesh.
  - 4. Write out your 'fruitfulness plan' for every area of your life.

Spell out the areas that you want to be fruitful in and what your definition of fruitfulness in those areas is. Also, write out how you think you can be fruitful in those areas. This is your 'fruitfulness plan.'

### You can have them in a tabular form like this

Area of fruitfulness	Desire	How to achieve this
My walk with God	I want to hear God more clearly.	Read my Bible more.     Read Kenneth Hagin's books on how to hear God.
My academics	Have A's and B's in all my courses	Have a daily reading timetable and stick to it.     Take extra tutorials in courses I don't understand well.     Have group reading time with a few of my course mates.
My relationships		
My finances		

# **EVENING SESSION**

Then God said, "Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth"; and it was so." Genesis 1:11 NKJV

After setting boundaries for the waters, God then spoke to the dry land. He instructed the earth (dry land) to bring forth grass. He also told the herb to produce seeds and fruits to produce seeds in themselves. New things were birthed as a result of God's word. God also set the law of continuous fruitfulness in motion when He gave this instruction. This year, God wants you to birth new things in your life. He also wants you to be continuously fruitful in every aspect of your life. He wants you to bear fruit in season and out of season.

New things cannot spring forth in your life when you are far from the word of God. Listening and taking heed to God's word is, therefore, your key to newness. It is also your ticket to all-round and continuous fruitfulness. God will give you instructions this year and your prompt obedience to these instructions will unlock new things in your life. It will also take you to greater levels of fruitfulness. When Isaac experienced famine in the land he resided in, God's word kept him from making a rash move. His obedience to God's instruction to stay in the land made him exceptionally fruitful. He sowed in a land of famine and received in the same year, a hundredfold. (Genesis 26:1-15).

Know what God has to say concerning that business or job. Don't just jump into something because it looks promising. Inquire of the Lord concerning it and when the Lord speaks, obey Him. Don't be wise in your own eyes or lean on your own understanding. Be like David this year who asked God about everything. When the Philistines came against him twice within a short period of time, he didn't assume he knew it all. He asked God again for His counsel on how to defeat them and God gave him new instructions. (2 Samuel 5:18-25).

Take note that God set boundaries before He spoke new things into existence. God always wants you to be prepared for the new things He wants to do. He will not cast His pearls before those that will treat them carelessly or trample on them. (Matthew 7:6). You can prepare for the new things God has in store for you in 2023 by doing the following.

1. Break up your fallow grounds: A fallow ground is uncultivated, undeveloped or inactive soil. You prepare your soil, which is your heart, by breaking every fallow ground and you break fallow grounds in the place of prayers. Consistent fellowship with God makes your heart tender and conducive to His word. It makes you more attentive to His voice and more prompt to obey Him.

For thus says the Lord to the men of Judah and

Jerusalem:

"Break up your fallow ground,

And do not sow among thorns. Jeremiah 4:3

2. Receive the seed with meekness: The seed is God's word as has already been stated. If you want to enjoy the new things that God has for you and experience great fruitfulness, you must learn to receive God's word with a meek heart. A meek heart is a heart that doesn't have preconceived interpretations of God's word. It doesn't have its own personal opinions about what God says. It receives God's word with simplicity and understanding, and does what God says without questions or arguments.

Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. James 1:21

3. Take away thorns: Some thorns come in the form of tares and a young tare looks very similar to wheat. It is, therefore, important to protect your heart from thorns. A thorn is anything that chokes God's word in your heart and makes it unfruitful. It can be a bad habit or attitude such as anger, laziness, malice or even overeating. Anything that undermines the power of God's word in your heart is a thorn and must be removed immediately.

4. Water your soil: *Water represents the Holy Spirit in the Bible. (John 7:38-39)*. This year, spend quality time with the Holy Spirit. He is your helper and teacher and He wants to guide you into all truth. Allow Him by staying close to Him. Listen to Him and allow Him to breathe upon God's word in your heart. When you don't cultivate a thriving relationship with Him, the seed in your heart will lack moisture and eventually dry up.

God wants to do new things in you, for you and through you. He wants to make you buoyant, fruitful and flourishing. Will you allow Him?

#### **DISCUSSION**

What other things can make you fruitful this year? Discuss them.

#### **PRAYERS**

#### **THANKSGIVING**

1. Read Psalm 107 and praise God with it.

#### **SUPPLICATION**

- 1. Ask the Lord to set a hedge around you and everything that belongs to you. Job 1:10.
- 2. Ask the Lord for wisdom to set healthy boundaries around what He has given to you.
- 3. Pray for a discerning heart to know those that you should allow into your space this year and those that you shouldn't.
- 4. Pray for the grace to be committed to your fruitfulness plan.

#### INTERCESSION

- Pray for your local assembly and the churches in your country that the Lord will sharpen the sensitivity of the sheep and shepherd to discern wolves in sheep's clothing this year.
- 2. Pray for your country that the Lord will expose every plan of the devil to destroy the lives of children and teenagers through ungodly laws and decrees.
- 3. Pray that churches will be fruitful and flourish in God's will this year. Ask the Lord to reveal anything that hinders the fruitfulness of your local assembly and to take those things away.
- 4. Pray in the Spirit for at least 15 minutes.



# A YEAR OF UNDERSTANDING TIMES AND SEASONS

Then God said, "Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth"; and it was so. Genesis 1:14-15

# **MORNING SESSION**

A group of workers sat at a corner of the big office chattering. Occasionally, one of them stood to check the transparent glass to see if their boss was around. Then, they resumed their idle talks again. Only three workers sat at their desks doing their daily tasks. The others looked at them derisively and made fun of them. After five hours of waiting, one of the dutiful workers became tired and joined her colleagues, gisting and jesting. Suddenly, the door was flung open and the boss walked in. Only two workers were at their duty posts. The boss had caught the others idling away during office hours. Their punishment was immediate: suspension without pay. Even the lady that joined her unserious colleagues shortly before the boss walked in was not spared. Her punishment was even more severe because she was a new staff member and had not received any pay since she joined.

Sometimes, like the new staff, people get into trouble because they begin to do things their way, instead of God's way. When you don't understand your time and purpose, you set yourself up for disaster. After God set boundaries for the sea, He went on to create lights in the sky. These lights had three specific functions:

- 1. To divide the day from the night.
- 2. To be for signs and seasons and for days and years.
- 3. To give light to the earth.

Just as has been stated on the first day, your need for light this year is non-negotiable. God's light usually comes as understanding and helps you discern things just as the lights God created divided the light from the darkness. Also, when the eyes of your heart are enlightened, as Paul prayed in Ephesians 1 for the church, you will easily discern seasons, days and years. Your accurate understanding will act as a neon sign to show you what each season means and what to do in each season.

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, the eyes of your [f]understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints. Ephesians 1:18-19.

This year, the Lord is calling you to a deeper level of understanding that will help you to know times and seasons just like the sons of Issachar. He also wants you to know the right steps to take in each season.

Of the sons of Issachar who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do, their chiefs were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their command. 1 Chronicles 12:32

The Preacher in Ecclesiastes 3 spoke about the different times and seasons on the earth and how there is a time to every purpose under heaven. When something is not done in the time allocated for it, it becomes a problem. For instance, in the natural order of things, a baby should stay in the womb for a period of nine months. Anytime a baby violates this rule, it becomes an issue. He is either pre-term or post-term. Anything that happens outside its due season violates the laws of nature and poses a huge problem. Apart from understanding times and seasons and knowing what God wants you to do in each season, God also wants you to have a clearer understanding of His purpose for your life this year. He wants you to know your place in His eternal scheme of things and to fit in properly. His will for you is clarity, accuracy and alignment, not confusion, chaos and difficulties. Do you know what God has called you to do? Do you know what He wants you to do specifically this year? If you don't, this is the time to ask Him.

Don't just ask Him what He wants you to do, also ask Him how He wants you to do them. God has strategies for every instruction and if you don't know how He wants things done, you might end up messing up what He wants you to do.

In addition to knowing what God wants you to do specifically and how He wants you to do them, you should also position and prepare yourself for what He wants you to do in your community. Joseph did not allow his circumstances to dull his perception or make him lazy about preparing for the future. Even though he didn't know where God was taking him, he never stopped preparing. He maximized his night season, those times when things were going contrary to God's purposes, to prepare for his day season. Don't allow your circumstances make you lose sight of the visions that God has shown you. Don't waste your night seasons because they are your preparatory grounds. Stay in unbroken fellowship with the Lord so that your discernment can remain sharp and strong and you can be well-prepared for the next phase of your life.

Joseph's accurate interpretation of Pharaoh's dream wasn't the only thing that made him become the prime minister of Egypt. His wise counsel on how to navigate the seasons of plenty and famine also set him apart from the crowd. Again, times of plenty can be likened to the day while times of famine are like night seasons.

This year, learn and act on Joseph's counsel. In your season of plenty, prepare for the famine ahead. You prepare by redeeming the time. You redeem the time by doing the following.

- 1. **Save:** When you have an overflow, don't spend foolishly or squander what you have. Learn to save for the days ahead. Save your time by doing what you should do at the right time. Don't procrastinate. Procrastination is the thief of time and resources. You can also save time and resources by planning. Joseph's strategy for preparing for the seven years of famine was to plan. His foresight and prudent management in the years of plenty made Egypt thrive in the years of famine.
- 2. Invest and multiply the resources the Lord has given to you: It is not enough to save; you should also invest in the right things. You can invest spiritually by sowing seeds of prayers for the days ahead. You must also learn how to invest your time and resources in the right things. Don't just jump into opportunities because they appear lucrative. Seek counsel from the Lord and from wise people who know about investments. The season of famine always comes after the season of plenty and if you haven't been wise to manage your resources in plenty, you will suffer in famine.

3. Do good works: When the Lord blesses you with wisdom, resources or a level of influence, use what you have been given to enrich the lives of others. Paul encouraged wealthy people to be rich in good works, ready to distribute and willing to communicate. (1 Timothy 6:18). Those things the Lord made you rich in are not for your benefit alone. He wants you to be a distributor of good things through your lifestyle and actions.

As the year begins, ask the Lord for wisdom to redeem the time. The days of strength are the times to prepare for the days of adversity. Nobody prepares for an exam in the exam hall. Seek Him for understanding and grace to maximise your times and seasons. Prepare and plan wisely and most importantly, don't be in a hurry to force things to happen outside God's ordained time for them. God makes things beautiful in their time and when we wait on Him, we will always be on time.

God wants you to live a productive life such that your profiting will appear to all. However, you can't live as He wants you to until He teaches you to profit. Stay under His tutelage this year.

# **QUIET YOUR HEART**

Read and meditate on Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, which of the seasons apply to you? How can you properly maximise your seasons? Note them down.		
<del></del>		

#### **ACTION POINTS**

1.	Read Ephesians 4: 1-16. What part has God called you to play in the church? How can you be a more active part of the body of Christ? Write them down.			

2. Read 1 Peter 1:22 and pray that the Lord will help you love the church with a pure heart fervently.

# **EVENING SESSION**

Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. Genesis 1:16

Just as God made two great lights to rule over the day and night, He also placed two great lights on the earth to rule over the earth. He gave mankind His son, Jesus Christ and put the church as His agent of transformation. The greater light is the sun, and the psalmist tells us this.

For the Lord God is a sun and shield: the Lord will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. Psalm 84:11

Jesus is the sun of righteousness. (Malachi 4:2). Without Him, man will live in perpetual darkness and cold. This year is a year of brightness for as many as would live by the light of the Sun: Jesus. Those that wander from Him will dwell in the congregation of the dead. (Proverbs 21:16). God wants you to live by His light. He is calling you to a deeper and more intimate relationship with Him. Before the coming of Jesus, the temple was partitioned into three. While anybody could stand in the outer court, only priests could enter the inner court. The Holy of Holies, the place where the ark resided, was the third and most sacred place. Only the High Priest could enter that place and he had to go in with great caution. It was just like approaching the sun.

However, when Jesus died, He took away the partitions and gave man free access to His presence. The veil that separated the Holiest place was torn so that man could come to the throne of grace boldly. Hallelujah! Since that time, man no longer needs to go through any formality or tedious process to speak to God. You can always approach Him and reflect His light just as the moon reflects the light of the sun.

The lesser light, as already stated, is the church; and that is you and I. God has placed us on the earth as reflectors of His grace and glory. Paul said that God's intention for the church is for her to reveal His manifold wisdom to principalities and powers.

To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God. Ephesians 3:10

He also said in his first letter to Timothy that the church is the pillar and ground of the truth.

But if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. 1 Timothy 3:15

This year, there are certain important things you must, as a part of the church, do to shine God's light in your space.

1. Be an active member of the church: Don't just attend church, participate and play your part. *The church is a living organism that needs the participation of each of its members. Ephesians 4:16* 

- 2. Don't speak evil of the church: No matter what you see in the headlines, never join those speaking ill of the church. The mouth never speaks ill of the head nor does the hands ever write evil about the legs. Yes, many members of the body will malfunction and misbehave, but it is not your duty to crucify them with your words.
- 3. Pray for the church always: As a part of the church, one of your greatest responsibilities is to pray fervently for the church. Paul said this to the Ephesian church:

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints. Ephesians 6: 18

4 Love the church: You cannot claim to love Jesus when you hate the church. John said that if a man says that he loves God and hates his brother, he is a liar. (1 John 4:20). This year, choose to love the church sincerely, fervently and selflessly. Loving the church is the bedrock for doing all the other three things mentioned above.

The sun has light in itself but the moon reflects the light of the sun. As part of the body of Christ, we are the light of the world and we reflect the light (life) of Jesus. The moon is dark and useless UNTIL it gets light from the Sun. Don't take a step without first committing it into the hands of God. This is the year for you to be totally dependent on God because the only way you can shine is to lean completely on Him and the easiest way to do this is to pray about everything.

#### DISCUSSION

Read and discuss 1 Corinthians 12:12-31. What does God say about the church in these verses?

#### **PRAYER**

#### **THANKSGIVING**

- 1. Thank the Lord for giving you understanding to navigate and enjoy 2023.
- 2. Appreciate Him for divine strategies to prepare and plan well this year.
- 3. Thank the Lord for making you a light to your world.

#### **SUPPLICATION**

- 1. Ask the Lord for a greater understanding of your purpose, times and seasons.
- 2. Read *Ephesians 1:17-19*. Pray with these verses.
- 3. Ask the Lord to help you to be more active in your local assembly.
- 4. Pray that the Lord will help you to know what to do and how to prepare yourself in this season for the seasons ahead. Then, whatever He tells you to do, DO IT. John 2:5.

#### INTERCESSION

- Pray for your spiritual and secular leaders. Ask the Lord to give them wise and understanding hearts so that they can properly align with His will and enforce His purposes in this season.
- 2. Pray for the body of Christ that we will not miss the times of our visitation like the Jews. Ask the Lord to show us great mercy and help us position ourselves to be His end-time weapons of light and redemption. *Luke 19:44*
- 3. Pray that the Lord will make the church united in love and faith. Ask the Lord to break down every wall of division that has kept the church from uniting to enforce God's will on the earth.
- 4. Pray in the Spirit for at least 15 minutes.



## A YEAR OF GREATER ABUNDANCE AND SUPERNATURAL PROVISIONS

Then God said, "Let the waters abound with an abundance of living [e]creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the [f]firmament of the heavens." So God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. Genesis 1:20-21

## **MORNING SESSION**

For a long time, Maverick had dreamed of this day. He had also planned assiduously for it. Finally, after spending time and resources, he stood to admire the newly-laid foundation of his house. Even though nobody saw the foundation as an achievement, it was a huge one to him because it signified the completion of a phase and the beginning of another. Now that the foundation was out of the way, it was time to start laying block upon block and it was only a matter of time before his dream house became a reality for all to see.

Just like Maverick, God first laid a solid foundation for the greater work of creation that He had in mind and for you to succeed this year, you must lay a solid foundation of prayers and the word. After God finished the groundwork of creation, He launched into the creation of other living things. Earlier, He had created trees, grasses and herbs and now was the time for birds and animals. God first created a suitable and conducive home for birds and animals before He called them into being. This teaches a lot about the nature of God. God is a careful planner and an extraordinary strategist and when you allow Him to take the wheels of your life this year, you will never be stranded. He loves you too much to abandon you. If He was that mindful of birds in the sky and the fishes in the sea, you should rest assured that God is even much more mindful of you that was created His own image.

Another important thing to note is that God always checked what He had created before He launched into the next phase. He always made sure that what He had in mind was in tandem with what eventually materialized. As soon as He saw that it was good, He moved to the next phase.

**And God saw that it was good...Genesis** 1:4,10,12,18,21,25

God is thorough and you must be thorough in all you do this year. Don't live a careless or hasty life. If the Lord has given you a vision, don't settle for something lesser than what He has shown you. When something looks like the voice of Jacob and the skin of Esau, wait until you are sure before you continue. Do your due diligence and make proper investigations before you sign that document or make that commitment. False prophets and scammers will exponentially increase in 2023. You must grow in discernment so that you won't be deceived.

After God stationed the two great lights on the earth, He spoke abundance into the water and the sky. It is interesting to note that God's word brought out the hidden potential and abundance in the water and sky. Do you desire abundance this year? Hold on to God's word and speak it over your life always. There are huge potentials in you but they will remain hidden until you activate them through God's word. When God speaks, things align, unveil and reshuffle. *Mary conceived and brought forth Jesus after she said*, 'be it unto me according to your word.' (Luke 1:38). When you allow God to do unto you according to His word, you will enjoy grace, extraordinary results and abundance.

Still, on abundance, researchers have discovered that there are about 34,000 species of fish in the world presently and 11,000 species of birds. This is a whole lot! In each specie, there are numerous types of birds and fish. The shark specie, for example, has over 25 different types. God created varieties and decorated the water and sky with diverse types of creatures. He created great whales and made every animal after its kind. He arranged the ecosystem in such a way that every animal knew its place and function. He made everything perfect and beautiful.

This year, when you are tempted to worry about how things will turn out, remember that God, who painstakingly created the birds and fish with their peculiar functionalities and placed them in the habitat that suits their needs, cares for you more than He cares for them. God places premium value on you and He is very particular about the details of your life.

Another thing to note about the creatures that were created on this day is that each of them has great spiritual significance. Jesus told His disciples that He will make them fishers of men and in a way, likened the souls of men to fishes in the sea. He also told a parable where He likened the kingdom of God to a net that was cast into the sea and gathered of every kind. (*Matthew 13:47-48*).

In the early days, believers used the fish sign and had a fish at their signposts to let other believers know that they could come in to worship. The fish sign was an easy way to identify other believers and it was also a way to let them know that they were safe because of the massive killing of Christians in those days. This year, be very intentional about being a fisher of men. Let others come into true safety by knowing Jesus through you. Evangelism is a must this year. Fish also represents provisions. Jesus fed the multitudes with bread and fish and He paid tax from the miraculous supply of coin from a fish's mouth. Another thing you must ask the Lord for this year is for help to know when He has miraculously hidden provisions for you in the mouth of a fish. (Matthew 17:27). Sometimes, God hides the answers to your prayers with others and if you don't go fishing, you won't get those answers. Peter's trip to the sea was productive because he followed Jesus' instructions. If he had gone without Jesus' instructions to fish, he would have missed that blessing. Always listen to the Holy Spirit and follow His instructions this year. He knows where the goodies are hidden and He can lead you to find them. Birds, on the other hand, signify different things. Doves represent the gentleness of the Holy Spirit and Eagles symbolize His strength and magnificence. Birds also tell us about the need to cast our burdens and cares on the Lord because He cares for us.

Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? Matthew 6: 26.

This year, God wants to lead and bring you into greater transformation. Don't limit Him by trusting in your own understanding. He has done a lot of groundwork in your life in previous years and He wants to reveal and unveil greater abilities and abundance in you this year. Cooperate with Him by reading and speaking His word over your life. Learn from the works of His hands and trust Him completely. He always has your best interests at heart.

#### **QUIET YOUR HEART**

Read and meditate on Proverbs 8. Write down what the Lord ministers to your heart about creation in this chapter.

#### **ACTION POINTS**

Do a short study on these birds in the Bible. What can you learn from them?

BIRD	BIBLICAL REFERENCE/ SIGNIFICANCE	WHAT I LEARNT FROM THEM	OTHER OBSERVATIONS
DOVE	Genesis 8:8 -12, Matthew 3:16	Doves are gentle and they represent the Holy Spirit. I must cultivate the fruit of gentleness in my spirit. God wants me to be harmless as a dove. Matthew 10:16.	Jesus drove out those that sold oxen, sheep and doves from the temple but He spoke specifically to those that sold doves.  And He said to
		10.10.	those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!" John 2:16
			Those people got an extra rebuke because of what the dove represents. I must be careful not to grieve the Holy Spirit or quench the Spirit. God doesn't take it lightly with anyone that does these things.
EAGLE	Psalm 103:5, Isaiah 40:31		
RAVEN	Genesis 8:7, 1 Kings 17:6		
QUAIL	Exodus 16:13, Psalm 105:40		
OSTRICH	Job 39:13-18		
SPARROW	Matthew 10:29-31		

## **EVENING SESSION**

And God blessed them, saying, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth"."

#### Genesis 1:22 NKJV

After God created the birds and fishes, He blessed and commanded them to be fruitful and multiply. God wants you to be fruitful this year. He wants you to multiply in every aspect of your life. Fruitfulness in the Scriptures means the following.

- 1. Increase and expansion. *Genesis 30:43*
- 2. Growth and productivity. Genesis 26:13
- 3. Serving God and doing His will. *Acts* 13:36
- 4. Expanding against all odds. *Exodus 1:7-12*
- 5. Being planted in the house of the Lord and flourishing like a palm tree. *Psalm 92:12-14*

If an orange tree produces an abundance of mango, it cannot be termed as fruitful because it is not doing what God created it to do. Fruitfulness, as has already been established, is doing what God created you to do and flourishing in it. Another important thing about God's mandate of fruitfulness is that it was location specific. He told the fishes to multiply and fill the waters in the sea and the birds to multiply on the earth. In the same way, you are not fruitful when you are outside God's will and purpose for your life. You cannot also be fruitful when you are not in the place that God wants you to be. This year, make sure you listen to God's instructions about any job or location you want to move to. Don't move to a place because it looks good. Lot made that mistake and ended up in Sodom and Gomorrah. (Genesis 13:10-13). Elimelech also made that mistake and died with his sons in Moab. (Ruth 1). Don't make permanent decisions on temporary issues. Such decisions can affect your fruitfulness in life.

Knowing the right church to attend is also important because where you are fed spiritually will go a long way in determining how fruitful you will be in life. Make sure you are in the right church and never leave a church because of the wrong reasons. Some of the wrong reasons why people leave their church are offences, desire for recognition and lust for power.

Ask the Holy Spirit to purge your heart of wrong motives and ambitions. Tell Him to create in you a clean heart and renew a right spirit within you. (*Psalm 51:10*).

God's desire for you this year is fruitfulness but you will not be fruitful when you are in the wrong place or when you are doing the wrong thing. If a bird goes on a forty-day fast so that God can make it fruitful in the sea, its prayers will be in vain. God has already created a specific location where it will be fruitful without any stress. Stop stressing yourself and bombarding God with unfruitful prayers. Check to know whether you are in the right place. When you seek the Lord sincerely and diligently, He will reveal His will to you.

Lastly, never allow shame or pride to keep you from taking steps in the right direction this year. If you are going on a road trip and you suddenly realize that you have taken a wrong turn, you don't continue in that direction, hoping that it will turn out to be the right road. You make a U-turn and retrace your steps until you get to the right road. In the same vein, the moment you realize that you have made a wrong or bad decision, stop and ask God to show you the right way to go.

Don't persist in foolishness this year. Repent quickly and move towards the right lane immediately. This year, be quick to repent, obey and change. When you do these things, your fruitfulness will be exponential and unstoppable.

#### DISCUSSION

Discuss God's mandate of fruitfulness. What else does fruitfulness mean to you?

#### **PRAYERS**

#### **THANKSGIVING**

- 1. Thank the Lord for His great plans of abundance and fruitfulness for you and your family this year.
- 2. Thank Him for making you a well-watered garden and for planting you by the rivers of water this year.

  \*Psalm 1:3\*\*
- 3. Appreciate the Lord for granting you greater access to the treasures of His word.

#### SUPPLICATION

- 1. Ask the Lord to speak into your life, family, business and situation. Pray for a hearing ear and a seeing eye. (*Proverbs 20:12*).
- 2. Pray for greater fruitfulness this year. Ask the Lord to show you hidden treasures and secrets that will make you more fruitful.
- 3. Ask the Lord to release a greater grace for prompt obedience and repentance to your heart.
- 4. Pray that the Lord will reveal every area where you have missed it in previous years and ask for help to take the correct steps this year to make things right.

#### INTERCESSION

- Pray for all your unsaved family members. Ask that this year will be their year of divine encounter and salvation.
- 2. Ask the Lord to make the members of your local assembly and the church at large more fruitful.
- 3. Pray that the church at large will experience a greater wave of financial abundance this year so that the propagation of the gospel and the expansion of the Kingdom will not be hindered due to lack of funds.
- 4. Ask for a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon your family and local assembly and pray for a greater manifestation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit upon the church for the harvest of the unsaved and the establishment of the saved.
- 5. Pray in the Spirit for at least 15 minutes.



# A YEAR OF DOMINION

"Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Genesis 1:26 NKJV

## **MORNING SESSION**

He was a king, yet he crawled on his belly and growled like a wild beast. His fingers grew as long as a bird's claws and his hair and beards were unkempt like an eagle's talons. Instead of well-garnished vegetables, he ate grass like an ox and instead of the exquisite palace baths, he bathed with the dew of heaven. He was no different from a wild beast even though he was a great king. His name? Nebuchadnezzar. Even though he was a great and mighty king, he was reduced to the status of an animal because of pride.

As we learnt yesterday, God first created what every creature needed to survive before He created them. He first created the sky and trees before He made the bird. Our God is a caring and loving Father. On the sixth day, He created animals and crowned all of creation with His choicest creation: Man. Again, God created a perfect habitat and placed everything man needed to survive before He created man. This year, don't allow anything to make you stop trusting in the Lord. He will perfect all that concerns you and make all things work together for your good.

As regal as some animals such as the lion and elephant are, God created man to have dominion over them. Even though these animals have a lot to teach us, we must never stoop low to behave like them. Whenever we do things without understanding and wisdom, we act like beasts of the field and when we don't walk in the place of honour that God has so graciously put us in as humans, we are like beasts that perish like Nebuchadnezzar.

# A man who is in honour yet does not understand, is like the beasts that perish. Psalm 49:20

Man and animals were created on the same day to serve as a constant reminder to man that without the life of God, he is not better than an animal. God didn't breathe into animals but He made man a living being through His breath

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living being. Genesis 2:7

Even though both man and animals have the same characteristics of living things, they are worlds apart. Contrary to the popular evolution theory that man evolved from animals, God made man in His image and likeness. Man was the only creation that required a divine conference meeting and the only being that was made to fellowship with God. God gave the same mandate of fruitfulness and multiplication that He gave the animals to man but for man, He added a higher mandate. He gave us the commandment to have dominion and subdue the earth. God made man His earthly representation and representative.

This year, walk in the understanding of the privileged position that God has given you. While animals can express their rage anyhow and display their lusts anywhere, don't forget that you have been given dominion and authority. The dominion mandate that God gave to you includes the following.

- 1. You have dominion over all animals, whether on land or in the sea. *Genesis* 1:26
- 2. You have dominion over all the earth. *Genesis* 1:26
- 3. You have dominion over devils and sicknesses. Luke 9:1
- 4. You have dominion over all the power of the enemy. *Luke 10:19*
- 5. You have dominion over yourself. *Proverbs* 25:28

The dominion mandate, however, doesn't include man's dominion over other men. God never created you to lord it over other men and to subject their wills to yours. It is witchcraft when you want other people to surrender their wills to yours and when you want to manipulate and control others. Man's dominion over himself is expressed in his ability to make choices. Man has a will and the first man willfully went against God. However, it is important to note that whoever you yield your will to, controls your life.

Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? Romans 6:16

This year, submit your will to the Lord and allow Him to lead you in everything. Rebellion against God is not 'enjoyment' as the devil paints it. Rather, it is bondage and slavery to sin and death. Let your posture towards God this year be like that of Jesus.

Saying, "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless, not My will, but Yours, be done." Luke 22:42

Offer yourself as a living sacrifice unto God and walk conscious of His presence at all times. God made you for His pleasure and glory. He created you to love and follow Him. Live for Him alone. Also, actively exercise your dominion over the earth and over all the power of the enemy. Don't allow the devil to cheat you out of your godly inheritance. You have a godly and goodly heritage in Christ Jesus.

The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places;

Yes, I have a good inheritance. Psalm 16:6

Boldly assert your authority in Christ Jesus and don't allow satan to undermine your authority. Also, don't give the devil a chance to cage you by listening to his deceitful lies and falling for the temptation to sin. Satan often steals a believer's authority by making him choose sin over righteousness. Don't be deceived! Sin and unrighteousness will always steal your authority and rob you of your dominion. When Balaam saw that he couldn't curse the Israelites because God was in their midst, he advised Balak, the king of Moab, to send Moabite women to their camp so that they could lure the Israelites to sin. His ploy worked and God Himself became the enemy of His people because of the sin in their midst. (Numbers 31:1-16). Choose the highway of holiness this year and shun every appearance of evil and sin.

#### **QUIET YOUR HEART**

how mindful He is of you. Write out what the Lord ministers
to your heart from this chapter.

Read and meditate on Psalm 8 Reflect on God's love and

#### **ACTION POINTS**

1. How often do you want to evangelize this year? Plan and write down the methods you would like to implement. You can use this table as a guide.

MONTHS	NUMBER OF SOULS PER WEEK	TOTAL NUMBER FOR THE MONTH	NAMES AND CONTACT ADDRESS OF CONVERTS FOR THE MONTH	FOLLOW-UP STRATEGY Calls/ Whatsapp Chats/ Home Visitations/ Mass E-mail Follow-up/ add other strategies
JANUARY				
FEBRUARY				
MARCH				
APRIL				
MAY				
JUNE				
JULY				
AUGUST				
SEPTEMBE R				
OCTOBER				
NOVEMBER				
DECEMBER				

2. Some of the things you must have dominion over this year are your character, desires and appetites. Do a short Bible study on these Bible characters and note the areas where they allowed their appetites/desires to control them. Also, write down the outcome of their actions. Then, note down the areas you need to work on and spend time in prayer concerning them.

BIBLE CHARACTER	CHARACTER/APPETITE /DESIRE FLAW	RESULT	BIBLE REFERENCES	AREAS TO WORK ON
CAIN	Anger/jealousy	He became a murderer and went out of God's presence.		
ESAU	Food			
SAMSON	Women			
JEZEBEL	Lust for power			
SOLOMON				
GEHAZI				
NEBUCHADNEZZAR				
JUDAS				
DEMAS				

## **EVENING SESSION**

"Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.

And God said, "See, I have given you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; to you, it shall be for food. Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so. Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day.' Genesis 1:26, 29-31.

In the morning, we focused on the dominion mandate and the need to choose God's will at all times. This evening, we will learn more about our identity in God. No product can find its identity outside its producer's description and no child can find his identity outside his father. As a child of God, you were created in God's image and as has already been stated in the morning, this means that you are a representation and a representative of God.

As His representation, you possess His character, gifts and abilities. Just as God is love, you are a love being too. And just as God has power over the earth, you have been given dominion over all the earth. God is Jehovah Rapha, the God that heals, and He has given you the power to heal every sickness and disease. Also, the ever-true and faithful nature of God is also embedded within you as His child. You are living proof of God's existence because you have His life.

# For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself. John 5:26

The highest expression of our dominion as believers is when we leave God's footprints wherever we go and we do this by being His representatives. Jesus said that we have been created to lighten up the earth so that those that see us will glorify our Father in Heaven. The Message Translation puts this succinctly.

Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16.

As God's earthly representative, your job description is to bring out God-colours wherever you go. Paul said that we are ambassadors for Christ and an ambassador never represents his personal interests. He always represents his country and reveals the glory of his king in the country he is sent to. Never forget your identity this year. Represent Jesus wherever you are and show forth His brilliant and marvellous light to the world. These things will hinder you from bringing out the God colours in your world. Avoid them.

- 1. Sin. (Isaiah 59:2)
- 2. Fleshly lusts and desires. (1 Peter 2:11, Galatians 5:19-21).

This year, don't put your light under the bushels of sin, pride or selfish ambitions. Refuse to stay under the bushels of laziness, fear, timidity or ignorance. What you don't know about your identity in God will harm you this year. Seek to know God and seek correct knowledge. Know your identity in Christ and the sphere of your dominion. Know the truth and the power of God. Live in the reality of who you are.

After God created everything, He saw that it was very good. God has already concluded your 2023 and the plans He has for you are very good. Don't settle for less than His best. Give yourself totally to Him so that He can release the fullness of all that He has for you this year. When you seek God first, all other things will follow you without stress.

#### **DISCUSSION**

How can you stay focused on God this year and represent Him in all you do? Read *Philippians 3:7-21* to aid your discussion.

#### **PRAYER**

#### **THANKSGIVING**

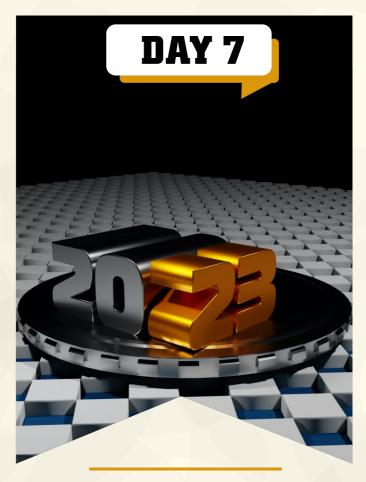
- 1. Appreciate Jesus for the grace He has graciously released to you since the year began. 2 Corinthians 9:8
- 2. Thank Him for sure mercies in the new year. *Isaiah* 55:3
- 3. Appreciate God for the dominion He has given to you over all the works of His hands. *Psalm 8:6*

#### **SUPPLICATION**

- 1. Ask the Lord to reveal your identity in Him to you. *Ephesians 2:4-10*.
- 2. Ask the Lord to increase your faith so that you can walk in greater dominion this year.
- 3. Pray for supernatural boldness to assert your dominion and to expand God's kingdom where you are.
- 4. Pray for a deeper walk with God and a greater love for His will.
- 5. Surrender your will afresh to the Lord.

#### INTERCESSION

- 1. Pray for your children. Ask the Lord to baptise them with a fresh love for Jesus.
- 2. Ask the Lord to invade the next generation with greater boldness to stand for Him.
- 3. Pray that the Lord will destroy every stronghold of fear that has kept the church from showing forth the God-colours to the world.
- 4. Pray for the church that she will stand in her place of dominion and authority and destroy the works of the devil.
- 5. Pray in the Spirit for at least 15 minutes.



## A YEAR OF ALL ROUND REST

Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished.

2 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.

3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made. Genesis 2:1-3

## **MORNING SESSION**

For six days He worked. He spoke and created and examined and recreated. Six days of relentless labour and hard work. He was up from sunrise to sunset perfecting creation and furnishing it with exquisite beauty. As the sun set on the sixth day, He examined everything He had created and like an artiste who had just created the best masterpiece the world had ever seen, He exclaimed, 'Aha! This is very good.' The next day, which was the seventh day, began without the usual activity that had marked the previous days. On this day, He rested, not because He was tired, but because His work was finished. Completely finished. Whatever remained to be done, He left it up to man.

The creation story reveals God's template for our lives. Work comes before rest. Jesus said these words that should guide our lives.

I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. John 9:4

We must also understand that even though God wants us to work, He created us to work from a place of rest. Man's first day on earth after his creation was the day of rest. He was meant to first of all fellowship with God before he goes to work. That is the order! You fellowship first and then you work. If you follow this process, you won't labour in vain.

We were created to do God's will because that is our rest. His yoke is easy and His burden is light. (Matthew 11:30). When you do what God wants you to do, you will find rest for your soul. Unlike the law that demands endless labour, God has given you grace so that you can labour from rest. Grace reveals God's will to you and empowers you to do it. This year, there are certain labours or works that you must not engage in because they will take you far away from rest.

#### 1. The labour of fools

The labour of fools wearies them, For they do not even know how to go to the city! Ecclesiastes 10:15

This is when you do things without the wisdom of God. You also labour like a fool when you lean on your own understanding and trust in your wisdom. God's wisdom is your sure defence this year. (Ecclesiastes 7:12). Always ask God for wisdom and follow His instructions. Don't forget that sometimes, His wisdom looks foolish to the human mind, but in His wisdom is life, safety and rest.

2. Vain labour: A man labours in vain when he does things his own way. When God does not build a thing or when He is not involved in something from the beginning, those involved labour in vain. (Psalm 127:1). It also happens when the devil has access to a man's life. (1 Thessalonians 3:5). Often, what people see as good is vain before the Lord and this is why you must always seek the face of the Lord concerning what you want to do. This year, you won't labour in vain or waste your strength on unprofitable ventures in Jesus' name.

#### 3. Labouring for the food that perishes.

Do not labour for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him." John 6:27

This year, don't spend your time and energy running after things. God has already ordained a way of rest for you. When you seek Him, He furnishes your life with all the things that men chase after. Don't be like the restless man that David talked about who wakes up early, sits up late and eats the bread of sorrow. (*Psalms 127:2*). God always gives His beloved, those who love Him and do things His way, rest. God wants you to enjoy rest on every side this year but as long as you insist on doing things your own way, rest will elude you. Instead of spending hours toiling and trying to make ends meet, why not make God first in all you do? When you make God your priority, He settles and perfects all that concerns you.

And all Judah rejoiced at the oath, for they had sworn with all their heart and sought Him with all their soul; and He was found by them, and the Lord gave them rest all around. 2 Chronicles 15:15

Seek God with all your heart and your soul and you will enjoy total rest this year. Don't play games with God and don't play church too. Seek God fervently and know what He wants you to do. When you obey and serve Him, you will spend your days in prosperity and your years in plenty. (*Job* 36:11)

God wants you to labour from rest. He wants you to enjoy

#### **QUIET YOUR HEART**

rest this year. Read and meditate on Hebrews 4 to find out the things that can hinder you from enjoying divine rest. Note them down.

#### **ACTION POINTS**

There are secrets to enjoying all-round rest and principles that govern divine rest. Search the scriptures to discover those secrets and ask God to help you to walk in them this year.

SECRET/PRINCIPLE OF REST	SCRIPTURAL REFERENCE	PERSONAL ACTION PLAN
Take the yoke of Jesus and learn of Him.	Matthew 11:29	This year, I will do what Jesus tells me to do and learn more of Him in His word. I will read 4 chapters of my Bible every day.
Faith	Hebrews 4:11	

## **EVENING SESSION**

Thus the heavens and the earth, and all the host of them, were finished. 2 And on the seventh day God ended His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done. 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made. Genesis 2:1-3.

After God ended His work and rested, He blessed the seventh day and sanctified it. The seventh day was the only day He blessed and sanctified and this day represents the finished work of Jesus on the cross. It represents grace as we learnt in the morning. Grace is the divine ability made available to you to do God's will. Grace empowers you to do what you cannot do. This is your year of great grace. You will experience great grace to do greater works.

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father." John 14:12

"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

Also, this is the year to invest more in praying in the Spirit. Praying in the Spirit is another secret to enjoying divine rest. These are some benefits you will enjoy when you pray more in the Spirit this year.

- 1. You will experience rest and refreshing. (Isaiah 28:11-12).
- 2. When you pray in the Spirit, you activate supernatural mysteries over your life and deactivate every plan of the enemy.
- For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit, he speaks mysteries. 1 Corinthians 14:2
- 3. Praying in the Spirit will position you for supernatural speed this year. Moses spoke about a nation that was as swift as the eagle flies and the secret of this nation's speed was in their tongues. (Deuteronomy 28:49). The apostles began to experience exponential speed after the Holy Spirit came upon them with the evidence of speaking in tongues. You too will enjoy exponential speed when you invest more in praying in the spirit.

God will give you rest on all sides as you do these things. He will bless your heart and family with peace and joy when you obey His principles. When you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good of your land regardless of what the economy of your nation or the world says.

#### **DISCUSSION**

What other benefits will you enjoy when you invest more in praying in the Spirit this year?

#### **PRAYER**

#### **THANKSGIVING**

- 1. Thank God because you will enjoy all-round rest this year.
- 2. Appreciate Him for the gift of the Holy Spirit and the gift of speaking in tongues.
- 3. Spend some time appreciating God for His grace. Thank Him for great grace to do greater works.

#### SUPPLICATION

- 1. Pray in the Spirit for at least 30 minutes to activate the mysteries of rest, speed and grace in your life.
- 2. Ask the Lord to give you the wisdom to engage in the right labour. This year, pray for help not to labour like a fool or labour in vain.
- 3. Pray for grace to continue in the things you have started these seven days throughout the year.

#### INTERCESSION

- 1. Pray for ministers of the gospel around the world that the Lord will empower them with great grace to boldly proclaim the gospel of Christ wherever they are.
- 2. Pray for missionaries that they will be filled with grace to stand at their duty post. They will not be discouraged or depart from the faith this year. Pray for their families too that the Lord will preserve and provide for them.
- 3. Pray for children and teenagers in countries that are hostile to the gospel that they will have supernatural encounters this year. God Himself will appear to them and reveal Himself to them.
- 4. Spend more time praying in the Holy Ghost.