

LIVING *for* CHRIST



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WHEN IT DOESN'T TURN OUT
THE WAY YOU PLANNED...

What do you do when your feelings and the situation that you can see all around you are in fierce conflict with what the Word of God has said concerning you?

**3 KEYS TO
ATTAIN YOUR
GOAL**

**5 Ways To Let
The Blessing
Do The Work**

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From the publisher

Expanding the frontiers of our calling

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Straight From *My Heart*

As we gradually wind up this year, you must take the time out to appraise and evaluate your walk with God so far this year. Have you prayed as much as you had planned to? Have you meditated on His word as much as you had planned? Have you won lost souls over to the Kingdom of God as the scripture commands?

If you have not, then there is still some time left for you to catch up, put in that extra effort and last push to be in right standing with God.

Also, as you engage in this last push that will launch you into the year 2020, you need to recognize the changing seasons; this new season that has chanced upon us requires you to have an unwavering faith and trust in God and His ability to save and to deliver, you must build up yourself on your most holy faith till like the three Hebrew boys in the face of persecution and the challenges of life you can proclaim, "we are not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of thine hand, O king". (Daniel 3:16, 17).

It must be a settled matter in your heart and mind that "it is not your strength, but it is God who is effectually at work in you, both to will and to work (that is strengthening, energizing and creating in you the longing and the ability to fulfil your purpose for His good pleasure". (Philippians 2:13 AMP).

Also, for you to have a smooth start in 2020 requires adequate preparations, remember when you fail to prepare, you inadvertently have prepared to fail – this is the time to start focusing on what needs to be done to make the coming year a success.

You Are Lifted!!!

Michael

WHEN IT DOESN'T TURN OUT THE WAY YOU PLANNED...

I had left the office at exactly 4pm, the plan was to hurriedly get home and perhaps try to sort out my thoughts and emotions.

It had been one of those days that may be described as 'not too good'. I had encountered what appeared to be great prospects and opportunities, I had worked so hard and invested a lot – both physically and emotionally into ensuring that this prospect succeeded. It was almost a given that everything would work out as I had dreamed and expected.

But within a space of 4 hours, it looked like my stack of carefully laid out cards all came tumbling down. The words notifying me of the lost opportunity kept ringing in my ears with cruelty; I could feel the pitiful stares from those who were in the know literally bore holes into my backside. A Christian brother who had no clue of what was going on walked past and asked how I was doing, and that Christian verbiage mechanically came out from my mouth: 'I am doing great and staying blessed'. My mind screamed within me – you surely are not doing great right now and if feelings have anything to do with being blessed, then you surely aren't that blessed at this moment either.

Did I already mention that in the midst of all these thoughts, I had drove past my house without knowing it and had to take a detour and endure some traffic to get back on the right road.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOUR FEELINGS AND THE SITUATION THAT YOU CAN SEE ALL AROUND YOU ARE IN FIERCE CONFLICT WITH WHAT THE WORD OF GOD HAS SAID CONCERNING YOU?

What do you do when you are obviously conflicted on the inside but have to maintain some form of an apparent peaceful demeanor on the outside just to keep up with appearances?

What do you do when it feels like the 'expected end' isn't what you expected after all?



I finally got home and rushed straight into my study, perhaps I could get a word from God that would inject some order and sense into all the chaotic thoughts that were running wild in my mind.

As I stepped into my study, the first word that seemed to loudly jump out at me with a deafening silence was, “*Son, cast down those imaginations and every high thought that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God and bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ*” (2 Corinthians 10:5); also, “*in the multitude of my thoughts within me thy comforts delight my soul*” (Psalm 94:19).

The plan of the enemy is to change the battle field from being external to you (the temporary situation you are going through) to being internal to you, in other words his game plan is to shift the battle ground to your

THE FIRST MAJOR BATTLE TO BE WON IN ANY TRIAL SITUATION IS THE BATTLE OF THE MIND!

mind. If he succeeds in influencing your mind to think thoughts that do not align and conform with the word of God then he has won because, *‘as a man thinketh in his heart so is he’* (Proverbs 23:7).

If he succeeds in doing that then he brings the battle back to the external and proceeds to make the situation worse and then repeats the cycle again and again.

Now knowing fully that we are not insulated from trials, then we must arm ourselves with a firm control of our minds via the word of God.

“guide your hearts diligently for out of it flows the issues of life” (Proverbs 4:23).

That trial is not for your destruction, but rather it is an orchestration by God to push you to a place where you experience God in another brand new and greater dimension.

When faced with the battle of the mind, you need to quickly fall back to those anchor scriptures that you have learnt and previously applied in your life, you also need to remind yourself and fortify your mind with previous God given victories.

David when faced with the challenge of Goliath after narrating to Saul previous God given conquests declared, *“The Lord delivered me out of the paw of the lion and out of the paw of the bear, He will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine”* (1 Samuel 17:37)

Another reason why the battle of the mind is one that must be won is that without taking control of your mind by the word of God, you wouldn't be able to activate the next step and key that would ensure your victory which is:

DIVINE INSTRUCTION OR GUIDANCE.

A great trial starred David in the face when he came back from war and met his city burnt with fire, the wives, sons and daughters of himself and his men taken captive.

Like we said earlier, the devil attempted to make the battle internal by shifting the battle ground to the minds of David and his men.

Verse six: And David was greatly distressed...

The later part of that verse showed David taking charge of his thoughts: But David encouraged himself in the Lord his God.

It was only after doing this that David was able to activate the second key:

“And David enquired at the Lord, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.” (1 Samuel 30:8)

RECEIVING AND HEEDING DIVINE INSTRUCTIONS IN THE MIDST OF THE TRIAL ALWAYS PROVOKES A RECOVERY!!

You receive divine instructions by asking and hearing from God, you can only hear from God if you have an existing relationship with Him.

The third and fourth thing you must be aware of is the **EFFICACY OF THE POWER AND THE WISDOM OF GOD.**

Actually, this two are twins and is actually the first thing you should take care of before the trial comes. For *“if thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small”* (Proverbs 24:10).

Wisdom will provide you with the right decision-making process that will enable you undertake the process required to win the battle of your mind. It is wisdom that will prevent you from

making all the wrong permanent, life altering decisions in those temporary trials without recourse to the divine instructions from God.

It is also wisdom that would provide you with the ‘how’ of going about the divine instructions that have been provided by the Holy Spirit.

The power of God is the bedrock of all we have said!! it is the power of God that works in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure (*Philippians 2:13*).

It is the power of God that would cause you to mount up with wings as eagles and empower you to run without fainting.


You must seek for these two weapons of power and wisdom together. For the power without the wisdom leads to the misapplication of power and wisdom without power leads to frustration.

Let us look at what Daniel said when faced with the threat from the king Nebuchadnezzar after he (Daniel) had received divine instructions.

‘Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his: And he changeth the times and the seasons: he removeth kings, and setteth up kings: he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things: he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him’. (Daniel 2: 20 – 22).

GOD IS THE SOURCE OF WISDOM, POWER, KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING!

To operate in all of these requires a personal and deep relationship with God.

If you do not have that relationship with Him yet or perhaps, you have backslidden, then I invite you to come back to Jesus now and make Him your personal Lord and Savior. 

5 Ways To Let The Blessing Do The Work

DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'RE WORKING AND STRUGGLING TO ACHIEVE YOUR DREAMS?

YOU'RE NOT MEANT TO DO ALL THE WORK! FIND OUT HOW THE BLESSING WILL GET YOU THERE.

Toiling and working and working and toiling. Does that sound like your life? Sometimes it can feel like you're spinning your wheels and getting nowhere—struggling to advance but facing setback after setback, or simply staying in the same place year after year. Certainly, there is an adversary who is always ready and willing to throw hindrances your way, but what if increase and advancement could be achieved with a simple tweak in your thinking?

THE BLESSING of the Lord was established by God to enforce all your covenant rights and advance you along in life, but sometimes it can be tempting to flip over to the natural and try to take the reins yourself. The unintended consequence ends up including delay and frustration.

God has put in each one of us the natural instinct to work hard, but we must balance our own work with a submission to the supernatural. If you're ready to stop running, struggling and toiling to reach your dreams, goals and vision—begin to change your thinking with these five ways to put THE BLESSING to work in your life.

1 LET THE BLESSING MAKE YOU RICH

"The blessing of the Lord makes one rich, and He adds no sorrow with it."

—Proverbs 10:22 (NKJV)

In this verse, that word translated sorrow literally means "to toil." Now, there's nothing wrong with work. The Bible says, **"If you don't work, you don't eat"** (1 Thessalonians 3:10, MSG). Work is a requirement for advancement, and the Bible is clear that diligence is required for promotion, increase and wealth. However, there is a difference between work and toil.

Work is putting your hands to something, so God can prosper and increase you (Deuteronomy 28:8). Toil is taking the responsibility and pressure of provision onto yourself. Some Christians have argued, "Well, I have to earn a living."

OF THIS REASONING, KENNETH COPELAND SAYS THIS:

"Did you earn your salvation? No. You got it by grace and through faith. Did you earn the baptism in the Holy Ghost? How did you get it? Did you earn healing? How did you get that? Well, what makes you think you have to earn your money?"

You need to work, but you don't need to make your own living. If you gather it for yourself, it works like a bag with holes in it. THE BLESSING of the Lord is what makes you rich—He makes you rich. The more you

study, the more you'll realize that THE BLESSING of the Lord, is the glory of the Lord, is the Spirit of the Lord, is the Lord Himself. He is THE BLESSING.

You don't have to toil to be rich. A janitor can be rich and have a jet. Maybe you're thinking, what does a janitor need with a jet? Well, it depends on what he does on the weekends! Maybe he's preaching to the world on the weekends. If a man or woman is on assignment for Jesus, then that person does not live on his or her salary alone.

Each year when his board of directors determines his salary, Jerry Saville —after thanking them—makes a personal declaration saying, "My salary is not my income. God is the source of my income, and my income will far exceed my salary."

The same is true for you. You're called to work, but not to struggle or toil. How do you do this? You do your work as working for the Lord, and you shift your mindset over to believing your income will far exceed your salary because God, not your salary, is your Source. You begin to rest and not worry about your finances, and you give your financial cares over to the Lord. Jesus went to great lengths to secure THE BLESSING for you, so you could be made rich and become a BLESSING to the world around you. His intention is for you to be made wealthy, not just for your own enjoyment, but for the advancement of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

When you prosper, you can bring THE BLESSING to the dark places of the world around you. Wealthy believers are Satan's worst nightmare. They fund ministries, they support missionaries, and they pay off houses and cars.

When you come across someone in need—a single mom who is struggling and needs a car, for

example—and you're living on THE BLESSING, you don't just sit there—you buy the car! That's why now is the time to become BLESSING-minded and know that it isn't your job, but THE BLESSING, that will make you rich!



A photograph of a man from behind, wearing a maroon and grey striped t-shirt, lifting a young child with curly hair wearing a red polo shirt and blue jeans. The child is smiling and has their arms outstretched. They are standing in front of a light-colored brick wall. The man's hands are visible, supporting the child from underneath.

2 LET THE BLESSING PROMOTE YOU

“The houses will be richly stocked with goods you did not produce. You will draw water from cisterns you did not dig, and you will eat from vineyards and olive trees you did not plant.” –Deuteronomy 6:11 (NLT)

So many times, Christians feel the need to fight their way to the top. There are even some who are willing to vote with those who promote immorality to protect their Social Security, Medicare or anything else they feel will help them advance in life. But God put THE BLESSING in place, so we don't have to toil, struggle or rely on man to be promoted in any area of our lives.

THE BLESSING

will promote you even when you aren't qualified in the natural.

It will promote you when the world says you aren't enough; it will promote you when you've had one setback after another; it will promote you when you're surrounded by enemies who want to keep you from ever reaching your destination. But you have to let THE BLESSING do the work.

When you're operating in the natural, you edge out the supernatural because you're putting the energy of your faith toward yourself, rather than toward God. When you learn to step back and stop fighting in your own strength and allow God to promote you, you'll see advancements you never dreamed possible. As *Kenneth Copeland* says, “THE BLESSING will make a somebody out of nobody.”

That's what happened to Joseph when he was given a dream and vision for his life. That dream all but died right there in the pit where his brothers threw him. There was nothing he could do to promote himself out of that situation. But THE BLESSING was there—that's what kept his brothers from killing him. THE BLESSING is what sent that caravan from Egypt to the right place and the right time, to fish him out of his pit and off to his destiny.

Are you in a pit today? Have you been stuck in a place where it seems there is no way out or no possibility of advancement? Take a step back and invite God into your situation. Let THE BLESSING do the work and promote you to positions you're not qualified for, to houses that have always seemed out of your price range, to ministries that seemed so far off, and to relationships you could never establish on your own.

Joseph was in a situation where he could do nothing on his own. He was a slave and then a prisoner, but the Bible says, **"The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered"** (*Genesis 39:2, NIV*). Notice, it doesn't say Joseph prospered because of his race, his influential family, his education, his social status or his intelligence. No, THE BLESSING is what made Joseph prosper and receive a promotion to the second most powerful position in the world.

THE BLESSING of the Lord doesn't care where you are or where you came from. Stop fighting the world and trying to prove yourself. Let THE BLESSING promote you, and you'll find yourself in a palace!

3 LET THE BLESSING DEFEND YOU

"The Lord is your mighty defender." – *Deuteronomy 32:4 (GNT)*

When you've been wronged, slighted or downright betrayed, do you spring into action to defend yourself? When you've been wronged, it can be tempting to rise up and take action, and sometimes the Lord will tell you to do just that. However, you shouldn't defend yourself without His backing.

Joseph never defended himself against Potiphar. He didn't spend time fighting to get out of prison. He waited, and he let THE BLESSING take care of it. It didn't happen overnight, but God avenged him in every way possible. There is no defender greater than our God.

You don't have to fight your own fight. You don't have to defend yourself and look out for your own rights. If you humble yourself and step out of the way, THE BLESSING will go ahead of you and prepare a table before you in the presence of your enemies.

This is an important lesson to learn because when you walk in THE BLESSING, you will be persecuted.

You will have a hundredfold return, with houses and lands that come from THE BLESSING, along with persecutions (*Mark 10:30*). THE BLESSING on you will make people envious of you, and they will persecute you. But don't pay any attention to it.

Clothe yourself with humility. Cast your cares over on Jesus. When you put the situation that has concerned you into His hands and say to Him, "Lord, will You take care of this for me?" He says, "Of course I will!"

4 LET THE BLESSING ANOINT YOU

"His anointing teaches you about all things."—*1 John 2:27 (NIV)*

You don't have to have it all figured out. Depending on your personality type, that will either be easy or tough to handle! Have you ever run up against a situation and thought, this is hopeless, or I'll never be able to do that? Well, think again. No situation is hopeless when you factor in the anointing. The anointing factor is the very power of God at work in your situation.

It is God doing those things in your life that only God can do. When your mind and flesh try to take over in these situations, you soon realize, I just don't have the strength. I don't have what it takes to combat this thing and win against it. That's when you can step back and allow the power of God in your spirit—the anointing—to take over.

THE BLESSING will anoint you to fight your battles and prosper even in a famine. Think about it—how did Joseph know how to run a ranch and a wealthy man's property? THE BLESSING of the Lord gave him the mind of Christ—the mind of the Anointed One. THE BLESSING anointed Joseph, who made Potiphar rich, and then made Pharaoh the richest man in the world.

The same anointing that was on the mind of Jesus when He was ministering on this earth is the same anointing available to you right now. But it has to be obtained and released by faith.

That's why Abraham was so strong in faith—He was BLESSED! He learned how to receive and how to depend on THE BLESSING. As long as he depended on it, it didn't matter where he dug a hole—he hit water.

People will always tell you why you can't do something. But once you find out the will of God for you, confer no longer with flesh and blood. Let THE BLESSING take you

where no one thinks you can go. THE BLESSING will bring you revelation knowledge. It is the gateway to the supernatural.

When you're facing a situation, a goal or a job that requires anointing, don't wear yourself out, wracking your brain hour after hour, searching every nook and cranny for the answer. If you knew what to do, it wouldn't be a trial. So, count it all joy, and sit down in God's rest, believing His wisdom is on the way.

You have a covenant right to expect the power of God in your life to work on your behalf. Factor in the power of God's Word. Factor in the power of His Spirit. Factor in the Anointing. Let THE BLESSING do the work, and watch those circumstances change!

5 LET THE BLESSING PREACH THE GOSPEL

"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."—*John 10:10 (ESV)*

It's fun to talk about the ways THE BLESSING can make us rich, promote us, defend us and anoint us, but above all, THE BLESSING preaches the gospel to a lost world. When you're living in THE BLESSING, you aren't spending your time worrying or toiling—you have the time, energy, money and anointing to minister to others, and you're an example of what it looks like to be a child of the Most High God.

When you're walking and living in THE BLESSING, you shine a light in a dark world. People will naturally be drawn to you—they'll want what you have! Everyone wants to live BLESSED, and you'll know how to help them get there. THE BLESSING is the gospel of Jesus Christ! Take it and be a witness as He's called you to do. **L**

"It's time to put THE BLESSING to work in every area of your life! Any area of your life where you've been held back, there's only one thing missing—THE BLESSING. No more toiling, no more struggling, no more standing in a defensive posture, and no more guesswork—let THE BLESSING do the work for you!"

"Reprinted with permission from Kenneth Copeland Ministries"

3 KEYS TO ATTAIN YOUR GOALS

Prioritize

your activities

FOCUS

on what you have prioritized

IGNORE

those things that aren't important
to your destiny

Often, we take up a whole lot of targets and responsibilities and we truly believe in our capabilities to multitask and do several things at a time, and perhaps for the most part this is true. However, without taking the time to prioritize our goals, we end up doing what Paul cautioned not to do – Flail around like one beating the air, just shadow boxing (1 Cor 9:26). In your endeavor to achieve your set goals, you therefore need to learn how to prioritize all those goals and aspirations and determine the level of FOCUS to apply on each of them.


Focus helps you bring things into perspective. When you focus on a target, ideas are released to you for implementation.

Paul again captured it well when he said, “But like a boxer, I strictly discipline my

body and make it my slave” (1 Cor 9:27).

What you focus on, you discipline, what you discipline, you conquer! Finally, if it isn't in your 'priority list' and it isn't in your 'focus list', then it qualifies to be in your 'ignore list'.

Learn to ignore those things that don't matter to your destiny, don't sweat the small stuff. Focus on the race that has been set before you. You are a winner!!

“Therefore, I do not run without a definite goal; I do not flail around like one beating the air [just shadow boxing]. But [like a boxer] I strictly discipline my body and make it my slave, so that, after I have preached [the gospel] to others, I myself will not somehow be disqualified [as unfit for service]”. (1 CORINTHIANS 9:26-27 AMP) 



Nigeria, let the Righteous Arise

For a moment, let us replace; 'Jerusalem' in the scripture below with 'Nigeria'. With the state of the nation, one thing that remains of great importance aside from making a positive impact in your various spheres of influence and speaking up to challenge the status quo is to activate the word of God as contained in Psalm 122: 6, 7. Pray for the Peace of our Nation!

Righteous points of action

It is time to deliberately stand in the gap on behalf of our Nation – I use the word deliberately because this effort has to be borne out of a conscious effort and genuine concern for the state of affairs our beloved Nation.

Your passion to stand in the gap for Nigeria must exceed that of Nehemiah:

"And they said unto me, the remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire. And it came to pass, when I heard these words, that I sat down and wept, and mourned certain days, and fasted, and prayed before the God of heaven". (Nehemiah 1: 3, 4).

Beloved today is the day to beseech God to move in our midst and restore the fortunes of our dear Nation and enthrone righteousness in all spheres of our national existence. Stand up and be counted!

"PRAY FOR THE PEACE OF JERUSALEM: THEY SHALL PROSPER THAT LOVE THEE. PEACE BE WITHIN THY WALLS, AND PROSPERITY WITHIN THY PALACES.

(PSALM 122: 6, 7)

WISDOM NUGGETS FOR OUTPOURING

1. Are you glad to be at the last quarter of the year after taking into consideration what you have planned to achieve versus what you have actually achieved? If you haven't achieved as much as you planned to, then there is hope. List out those things that you feel you should have accomplished.

Now prayerfully present these items to God and ask Him to provide you with the much-needed grace to finish strong according to His will.

2. Remember scripture says that we have the mind of Christ, so jot down those practical steps that that come to mind. Make them as clear and actionable as possible.

3. While trying to finish the year strong, you need to remember that 2020 is already around the corner. Begin to list out those things in your life that needs to change in the coming year, include all those key achievements that you would love to see come to fruition.

The Bible says that in quietness and confidence shall be your strength (Isaiah 30:15). Take some quality time to seek the face of God for the new year, including all you have listed. Specifically ask God for wisdom for the new year – 2020 will be conquered on the platter of wisdom!

Remember God blesses the WORKS of your hand, SO GET GOD AND GET TO WORK!!




FROM THE PUBLISHER

God has been providing more and more clarity on what He has called us to do – delivering His gospel free of all cost to people all over the world and showing forth the unconditional love of Christ. We have recently launched our brand-new website- www.livingforChristfoundation.org

This site is continuously being loaded with resources for Christian growth and edification, previous editions of the magazine are now available online and we will subsequently make available legacy editions of the magazine online as well, details of our ministry efforts will be continuously updated as well. (Please take a moment to visit our website and our social media platforms and drop us note, not forgetting to help spread the gospel by sharing content that can be a blessing to your family and friends).

We have also kicked of our outreach programs which include outreaches to orphanages and motherless babies' homes, also we are taking kids off the streets one at a time by providing the resources to ensure that they have a chance at education – do let us know if you are led to partner in this effort.

We are excited at the limitless opportunities that God has opened up for us to spread the gospel and be the reflection of the love of Christ to our generation and beyond.

Do not be left out, go ahead and win one soul over to Christ today!! 

Winning the Nations, One Soul at a Time!!

