



THE PRINCIPLE OF

**SPIRITUAL
FITNESS**

**HOW TO TRAIN THE SPIRIT-MAN TO BE STRONG
FOR KINGDOM EXPLOITS.**

BY ISAIAH-PHILLIPS AKINTOLA

PRINCIPLE OF SPIRITUAL FITNESS.

WHY WE NEED TO TRAIN OUR SPIRIT [INNER] MAN.

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to all members of the Body of Christ, particularly those who follow our regular online Portalsgate Broadcast community, who seek more of the Lord than the usual religious norms many have come to accept and camp around.

This material is, without a doubt, the burden of a remnant company crying out to the Lord to keep their fire burning day and night. They understand that they need to continually abandon themselves on the altar of the Spirit of the Lord, but they don't fully comprehend the spiritual skills, techniques, and strength in doing so.

This book is dedicated to those who say to the Lord, "I delight to do your will, oh God," but there's another law of sin and death, waging war against the law of my spirit, and I don't know how to fight back till I win this inner war.

This material is for those who acknowledge their little strength but are willing to continue to keep the word of God active in their hearts, even as they make their way towards the gym of the Spirit until they are finally built up in the ascended knowledge and wisdom of the Spirit of God in achieving the prophetic mandate of the Father for their time.

If this is you, then you will find the answer to breaking the hold of the sinful nature over your soul, as your spirit man learns the insights and techniques in training to be fit and strong for God's purpose. You will find the keys of the kingdom already locked within your heart to empower you, as you lay hold of them in opening your eyes of understanding.

This book is the answer to the prayers of millions of people crying out for a spiritual education that will transform and empower their human spirits. This material is the perfect solution to winning the battle you've been called to fight, and you are guaranteed to win if you practice the truth found in it.

You should be warned that this book will challenge you and push you to develop the spiritual strength and fortitude to stand up to the enemy's schemes.

Through this material, you will learn about what is known as the power and strength of the Lord, and how to use them to grow and increase your spiritual strength to fight and conquer in the battle of life.

Lastly, this timely word is dedicated to everyone who has contributed financially to my life and the online ministry. This is a work that is solely run on faith and generosity of very few brethren.

I want to express my sincere and deepest gratitude to all of you for your support. I would love to mention a few names, but that will not be encouraging due to some people who might feel left out, and that is not my intention. I am so grateful to each one of you for everything. I pray the Lord will continue to greatly reward you and your generation through your seeds of love and support for me and the ministry.

Content:

Dedication..... page 2

Introductory scriptures-----page 5

Chapter 1: be strong in the Lord and in the power of his strength.... page 7.

Chapter 2: Understanding your spirit's Architecture..... page 23.

Chapter 3: Operating through God's life within you..... page 35.

Chapter 4: The great dilemma..... page 38.

Chapter 5: Breaking away from Idealism Christianity..... page 44.

Chapter 6: Going into strict training..... Page 49.

Chapter 7: Fit for War..... page 58.

Chapter 8: Training to be combat-ready..... page 66.

Chapter 9: The spirit of Ahimaaz..... page 74.

INTRODUCTIVE SCRIPTURES:

The foundation and framework I have explored through these study materials are based on the values of what these scriptures seek to establish as the cornerstone values and principles of spiritual training, fitness, and maturity, and I hope you will carefully read them and let the lord inspire your heart to use them as a guide through your journey in the reality of kingdom truth.

Beloved, the word of God is the cornerstone of our faith and certainly, the hope of our decisions and future knowledge, and it's in this light that we need to set the word of God above all else. We should view the word of God as more than just textual references we use to win arguments. Instead, it should serve as the foundation and framework for everything we strive to understand, become, and build in our lives.

So, I invite you to carefully read to understand these scriptures as you prayerfully go into this book, and you will be greatly enriched and established in this present, apostolic truth.

2 Corinthians 4:16

Therefore, we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:

5 I will boast about such a man, but I will not boast about myself, except in my weaknesses. 6 even if I wanted to boast, I would not be a fool, because I would be speaking the truth. But I refrain, so no one will credit me with more than he sees in me or hears from me, 7 or because of these surpassingly great revelations.

So, to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 three times I pleaded with the lord to take it away from me. 9 but he said to me, “my grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness.”

Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly in my weaknesses, so that the power of christ may rest on me. 10 that is why, for the sake of Christ, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Ephesians 6:10-11

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can make your stand against the devil’s schemes....

CHAPTER 1.

BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT.

The term, spiritual fitness.

While designing one of our morning broadcast thumbnails on Canvas, an online graphics design platform, I came across an image of a weightlifter that inspired me. The image perfectly captured the essence of what I believe spiritual fitness should produce in our spiritual posture and identity.

The moment I saw this picture, I was immediately struck by the depth of truth and revelations flowing into my spirit. I could remember saying aloud, "How fit is your spirit?" as if I was speaking to someone standing next to me.

The Lord often used imagery and thoughts to speak prophetically to me. I would estimate 80 to 90 percent of the messages I received were conveyed through pictures and images.

I believe without doubt, the Lord was saying to me, it will take a Church that can work out in the gym of the Spirit to be spiritually fit and strong for the fulfillment of its divine purpose.

Particularly, in this Age, where we are constantly bombarded with strange cultures and philosophies assigned to distract and weaken our resolve from following the heartbeat of the Father till the end.

It is necessary to be disciplined enough to develop the faculties of our spiritual personality so that we can develop the type of strength and muscle that would allow us to win in the Spirit and stand against the wiles of the enemy.

If we are genuinely inspired to be spiritually fit, it allows us to see and receive how we can submit to the Spirit's training in developing the required strength by yielding to values and kingdom standards of sound biblical truth. When we do this, it translates to divine strength and power.

Fitness and wrong theology.

Spiritual Fitness is the understanding that while we are born of God, we need to grow in knowledge, wisdom, faith, authority, and other aspects of our kingdom identities, which allow us to be highly equipped and skilled in the art of spiritual practice and lifestyle. This allows us to engage more effectively in spiritual warfare and live a life pleasing to God.

Sometimes when we read the scriptures, we fail to see the perspective of spiritual discipline and training required to bring such scriptures alive within our inner man.

When we read God's word, we often hope that something will happen without active faith participation, and obedience to divine principles. However, biblical values, processes, and truths do not work in such a magical way. It is important for us to cooperate and submit to God's requirements in order to fully understand and benefit from His teachings.

I believe this is one of the deceitful tactics of the adversary in causing believers to have trouble comprehending doctrinal truth, especially in a manner that assists them to develop and apply balanced, spiritual values and principles in overcoming their life's obstacles, which eventually results in confusion and frustration.

The ignorance of how biblical truth and principles work has kept lots of believers tired and frustrated to the point of many giving up on their faith today.

The call to be spiritually fit.

Beloved of the Father, this is a high-level, prophetic engaging instructive word of exaltation that we have received in the place of waiting on the Lord for 21 days in fasting for the 21st-century Church.

If these exaltations are accurately applied as it was designed, they will certainly enhance and fast-track your spiritual development and enterprise at these ends of days.

This material will exalt you and challenge you to develop your spirit to become strong and empowered for the Lord's purpose, according to Ephesians chapter 6:10-12. In this book, we will examine several concepts and value standards that allow us to understand and apply the principle of how to precisely develop our spirit man so that it functions according to its ordained redeemed life in Christ.

In his writing to the Church in Ephesians, Paul begins to lay out the architectural values and components needed to come into the position of what is known as the fully matured, status of Christ. Reaching the full status in Christ requires training and fitness; it is not something to be taken lightly, and it cannot be attained by those who are undisciplined and frivolous in their perspective.

The journey of attaining, a well-matured spirit man condition of lifestyle will require a continual development of our innermost being and our engagement with all the requirements that keep us fit and able in the Spirit.

We will all need to press towards that Mark in the Spirit, where many who have gone ahead of us reached in their seasons of sojourning while on earth. Paul and the rest of the apostles and many others reached that height through their suffering and triumph in the advancement of their assigned ministries.

One of the things Paul highlighted is the level of fitness and strength the brethren need to reach the height called the full status of Christ. He stressed the need to come to the place of being prepared for the kind of spiritual vision and posture required to take a firm stand against the schemes of the enemy.

Hence, he spoke about them being [strengthened] strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Being strengthened in the power of God's might is not as easy as most brethren assumed, particularly those from a very strong Charismatic or even orthodox religious background would presume, in the sense that we are required to first drain every form of strength and power we have relied on and still stored within our soul personality.

In 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, as one of our theme scriptures, Paul unveiled to us the secret of God's power, resting on any believer willing to pay the price of spiritual fitness.

He said, "I will gladly boast in my weakness, so that the power of God may rest on me. Paul directly tells us that the power of God only rests on weak, submissive, and obedient believers.

We must precisely understand the context of the weakness he is talking about because many Christians often quote and even applied this scripture out of context.

Fitness and weakness.

God's strength, power, and authority do not rest on the laziness and weakness of carnal men, particularly those who take pride in their sinful and ungodly ways.

God's power does not rest on proud and spiritually weak humans, who think they have the means and license to execute their own will and desire without consulting their creator.

The weakness that Paul is referring to is the result of a life that has come to the end of his or her strength and power-driven soul's ability.

Weakness is defined as not having strength or power. Of course, we are referring to not having our own strength or power. Being drained of your own strength, whatever that may be, is the beginning of the journey of being spiritually fit and empowered.

In our society, there is a push for individuals to possess some level of physical or mental fortitude in order to succeed. Yet, relying solely on these strengths, even if they are minor, can indicate a lack of spiritual resilience and ability. Here is an interesting profound scripture that should throw more light into what we are talking about:

James 4: 13

Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” 14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow.

What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. 15 Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.” 16 As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil.

James pointed out a significant issue of relying solely on oneself and being self-sufficient in the lives of some members of the early Church in this scripture.

These individuals showed their spiritual weakness by making financial or business decisions without seeking God's guidance. For they say, today or tomorrow, we will go to this or that City to do business without seeking the [strength] will of the Lord.

Unfortunately, this problem has become even more widespread in today's Body of Christ due to the infiltration of false preachers, promoting the false gospel of prosperity and grace without sanctification and sacredness of heart.

This gospel is further built on the lie that says, "You can make your own choices and decisions without consulting or waiting for the Lord's voice and will to be revealed".

It is the same gospel, Satan preached to Adam and Eve in the garden, You can do whatever you desire, after all, you've been given the power of choice. Indeed, The Father has invested enormous power in man, but the power is not for him to do as he wills.

This ancient, distorted view of the gospel continues to say to the brethren today, if you have confessed Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you have the power and wisdom to do whatever you feel is right, no matter what.

The problem lies in their belief that they remain in control of their lives even after accepting Christ. They think that their will of choice still belongs to them.

Hence, they can decide to go to another City for a business deal, without asking for the Lord's opinion or guidance. This is a dangerous, presumptive position to find yourself in if you also have this wrong mindset of thinking.

As we can see, this is not a new phenomenon; this problem of self-dependence has been there since the early Church. When believers wrongly assume they can choose and decide for themselves, based on their own faulty understanding and interpretation of scripture, it can prevent them from receiving the necessary spiritual strength and power of God.

The belief that you can depend on your own strength, ability, and choice is a clear reflection that you are not under the government and authority of heaven, but are instead relying on your own ability, strength, and power. And that's a big deal when it comes to entering the realm of spiritual authority and governmental, kingdom representation.

These brethren, who should know better than anyone about the importance of consulting God in all things, instead, boast about their power and strength to carry out their business duties and intentions.

As we can see from their actions, these people have not yielded to the voice of God, to the point where they have allowed His voice to direct and inspire the next move. Thus, they cannot enter the dimension that qualifies them to become strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.

Offering your strength to the Lord.

Whatever looks like strength, might, and power in any place of our lives will have to be first offered to God at the altar. There is a place where we can function from the release of all the strength, power, and authority needed to handle whatever the enemy may throw at us, while we are still focused on the advancement of the mandate of the kingdom of God with the required speed and joy motivation.

In this place, our human frailties or supposed strengths and abilities do not limit us, but rather by the Spirit, we can victoriously live and advance the kingdom agenda with strength and unspeakable joy.

In other words, we can develop unprecedented strength from a position where we've completely abandoned ourselves on the altar of God. In the book of Revelation, we are told that the Church of Philadelphia, although it had little strength, was able to maintain its stand for God because it had an unrelenting love. Because of this testimony, the Lord blessed them with open doors for breakthroughs.

Revelation 3:8.

Redefining how God's power works

The theology of the Church today regarding issues of God's strength is very problematic in the sense that it gives a wrong impression of how God's power or strength functions. When the Church thinks in terms of God's power we often think of fighting against demons and Satanic influences, and that's true but the power of God does not respond or function just because we command it.

I am certain you have seen brethren attempting to resolve problems simply by invoking the power and authority of God, without following the due principles of purity, obedience, and submission to the biblical order of lifestyle.

Saints, given the permission to use the name of the Lord or the protective, covenant life we have in the blood of Jesus Christ are those who live within the framework of total yieldedness to the Lord's desire. When we contravene the principles of God's kingdom, we also forfeit the right to exercise spiritual authority on behalf of God and his kingdom.

The power of God only functions among those who have chosen to wear the garment of weakness which is the direct meaning of humility. When we embrace biblical truth, we are indirectly saying we want to walk in God's wisdom, and this will often make us look or feel weak and foolish in the eyes of both carnal Christians and society in general, but this is how the power and authority of Christ get to rest upon us.

Thus, weakness from a sound biblical theology is humility or meekness. These two are byproducts of one who is in submission to the will of the Father. Meekness is a powerful governmental spirit according to the Lord. For He said in the book of Matthew chapter 5 that the meek will inherit the earth.

You cannot inherit the earth without being given the strength or power to rule. Rulership from a heavenly kingdom order is translated to humility and meekness. Let's look at something that should give us a clearer insight into the concept of the power and strength of God in the life of the early Church.

God's strength in the early Church.

It is important to note that many members of the Church of Ephesus relied on various philosophies and individuals for their power and strength before they accepted Jesus Christ. However, these sources were not aligned with the will and standards of the Lord.

Many were well-versed and knowledgeable in various ideologies, wisdom, careers, military knowledge, and political might and influence. Many have gathered all types of religious experiences and knowledge they've depended on for years as their strong ideological position of mental and presumed spiritual strength.

In other words, they've built a strong but false spiritual psychological garrison; a stronghold for themselves. Nothing seems to have been able to penetrate those positions of high-level strongholds within their mindsets until they gave their lives to Christ.

Many of these brethren came from different backgrounds, and have built different types of artificial reliance, which for obvious reasons will make it difficult for them to start to depend on what is now known to them as the power of God's might.

It's possible that some of these brethren in the Church of Ephesus were skilled Olympians, experienced Gladiators who had mastered the art of war, and mercenaries who made a living as fighters, as it was a common custom among the people of that time.

Since the philosophy of heroism, strength, and power flexing was the general belief system of the then culture, you can imagine many of these brethren going to Church looking like one of those able-bodied, macho men.

Most of these Ephesians Church brethren were both slaves and slave owners among the brethren in the Church of Ephesus. This created a diverse group of people who had different reactions to Brother Paul's call to be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might.

As far as we know through the scriptures, God has given us His power and might, which He wants us to have and operate by, as His Church in dealing with various issues of life, threatening the advancement of the Saints.

Paul's understanding and description of strength, power, and might were vastly different from that of the people he was speaking to. Of course, one can argue that most of these Ephesian Church brethren were still learning and growing in the paradigm and culture of God's kingdom philosophy.

The thinking attitude and behavioral pattern of the new life they've entered in Christ have not fully developed to the level of understanding the difference between their old way of thinking and the new way of thinking in Christ, particularly relating to the operation of what is known as strength, power, and might. Hence, this teaching of Brother Paul was critical to their understanding and proper alignment with their behavioral culture if they were to win the battles set before them.

One would have, however, thought today's Ecclesia would have now shifted her focus and understanding of how we view and implement spiritual strength and power to a better and more effective way the Father designed it for our use.

Unfortunately, even though we now have the advantage of hindsight, many of us still think like the brethren in the Church of Ephesus when we consider where and how we source our strength, power, wisdom, and other forms of security and dependencies,

Thus, to appreciate this position of the divine life and power given to us, we need to undress our minds from our former, soulish way of thinking, and then begin to examine what the Lord is revealing to us as the correct order of knowledge regarding the fitness of our spirit.

In fact, in chapter 4, of Ephesians, Paul zeroed in on those given the responsibility to train, coach, and equip the Saints to develop the strength and stamina needed to face the challenges opposing the maturity and movement of the brethren in the art of spiritual kingdom warfare.

The Lord certainly will not take the time to speak about the availability of strength, power, and might if they are not critical in our journey to fulfill our apostolic mandate. To walk or function in this position of strength, power, and might, we certainly need to first see the need to develop our spirit in the various aspects that allow us to carry, but also correctly function in this divine power and authority.

Developing the philosophy of winning.

Ironically, almost everyone wants to win in the race of life, but very few are indeed ready to put in the necessary effort to be trained and continue to train until they assume victory and success. People want the glory and rewards that come with winning, but they don't want to put in the hard work required to get there.

The entire Bible can be summarized in two words, which are the principle of winners and losers. In other words, there will always be winners and losers in any situation. True winners are those who listen to the voice of wisdom and apply the principles and values that are essential for winning in life. And losers are those who are given the same opportunity but fail to accept and apply them, often because of their attitude of indifference and indiscipline.

The values we place on winning or losing are a continual set of standards we prioritize or reject at every stage or arena we find ourselves in life. In other words, it will take a continual maintenance and upgrade of the same rules and values that gave you victory yesterday, to continue to win today and tomorrow regardless of the conditions and situations you may encounter. You cannot simply rely on what got you to where you are today to remain a winner in your God-given assignment.

You must continuously adapt and change to stay ahead and on top. This principle I've just explained is at the core reality of winning spiritually. Spiritual warfare requires excellent strategy; fortunately, God is the master strategist. He has never sent anyone into a battleground without giving them a plan or some guidance on how to overcome the enemy.

Failure occurs when people refuse to listen and apply the divine plan that the Lord has revealed. Maintaining the victory from yesterday requires more discipline and focus on your heavenly vision today.

If I am to maintain and improve my prophetic mandate, I must continue to keep spiritually fit and disciplined. I must make sure that I daily do my spiritual workout in the gym of God's word and the place of continual intercession.

I must continue to eat the right spiritual diet. I need to continue doing and improving on everything that helped me succeed yesterday if I want to continue being successful.

I must maintain the right paradigm of thinking; the mind of Christ must daily guide my thought pattern and motivation. This means that every day, my thoughts and actions must be in line with what Christ would have me think and do. I must daily refuse to let fear, anxiety, discouragement, unbelief, and apathy take over my thoughts and emotions. I must listen to the voice of wisdom every day, just as part of my training. I must also get into the habit of walking with God, as Enoch did, making it part of my daily routine.

Applying divine principles can translate to victory.

The enemy can be defeated in our personal, private lives if we take the time to learn, study, and apply the principles taught in how to defeat the enemy. There is a principle taught in God's word that if applied, can empower and enrich the inner man, which will change the default operating system of any believer to that of Christ's mindset.

This principle can be found in Philippians 4:8. To continually defeat the enemy, we must learn to live and operate within the mind of Christ.

There is no room for accident, trial, and error in the word of God. There are clear, defined principles undergirded by the kingdom values system that we need to practice, and if we faithfully practice them, we will gradually see the necessary result manifest.

For emphasis' sake, let me belabor that everything in life is designed and governed by laws or principles and they require training to master their use skillfully. When we seek to find out how the laws and skills establish a matter, we have gone a long way in solving the challenges of life.

When we seek to correctly know and apply the laws of life according to Romans chapter 8, we are guaranteed spiritual fitness and victory over the scheme of the evil one that desires to keep us lucked down under the control of the law of sin and death.

Without a doubt, the church needs to return to the place of God's undiluted word, so we can see the various areas where we have gone wrong and begin to make the necessary corrections and adjustments. This includes preparing ourselves to be retrained in matters of sound, biblical, fitness.

Adjusting your understanding and perspective.

My beloved Saints in the Lord, this is the time to learn what the Spirit of God is saying, so that we can take advantage of the truth and life available to us and rise to fight the battle we are assigned to.

The word of God says we must put on the whole armor of God so that we are able to stand against the powers and schemes of darkness. It has become more and more glaring that the nature of the days we've been ushered in requires men and women who are not just authentic and anointed, but also spiritually healthy and fit in their spirits for God's purpose.

Whatever area of life you've been called to function and administrate at this end of days, you will without doubt be needing a great degree of divine power and spiritual fitness to correctly express the knowledge, wisdom, and understanding within such a field. Strength and power are often not how we understand them, especially from a biblical, spiritual perspective.

Divine strength can be seen as that which comes from the place of being spiritually equipped and trained, of course, and fit in the matters of the application of God's knowledge, wisdom, and counsel over any given situation, regardless of how complex they may seem.

The battleground of the last days.

In the 21st century, society and especially the marketplace have become a spiritual battleground. Unfortunately, many believers are unaware of this reality. I want to bring to our attention the importance of focusing on where and why we need to pay more attention when it comes to being spiritually fit.

This is a crucial point that needs to be flagged. Both the weakness and exhaustion most people are facing, particularly, Christians, are all directly related to their inability to handle pressure and challenges coming from their workplace, families, and the forces of darkness generally.

The forces of darkness are using every strategy and means they can lay hold to come at you, and if you are not aware, you will fall and be defeated. There is an ongoing battle over your soul and that of your children and community whether you know it or not. Your spirit man needs to be awakened from weakness and lukewarmness; you need to understand how to rise and fight the good fight of faith with the right attitude, but I am certain you know that you're not designed to fail or be defeated.

Therefore, rise today, take your place in the gym of the Spirit, and allow heaven to train you to be spiritually strong and fit, just as some of you are already training to be physically fit. So, I hope that those reading this material will take the serious principles shared here to heart, and sincerely start applying themselves to this present call of the Spirit.

CHAPTER 2

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SPIRIT'S ARCHITECTURE

A bit of insight about your spirit's configuration.

Before we go further, let's quickly look at some key points regarding the intention of the Father as it relates to man's spiritual architecture.

I strongly believe the Lord wanted me to add this perspective as a framework and background to what we are about to examine in this material as it relates to the training and development of our spirit.

I said this because these few paragraphs entitled, the architecture of your spirit is the last thought added to this material. This should give us an excellent insight into the nature of what a spiritual being is all about and why you need to nurture and train the spirit.

It is important to establish that people are, in fact, spirits. Whether they consciously understand and practice their existence from this point or not is another issue that should be addressed critically. However, we must first establish that all humans are created and designed to function primarily from their spiritual values and disposition. God created all humans to be spiritual. Meaning, He desires man to understand and function as his true, kingdom-oriented spiritual entity.

We know however that this pattern of spiritual function has been corrupted through the disobedience of the first man and his wife in the Garden. For ages, the world has relied heavily on certain beliefs and traits formed within his fallen soul to determine how to think, see, speak, act, and interpret his life and that of others.

Some of the limited knowledge and experience gathered from the study of nature and science had become what man had depended upon to nature and nurture his wisdom and philosophy of existence.

The place of discovering the true image and identity of man through his spirit has been refuted, rejected, and discarded to the point where most people today are living outside their true spiritual values system and architecture.

Although the scientific study of man's nature and how it shapes and influences its environment is relevant and powerful, it is still, however, limited to uncovering the detailed characteristics of human genetics and its psychological or biological identity as it relates to man's true spiritual being and function.

To define your ability, competence, and even capacity without the true knowledge of your spiritual state, as described and identified in the word of God, is to limit your identity, abilities, and potential in life.

When we talk about the word of God as the primary means to uncover the true nature and power of human spirits, the assumed man-made, religious system called 'Christianity' unfortunately has limited the minds of its followers to think in a manner that has reinforced a weak thought process that cannot engage issues of creation, development, and transformation as a byproduct of a spiritual being.

A lack of understanding of the importance of biblical spirituality as a key element in the value system that establishes the principles of human existence, and its productivity is a major factor in limiting the advancement of the Saints and society generally today. The lack of understanding of the true order of man as a functional, intelligent spirit has prevented him from achieving his full potential.

The moment we begin to appreciate that man doesn't just have spirit; man is a spirit, formed in the image and likeness of God, the easier and sooner we begin to understand the shared responsibility placed upon our shoulders in matters of divine representation at all levels of human existence, in every walk of life.

Everyone, as a spirit being, is created with a unique spiritual nature and traits. Just as every physical being is born with certain gifts and traits, if they are well nurtured, they will bring out their fullest potential. So too, every spirit being is created with certain spiritual tendencies and traits that, if nurtured, will bring out their fullest potential.

Life was designed to be spiritual.

To have a fulfilled life, the art of spirituality must be present and affect every area of human existence. In other words, who we are is defined by what we do, and how we respond to life should be an extension of our nature, and not just our professionalism. Therefore, our manifest abilities should be spiritual in their true essence. The character nature of true spirituality should have a life-given, transformed person.

Unfortunately, not many people understand the dynamics of being a spiritual being, or how to function as a spiritual man in daily human practice of existence that brings glory to God and productivity to their world.

Many people have gone to school and learned various trade skills, but very few have taken the time to truly learn about spiritual transformation so that they can be effective channels in the art of the science of life. And this is the reason why many professionals end up doing things that negate the code of conduct that defines their professional careers and assignments.

The standard of moral knowledge assigned to guard life and professionalism is just too weak to combat the deficiency of the human heart.

Through my interactions with many believers, especially those in leadership positions, I have noticed that they struggle to accurately define or recognize others based on their spiritual identity and values. As a result, they sometimes endorse the wrong individuals due to their lack of foresight.

So, what criteria can we use to identify someone as a spiritual person? I think these are some of the questions that are beginning to rise in the Spirit as we enter the scope and environment of what has been described as the greatest deception of all time.

Spiritual things and spiritual personality are the primary vehicles God uses to communicate and interact with us about prophetic impressions and expressions on Earth. In other words, if God is going to do anything on Earth, and of course, we know that God is doing several things in our day, and those things are being carried out by those who are highly spiritual in listening and responding to the injunctions of the Father's voice.

Spiritual beings are highly intelligent people who know how to respond to God and spiritual things, but also how to clearly and accurately communicate their spirituality in matters of human needs and challenges. Being spiritual is not being spooky, foolish, or ignorant, as we are witnessing among some people today.

Accurate spirituality is designed to convey the heart of God and the mind of God in the most precise manner, which brings the purpose and intentions of the Father to bear.

While spiritual people know they are not of this fallen world, ruled by the nature of the first Adam, they, however, understand that they must interact with the world and its fallen system in a manner that compels them to see the higher values and principles of God's kingdom as a superior order of existence than the one they've lied to choose.

The Spirit of the Lord is calling us to develop our spirit man, so that we can identify each person via their true spiritual state and status. Oftentimes, the way people act and behave is a clear indication of their spiritual identity. If we don't know how to identify ourselves in the manner of heaven's approval, we will misinterpret what we see. The scripture says, by their fruits, you will know them.

The manifestation of the characters and values, to a degree, does explain the fruit operating in a person, either good or bad. If we don't understand how to identify the fruit of righteousness, which is a byproduct of the fruit of the Tree of Life, we will end up choosing the better evil that we assume is a good fruit.

Someone can display a seemingly good fruit, but the agenda behind such a display is, in fact, evil. We will witness this type of manifestation that seeks to deceive us from truly identifying the real enemy.

In days like ours, where the deceptions of familiar spirits and seductive spirits have reached a new height, we need to come to a higher sense of our identity as spiritual people, meaning that the understanding of our operation as representative of the kingdom of God must be well defined.

With the growing concern of the culture of deception and wokeness taking over the workplace and our society, Christians must be more deliberate in creating and fostering an environment where we can interact as members of the body of Christ.

Our spirit should be able to effectively and correctly interface and interact from the true position of a spiritual state. This way, we can correctly edify each other and still maximize our capabilities and productivity in our various places of work.

Jesus had 12 disciples, and each of them represented different spiritual characteristics found in people. These disciples are not just personalities but are special spiritual characters that could express a dimension of grace needed to establish the mandate of Christ for the church. In Peter, we see the potential for a leadership role that later champions the apostolic mandate of the Saints.

Peter, to the Lord, was not just another fisherman, but a powerful spiritual entity. The Lord recognized that Peter would later be the key to ignite the movement of the apostolic commission of the Church. Yes, at the beginning of his spiritual journey, he had many challenges, and the Lord saw them but never stopped helping him until his spirit was finally strong enough and ready to carry out its eternal purpose as a leader. I believe God is working more than ever in the spirit of his people.

Saints of the Lord, there's a re-branding and empowerment within the hearts of those seeking to be used by the Father at this end of days. There is an awakening and awareness that is coursing through members of the ecclesia to start realizing the prophetic objectives of the Father for each one.

I believe that God wants us to reach a point in our relationship with him where what we define as spiritual is truly a manifestation of our own unique identity, as representatives of Christ and his kingdom in the various sectors of how we see and represent him to the world that is pursuing another order of false spirituality.

Welcome to a new world, ordered by lies.

In recent years, the line between what men traditionally call secularism and spirituality has become more blurred. The reality of the new age phenomenon is upon us. The world as we once knew it has drastically changed. Unfortunately, many are asleep, unaware of the undercurrents and visible changes taking place within and around them.

I am sorry to say that many will be victims of the diabolic new world, ordered by lies and deception. What is unfortunate is that most Christians will also be victims of these deceptive changes going on, because they lack the wisdom, discernment, and strength to expose and push and punch back the lies of the enemy.

We are now living in a day and age where the ungodly culture around us is aggressively blurring the lines between light and darkness, and the truth and lies. Lots of people are being sold a lie under the guise of a new-age ideology that they believe is the truth.

The unfortunate reality is that this wholesale iniquity has now infiltrated the general community of the Body of Christ regardless of the traditional or denominational affiliations. Only through the training of our spirits can we distinguish between good and evil. Evil is parading itself today as good, and that which is good is being called evil.

The question is no longer about your personal beliefs, but whether you can back up what you believe with your faith evidence that manifests the hope and love that is in Christ. Hebrews 11:1. I am afraid that you cannot accurately prove anything if you do not have a continual spiritual relationship with God that is backed up with experience and obedience to the voice of the Holy Spirit.

We are told that only those who know their God will be strong and do exploits in the last days according to the book of Daniel 11:32-33. Being strong or to be firm is a result of a conviction that comes from a place of deep experience we have with the only true and wise God. To do exploit in the name of God will result from the continual devotional experience that increases one's knowledge of the truth and the life of God within us.

Knowing God begins with the relationship of our inner man with Christ. For our inner man to have the knowledge and experience of God, he must have the required spiritual training that allows such an experience to become a firm reality. The days are upon us when we need to draw the line through the power of faith and continual experience of God, and this can only happen when we are ready to unleash the power of the inner man through all the necessary biblical spiritual requirements.

God resides in us, in our inner man, not in our brain or soul faculties. We need to journey deep into our spirit to touch the divine life within. The deep must be willing to call to the deep at this hour. If you are not prepared to pay the price to break the shell of the outer man, preventing the life of the spirit from coming forth, how can we represent the prophetic mandate of heaven in this epoch?

There's a false notion that just because we sound 'spiritual or can quote passages in the Bible', we know everything that relates to life, or better still, matters of the kingdom or spiritual warfare. Matters of God's kingdom involve and embody every subject and philosophy that deals with human life and the entire order of creation from the perspective of Jesus Christ.

All biblical truths are parallel.

The spiritual standard laid down by the Church of Ephesus also applies to us today. God does not have double standards for his Church. The quality of spiritual values and requirements for the brethren in the early Church is the same standard the Lord is demanding from us today as the 21st Century Church. Why? The enemy we are dealing with is the same old Satan.

The very same way he attacked the early Church is the same way he is currently attacking the end-time Church. The way he defeated and caused some brethren to fall by the wayside in the scripture is the same way he is currently defeating many within the Church today. Hence, we must understand what is required of us in terms of the quality of spiritual lifestyle needed to stand firm in the Lord.

You and I need to function in the same realm of spiritual (agility) fitness and strength, Brother Paul enjoined the brethren in the book of Ephesians. To maintain spiritual breakthroughs and success in your position as kingdom regent, you must have your eyes and mind fixed on the Lord. You must see yourself in the light of how Christ described you.

Learning to live within the order of God's strength, power, and might, is to function within the order of the truth and life of God. God's truth, when obeyed according to its divine injunction produces and increases the life of God within a believer.

Hence, the more you train to be spiritually fit in all aspects of life, the greater advantage you have in the development and deployment of your spirit man in engaging life's most painful and complex challenges.

Strength for the days ahead

As the line between secularism and spirituality merges to serve the agenda of darkness, you will have to have a clearer and more insightful operational life and system of the divine life of God within you. I am sure you will agree with me in the sense that our battle seems to be divided into two fronts: one is visible while the other is invisible. One is psychological while the other is spiritual.

The invisible battle is more complex and difficult than the visible, but you need to be careful how you handle the physical challenges because they are often the strategy of the enemy to make you lose focus, balance, and motivation in effectively dealing with the forces of darkness coming from another dimension we usually not aware of.

When I talk about visible challenges, I mean the problems that commonly occur in your workplace, home, with your family, financial needs, friends, and colleagues, among other things.

Developing the knowledge and spiritual strength to handle these challenges is critical to maintaining your composure and not faltering in battle. Often, these are battles of attitude, values, communication, priority, and other forms of relationship. If you lack the proper spiritual values, insight, and wisdom, which I would call divine strength and power, these issues can easily be used to defeat you, especially in the workplace or marriage relationship.

The place of marriage relationship and the workplace are the two most influential areas of human life, and the enemy understands this. He often uses these arenas to weaken, frustrate, and in some cases, demobilize even some of the most powerful, God-fearing, Christians if they are not careful and discerning.

People like Moses, Joseph, Esther, Daniel, and David all engaged in their battles in the context of visible, marketplace socioeconomic/cultural challenges; many had personal family problems. They had to apply the strength that comes from the place of their relationship and devotional call to worship God.

The place of prayer and worship is certainly a place where we get trained spiritually. This is one of the most important aspects of our spiritual fitness outside the place of studying God's word.

I will not focus on prayer, worship, and devotion here because we already have solid materials that speak intensely on these subjects. I would rather encourage you to read them on our online resources when you search for Portalsgate.org/pdf and books.

Our Lord Jesus Christ fought his battles from the two main dimensions of life, which can be defined as spiritual and secular, even though we know that there is only one life operating spiritual system that is always in effect, regardless of what we are doing and where we are doing it.

If you only assume that all you need this season is more skill qualification, competence, hard work, and mental fitness to succeed in your workplace, as we generally hear today, I am afraid to say that you don't have the entire picture of what it takes to break through and advance your course in life.

Without a solid root in Christ, who grants you strength, wisdom, power, and favor, you will only end up being disappointed and frustrated due to the issues of the spiritual and socio-cultural complexities of the days. Beloved, the race is not always for the swift, and the battle is not always won by the strong.

The race is not for the swift.

In the realm of Strict training and exercise, speed and agility hold great value. However, the challenges we face in the 21st century demand more than just physical or mental mastery. We must broaden our understanding of strength and adaptability from heaven's view lens.

Learning to be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might is a present position the Church must move into as a revelation of truth that releases the divine life into the spirit of man.

Ecclesiastes 9:11

I have seen something else under the sun: The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favor to the learned, but time and chance happen to them all.

CHAPTER 3

OPERATING THROUGH GOD'S LIFE WITHIN YOU.

Romans 8:6

Reinforcing the old man.

For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

The habitual practice that reinforces the nature of the old man is the number one and most powerful means the enemy uses to hinder the new man from truly developing and transcending into his full, redeemed, life potential in Christ.

Familiar and deceptive spirit employs the practices of sinful desires to keep the redeemed, individuals in the prison of their old thoughts and past experiences from truly growing in the glorious life and beauty designed for them.

Spiritually mindedness is a powerful value system that the Father enjoys every follower of his son, Jesus Christ, to have, because he is the only legitimate channel and means whereby the transmission of the life of God becomes possible, especially through redeemed individuals.

When a person is spiritually minded, they are more in tune with the things of God and can more easily receive and transmit the life of God to others. The character of this inner life of Christ is tripartite, consisting of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit, each of which functions separately but also together. Hence, it is said, the nature of spiritual mindedness is life and peace.

Anyone who is a bearer of the peace of God is certainly a carrier of the divine life of God and a doer of the truth. In contrast, some people let their unredeemed soul dictate their motives, attitude, values, and actions; this is what we refer to as carnality. Carnality is to allow the outer man to determine your appetites and actions through its ability and unregenerate faculties.

The order and operation of death.

The scripture says, to be carnally minded is death. Death is the opposite of what the life of Christ represents to us. Death is what the soul produces outside its submission to the governing, administrative leadership values of the Spirit of God.

We must understand that these are two realities working within us. If you allow your life to be focused and regulated by carnal mindedness, the scripture says, what you're going to have, or produce will be death.

Death in the sense that everything you think, seek, or desire to carry out will not carry the approval of the Father, thus, it cannot give life to you, or anything or persons around you.

Death is the only thing your fallen adamic nature can offer. It doesn't have the power or authority to offer life. Death in this term means exhaustion of your willpower, death, in the form of you, trying to carry out what is good, but at the end of the day, does not produce the intended result of the desired good and satisfaction.

life works through the power of the Cross.

As followers of Christ, we are called to live our lives in such a way that reflects the reality of the divine, resurrected life of Christ living in us. Of course, this resurrected life is only possible through our bearing of the cross, which leads us to the place of death to the rebellious soul-life.

When the sinful, earthly desires are brought under the authority of the government of the cross of Christ, we can then begin to function without limitation, with the power and authority that comes from the resurrection life of Christ.

When we give our life to Christ, according to Romans chapter 6, we are given eternal life. The scripture says the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

When we receive this life, we enter the realm of what I call divine operations of the life of Christ and his kingdom. The kingdom of God is the kingdom of a life-giving Spirit. This life by virtue is righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Now, this life we have inherited, by the rebirth, ought to be the natural habitat of any Christian's way of thinking and responding to life, but we all know that this is not often the case. For a fact, the Lord's desire for us, more than anything else, is to operate from the realm of this kingdom-truth, which produces and manifests his life through us.

However, if we want our spirits to become empowered and strengthened, we must practice the principle of continually dying to our former desires and passions until our hearts begin to long for God. As the Psalmist said, my soul longs for you.

One of the ways we know we are beginning to gain life in our inner man is when our soul faculties begin to long for God. The place of the restoration of the soul is beautiful but also a powerful place to be. The indication of an empowering spiritual awakening is the manifestation of the yearning of the soul for the living God.

CHAPTER 4

THE GREAT DILEMMA

Romans chapter 7

18 For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out.

19 for I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it.

21 So I find this law at work: although I want to do good, evil is right there with me.

22 For in my inner being, I delight in God's law; 23 but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me.

24 What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? 25 Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ, our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

The call for spiritual fitness.

Romans chapters 7 and 8 provide an in-depth case study that any serious follower of Christ should be interested in, particularly if we are serious about the development and strengthening of the spirit man, or the hidden man of the heart, as correctly stated by the King James translation.

Paul correctly diagnosed the problem and the reason why we need to train our spirit if we are serious about walking by the power of the life and authority heaven has made available for us. Yes, we need to address the issue of spiritual fitness and weakness together so we may have a deeper insight into their objectives in our lives.

A lack of spiritual strength is the primary obstacle that has stopped many believers from living their lives to their fullest potential and experiencing the power of Christ within them. He started by sharing his own story of spiritual weakness and how it prevented him from doing the things he loved, according to the laws of God.

He spoke about the internal struggle he constantly faces between the part of him that wants to live according to the law of Christ and the part of him that wants to live according to his natural, sinful desires.

Ignorance of the life within you.

I want us to explore this background as a foundational challenge in understanding spiritual battle, and to appreciate why we need spiritual fitness in the era of being called to function in the arena of the stronger man according to Luke 11:21-23.

The primary problem plaguing most Christians is not the supposed devil's strength, but their failure to recognize and utilize the power that flows from the inner life of Christ within their spirit man.

What do I mean by this? As we know, when we accept the Lord Jesus Christ through grace and his cleansing blood shed on the cross, we enter a new covenant relationship that translates our old former position of weakness into a place of power that can be used against any other forces visible or invisible.

Many in the Body of Christ are not taking advantage of their covenant rights in Christ, especially as it relates to the new position of relationship with the Lord, and this is a deep reflection of ignorance and spiritual laziness.

Being strong and spiritually fit would demand that you seek out in the word of God all the benefits and advantages you have in Christ as a redeemed person. You will have to search through the scripture; you need to be ready and study your rights and authority, so the enemy does not continue to cheat you due to your ignorance.

Vision for spirit's fitness.

Friends, it is essential to both conduct and construct a robust, fearless spiritual retrospect in this season, based on the guidelines, principles, and instruction of the word of God and the Spirit of God in crafting a vision that would allow us to maintain spiritual fitness.

The need for each of us to see why we must give in to the training of our spirit man is something that cannot be neglected or understated. It must become a present priority, not something to push to later. What does the word of God say about your position of fitness?

What scriptures are provided in terms of your position on your legal right to use the authority and power of God? What has the Father provided about how to be spiritually fit for his purpose?

I am providing this context so that we can better understand what is being discussed and expected of us as those who ought to be operating from the position of the stronger man in Christ.

Without a precise and concise vision of why you need to be spiritually fit and sound, you don't have a clear, defined mission drive, and purpose that allows you to go into strict training as often seen by most professional sports individuals.

Whatever we seek to carry out either physically or spiritually, without a defined vision, will eventually fizzle out and die. Our vision is what sustains us and allows us to handle all pressure; even the pressure that tempts us to give up before success is achieved. Having a clear purpose and focus for why we want something gives us the strength and courage to continue when things get tough.

We need a God-centered vision to maintain the focus and drive that keeps us on the path of seeing the inner man arise in the glorious life of his redemptive objective. We need vision to keep reminding ourselves that the outer man is not ordained to be the one determining the course and direction of our existence.

We need a God-centered vision to continue to yield our soul's faculties until the outer shell of the soul life begins to crack in weakness for the inner man to break forth as a fragrance that fills the room. Vision is what keeps our spiritual desire and passion alive without flinching at the threats of the enemy to discourage and distract us from the ancient path of the Spirit.

The fight to empower the inner man.

When the new man, however, is not allowed to be properly fed with the nourishing milk, bread, and meat of the word of God, thereby developing the right spiritual stamina and fitness, it becomes even more challenging for the various spiritual faculties of such a person to develop in a manner where the character virtue of Christ can be formed and manifest through such a person.

Without a deep hunger and passion, backed up by consistent action, and deliberate practice of the fruits of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit, the life of the Spirit can't grow in us, and it becomes impossible for the abiding fruit of the kingdom life to mature within our redeemed spirits.

To have the life of God active in us is to allow the character virtue of the truth to stimulate, guide and determine the desires and decisions we make consistently. Until we allow God's life to awaken the truth within us, the truth we claim to know will remain an intellectual truth that lacks the Father's approval and seal to effect a drastic change within us and around our sphere.

The further danger is, the enemy will always deceive you by assuming that what you know or possess, as head knowledge, is authentic spiritual power. Meanwhile, all you have is head knowledge that produces spiritual pride, deception, and ultimately self-delusion. However, the moment that our outer man and his faculties start to long and thirst after the living God, the life of God already resident within us, starts to gain strength and ascendance.

The reform and transmission of the virtue and values of God's life begin to manifest in such a way that each part of our soul faculties - like our thoughts, emotions, will, and intelligence - begins to respond and release that life in a transforming manner to everything within and around us.

Becoming spiritually fit.

The journey to becoming a spiritually well-developed being must begin with the acknowledgment of the inner weakness and falsehood that has been long time promoted by the soul-life. This must be followed by the willingness to repent and change by starting to practice weakening and neutralizing the old Adamic voice and tendencies within oneself daily.

Eventually, this will lead to the death of the desires and will of the outer man also known as the old man. By living a lifestyle based on the sound biblical injunctions [teachings] and practice of God's kingdom values and culture, you create the opportunity for the life of the truth to be progressively awakened with great power and authority within you.

The truth is, often the things we need to do to enhance our true spiritual identity, character, and value system, are the hardest spiritual disciplines we can ever embark on. However, when such practices become part of your habitual lifestyle, the life of God locked inside you can easily begin to reform and transform you. Then, it begins to gradually flow out from you to impact others around you.

CHAPTER 5

BREAKING AWAY FROM IDEALISM CHRISTIANITY.

Idealism vs Spirituality.

We need to put an end to the idealism of a spirituality that denies the demand of the cross and the call for sacrifice. After all, the Bible tells us that we are supposed to present ourselves to God daily as a holy, living, sacrifice.

We are called to die daily so that the life and power of God can manifest through us. We need to become more authentic in our faith by adhering to sound biblical principles in our daily lives, particularly through the lens of our character attitudes and actions.

When we merely attempt to display a version of Christianity that does not accurately reflect the life of the truth, we are only hypocrites, which makes us victims of the old self-life.

Demons and religious spirits love and appreciate such a life that is birthed and maintained in falsehood and deception, because they can easily be manipulated and used as an instrument of their deceptive and destructive practices, often without you even knowing it.

Keep away from the deception that destroyed many by telling you that the theoretical information or experience you have about the Bible or your Christian life, is translated to the power of biblical spirituality.

Living through spiritual experience.

It's time for authentic spiritual experience, which comes from meditation and practicing what the Word of God says. Stop living your life by the dictates of others' opinions. Start living your life through the knowledge of what you read in the word of God, so the ways of the Spirit can begin to grow and mature in you.

The scripture says, only the doers of the word of God shall inherit the kingdom of God. Only the doers of the nature of Christ will be allowed into the life and power of manifesting the authority of kingdom life.

When people see you as a bearer of this life of God, they should, without doubt, testify of what you manifest without conflict or distortion.

This life is what needs to break through from your inner man, so the world can be truly illuminated. Indeed, it is the life of God within us that produces the transforming light of God in our environment and society.

For in Him was life, and the life became the light of men. This life-producing light is designed to illuminate, expose, and transmit divine energy to heal, strengthen, reform, and restore. It's time to allow the inner life of Christ in you to gain full control and expression of yourself by becoming a true practitioner of righteousness.

Start living by stopping the old Adamic nature from dictating your mood, desire, and actions. Be an authentic, empowered, and sanctified spiritual representative of Christ.

Spiritual maturity is non-negotiable in the season. If you desire to become part of many the Father is calling and training in the ways of his prophetic objective in this hour globally, then you must decide how you want to live your life through the ascended life of Christ.

The choice to shift the narrative and direction of your spiritual state is a personal decision that you are given the opportunity to make. Nobody can make this choice for you, regardless of how close they are to you. This is one of those decisions you will have to personally make for yourself.

We need two kinds of strengths from the Lord.

There are spiritual things heaven desires to lay upon the initial footing and framework of your spiritual knowledge and experience, which will then allow you to move higher towards a more advanced, stewardship responsibility. Indeed, the empowerment of your spirit allows you to become a vessel the Father can depend upon to both carry and execute his kingdom will on the earth.

We need two kinds of power and strength from the Lord: one is the strength and power for our spiritual edification while the second is the power to exercise regency over the realm heaven has placed in our charge. Hence, in our devotional engagement with the Father, we need to ask for the kinds of strength and skill that would allow us to function like Nehemiah. Nehemiah was able to train individuals who could both build with one hand and fight at the same time with the other hand.

They held spears in one hand while on the other hand, they had brick Trowels for the building of the broken gates and walls. We need the type of character lifestyle that enhances the Saints' ability to build a more advanced, spiritual competence that would allow us to run and not be weary, to walk, and not faint in this hour.

We need men and women with the apostolic life and strength found in people like Nehemiah to correctly function amid opposition and resistance of the 21st Century anti-Christ culture. The Father is looking for those with the dual nature of the Lion and the Lamb, like our Lord Jesus Christ. The Saints certainly need these two characters to precisely represent the mandate of the kingdom of God in this hour.

The prophetic ministry of the lion and the lamb are being trained and equipped in this prophetic season to live and function seamlessly as one corporate nature for the advancement of the Father's intention. One of the greatest needs of the hour is to find quality, selfless men and women ready to be used for the prophetic mandate of kingdom assignment.

Eternal life is a present operating tool.

Therefore, if we want to move into this dimension of life, we must first invest in the training and fitness of our inner man to embrace our prophetic identity and culture.

The more Christ and his character values are allowed to be formed in every dimension of our spiritual mindset, the greater the hidden man of the heart is empowered and mobilized to live out his full potential in the advancement of his prophetic governmental assignment within the society and nations.

Indeed, the cross is the best means to accelerate the growth and maturity of the inner man, because it is through the cross that we die to ourselves and are resurrected with the authority and power to function as an agent of eternal life.

The more we live our lives according to the values and objectives that lead us to the foot of the Cross, where the soul-life becomes weakened, the easier it is for the spirit man to become empowered and live according to his eternal life nature.

Life is what anyone who has accepted Jesus Christ and is continually embracing the ways of the cross of Christ carries, and this gives them the necessary edge over the works of the fallen nature that tends to dictate how to live our lives.

When you start to live your life through the life of God, you will no longer feel limited, weak, or like a failure, because those are just projections from your unregenerate soul or that of others.

Every sense of doubt, every sense of misfortune you may be nursing becomes a gradual thing of the past because you've entered the realm of living your life through the power of what is known as the life-giving Spirit nature, which is the true nature of the second man, the last Adam.

God wants us to walk in the authority of his life, but this will only be manifested through our complete submission to his command. Of course, the command of the Lord is not burdensome, but the rebellious soul sees it as a burden. The fallen nature sees doing the will of God as a painful, almost impossible task.

The moment we allow our soul to have a say in how we view the will and demand of the Lord, we indirectly or directly give the enemy a thousand reasons to reject the desired plan and objective of the Lord for us.

When we, however, decide to obey Christ and walk in submission to His will, it becomes increasingly difficult to continue living and making choices based on the desires of our flesh. We must understand what the Lord demands of us and continue to examine and appreciate the concept of training our spirit man to become fit for God's prophetic purpose and assignment.

The Lord's current focus for the 21st-century Saints is on the spiritual fitness of each believer. He wants us to be confident and courageous as we engage in this decade of kingdom warfare against the enemy.

CHAPTER 6

GOING INTO STRICT TRAINING

14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who because of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. Hebrews 5:14.

Those who go into intense training and competition for a sports career understand what is on the line and what they need to do to win. Sometimes, winning a gold medal at a sports event could be considered luck by some individuals who might have participated against the best.

But if the same person who won, did it for five consecutive years in a row, that is no longer a win by accident or luck, but rather a clear indication of his or her skill.

To win in such a fashion is proof that the person is indeed a champion, a master of his craft in winning his game. Life is not a game of chance or luck, but one that is established on the solid foundation of visionary-focused humans, burdened and burning with the passion of fulfilling their reason for living.

Learning the art of winning the battle of life starts with the knowledge of how human life is designed and constructed to function. Man is a spirit, with a soul, who lives in a physical body.

Although each of the three parts of man - the body, the [mind] soul, and the spirit - are designed to function in unity, they each carry their unique faculties and abilities. If we get the order of human existence wrong, we will make many costly mistakes, even in the everyday decisions we make.

The need for biblical, spiritual fitness.

Biblical-oriented spirit fitness is a present demand, whereby the saints see added-value wisdom and necessity in applying the principles, values, and standards found in the Word of God in training their spirit man to grow and regain mastery and ascendance over their soul-motivated appetite lifestyle.

Spiritual fitness is the acknowledgment that for the spirit of Christ to have any impact in the human realm, the inner man must be in alignment with the authority to exercise regency over the predominant force - known as the strong man - who still controls the gates and walls of several lives within the church and societies.

Luke 11:21

Spiritual fitness is about empowering the inner man through a continual lifestyle of submission and obedience to the voice of the holy spirit until such an attitude of total submission in faith becomes second nature in responding to the matters of life. In other words, it's about training your mind and heart to automatically respond to God's leading in every situation.

Why you need your spirit fit.

In recent years, there has been a growing interest among people in the Western world, and particularly in Europe, in finding a way to merge secularism and what they call, and are promoting to be spirituality, until people can hardly differentiate their differences, of course, for diabolical reasons.

Whatever is hidden behind science, they believe, should be accepted and not be probed. Unfortunately, this is one of the easiest ways the power of darkness is getting to control many lives today.

Who says that science is hundred percent correct? One of the rules of science is the fact that it must be probed and proven correct without a shadow of a doubt. It seems today's idea of what is now known as woke science must not be challenged, and if you do, regardless of your position, education, or qualifications in the field of science, you will be judged and counseled by those who claim to be experts on these fields without having the knowledge, qualifications, and experience to show for it.

We've also seen the increasing rise in the practice of Islam and other Eastern forms of religion, particularly yoga exercises and meditation, especially among the corporate community in America and even here in South Africa.

In addition, the number of healthcare, and well-being programs has exponentially increased across the globe and has become a profitable business for many, and you will be surprised how many of these health wellness programs are directly promoting Satanic Rituals and practices without their client's awareness. There's nothing more subtly dangerous than Yoga practice, yet most corporate business folks are flocking to these Yoga classes in droves in the name of some form of needed fitness and emotional healing needs.

The sudden surge of interest in whatever is called spirituality from the new age perspective has become the focus of even millennials. The spirituality driven by self-actualization, dark energy, and anti-Christ beliefs has become the craving of even those in the media world. Anything that is tagged spiritual that doesn't connect to Christ and his Church is a welcome idea for today's world.

Almost everyone today has their interpretation of what spirituality is. Yet, those who ought to be spiritually informed and awakened are in deep spiritual slumber and lukewarmness, as seen in the days leading up to the great flood of Noah.

As for other Christians caught up in the materialistic world, they are just too spiritually weak and trying to survive the economic and financial tsunami drowning the world around them. Their list concern is to be burdened by wasting their time to be spiritually equipped to deal with the negative forces of darkness, rising to frustrate societies and the church from advancing.

To live a life of glory and authority in the realms we have been assigned to govern, the saints of the 21st century need to prioritize spiritual and mental fitness. We train our spirit so that every dimension of our spiritual faculty can be awakened to correctly function in the full max of its divine life and virtue.

Without progressive, continual spiritual training, it becomes more difficult to develop and maintain the correct discerning competence in seeing life correctly and making the right judgments when necessary.

By regularly training and exercising our spiritual muscles, we develop the strength necessary to win the good fight of faith. We train our spirits to know how to rightly divide, and interpret the word of God, especially in this period of gross distortion of God's word.

This training is not only limited to spiritual discipline but is as highly relevant and effective as it is. This training is about the consistency and repetition needed in developing the muscle structure and memory required in the precise response to life.

How often do we quickly forget how to use and apply certain knowledge, especially when the need arises? How often do we respond in the flesh when we know that's not the right way to respond to a situation?

The spirituality of the soul-life

For a long time, most believers have been living from what I call idealistic thinking. An idealist Christian often displays the forms of godliness and righteousness, but when it comes to bearing the fruits of what they claim to know or understand, they cannot because they are not truly saved.

The life of a Christian is not an act, but an art. Following Christ is not acting, and certainly is not some mental or emotional ritualistic practice in which we involve ourselves.

Following Christ, or being a Christian, is a real-life, real-time experience that can only be achieved through the knowledge and experience that comes through faith and obedience to do the will of the Father. The gospel of Christian idealism has offered an alternative to the sound, biblical traditional values defined in the word of God.

This idealistic gospel has continued to misinform the minds of believers, misjudge the virtues and values of God in the name of grace, and has led to misleading the people towards a very weak spiritual philosophy of what Christianity is supposed to be about.

The truth is, most Christians, including those in leadership positions, live far below the available capacity of divine knowledge, wisdom, authority, and other forms of divine resources already available to them because most of them are unwilling to enter the arena of the spiritual gym.

It's going to take a driven, visionary approach to enroll yourself in the gym or some form of sound, apostolic/kingdom training-oriented boot camp that will grow and enhance your fitness levels day by day.

When we neglect to exercise our spirit's muscle unto truth, godliness, and righteousness, we have indirectly given into the power and influence of the soul life. Self-indulgence and carnal appetites often motivate the soul-life. Of course, this means we only do the convincing of its bidding power and influences, even when the spirit seems willing to please God.

The race of a spiritual man.

The spiritual man is called to enroll in a laser-focused race. This race, however, is not in competition with his fellow brethren, or the devil himself. This is a race against himself. It is a race to keep his spirit fit, informed, reformed, and transformed.

It is a race to keep the inner man at the front stage of his life's journey and affairs. It is a race to remain true and loyal to the values and principles of God. It is a race to always maintain divine priority, regardless of the needs or challenges he may face.

The inner man should and must maintain the training that would keep him or her disciplined, focused, and strengthened in the spirit of the vision, in maintaining the divine competence and agility needed as a disciplined soldier of Christ whose ultimate goal is to win the prize of eternal victory and commendation. Please carefully read 1 Corinthians's 9:24-27

Dethroning the outer man.

All power, authority, and dominion have indeed been given to the inner man, but the enemy seems to continue to remain seated on the throne of dominance when it comes to the practice of spiritual [influence] authority.

Yes, the power of God resides within a believer, but he or she has not entered the core experiential reality of such life, to the extent that there is a willingness to completely surrender to the divine process of midwifing the birth of such divine life.

For a fact, you may delight in the law of God after the inward man, but the power to translate the delight or desire into a workable active process that leads to development, reformation, and transformation is not yet there.

When you are not able to manifest the fruit of your redeem spirit, or your carnal desires always influence you, these are clear reflections that your regenerative spirit has not gained the needed spiritual strength and ascendancy over other faculties of your soul nature.

When you find yourself often in a place of doubt, discouragement, and ever complaining, it tells us the soul is still in the driver's seat of your life. The soul needs to be dethroned completely over your will, desire, and passion, then replace it with the government of your spirit through submission to the leadership of the Holy Spirit.

The enemy is well acquainted with how to exploit a believer's ignorance or arrogance to gain ground in their life in a way that appeals to their unbelief or rebellious nature that always seeks to hinder, frustrate, and prevent the governing power and authority of the inner man from emerging.

As I have said, the devil has sought to perfect his craft and scheme of preventing any person, particularly the Christian, from returning to the Tree of Life through the submission of following Christ by daily carrying his or her cross. Of course, the enemy knows with certainty the consequence of allowing such a spiritual exercise; he will be defeated.

Thus, when we speak of training the spirit, or the breaking forth of the inner man, which is living our lives through the administration of the spirit's life, we are not merely referring to the acquisition of some extra power and authority from heaven to fight the enemy.

No, we are talking about engaging in the required spiritual discipline and process that allow the already resident power, wisdom, and life resources inside of you to gain ascendance, precedence, and prominence over your entire state of being, and over any other contrary spirits or entities seeking to speak or lead you, contrary to the written constitution over your life.

The finished work of redemption.

The work of God as related to his redemptive counsel is finished. It is for us to believe and accept that finished work, and if we do, we accept the conditions required to produce and manifest the promise of such finished work. You see, with all promises, particularly spiritual ones, there are conditions, even though we often don't want to believe and accept this truth.

There's a price to accept and benefit from what Christ has done for us. The price starts from believing, walking in faith, carrying your cross daily and following Christ, denying yourself of its old, carnal desire, forgoing your own will for the will of the Father, and trusting and acting based on his command.

As you can see, these are not God's responsibilities; certainly not. These are your responsibility and mine, if we desire to walk in the fullness of our inheritance.

We must cooperate with Christ's finished work by taking delivery of what we are talking about. Hence, it is said, they that must come to God must believe that he is, and he is a rewarder of them who diligently seek him out. We seek the Lord by obeying his rules, values, standards, and principles in all we think, say, and do.

The work of salvation and redemption is finished, and we can neither add nor remove anything from it. However, we must apply ourselves to this finished work through faith and continual obedience to what has been done.

It is a solid fact that the enemy, the devil, has been defeated. He has been stripped of his power, authority, and dominion, but has continued to use all types of gimmicks and schemes, even through secular systems, ancient, prevalent ideologies, and today's culture of selfishness, to hinder believers and the rest of the world from seeing and entering the full dimension of their true spiritual identity and authority in Christ.

We can talk about matters of the kingdom of God and kingdom dominion in the church until we grow blue in the face, for as long as we remain infants and babies in our thought patterns and matters of kingdom knowledge and spirituality, I am afraid, the power of the kingdom lifestyle we ought to manifest, will remain locked away, undeveloped, and inexperienced in matters of the application of divine wisdom needed for life and godliness.

CHAPTER 7

FIT FOR WAR.

Ephesians 6:10

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.

As I have been trying to explain, there is a battle we are currently engaged in, and whether we like it or not, this battle will become more intense. However, we are not doomed to fail, if we precisely understand the side and position, we've been assigned to engage from.

Our strategy for combating evil is to take a position of strength in the Lord, and this position is firmly secured through the power of a devotional lifestyle and an unbroken relationship with the Lord.

In other words, when we are securely established in Christ and the power of his might, we've already defeated the enemy. He knows this, and that is why he will try every trick to ensure he tries to lure us out of the presence of the Lord. He will take advantage of any situation to try to weaken our position in combat by distracting, enticing, and deceiving us away from our strong position. If we can gain an accurate understanding of how he plans and deploys his schemes, we can easily outwit and outmaneuver him.

Saints of all ages who have fought and won in this spiritual warfare have maintained a strong relationship with the Father, despite their pain and circumstance. Even though David was physically no match for Goliath, he had an advantage because he was spiritually fit in his relationship with God. David had a personal relationship with God, and from that position of experiential knowledge, he was able to defeat Goliath, who was a giant.

The truth is, if the believers of the 21st century will step into the arena like David and fight the war against the Goliaths of this generation, we need to be properly trained and equipped in our relationship with the Lord. To do this, we need to have a strong, well-informed experiential knowledge of the Lord. The spirit man must be allowed and given the adequate space needed to know the Lord and the power of His Might, to correctly function in engaging the battle set before him without any fear.

We cannot afford not to train our spirit. Being spiritually fit is something we must work on every day. Many Christians focus more on being physically fit than spiritually fit, and I believe that is a misplaced priority. As we know, the spiritual sustains the body and the natural. If we switch the order, we will certainly have ourselves to blame in the long run. While bodily exercise has its profit, regardless of how minimal that maybe is, it is still required. To, however, set that as a priority in life is to have missed the order of how life ought to function.

The scheme of misplaced priority.

Unfortunately, this is what we are seeing today. Many live a lifestyle of misplaced priority. One of the important aspects of life is to know how to set your life in its order of priority. If you are ever going to achieve success in whatever field of assignment, one of the first things to identify is your distraction and priorities.

In winning wars either in the business marketplace or in physical boot combat, the order of priority is critical. Being able to carefully analyze and identify both the strength and weaknesses of your opponents should inform and define how you should deploy your troops, weaponry, and other resources that give you the upper edge. Certain activities, including sporadic attacks, are designed to create a distraction so you can be attacked on your key strategic points and assets.

Humans, by design, are complex. When you add the complexity of people together with their unending daily challenges that often form and reinforce the basis of their experiences and perspective, you begin to appreciate why people fail or succeed.

The lens view people develop through the accumulation of their experiences, either correct or false, ultimately shapes so many ideologies, beliefs, values, and other things regarding their relationships and general productivity.

You cannot appreciate the force or forces of destruction when you do not have a clear visionary mandate that is set out through a timeline that needs to be fulfilled. Distraction can only be understood in the context of a laid-down vision and the objective that needs to be carried out. In fulfilling this vision, the order of priority must be set in to inform and guide how to fulfill the vision, or else, you will end up without clear direction.

The scripture says all things are lawful, but all things are not expedient. Expediency speaks to the order of vision and priorities. In the journey of fulfilling our assignment, there will always be necessary things and people in our lives that could also be a distraction in fulfilling a specific mission, and they must be identified.

At every season or stage of our life's battle, in reaching the place of victory, we must believe the Father to calibrate our vision so we can identify the next level of distraction that could hinder us from achieving the next phase of our mandate.

The higher we go, the more subtle the distractions. Hence, the more our prophetic sight needs regular calibration to see things and people in their true state of purpose in where we are or where we are going.

The nature of distraction you dealt with yesterday may not be the same character of distraction you will be dealing with today. As your assigned vision and purpose increase and transform, so will your distractions.

As you grow and mature in the Lord and the values of his kingdom agenda, so will the complexity of your distraction grow and increase and even become more difficult to identify. You need to be highly discerning in identifying the scheme of these levels of distractions, positioned to hinder, and if need be, frustrate and paralyze your continual advancement in the Lord.

Tired and frustrated by the old.

The Lord, in this hour, desires to feed his church with a new type of meal that will increase their spiritual energy and ability to carry out the end-time prophetic assignment. But many have become too dull of hearing, and even skeptical to accept his invitation. The level of spiritual apathy in the Body of Christ is concerning, especially when one considers the kinds of agendas being pushed to frustrate the testimony of our Lord globally.

Many spiritual tastebuds are still accustomed to the old diet of Egypt. Many believers, including leaders, suffer from emotional dysfunctionality and damaged identity. Mental and emotional fatigue is on the rise among so-called Christians. The types of prayer that will expedite the manifestation of God's will and unveil his purpose have been relegated to the testimony of those from the past. The Church is currently in a state of spiritual weakness and inconsistency, especially when it comes to what she believes.

Many seem to have reached the point where they don't know what to do with their half-baked faith, which is continually failing them as they try to respond to the challenges of the season.

The half-truth they have been fed and continued to hang unto can no longer take them further, nor can it resolve their inner struggle to escape the entanglement of their flesh desire. Their soul power seems to be gaining a stronger dominance over their faith and desire to please the Lord.

Frustration, dissolution, and more depression are setting in, and it's for this reason many are beginning to turn to an alternative way of what is today called, progressive Christianity in expressing their so-called faith and spirituality, which is part of the enemy's long-term plan to keep their soul entrap.

Several folks today are expecting some kind of solution to magically appear from heaven. However, the Lord has done all the work that needs to be done. There's a divine life deposited within the spirit of these beloved saints, which is only waiting to be allowed to come forth with their assistance. Seasons of neglect of their true spiritual identity have created a big chasm that needs to be reformed and restored to its place of ascendance.

Until the Saints see the need to return to the place of relationship with the Lord, they will, unfortunately, continue to feel weak and tired spiritually. Until the desire is awakened to return to the place of loving and studying God's word with the attitude of seeking to change from the inside out, nothing major will happen in their spirit man in terms of experiencing the joy and peace of God. The Christian faith is built on the Spirit of relationship and not some religious ceremonies and ritualism which so many are engrossed in.

Why you need to train your spirit.

¹ Corinthians 9: 24-27

²⁴ Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.

²⁶ Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. ²⁷ No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

Someone may ask, why is it necessary for me to train my spirit? Well, for the fact that you gain a strong spirit and advantage in your life's journey, I would rather ask this question that sheds more light on what needs to be understood: why do we need exercise training generally?

Why do we need physical exercise? Why do we need mental exercise? Why do we build muscle? Why do we build stamina? Of course, it is to enable us to perform excellently and successfully in the various endeavors we engage and participate in.

Engaging in physical exercise helps us maintain our fitness by enhancing our stamina and strength. It also promotes a healthy lifestyle and sustains our body's metabolism. On the other hand, mental exercise improves our agility and aptitude, enabling us to make correct decisions.

This same principle applies to why we need to train our spirit. We train our spirit to correctly develop the necessary knowledge, skill, authority, and power in executing our redemptive mandate.

Anyone who at least is familiar with the scriptures will hardly doubt or deny that Brother Paul's life is a great example of spiritually intelligent and fit.

Yet, he abundantly makes it clear how he struggled to attain this position of victory through his writing to the Roman brethren, and how the Lord finally brought him to see and apply what he needed to do in his quest for spiritual fitness and fidelity. There is a race before us, but we're unfit and unwilling to accept the discipline and training required. How can we effectively run this race to the finish?

Fit for God's purpose.

Many might find it strange that we are talking about the training of the inner man, who is their true spiritual state. All their life, they've grown up in the church, they've been around people who spoke and taught about spiritual things. Yet, the reality is, very few accurately understood how their spirits were designed to function.

The issue of training their spirit is strange because they've never been taught, even though they've been in church all their lives. The early church and other believers who have been mightily used by the Lord throughout generations learned the art of submitting their spirits first to be trained. No wonder they were fit for God's purpose.

Training is generally necessary. There's absolutely no way we can carry out anything of value successfully, without some form of required training and fitness. However, in the order of preference, your spiritual training must come first, because it sets the precedence first for your approval before God, who then gives you wisdom, stamina, and the necessary speed to win in other areas of life's challenges.

But where there's a lack of awareness of first thing first, and you decide to invest your entire time and resources on your ability to fix things or people by using your willpower, only to realize you're not making progress, and then decide to turn toward a spiritual solution.

This is where this scripture becomes even more relevant. It is not by might or power, but by my spirit, says the Lord. When we try to fix things by ourselves without developing the necessary spiritual framework and understanding, we will end up being frustrated, to say the least.

Prioritizing the training of your spirit man should always be a top priority in preparing to engage in life's challenges. The wisdom here is to master your craft first in the spirit, and then come down to execute it within the human realm.

Most only get to consult their weak spirit after they've exhausted all their physical, emotional, and psychological strength. This is an error, to say the least. Learning to win effectively is what the 21st-century apostolic kingdom saints should be discussing to understand, as we appreciate the complexity of today's world.

CHAPTER 8

TRAINING TO BE COMBAT READY

Colossians 2:15

And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

If we want to properly train our spirit and be fit, we need to always be aware of what the Lord requires, or is up to, through the trials and challenges he allows into our life and space. For example, if we are going through a difficult time, it is likely the Lord is trying to teach us a very important lesson we may need in the coming seasons, which we often don't realize, or it's just another season of growth and maturity.

This allows us to gain the wisdom, experience, expertise, and strength we need as Christ's representatives. When we come to terms with the importance of taking up our cross to follow Christ, we are then given the experiences and might that develop our spiritual muscles and increase our skill competence, which releases our authority and power in fulfilling our assignment as kingdom regents on earth.

In other words, by accepting the challenge of discipleship, we are allowed to grow in faith and become more effective witnesses of Christ. In other words, we need to be willing to suffer and be challenged to grow spiritually and be better equipped to do the work God has called us to do.

The kingdom of God is primarily concerned with the display of God's sovereign power, but this authority is only given to those who have completely died to their

ways, desires, and agenda as we have discussed. We are told that the authority to bind and loose cannot be successfully exercised until our obedience is complete.

Spiritual exercise is highly critical for the end-time church, but this exercise is not just about fighting devils, but also about entering the art of kingdom spiritual experience that produces the power of lifestyle, which allows us to correctly reflect and manifest the wisdom of God even as we advance heaven's prophetic intentions in this present age and the coming age.

This spiritual exercise allows us to gain a greater understanding of God's will and how to apply it to our lives so that we can be more effective in carrying out His plan. Spiritual fitness is not only about being able to defend oneself against demons and wicked spirits, but also about learning how to live life in a way that God's will, wisdom, power, and glory are reflected in every situation.

The whole point of both spiritual training and fitness is to develop our faculties so that we can accurately function the way Christ would, no matter what the situation is. There is no better place to learn about this art of becoming fit and strong in the Lord than in the middle of life's complex challenges.

Having the mind and character of Christ in responding to the highly complex human challenges doesn't happen by chance; it doesn't happen automatically. It begins with taking advantage of the opportunities we are given to face the issues we encounter in our journey through life. The inner man is given a daily opportunity to grow by how we respond to life.

If we remain negative, naive, and resentful about why certain people or circumstances are allowed into our lives, we miss the opportunity needed to grow the muscle of the inner man, and we also empower the outer man to continue to remain in the driver's seat of our lives.

The training of the inner man, or what we also call the hidden man of the heart, needs to be prioritized with the understanding that the outer man, who is the representative of the soul-life, has been mostly in charge of people and realms since the fall of Adam and his wife, even in the garden.

The hidden man of the heart is the true self that needs to be in control, not the outer man controlled by the fallen Adamic value nature. The fall of Adam and Eve resulted in the outer man, or the soul life, taking charge of humanity and the world we live in. Even in the garden, before they fell, the outer man was in charge.

There's virtually nothing you can try to offer the outer man as an alternative to unseat his clench of power and influence over your life that he has not fully mastered. There's no amount of compliance and appeasing of your soul's desire that can ever satisfy him. Seeking to do the bidding of the soul man will only end up emboldening its influence and authority over your life.

Except you start thinking and acting like Christ in attitude, of course, through the help of the Holy Spirit, you will remain under the power and influence of the outer man with few victories here and there, but you will not enter the full glorious inheritance of the Lord for your life.

Entering the place of strength for the last days

On this third day of kingdom reality, the Father desires us to enter another dimension or layer of his power, and authority, through the exercise of our spirit man in righteousness, so we may manifest the dominion of the second man, the last Adam for the earth to see, whereby, responding to the cry of creation for deliverance.

The present directive from the kingdom agenda requires that the saints today maintain the correct measure of divine stamina and stability to further the prophetic agenda of the Father.

As I've said earlier, fighting Satan will be the last thing we need strength and life for, as we begin to realize the authority that will flow out of the place of righteousness, peace, and joy, which are all byproducts of the inner man. In other words, the authority will come from our relationship with God, not our ability or strength.

Those who depend on the soul strength to carry out their activities will get more and more disappointed in these last days because the soul-power is now being judged through the shakings of all things according to Hebrews 12:28. It is wise to shift focus and reliance from the soul-power to the inner life of the Spirit, and this requires adequate training as we have been discussing.

Secondly, there are ministries the Lord desires us to enter on this third day that would require an increased measure of the strength and life of God.

There are dimensions of thought patterns that can only be maintained and attained through the operation of the strength and life of God. As we press further in the things of the Spirit of God's kingdom, we will begin to realize the need for divine strength which is a byproduct of the life of God. To have strength is to have the life of God and to have the life of God resident in you is to be strong in the Lord.

No amount of present fulfillment due to what you've achieved in the past can sustain the soul in this season for several reasons: the season is highly competitive. The desire to ever quest for something new, even if it only lasts for a few days or weeks is a testimony to the kinds of behavioral lifestyle ruling society today.

Understanding the nature of the days you live in allows you to appreciate why you need to function from a higher dimension of the strength of God.

You want to function from that position where the ever-increasing flow of God's River operates; you want to maintain your joy, peace, and right standing before the Lord. You want your motivation to continue to flow from the realm of the Spirit and not from your inconsistent soul order.

Righteousness is a position of power and authority, and it comes from the Father through the blood of Christ that cleanses us from all guilt and shame. Living from a place of continual sanctification and sacredness is a powerful location we want to maintain regardless of the arrows being thrown at us. The more we understand and wear the garment of righteousness as it is required of us, the lesser the old sinful nature and its influence have power over our lives.

The Lord desires us to enter the dimension of eternal life as it is the only approved, operating value of existence. Do take the time to carefully read the scripture in 1 Corinthians chapter 15 that says, flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God. Meaning, if we truly desire to see the kingdom life and its operational values and strength manifest in, and through us, we must shift focus from what is known as flesh and blood, which is the order of the carnal, fallen nature of man.

When people try to live out biblical Christianity through their strength and willpower, it always fails because it's impossible. Unfortunately, this is something that many people have been doing for a long time now. We need to shift our focus completely from the works that only gratify the pleasure of the soul man.

We need to see the possibility of living through the life and power of the spirit of the living God, not through our religious standard, which is ineffective and lacking, to say the least.

Heaven desires us to enter a dimension of a spiritual lifestyle, where the authority and power of the age of eternal life begin to manifest and function in us to the degree that the kind of lifestyle and activity, we are carrying out on earth Fastrack the return of the Lord.

It's time for the life and ministry of the stronger man to emerge without resistance. It's time for the brightness of God's glory hidden away to be given prominence to shine through us. What is already shining in us now needs to shine through for the world to see.

We are told that when the strong man keeps his house in order, his goods are safe, but when a stronger man comes along to invade the position of the strong man, he plunders and takes his goods away. Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, has conquered death itself and led all those who were captive to sin and death out of their captivity, through the power of his death on the cross.

Today, we operate from the life and strength of the stronger man who is the Lord himself. As we continue to respond to the values and lifestyle of the stronger man, the more we advance heaven's prophetic mandate for our generation. Beloved of the Father, we can walk in victory, as we continue to yield ourselves in obedience to the finished work of the stronger man. Luke 11:21-23

Functioning from the realm of divine life.

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I have come that they may have life, and have it in all its fullness.

It is important we clearly state that the position of strength and power for the last day church is the position of a life-giving spirit. The difference between the former order and the third-day church is that of life. Life is the operating system that releases the light the last day ecclesia must illuminate across the nations.

Heaven is calling all Saints who have been assigned with an apostolic mandate in this season to enter the realm of a life-giving ministry. We are told, according to 1 Corinthians 15:45 it says. So, it is written, the first man, Adam became a living being.

However, the last Adam is a life-giving spirit. This is the state and condition this present apostolic Church is called to operate from; the position of a life-transmitting agent. As we enter the art of the Kingdom lifestyle, no one must function lesser than the ascended, operating order of a life-giving spirit.

Indeed, we will continue to embrace and teach on issues of sound biblical doctrines and theology. We will engage in robust debates and carry out all the necessary services to keep the community of the ecclesia functional and relevant to society, but they must be done from the position and perspective to offer the life of God.

The most important need of the hour is the operating system of the life of God. The Bible says creation is waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God. The sons of God are carriers of not just doctrines and theology but the very life of God. It is the life of God that empowers true biblical doctrine.

Whatever the life of God touches comes to life. The scripture says this is life eternal that they may know you... As we press into the ascended reality of knowing the Father through the revelation of Christ, we seek a deeper deposit of the resource within the life of God into our spirit-man.

Beloved, creation needs Life. The world needs God's life, everything around us is dying, and they need the life of God. So, God wants you and me to be men and women who can carry and function within the order of his divine life.

It is in this order of life that we can minister to Creation. Even our praise and worship as the corporate Body of Christ needs a touch of God's life so the people involved can be truly transformed by the presence of God. When we worship God, from the position of death, it does not glorify the Father.

The essence of death is for the new life of God to be manifest in and through our lives. As we embrace more of the realities of the message and spirit of the Cross in our daily lifestyle, the more we increase in the glorious reality of the increased life of God.

Death has paved the way for the divine life of God to abide in us. Now, we have come to a higher dimension of this life because we see daily, please the Lord through our surrendered attitude to his will and counsel. Daily, we seek the kingdom of God to come into our space, we yield ourselves to the training of our spirit man, and we continue to pray and fast as the Spirit of God prompts us.

We move further towards the place of selfless giving towards the cause of God's kingdom agenda. We are the company of the bearer of the life of God. Our inner man, the spirit-man has arisen with a new ascended authority through the power of obedience and continual devotional lifestyle. Hallelujah!

CHAPTER 9.

THE SPIRIT OF AHIMAAZ

Being fit without a [message] purpose

2Samuel 18:22-24

As I close on this insightful, highly needed subject, allow me to draw your attention to a different but complementing truth on this issue of strength and fitness in this season, which we believe is highly needed, as we enter a dimension that requires our spirit to be strong and effective in engaging in the next prophetic frontier.

In this season, the spirit of the Lord emphasizes the importance of having a clear and comprehensive understanding of the spiritual realm in which we are called to operate.

Our spirit man needs to be empowered with courage and stamina so that the enemy will not outlast us in the war. We must learn how to run the race set before us with persistence and perseverance. Agility and endurance must be embedded within the core principles and culture of our existence, so we don't burn out or be outdone by the schemes of the enemy on the battlefield.

The protracted battles that we are already facing at these ends of days will continue to unfold and test every possible knowledge, strategy, and spiritual experience we may think we possess and have mastered. The understanding that Christ is our Wisdom must be our guide if we want to achieve victory. Spiritual understanding and maturity must call us to attention as we explore this spirit that can easily defeat anyone who believes all it takes to win is a skill.

We need to be wary of what I call the spirit of Ahimaaz, the son of Zadok who we found in 2nd Samuel. Chapter 18. We are introduced to his ability as a runner. This guy was quite fit; a true athlete, who has mastered the art of speed and stamina but lacked the necessary character attitude, and restraint, and this cost him dearly, as he forced himself to run to deliver a message he was not prepared for.

Joab, David's army general, told Ahimaaz that he is not prepared or fit for the kinds of sensitive message he wants to deliver. While Joab needed someone fast to break the news of the death of the King's Son, Absalom. This news, however, requires someone more composed, mature, and wiser in the art of delivery. However, this young, energetic speed runner, insisted he is the man needed for the Job.

Without a doubt, this guy seemed to have the skill, stamina, and strength of a runner. But in this situation, he was not called to run, but because he believed he had the capacity, he forced himself on the job he was not assigned.

To carry a message that was not given to us, even though we seem to have stamina and speed, is to waste our stamina, fitness, strength, and grace. The Lord drew my attention to the scripture, and I realized how the present awakened Church must be wary of this same spirit, particularly, at these last days of great deception. Sometimes, even when we think we have the necessary skills, competence, capacity, or resources, we must wait for the message and mandate before acting.

It is important not to force the hand of the Lord or those in higher positions to act. The attitude of Ahimaaz highlights several issues we need to uncover in our individual lives if we are to win the battle set before us. In the character behavior of Ahimaaz, we see a highly insecure person, who lacked wisdom, is highly zealous without the necessary knowledge, driven by gift without the life-nature of the fruit of the Spirit, and Ambitious without vision and a sense of timing.

He sought to promote himself without waiting on the opportunity provided by the Lord. This young, highly fit man was after all, dysfunctional in his perspective. He had not completed his course on spiritual fitness and walking in the strength of the Lord.

Being prepared should not just apply to specific talents or abilities. We need to be well-rounded in our preparation. Our purpose is not just to impress the Lord with our gifts, but also to assist others who will be called to serve the Lord with their gifts or talents. Some may have the necessary skills but have not yet received their calling.

It's important to be spiritually discerning, compliant, and open to the Lord's guidance. Developing maturity is essential to achieving spiritual growth and readiness, particularly as we focus on matters of spiritual fitness.

We cannot be all fixative of skill without the fitness of our spirit. The character of Godly virtue must be prioritized regardless of the situation. We want to listen to what the Spirit of the Lord demands before we jump, only to realize that the Lord may not want to send us.

Being fit is most accomplished by being given the message and demanded to engage. These are part of the spiritual discipline the Lord is bringing into our space as we get ready, to engage in the battles of the end of days. Even though Ahimaaz seems to be physically fit, he is not mentally or spiritually ready for the assignment.

It is not in our place to start to probe why he was not chosen to carry the message to the King. Ours is to draw a lesson from the attitude of childishness played out by this guy, who insisted on taking the message because he so trusted in his speed.

Yet, through hindsight, we can see the several reasons Ahimaaz was indeed, not the person to carry the message to the King. This young man's agenda seems as one who needed a favor from the king, hence, he projected himself which was a bad move.

The world's system would tell you to take advantage of the occasion, but he was wrong. Even though he had a firsthand witness of what had happened, he would have lost his life for what he had witnessed regarding the death of Absalom, due to the agenda of Joab. Yet, he insisted he wanted to take the message to the King.

He said to the general of the army of King David, "I want to run, what come may, I must run!" After Joab told him You are not the one chosen to run with the message, he said, "Let me run behind the Cushite", and of course, he outran the Ethiopian sent with the message.

As both men approached the town gate, the gatekeeper immediately recognized Ahimaaz due to his skill of running, then they saw another runner behind him. As the visibility of Ahimaaz got clearer to the gatekeepers, the King said, he is a good man, he must be coming with a good message. As Ahimaaz got close to the King, he shouted, "All is well". As he got before the King and bowed down to the ground and said “

2 Samuel 18

27 The watchman said, "It seems to me that the first one runs like Ahimaaz son of Zadok." He's a good man," the king said. "He comes with good news."

28 Then Ahimaaz called out to the king, "All is well!" He bowed down before the king with his face to the ground and said, "Praise be to the Lord your God! He has delivered up those who lifted their hands against my lord the king."

29 The king asked, "Is the young man Absalom safe?" Ahimaaz answered, "I saw great confusion just as Joab was about to send the king's servant and me, your servant, but I don't know what it was."

30 The king said, "Stand aside and wait here." So he stepped aside and stood there.

31 Then the Cushite arrived and said, “My Lord the King, hear the good news! The Lord has vindicated you today by delivering you from the hand of all who rose up against you.”

32 The king asked the Cushite, “Is the young man Absalom safe?” The Cushite replied, “May the enemies of my lord the king and all who rise up to harm you be like that young man.”

33 The king was shaken. He went up to the room over the gateway and wept. As he went, he said: “O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you—O Absalom, my son, my son!”

As we can see from the reading of the scripture, Ahimaaz was set aside by the King because he had his agenda through the manner, he began his narrative of the story of the death of Absalom to the king. The Cushite was finally given to the audience to break the news to the king. We must learn this great lesson, particularly in this age where we are constantly being told we must seize the opportunity.

We need to be clear about the door the Lord has opened for us, so we can make use of the skills or strength he has given us. We must never assume because we’ve got skills, therefore, we are in the position to make the call. Waiting on the instruction and directive of the Spirit is highly critical at this end of the day.

There are both moral and spiritual lessons to extract from the verse that I hope will continue to speak to the young and vibrant 21st Century Church. If the issues of constraint and restraint are not established with our training program, many of us might end up like Ahimaaz, the son of Zadok. We don’t want to miss our prophetic mandate due to ignorance and immaturity.

Beloved of the Lord, so many truths, principles, and values have unfolded through this material. It is my deepest desire that you will not allow these truths to slip past or be kept on some bookshelves, but rather use the material.

With the knowledge and tools, you have now, you can train your spirit to be strong enough to handle any challenge the enemy may throw at you. The scripture tells us that the spirit of a man is able to sustain his infirmity. Now, this is one of the most profound statements in the word of God, and I strongly believe that what we've been examining through this material is the key to unlocking the ability of our spirit to sustain whatever form of infirmities the devil may bring away. Several types of needs and challenges can be categorized as infirmities.

We have infirmities that come from emotional pain, we have infirmities that impact our health, and some impact our spirit, our business, relationships, etc. However, these infirmities can be handled if the spirit of a man is fortified with the necessary strength from the Lord.

What we need to continually engage ourselves is a deeper relationship with the Holy Spirit, who is the revealer of all truth relevant to keeping strong and stable even during the most difficult times.

This is a time prophetic tool in the advancement of the kingdom agenda for the days before us. Keep training your inner man by developing a prompt response attitude of obedience to the demand of the Lord. Keep increasing the illuminating power of God's light as you press into the life of God.

Let your spirit man gain the needed ascendance in the place of prayer, fasting, meditation, and the instruction of the Lord. Keep growing unto the full status of Christ. Please share this material with others who you believe will read and study the truth established in it.

For more enriching material, please, do visit our website: www.portalsgate.org.

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