

RESTITUTION

THE THRILLING TESTIMONY
OF A 419 FRAUDSTER
WHO REPENTED

JOSHUA SAMUEL

RESTITUTION
THE THRILLING TESTIMONY
OF A 419 FRAUDSTER WHO
REPENTED

by **JOSHUA SAMUEL**

OTHER BOOKS FROM THIS MINISTRY

- 1) SUBMISSION (THE AUTHORITY CHANNEL OF GOD AND THE ONLY WAY TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD) by JOHN DANIEL
- 2) CHRISTIAN RACE TO THE END (QUALIFICATION FOR THE THRONE) by JOHN DANIEL
- 3) TABERNACLES AS A SHADOW OF CHRIST by JOHN DANIEL
- 4) END-TIME SPIRITUAL WAYS OF PRAYING (COVENANT PRAYERS THAT PRODUCE INSTANT RESULTS) by JOHN DANIEL

September 1999

No part of this book may be reproduced, or photocopied, or stored in any retrieval form, electronic, recording or otherwise without the written permission of the Author.

All Scripture Quotations are from the authorized King James Version of the Bible.

FOREWORD

When the great Apostle of the circumcision Simon Peter by the leadership of the Holy Ghost spoke in Acts of the Apostles, *“And He shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you. Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began”* (Acts 3:20-21). I know that the Christian fold will be kept in the dark concerning how and when this restitution of all things will become a reality, not minding that there are some of the examples of this restitution in the scripture. Like what this scripture from the mouth of Apostle Peter said, the heaven and their authorities have not only received the Lord Jesus as the Author and Finisher of everything concerning restoration, but they are also holding Him from coming, until the times set by the Father for the restitution of all things.

What does restitution of all things stand for? I will like to answer this question with some scriptural backing because, when man lost the kingdom to Satan in the garden of Eden, everything that can give life enough comfort as God intended, was also lost. Spiritual comfort, physical, material, financial, marital, healthwise, etc. were all lost to the devil. Therefore when Jesus came, through His death on the cross, He restored all these lost glory back to humanity. This is why the heaven and the authorities over

there are still holding Him from coming until all things are restituted accordingly as He has done it. As we approach the end when the authorities of the kingdom of Heaven are about to allow our Saviour Jesus Christ to come and translate the saints to heaven, before the gruesome reign of Antichrist, the Spirit of restoration has been poured or released to bring conviction upon mankind, to start restituting back what does not belong to them in the areas where they are convicted. Therefore just as many have restituted their spiritual lives back to God, Abraham sent away Hagar with her child Ishmael in Gen.21:9-14, as a way of obeying the law of restitution maritally, Abimelech the king and Pharaoh restored Sarah back to Abraham in Gen.20:3-18, ch. 12:15-20, Zacchaeus in Lk.19:1-10 restored all he stole back to their rightful owners with some interests as recorded in the scripture, this is how I have witnessed a thrilling testimony of an ex-419 fraudster and as Asthmatic patient who received this Spirit of restoration, and restituted all he stole fraudulently, after which he gave himself wholly to the service of the Lord. The testimony is heart touching thereby exposing an unbelievable corruption in the society and the corrupt practices of those expected to keep the law. I now leave you with this exciting testimony as you read on.

Pastor John Daniel

DEDICATION

To Jesus Christ the King, the Author and Finisher of restitution, who was, and is and is to come, the Almighty. To all those who will retribute all their ill gotten wealth, so that they may dwell in the presence of God the Father, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

COMPLIMENTS

I want to compliment the great efforts of the following people for all their support in every way to make sure that the will of God is done in my life. Great thanks goes to my shepherd, Pastor John Daniel, his wife, Sister Mary Blessings Daniel and their kids, Timothy, Benjamin, and David. They made sure I never lost hope inspite of all the trying periods and took me into their home as a son, fed me spiritually and physically, and continued to render both financial and material help to me. I thank God especially for my Pastor, who shared part of the sufferings with me by the great humiliation he suffered, when he was locked up with me in a police cell, for an offence he neither knew nor committed. I pray for the peace of God to remain upon them eternally Amen. I also thank my covenant brethren in this Ministry of Help and Reconciliation, who helped in various moral and spiritual ways to see that this restitution becomes a reality. Worthy of mention are Moses Amos and Jonah David, who were part of my running around within the police circle. I bless the good name of the Lord for my parents, Prof. W.O. Chukudebelu and Dr. (Mrs) N.O. Chukudebelu, who have suffered great pains because of my decision to obey God. I will not fail to give great commendation for my father's unbelievable financial support, who inspite of the fact that I refused to finish up

my University Education, has not failed to be giving me money for my upkeep, since my conversion.

A lot of thanks goes to the following people for all their efforts in ensuring the release of those properties used for restitution: Commissioner Emeka Anadu rtd. and S.P. Jacob Ajayi, both of them never got tired of my constant visits to their offices to help effect the release of the properties, and their great encouragement that the properties will be released. A.S.P. (Mrs) Ogbodo, Sergeant Abraham Ogaba, Corporals John Erondu and Chris Alams, Chiedu Obi, A.C.P. Chukwurah, S.P. Sam Okaula, S.P. Oyeyepo, D.S.P. Ayo Fasanya, Commissioner Abubakar Tsav rtd., who unlike Pilate in the Bible that lost the opportunity God gave him to release Jesus, utilized his own golden opportunity by yielding himself as a vessel of honour in releasing the properties. I also give great compliments to these special friends who helped me financially, morally, and materially each time I needed such help, to see that my decision to obey God becomes a reality; Emmanuel Madagu, Engr. Obiora Nwizu and family, Engr. Charles Amulu and family, Dr. Obi Olisah, Ejike Mojekwu and family, Tunde Osunredo, Cajetan Okekearo and family, Uche Umeh, Anthony Okoro and family, and the staff of Mobile Systems Ltd., Okey Dimoji, Okey Okoro and family, Goziem Ufodike and family, Barr. Uche Okoro and family, and Nnamdi Okoro. Not to forget are Emmanuel Isaac, and Romanus Owoh, whose great financial supports and other assistance they rendered, made

it possible to publish this book. I also thank God for my sister and her husband, Ifeoma and Ben George-Ufot, who changed their attitudes towards me, when they saw that my decision to obey God is irreversible and rendered a great help to me in the typing of the manuscript.

Finally, I have reserved this portion to thank my God for the priceless support of this family and office, the Chuka Okoli and Associates. Notable among them are Barrister (Mrs) Ngozi Jane Okoli, Barrister Lotanna Okoli and family, and all the staff of Chuka Okoli and Associates. This office stood solidly behind me, walked with me to and fro the Lagos Police Command, and the Police Force Headquarters at Kam Selem House, Moloney Street, and they were even ready to go to Court and stop the injustice of those officers at G.I.D. Police Headquarters, Ikeja.

I pray that God will reward all the people who played a part in making this a success, whether their names are mentioned or not, in the mighty name of Jesus, ãAmen.ö

CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1: WHO IS JOSHUA SAMUEL ?

CHAPTER 2: MY FRAUDULENT ACTS.

CHAPTER 3: HOW I MET THE LORD.

CHAPTER 4: THE BATTLE FOR
RESTITUTION
BEGINS.

CHAPTER 5: SATAN FIGHTS TO STOP THE
RESTITUTION THROUGH
MY FRIEND.

CHAPTER 6: MY STRUGGLES TO PUT THE
RAMPAGING ATTACKS OF
MY FRIEND AND HIS ALLIES
TO A HALT.

CHAPTER 7: MY ENCOUNTER WITH THE
POLICE AS MY FRIEND
PETITIONS THE C.P.

CHAPTER 8: THE ILL MOTIVES OF THE
OFFICERS AT G.I.D. UNVEILED.

CHAPTER 9: GOD'S INTERVENTION
DISPOSES THE ILL PROPOSED
PLANS OF THOSE OFFICERS

CHAPTER 10: THE JUDGMENT OF GOD
FALLS ON THOSE THAT
RESISTED THE RESTITUTION

One

WHO IS JOSHUA SAMUEL ?

I was formerly Obiora Chukudebelu until I met the Lord in 1997, got converted and God by His grace gave me a new name (i.e. new power and authority) as Joshua Samuel. I was born on the 14th of December 1973, at University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, Enugu, to Ibo parents. My father is Professor Wilfred Obiora Chukudebelu, a Professor of Medicine, while my mother, Dr. Nnanu Chukudebelu, has a Doctorate degree in Finance.

We are five children (3 girls and 2 boys) in the family of which I am the last. My parents are devout Anglicans, so we were raised according to the doctrines of the Anglican Church. I had Jaundice at birth which made my chances of survival slim, but my Saviour Jesus Christ, knew I was going to live and preach the good news, as He made sure that I was born on the 14th, which stands for Salvation or Deliverance even as the name Joshua.

As I began to grow, I discovered that I was Asthmatic too (NOTE: I put òI hadö, because I do not have it anymore). I had frequent attacks of malaria and catarrh while growing

Comment [JS1]:

up, so I could hardly stay without a handkerchief. I was exempted from some of the house duties such as sweeping, because dust excites asthma. I had a very lovely and comfortable childhood regardless of my health, with an ambition too great for my age. It was this great ambition that led me into so many fraudulent ways of making money as they will be unfolded in this book.

Though I wasn't exceptionally brilliant in school, my parents who had great love for education made sure we were all well educated. So I started school on a bright note, having attended the best schools in Enugu then. I attended Statrite Nursery School Ogbete Enugu, 1977-1979; Ekulu Primary School, 1979-1981; University Primary School, 1981-1985. I sat and passed my Federal Common Entrance Examination and went into Federal Government College Enugu from 1985-1991. My father is a strict disciplinarian, while my mother had a soft spot for me being her last born son. Therefore before I sat for the JAMB Examinations, my father wanted me to fill in University of Nigeria Nsukka for first choice, so that he could keep an eye on my nefarious acts and also on my health.

However I connived with my mother, who was keen on granting any request I made, and secretly filled-in University of Lagos as first choice, though my father was later informed. The reasons I filled University of Lagos as first choice were; firstly, I had been in Enugu all my lifetime, and I wanted to have a change. Secondly, I

wanted to avoid my father's strict nature as I understood it then, so in order to make way for my plans of hitting it big, since I understood from friends that asthmatics don't normally live too long, I vowed to enjoy my few years on earth to the fullest. Thirdly, I knew my father would never associate himself with anyone who has criminal tendencies, and would readily disown that person whether he or she is his own son or daughter. The fourth reason was that a lot of people had told me that Lagos is a place one could easily achieve his ambitions, once the person has his priorities right.

When the JAMB results came out late 1991, I gained admission into the University of Lagos to study Civil Engineering. My heart's desire had just started yielding fruit as I came to Lagos and saw for myself that one could become what he or she wished to just by a stroke of luck.

According to the scriptures, *“there is a way that seemeth right unto a man but the end thereof are the ways of death.”* (Prov. 16:25).

All the time I nurtured these plans to fulfill my heart's desires and ambition, I could only see the beginning which looked so rosy and exciting, but I failed to see the end. A lot of young people today make the same mistakes because all they see is the present and not the future. Whichever way anyone acquires wealth, whether through good or evil means, the end will eventually reveal it.

During my first year, I stayed with a guardian at their family house till I was allocated a room at one of the

hostels in school. Because of that high ambition and urgency to become rich quick, I spent most of my time outside the University premises looking for whatever to do to earn some cash. I had no interest in school work so I took off with selling air fresheners for a client of the family friend I used to stay with before I got accommodation in school. After a short while the business became too slow for me so I abandoned it halfway. I then managed to locate a cousin of mine who was working at a Cellular Phones Company. I paid him regular visits and he taught me a lot about phones. He pushed a lot of deals my way so that I could make some quick money. I then later moved in with my elder sister and went to school from her place. I had all I needed to be comfortable but they all appeared to have a low ambition to me, judging from what I had in mind. I kept on with Cellular phones for a while because it offered a lot of "easy" money which were useful to my needs then. I never had any interest in socializing with people in school, all I wanted was how to make money because even the scripture has it that, *"For wisdom is a defence and money is a defence, but the excellency of knowledge is that wisdom giveth life to them that have it."* (Eccl. 7:12) Therefore due to my shallow thinking then, I reasoned that since wisdom is a defence, and money is also a defence, it then means that money is wisdom, and that the best of knowledge is that money will give life to he who has it. I strongly believed this, and was in no way ready to receive any other interpretation for the above scripture. However,

because I had no knowledge of the Word of God, I could neither see nor understand the scripture which says, *öBut they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil, which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.ö*(ITim.6:9-10)

I had great love for money and I was not ready to stop at anything just to fulfill my dreams no matter what the consequences were. I was therefore meant to go through many evils and sorrows since I greatly coveted after money. That cousin from whom I learnt about cellular phones, later opened up his own shop where I worked part time before I teamed up with one of his staff to open up a jointly owned outlet for phone sales. We sold phones while I kept looking out for other ways of making extra money.

Two

MY FRAUDULENT ACTS

“Bread of deceit is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel.” (Prov.20:17)

Sometime in my third year, I was introduced to the much talked about fraud known as 419. As I learnt more about it, I discovered it to be one of the fastest means of making money without much capital. All that is needed was for one to lay hold on as many addresses of foreigners as one could get, then get them posted and wait for replies. I also got to know that a lot of people had become extremely wealthy from this fraudulent means.

During one of the numerous strike actions in school, I moved in to stay with another family friend of mine who was into fraud, and through him learnt a lot about it. Towards the end of 1994, we managed to defraud a Greek businessman some money, which was equally shared between us. I and this friend later fell apart when we disagreed on basis of sharing, so I left to start off my own organization. I managed with my own share of the loot, to get a phone line fixed at a friend's place in Enugu, where I received through fax the replies of the letters I had posted,

while I made contacts through fax and phone from Lagos. I still sold cellular phones and the money I got from there was used to purchase more foreign addresses, to offset the phone bills, and to get more letters posted to those addresses.

In February 1995, I traveled to Ghana with a friend whom I had met in school, to get some of our letters posted from there, having been previously informed that Ghana had one of the most efficient postal services in West Africa. These letters contained attractive offers of business deals here in Nigeria. They stated that some companies that executed projects for the country in the past, but had not been paid were now about to be paid their fees having reviewed their contract agreement. But due to the fact that these firms after having been searched for, were discovered to have dissolved without any possible trace, the said fees to be paid now lies idle in the vaults of the Central Bank of Nigeria. These foreigners were now asked to send their company and bank particulars while we as government officials will fill in their company as those that previously executed such contracts so that the funds could be released to their bank accounts for us all. He as the provider of the particulars would take 30% of the total fees to be paid, which normally runs into millions of dollars, we as the originators would take 60% being many in number, while 10% will be used to settle all expenses that were incurred during the transaction.

These were basically the contents of such letters and we took our journey to post them from Ghana. All through our journey were encounters of several hitches here and there but we finally managed to get to the Ghanaian border. As we were about passing through the last security checkpoint with the help of touts, one of their Custom Duties Officers refused us entry after opening and reading through one of our letters. We offered a lot of money to pass but he bluntly refused to neither take our money nor let us go. We begged and begged but to our greatest surprise, he took us straight to their office and had us locked up in one of their cells. Everything just seemed like a big joke till we stayed in those cells for two whole days without breathing fresh air from outside. We didn't know what to do, since we were locked up in a strange country far away from Nigeria, without any form of communication to our relatives in Lagos. On the third day, we were brought out of the cell and taken to their Investigation Department for interrogation, after which we were driven to their local Police Station and locked in separate cells.

“The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him: but the desire of the righteous shall be granted.”(Prov.10:24)

One of my greatest fears as an unbeliever was, detention in a police cell or being sent to jail. These fears were so horrifying to me that I never wanted to even imagine them. Though with the kind of ambition I had, such detentions were likely to come frequently, but I hoped to escape them if and when they eventually come. For me it would be a

nightmare being detained here in Nigeria, but here was I in detention, and in GHANA. A strange country with totally new people and culture. I tried so much to get my mind off the fact that I was locked up in Ghana all the time I was there, but it was true, and every minute confirmed the manifestation of my worst nightmare.

After about a day, I summed up courage to discuss with the few inmates that understood a little English who then advised me to talk to one of the lady police officers there in the Station, who was likely to have compassion and render some form of help. I did as I was advised, and after we had a lengthy discussion, she agreed to tell the Magistrate to have us remanded in police custody for more time to get our relatives in Lagos informed of our present condition, so that they could come to our rescue. I gave her all the money I had hidden with me to enable her send telegrams to my two sisters in Lagos. She spoke with the Magistrate and also sent the telegrams. She told us to plead "not guilty" when arraigned in Court, so that the Magistrate by this plea will have us remanded in custody for two weeks. We went to Court the following day and all went as she had said, so I immediately knew she was the one to trust, just as the inmates had earlier confirmed. Somehow the news spread on how I had given the lady officer money for assistance. So

Later that day, my Investigating Police Officer or my I.P.O. called me to inquire if the rumor was true or not. I denied of having done such a thing though he kept insisting

it was true, and he left off with a vow that he was going to make sure I went to jail. Almost all the male police officers became so furious over this development that they all vowed to make my stay most uncomfortable. With the little knowledge I had of the conditions of the cells in Nigeria, the ones in Ghana made them look like heaven. The cell in which I was locked up had a wooden door for entrance and exit. The only form of ventilation were just five holes, two each on the opposite walls just before the roof and big enough for a match box, while the other one was at the door, just big enough to contain half one's head. In there was a pit toilet and beside it was space for bathing. The cell was so small that when we all will sit with our backs to the wall, the legs of the people opposite would almost be touching the thighs of those in front of them, and we had to lie on our sides because there was no space for everyone to lie either on their backs or on their stomachs. Whenever anyone was taking a bath, the water would continue to splash everyone in the cell till the bathing was over. I can't recall my skin ever being dry because the heat in there was unbearable, that sweat kept pouring down our skin. It is better not to think of that cell and its conditions because whenever I remember that place cold shivers run down my spine. The lady officer used her own money to get me a can of dusting powder because the heat gave me serious rashes on my body that the itching became an ordeal. One night, I had a severe asthma attack from which I fainted due to lack of air in my lungs. The commotion it caused

that night was so much that I had to be taken to the hospital first thing in the morning, in handcuffs accompanied by two armed policemen beside me. This caused that lady officer to always have me removed from the cell for more air whenever she was on duty, but as soon as her time was up, the male officer that would take over from her would have me thrown back inside.

After a few days, my sister came with a cousin of mine. They stayed for some days and spoke to all the officers concerned with my case. The date for us to go to Court drew nearer, but my cousin returned to Lome and then Lagos to take care of a problem that developed on their way coming to Ghana. Those male officers tried so much to make things impossible for my sister but she managed to scale through, thanks to that lady officer. It is true that God will always raise a deliverer in whatever situation or difficulty we find ourselves.

The day for us to go to Court came finally, and we were released on option of fine, which my sister immediately paid at that Court premises. On getting back to the station to pick up our personal belongings, one of the male officers threw my friend back into the cell. As he was about giving us our passports, he discovered that the one my friend had come with wasn't his, so he was detained for one more day. My sister and I left for Lagos while I returned the following day having raised the money they requested for my friend's release. A Togolese security officer who met my sister while we were still in detention took the money

from me, went to Ghana and got my friend out, while I stayed back at Lome waiting. My friend and I left for Lagos that day after we had arranged with the security officer on how he would be assisting us post letters from Lome. Though I had vowed in that dingy cell, not to get into fraud if I ever tasted freedom again, I had already began making other plans of posting letters, not minding the vow. But it was that vow and the fact that God had pre-ordained my conversion that made Him send His angels so as to get us out of detention. For it is written, *Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.* (Isa.55:7)

In spite of the fact that I did not keep to that vow, God having seen my heart then acted by His grace and saved me. The experiences I had in Ghana, especially that night I fainted, were horrible and I tried as much as possible to forget that part of my life, but such memories can't go easily. They stick so close that every part of it is a nightmare on its own. In there, I sincerely hoped to keep that vow but once I got out, tasted sweet freedom, I forgot all about the vow and still went back to fraud again. This is why the scripture says that the spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. (ref. Matt.26:41)

I tried going to post letters from Lome a few times after the Ghana ordeal but no promising replies came out of them. A lot of people I had met in the same line of fraud

helped to resuscitate me financially as they heard of my Ghana ordeal, by making a lot of cellular phone purchases from our shop. Due to low cash flow, I then began to tap the phone line of the office next door to our cellular phones shop, which was being used by our landlord. I would wait till everyone had left the premises after work, then climb into the back side of the office through a side door which was always locked by the security men, to have access to the wires of the phone lines I needed. While this went on for weeks, I reconciled with that friend with whom I had made my first money through fraud, and also used his facilities at home to communicate with the foreigners that sent their replies to the line in Enugu. I later moved into his apartment to live and have easier access to the facilities he had, until a reply came on the Enugu line from a businessman based in Kuwait. I had the reply transferred to my friend's line in Lagos where I operated from. With the assistance of that friend, we worked on this man till we asked him to pay some fees that will facilitate the release of the said funds to his bank account. The man paid without any argument then we invited him to Abidjan for a final interview and signing of all documents for the swift release of the funds to his account. He came to Abidjan and met us there and we held a meeting in which he was asked for a certificate which he didn't have but was highly needed for the funds to be transferred to his account. Due to this, he was asked to pay another large sum of money to procure the certificate before those funds could be released to him.

He left for Kuwait while we came back to Lagos and within a few days he paid the sum he was asked to. This was a very large sum of money, which was shared as we had previously agreed. I got a sum of Eight Million Naira as my own share, which was the least, and this happened towards the end of 1995.

All along the friend that went to Ghana with me helped in running around to facilitate our fraudulent operations in one way or the other, while I had regular visits from a childhood friend who was at the University of Calabar (UNICAL) at that time. I promised these friends of mine that once I managed to make some good money from fraud, I would give them sizable amounts and would rent an apartment where we will all live and run our own fraud organization from there. I had them know that I was going to teach them all I had been taught about fraud. So once I received my own chunk of the loot, it wasn't long and I broke off from that friend and started my own office from a 3-bedroom apartment I rented. I also kept to the promise I made to those my friends by giving them large sums of money each for their personal use. The one in UNICAL received Eight Hundred and Fifteen Thousand Naira, while the other received One million One Hundred Thousand Naira only, being the one who offered more assistance during the time of the fraud. I brought in from Enugu, another friend I had earlier promised to help if ever I made some money, and we all lived together in that apartment. We worked on fraud the whole of 1996 till it became

extremely difficult to communicate with the foreigners due to the increase in the cost of international calls, and the eradication of illegal call offices that offered international phone access at highly subsidized rates. I got into several other businesses, legitimate and illegitimate, but none yielded any fruit. I tried to open a Callback phone service but was stopped as the government brought out a decree against it, threatening defaulters with long jail terms. On the advice of a friend in the North, who previously was also a part of that office where I had made the large sum from, we relocated to the North, got an apartment and secured a telephone line from the local NITEL office there. The friend that lived with me whom I brought from Enugu, left first for the North and after a very long delay, managed to get us a line fixed at the rented apartment, while I came later on. My other friend stayed back in Lagos to take care of schoolwork for me. After about a month of sleepless nights trying to defraud any foreigner that would bite our bait, we ran into a big problem, and God ōagainö by His infinite mercies acted fast and made a way of escape for us. NITEL Task Force officials had come to the junction box of our telephone line at the end of the street to check on our number. Because of the constant day and night usage of the phone, they noticed from their switch office that the line was always busy, so they had come to check on whether the line had a problem or if it was being used as an illegal call office. The boy who lived with me in Lagos had gone to buy us breakfast when he saw them at the end of

our street, and while he drew nearer to where they were, he noticed a soldier with them who was armed and heard one of the officials order another, to go back to their office and get more soldiers for a big raid. My friend frantically ran back through another back route to get us informed of what he had seen and heard, so we all left everything and ran for our lives. On our way out, we walked past them but they failed to notice that we had come from that compound. We left that vicinity at once and reorganized ourselves, while my friend left immediately for Lagos being the one who processed the line, and also had his pictures on the official documents in the NITEL file. I left the following day, while the friend who had advised us to come to the North left also.

Back in Lagos, I began to run short of funds so after a long inquiry on the sale of hard drugs across West Africa, my friend sometime early in 1997, left for Abidjan to sell some hard drugs we had purchased with our last cash. He ran into problems there and stayed a long while there while I kept searching for new money making avenues. The more I involved myself in fraud, the more I justified my actions on the state of the country's economy, and this is one of the ways Satan uses to destroy a lot of people today. The devil at one time began to make me believe that God was the One responsible for all the failed attempts to make quick money, so I blamed God all the time for any disappointment. I consulted several diviners and occultists for solution but nothing promising came from them, all

they requested for was for more money to be brought to them in order to perform their rituals.

Many people believe or want to believe that fraud or *ö419ö* is accepted by God because of slave trade and what the first foreigners that entered Africa stole from us, stating that it is payback time. This is pure self-deception. The Bible says, *öLet no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin when it is finished, bringeth forth death.ö* (James 1:13-15)

These are the steps that lead from sin to death and always starts with lusting after one thing or the other which will eventually lead to death when finished. God does not tempt man with evil, it is our carnal desires that draw us to sin. I got into fraud because, as a young boy back in Enugu, I had lusted after great wealth, and this lust matured over the years suffocating all forms of reasoning, which later drew me into these fraudulent acts.

Three

HOW I MET THE LORD

As life became more difficult for my friend and I, I somehow knew in my subconscious that I had exhausted all the luck I had towards making money, and I began to take notice of a still small voice that spoke within me, urging me to give my life to Jesus Christ and be saved. I still had plans of achieving my ambitions, so I paid no attention to that voice. Honestly, becoming a born again Christian was never on my list of activities, because I never saw myself anything short of wealthy young man, enjoying life to its fullness. I used to think that all born again Christians, became so just to console themselves of their failures in life. I used to see them as people without any ambition, or as very lazy people. Due to the fact that I stayed away most times from school, a forged medical report was always submitted to exempt me from class work, so that I could take my exams at the end of each semester.

One day, the friend who came from Enugu to live with me, went to submit one of these reports at the University Health Center. As he was about doing so, he was asked to tell me to come the following day to defend all the reports

I had submitted previously, because they were reshaping their mode of operation at the Center. He came back and told me all they had said, but I managed to see the trap on time and purposely avoided that meeting. The medical reports I had submitted in the past were those from a Military Hospital, so I figured that they must have confirmed from the said Military Hospital that they did not originate from there being fake, and had arranged for officers from the Hospital to come the following day and nab me.

While I waited for my friend who went to Abidjan to return, that voice began to grow and increase within me. It became louder each time and I began to have this feeling that I was soon going to die. At that time, I had a very close friend of mine who was residing in Festac Town and I paid him regular visits. He used to accommodate a mutual friend of ours, whose younger brother was my schoolmate back in secondary school days. Also, this mutual friend of ours, had become born again later as he moved out of my friends place to live with one of his friends who also had become converted. On several occasions, when I would come to Festac Town, I often ran into him unexpectedly, and he would tell about how I needed salvation, noting also how difficult it was going to be for me, having excelled in fraud. He kept telling me how I must have to do restitution and forsake everything I desired carnally, ending on the note that it was impossible for me to do such things, seeing that I had acquired a lot.

He did not know what I was going through by that voice that tormented me, but all he said was as if he had a prior knowledge of all my problems. I kept silent whenever we would meet and listened attentively to all he would say, and afterwards when I am alone, ponder all he said.

“...Behold, I set before you the way of life, and the way of death.”(Jer.21:8)

God having seen my hardness of heart to yield to His Word even after the meetings with that Christian friend of mine, spoke again through that voice. This time the voice had the tone of a final warning, and it clearly said, **“repent in two weeks, leave everything and run for your life, or you will die and go to hell.”** This warning became louder each time it came and it really came as frequent as you can imagine, that it kept drumming in my ears as if someone was following me around and shouting those words in my ears. The more I heard this voice, the more it became a reality that failing to obey would take me straight to hell, and I did not want to go there. Nobody told me about the reality of hell, I grew up believing there was a hell somewhere where all evil doers would end up, so I did not need any preaching to believe the reality of hell as that voice kept telling me. One night, I had a horrible dream. The Lord in that dream, took me back to that Ghana experience and made me understand that the cell in which I was detained was heaven compared to the ones in hell, and that what I would go through in hell would make Ghana look like childø play. He also let me know that there was

nothing like bail or release in hell, but once I got there, that will be the end, and I will dwell there for all eternity. He also reminded me of all the ways He had delivered me from death in the past, stating that my days were numbered if I failed to make a complete turn around. This dream combined with that voice tormented me greatly. I tried so much to forget all these things and suppress those feelings, but it was impossible. I was just beginning to experience what the scripture says in Jeremiah, *“Then I said, I will not make mention of him, nor speak any more in his name. But his word was in mine heart as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.”*(Jer.20:9)

All the words of that voice, the dream, the words of my friend, all burned in my heart that I could not bear it any longer, I began to feel so depressed that nothing seemed to make me happy anymore. I tried so much to forget all these feelings, but the more I tried to, the more those words burned inside me.

One day, I went to Festac Town on a visit with a friend who was also visiting from Enugu. When we got to my friend's house, we met the Christian friend there also, and we had a lengthy discussion. Somehow, we went into the scriptures, and God used him to reveal a lot to us about the Bible. I argued about everything he said, asking all sorts of questions, till it became clear to me that he was not the one saying all those things, but God was. When the arguments died down, the friend from Enugu with the friend we came

to visit, went out to the balcony to take fresh air, leaving just my Christian friend and I in the sitting room. This was not planned at all by any of us but now I see it was God who took those my friends to the balcony, so that he could get me closer to Him. It is written, *“For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.”*(II Cor. 13:8),

At this point, all arguments had stopped and I was in agreement with all that my Christian friend was saying because all my questions had been answered satisfactorily, hence no more need for argument, and no more questions. I knew all he said was truth because my conscience told me so, and truth cannot be questioned. He then asked me if all we shared appealed to me or not, I told him it did, and he said that if it were so, I should have asked him what to do in order to become converted. The moment he made that statement, I paused not knowing what to say or do. I knew this was it—the great opportunity to give my life to Jesus Christ. Then after a brief silence, I spoke. I opened up telling him all I had been going through, demanding to know what to do so that God might have mercy on me. He listened carefully to all I said, then he gave me some prayer points to apply when praying, asking God to come into my heart and dwell inside me. He sold me a book titled *Submission, the authority channel of God and the only way to the Kingdom of God* by Pastor John Daniel, which I bought and left with my friend who was visiting from Enugu. On our way home, my friend dropped on the way to see a friend of his while I went straight to my apartment.

At night, I read that book and before I went to sleep, I prayed with those points and afterwards, slept off. All through that night, I kept waking up feeling scared that I wasn't alone in the room. I would sleep for a short while, then wake up and put the lights on to see if there was anyone in the room with me. Then when I saw no one, I would put off the lights and try to sleep again. This went on all through the night, and I hardly slept well due to fear, though I couldn't explain the reason for that fear, inside my own room. At about 6a.m., I woke up to ease myself. I got up from bed, walked to the door of the toilet and switched the lights on. The moment the lights turned on, the bulb shattered to pieces with such a loud noise that great fear fell upon me. The pieces of the shattered bulb fell all over my body and I stepped back immediately and closed the door unconsciously. I stood transfixed and in great fear, then the devil told me not to go in there because something terrible was in there. Then almost immediately, in less than 3 seconds, I pushed the door open and went inside. I looked around for anything strange but there was nothing strange, then goose pimples appeared all over my body, and that voice spoke again, but this time loud and clear. The voice ordered me to burn all the documents used for fraud, flush all the drugs I used for asthma attacks, and then burn all the materials I received from diviners. I instantly obeyed these instructions without reasoning then afterwards, went into the other room, where the boy I had brought from Enugu to live with me, was staying. I told

him I had just given my life to God and that I had also burnt all those materials on the floor of my bathroom. He just lay there staring at me, shocked at all I was saying as I told him all I had been going through within my heart. I also let him know that if my friend who had gone to Abidjan came back with a lot of money being successful from the drug trade, I won't partake of it nor involve myself in any of those things. I told him my luck had closed and that nothing I would try to do from henceforth would work, and that things would never work out wherever I am involved. I ended by telling him clearly that I had received instructions to stop my education and follow the Lord as His disciple. Later on that day, I brought all the clothes I had bought with money from fraud, and gave them out to the less privileged, then I went to visit that Christian friend at Festac town. I met him and related all that happened in my house from that day we last saw each other till that day, I also told him it was crystal clear to me that I would have to give back all the stolen wealth to their rightful owners. He was glad at my words and gave God thanks for my conversion, confessing that he was the last person that thought I would ever become converted. He said he was in training with a Bible Training Ministry after I had inquired of the church where he normally worships. When I asked for the address of the Ministry, he said he had to tell his shepherd about me, because he was submitted to him. He asked several times, if I had settled it within my heart to go all the way for the Lord, knowing fully well that it was not

an easy road, I told him I was ready to go all the way. He emphasized the fact that his shepherd does not deal with people who are not serious and ready to do the gospel, but would only have me enroll in the training, if I had decided to follow the Lord withersoever He goeth. He also said the training was free of charge and run totally by the leading of the Holy Spirit, without any form of program or schedule. He asked me to come back a few days to know the outcome of the discussion with his shepherd. I went home and throughout those days, I buried myself so much in the bible that I hardly put on the television or radio. A great hunger for the Word of God developed in me that I wanted to know more about the Lord Jesus. I always knew within me that something was wrong because of the fact that the wealth was stolen, but hardly paid any attention to such thoughts. My conscience always warned me to be careful of the way I was going, and I never had peace within and without I feared many things like being shot by assassins, losing those properties to robbers, or falling back to poverty. I also knew that the friends who were living with me envied my position and would want to be like me or even greater. That is why the bible says that *“Better is little with fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith.”*(Prov.15:16). All these fears weren't there before I acquired this stolen wealth, but suddenly they were all appearing. All the wealth and the properties had become idols to me that so much importance was attached to them, and my mind never went off from them because it

is written, *“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”* (Matt.6:21)

“There is no peace saith the Lord, unto the wicked.” (Isa.48:22) I lived in great fear till God sent Jesus Christ and rescued me.

I went back to Festac Town some days after to know of the outcome of the meeting between that Christian friend of mine and his shepherd, but didn't meet him at home. I checked a few more days but didn't see him. The devil seeing that I was about to be wrenched from his hand struck to pull me down. I had a visit from a girl I knew from Enugu whom I had been fornicating with for years. She called to say she was coming and I told her to come but that I had become born again, hence couldn't sleep with her again, but she said it was okay with her. The same day she came, the devil lured me and I slept with her and continued to sleep with her till God seeing how weak I was, intervened by afflicting me. A terrible pain broke out on top of my right eyebrows, on my head. The pain beat with the same rhythm as my heartbeat with water gushing continuously from my eyes, making it almost impossible for me to see clearly. I was so restless from the pain that I groaned all day long, tossing and turning on the mattress. I have no words with which to explain how painful it was. I tried some self-medication but it didn't work, so I knew God was angry and had left the pain to torment me. I ran to my Christian friend at Festac Town, met him, and told him what had happened. He said I was just playing with my

life, because the Word of God says, “...*And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*”(II Tim.2:19). He warned that after I had confessed the Lord, I still went ahead to commit fornication, that God would deal with me till I take a decision to put an end to such evils. He also told me that it was the devil who having seen that I was leaving his camp, sent the girl with or without her knowledge, to make sure I am brought back to the flesh. He made me realize it was just by the mercy of God, that I was still alive after committing such acts. Anyway, he gave me his shepherd's address and said I could then go and see him. I left with my friend who drove since I couldn't drive with those pains, and got to the address we were given. But before we left, he reminded me of the fact that restitution had to be done, and I nodded in agreement. On getting to the address, we knocked on the front door and a pregnant woman opened it. I told her who gave me the address and who I was looking for, then she asked us to wait and closed the door again. She reappeared and asked us in. We sat down while she told us the Pastor was having a shower and would be with us shortly. As we waited, the pain became unbearable so my friend left to buy a painkiller for me, from the drugstore we passed on our coming into the compound. As soon as he left, the Pastor came in and I introduced myself and he did the same too. He noticed I was in pains and asked why, I told him all that happened, then my friend came back with the pain reliever. In a short story, I

narrated my whole life to him, telling him how God had told me to give up everything I had in order to become His disciple or else I would die and end up in hell. He listened to all I said, then he took the bible and we went through confirming that all I was receiving came from the Lord. He let me know that God has a special love and purpose for me in this life, judging from all the snares the devil laid and how God through His infinite mercy saved me from them all. He also said that had I kept on delaying to answer God's call, the devil would have destroyed me within a few days. The Lord took us to Luke 3 verse 9 where John the Baptist said, "*And now the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.*" (Luke 3:9), pointing out that an angel of God had been sent to cut down our tree of pride with the judgment of God already pronounced on us. But God again because of the love He has for us, caused us to come down before the angel cut the tree. He asked what if my friend came back successful from the drug trade in Abidjan, would I go back? I told him I couldn't because I knew I was going to die and go to hell if I ever went back. I let him know also that the Lord told me to forsake all, family, education, etc., because He (God) is not in any of those institutions. The pastor went to the scripture below and read,

"If any man come to me, and hate not his father and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters,

yea and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.”(Luke 14:26).

The scripture above made me confirm that God actually was the One calling me as a disciple of Jesus Christ.

Later, the Pastor said that the Ministry trains ministers of God free of charge, and that God is calling people who will be totally dedicated to the service of the Lord as disciples. He went on to explain to us how we could just become born again, baptized in water and the Holy Spirit and afterwards go our way and worship in any of the denominations we like, or we could move into an intensive training as disciples after water and Holy Ghost baptisms, totally separated from the organized religious system of the world. I told him that all my options of becoming anything in the world had closed, and that I know very well that anything I try to do other than the will of God, will end in total failure. Hence the option I had was to follow Jesus Christ wherever He leads me to. He told us the way we were choosing was a very difficult and narrow way, with nothing but sufferings, but that if we endure it all, the end will be very glorious and highly rewarding. As we kept reading through the bible, the pains I had before began to subside that I hardly felt anything again. After some time we got up to leave, but while we were discussing, the Pastor asked my friend if he wanted to give his life or still try his luck in the world, my friend said he too had become tired of everything and wanted also to give up his life to the Lord. We left for my apartment and when we got there,

I saw the landlord, a doctor who had his hospital in that same compound and he gave me some injections and also prescribed some drugs to be used for the pains. I took the drugs as prescribed, though the greater part of the pain left as we were ministered the Word of God, as it is written, *“My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.....For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.”*(Prov.4:20 &22).

My friend also gave his life and prayed with those prayer points, and all through the night, he said he couldn't sleep, but tossed and turned out of great fear, till the morning. We went some other times to see the Pastor and relate our daily dealings with him, and God used him to give us a little lecture on water and Holy Ghost baptisms. He lectured us on immersion baptism as the right type of baptism ordained by the Lord, contrary to the sprinkling we had as infants. We arranged to come back on Sunday the 18th of May 1997, for water baptism. Immersion baptism is the believer's baptism in water to identify with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is normally done in a flowing stream or river, whereby the person is immersed in the water and brought out. This spiritually means, as you are immersed, the water washes away our sins, and as we rise, we rise and resurrect as new and sinless creatures in Christ Jesus. The immersion represents death to your old will, old ways, old sins, etc., thus identifying with Christ's death on the cross, while the rising from the water represents resurrecting to a new life as

Christ resurrected from death. (ref. Rom.6:4) That date, we went to a flowing stream and had the baptism. As I stepped out of the river, I knew my whole life had changed for the better. I also knew I had to forsake all about my old self and past, and move unto a new life God had ordained for me even before the foundation of the world, even as it is written, *“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.”* (Rom.6:6).

We came back to the Pastor’s house and he ministered Holy Ghost baptism to us. I couldn’t receive it that day though I tried so much to speak with new tongues, but due to reasoning, it didn’t manifest. My friend received it that day and spoke with new tongues while I kept reasoning it, not knowing that the things of God are never reasoned but are received in simple faith. Holy Ghost baptism occurs as the Holy Spirit directly or indirectly gives us utterance to speak with new tongues beyond the person’s understanding.

“For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto man., but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries” (ICor.14:2)

When one speaks with new tongues, the tongues are unknown to him, making it impossible for him to understand what he is saying, but in the spirit, he is speaking mysteries, thus having a direct access of communication with the Father. Satan cannot read minds, but whatever comes out of our mouth, is what empowers

him to work against us. He relies completely on what we say, so once our words are not understood by us, he neither understands them. This is why the scriptures say, *“Wherefore my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath...”*(James 1:19). Praying in tongues denies the devil access to what we ask God, because he doesn't understand what is being said, making us have a perfect prayer before our Father God, for it is written, *“There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification.”*(1Cor.14:10).

All voices and sounds mean one thing or the other to the Creator, God. Meanwhile my Pastor asked me to open my mouth any time I am ready, and start speaking the new language (tongue) God has given me, because I had received it when he prayed. He said further that since it is a gift, I did not need further ceremony before I should speak, but rather to unlock it by myself as I have already received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. As we were on our way out of the Pastor's house, he asked us to pray so that God will show us a true man of God to submit to, for spiritual growth, and afterwards, we left for our own apartment.

On the way back, I felt so depressed that I couldn't speak with new tongues and Satan kept condemning me, telling me that it was because I was the head of all the fraudulent activities we did in the past. He also told me that God could not forgive my sins being too many, but that the other boy spoke with new tongue because he was just a

boy that served us in the house, and hence has little knowledge about those fraudulent acts. We got home and before I went to bed, I tried to speak but nothing came out, then I slept off.

We continued visiting the Pastor and God used him to break the barrier to my receiving the Holy Ghost baptism and as he ministered that it was a language to be learnt like other languages, it became easier for me and I spoke with new tongues afterwards. I came back four days after receiving Holy Ghost baptism and told the pastor that I was led to submit to him, my friend also received the same, so the Pastor received our submission and anointed us to enter into training as disciples.

At this time in our lives, things had become so difficult that it wasn't easy anymore to eat, but we didn't let the Pastor know until one day while some visitors were eating in his sitting room, and he said he didn't know if their kind of food would be suitable for us, judging from the kind of life we had lived in the past. As he said this, I answered and said that we would be the happiest people if we had such food now, having almost been starving for so long. He was shocked when I said this and he immediately ordered for more food to be brought to us, while he expressed his ignorance at our present condition of cash flow. Other days when I would go to the Pastor's house, God would use him to reveal some things, which were about to happen in this world. My eyes began to open as to what God is doing now and where the world was heading. As the Word of

God was being ministered to me, I began to receive my healing on several infirmities I had before. The greatest miracle from God is the miracle of regeneration, or the miracle of salvation. It is a mystery to see someone who has lived a very sinful life, all of a sudden, make a complete turn-around, and begin to live a new life, totally opposite the one he lived in the past.

“The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple.”(Ps.19:7).

The law of the Lord is the Word of God, and as it was being ministered to me, millions of demons that dwelt inside me, fled for their lives, and I began to receive instant healing from all kinds of infirmities. The miracle occurs from within, converting the soul, which makes it eternal. The Word of God is deliverance because Jesus Christ is that Word, as it is written, *“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth.”*(John 1:14).

Jesus Christ is that Word made flesh and which dwelt among us. It is also spoken by Jesus Himself, *“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life : he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live : And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die...”*(John 11:25-26). It is Jesus Christ that raises one from the dead like He raised me from a life of sin to His life of righteousness. Praise God!

The presence of the Holy Spirit manifests the radical change in someone, and this occurs in the time of salvation. *“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”*(John 3:3)
“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”(John 3:5)

The presence of the Holy Spirit coupled with the ministration of the Word of God from a sanctified vessel, an Apostle of God, which my Pastor is, performed the great miracle of salvation. This is what God has been doing in the life of a converted vessel since the beginning of time. These two agents, the Word and the Spirit, created this world as seen in Genesis 1:1-3, *“...And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the water. And God said (His Word), Let there be light: and there was light* (salvation).

I began to have a different view of life, and with God's guidance through my Pastor, I began to have a vision of the kingdom, which always serves as an energizer whenever I begin to feel weak, because it says, *“where there is no vision, the people perish...”*(Prov.29:18).

We began to come for teachings and copying of notes at the Pastor's house, while he laid the foundation for spiritual growth in our lives. As he ended the teachings on the foundation, he told me to go and sell all I had acquired through fraud, return the money to the foreigners, then come and continue with the remaining teachings. He showed me God's commandment on restitution as stated in

Leviticus 6:1-5, to serve as a guide as to how to go about it. He also showed me restitution in the Law, Prophets and Grace to prove that it is a commandment of God. He said I could be coming to brief him when necessary, then afterwards we left for our house and commenced with the sales.

Four

THE BATTLE FOR RESTITUTION BEGINS

“Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath aught against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.”(Matt.5:23-24)

The above scripture makes it clear that anyone willing to offer any sacrifice to God, must first obtain forgiveness from those he has wronged, before that sacrifice will be acceptable unto the Father. I could not begin to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ and offer the sacrifices of praise, worship, and intercession, without first reconciling myself to all I had wronged in the past.

First of all, I went to that office where I tapped those phone lines in the past, and then I made a confession of all I did to one of the owners. The one I met, received my confession and said he has forgiven me. We then agreed after I had seen the phone bills incurred from those illegal

calls, that I would pay them back all they had spent to settle those bills. I left their office with a feeling of great relief, while they gave glory to God for what He was doing in my life.

One day, my father came for a conference in Lagos and I went to see him in his hotel room. I told him about my new faith and he expressed his joy stating that God had also touched him ever since he experienced some hard times in the course of his life. We discussed at length, then I left afterwards for my apartment.

Next, I calculated all the money I defrauded all those foreigners, then I commenced making contacts with them. I sent faxes to them all, stating who I really was and exposing the fraud in all I had been doing with them, asking them to call back for further details and information. Only one of them, the man from Kuwait whom we met at Abidjan for a meeting, replied by phone call. He said he was in receipt of my fax messages and needed to know more about what I stated in that fax message. I began from the start all through the discussions and the meeting at Abidjan to the present, explaining that all those arrangements were made for the sole purpose of defrauding him of funds. I told him my real name, and also asked him for forgiveness. He expressed his shock at all I was saying, then he said he had forgiven me. I then told him that Jesus Christ called me to be His disciple commanding me to sell all I acquired through fraud, and return all the money I stole from him with an interest of

20% as stated in Leviticus Chapter 6, verses 4 to 5 of the Holy Bible. I also let him know that I was going to return my own share of the gifts he sent during the course of the fraudulent transaction. He listened carefully to all I said, then he spoke and said I should forget about returning the gifts. He said I should not be in a hurry to pay him back, but that I should take my time, knowing fully well that it won't be easy for one to sell all he has. I let him know that once he gives me his bank particulars, I would be remitting his funds to him, as the properties I bought are sold and paid for. He gave me his bank particulars, then I told him that once any amount is remitted to his bank account, I would call him for confirmation. We chatted about general matters, and then hung up. As soon as I dropped that handset, the feeling I had inside me cannot be expressed in words. I felt as if a huge stone was lifted off my shoulder the moment I made all those confessions to that foreigner.

“And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor, and if I have taken anything from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold. And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham.” (Lk.19:8-9).

As the Lord uttered these words to Zacchaeus, regardless of the fact that he had not actually done the restitution in the physical, the Lord who searches the heart on seeing the sincerity of the heart of Zacchaeus to do restitution, spoke salvation into Zacchaeus. This is exactly the same thing

that happened to me, the moment I spoke the word out to that foreigner regarding restitution of his funds to him, the absolute peace and joy of our Lord Jesus came unto me and began to dwell in me. From that day onwards, salvation came into my vessel and I began walking in the light. It is a great mystery that there is no end to which God can forgive someone once that person truly repents from the heart.

“Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”(Isa.1: 18).

God alone has the power to blot out all sins. No matter how evil they appear to be, He is ever willing to forgive and forget iniquities committed by man. He said, *“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.”*(Lk.19: 10)

Judging from my own point of view as a man, it is impossible for one with such great sins as mine then, to obtain total forgiveness and cleansing from all those sins. This was beyond my understanding, I couldn't forgive anyone who did lesser things than I did, but God is not a man, and He has come to seek people like myself that He will save us.

“And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge....”(Eph.3:19)

If we begin to sit down and meditate on the totality of God's love, we will actually begin to see that it is beyond

human perception and understanding. Anyone, who effectively forgives others as frequent as God does, will be seen as a very big fool, in this present world system. This is so because the scripture says, *“But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;”* (I Cor.1:23. Any who effectively obeys the commandments of God in spirit and truth, will be regarded by the Greeks (the wise of this world) as a foolish person. This effective obedience to God’s Word will always be a stumblingblock to the Jews (believers that know the law), because they have the law but do not keep it, so to them you are regarded as a zealot or fanatic. I went ahead and commenced with the sale of my properties, starting with the household equipment. We made several inquiries to know the current prices of those properties, then we began making contacts with those that were likely to buy them. It is one thing to say you are doing restitution, and a totally different thing to actually do it. I can never forget the way I felt when I sold the first item. The devil gave me a million and one reasons why I should not do what I was doing. He kept telling me to make sure I wasn’t being hypnotized into doing such a thing. Those thoughts made me feel so weak that I felt the world was closing in on me, but God through the Holy Spirit reminded me with the vision of the rewards in heaven and my strength was renewed. Some of my friends who heard I was converted came to visit and see for themselves, if all they heard was true or false. They came and saw for

themselves, and after several words of advice from them that I should not sell my properties, without success, helped by buying some of those properties on sale. As I continued to sell those properties, at certain occasions, the devil would still come to talk to me to stop what I was doing, showing me the kind of hard and poor life I was going to live afterwards. He kept telling me it was like starting life all over again how was I going to achieve all I was selling in this world ever again? These are just some of the thoughts the devil kept attacking me with for the sole purpose of making sure that restitution is not done, his Kingdom has come to an end.

“Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began” (Acts 3:19-21).

The above scripture was why the devil fought so hard in my thoughts to stop me from doing restitution. The above scripture reveals that the heavens are holding back the Lord Jesus from coming again, until the restitution of all things is done physically, spiritually, maritally, financially, healthwise, materially. The part of restitution I was doing was financial but once done, the power of God in restitution was going to manifest the other parts. Satan knows that once one man obeys the Word of God,

judgment is going to be determined, and condemnation falls on all who haven't kept the Word, and this will eventually move them to keep the Word. This is Satan's greatest reason of fighting against restitution. In many places in the Bible, we see that once God begins to make a new move, the devil not knowing who actually God has decided to use to bring in that move, fights tooth and nail, to crush that move. He ordered through Pharaoh the death of all the male children of the Hebrews that fell within a certain age, just to destroy Moses whom God had chosen to lead Israel out of Egypt. The devil again ordered through Herod the death of all the children from 2 years old and under in Bethlehem, just to make sure that Jesus who has come to save the world and bring Satan's works to an end, was killed. Devil fought so hard to stop restitution as we will see in the coming chapters, but God who is Omnipotent, Omnipresent and Omniscience, made sure that His Word was fulfilled in the end.
Praise God !

Five

SATAN FIGHTS TO STOP THE RESTITUTION THROUGH MY FRIEND

The selling of the properties went on for sometime until my friend who had gone to Abidjan on drug trade, came back from his journey. He said he ran into the hands of the law enforcement agents there and had a hard time getting himself released from detention. He came back with a man he said helped in loaning them some money for his release, so the man had come back with him in order to be paid back the money he loaned to him. He told me the man traded in second-hand clothes there in Abidjan, and was from Imo State here in Nigeria. I received them both thanking God that He got him out of detention in a foreign country again

After sometime he came into my room, and on noticing that some of my properties were missing, he asked me where I had taken them to. I sat him down and began gradually to explain to him, how that God had touched my life, and how I had repented and become converted. I also told him that the Lord had ordered me to sell all my

properties and with the money from the sales, pay back all the foreigners I duped in the past. There was silence in the room, the kind where you could hear a little pin drop, and from the look on his face, it was obvious that the words I had just uttered, did not go down well with him. Then after a long pause, he spoke. He said he was tired from the long journey and needed to take a rest. He said we were going to have a better discussion the following morning. He got up and left the room. I lay down and wondered why he wasn't glad for what God had done in my life. For the first time it began to occur to me that maybe not just everyone would be happy with my new faith. I pondered these things for a short while and afterwards slept off.

The next day went on as usual, with the selling of the remaining properties, while my friend went out early in the morning, even before I woke up, without keeping the appointment he made the previous night. He later came back with two of his relations, his younger brother, and a cousin of his. I had met his younger brother before and also had met the elder brother to that cousin he came back with, so I knew they truly were his relations. I never had any form of suspicion or feeling of danger from their visit since I knew them both. At night, he came into my room and asked me to repeat what I told him the previous night, I went through it again adding that God had also told me to forsake my education and family ties, for what He was calling me for. After I was done with the talking, he paused and took a long look at me, then he spoke. He began to say

that he was happy for my new faith, but that I should explain to him what had prompted the sudden change and desire for the Lord Jesus Christ. I told him that what I was doing were all by the commandments of God and that I had no other option than to obey. He then continued by pleading with me to leave some of the properties for him since he was not yet ready to become converted like myself. I told him that all he got from me belonged to him, and that I wasn't going to touch his properties, And that I had even asked the other boy that lived with us, who also had become converted with me, to take all his things out from their room in order to ensure that none of his properties were touched. I also made him to understand that all I was selling were just those things that belonged to me.

"...:but it is abomination to fools to depart from evil."
(Prov.13:19)

The above scripture explains perfectly what my friend felt about all I was saying, because as I spoke and continued to speak, he just gazed at me thinking I must have gone mad to even think of abandoning fraud. He then said he appreciated the fact that I had left all his properties intact for him even in his absence, but that I should consider the fact that he is about to start life afresh, hence needed some of those properties. I explained to him that according to the commandment of God, I couldn't even touch whatever accumulated from the sale of those properties, but that I must have to add 20% of all I stole and return to the

owners. He began to beg me to leave the refrigerator for him, but I bluntly refused, prompting him to think about his own life too. I told him to think about the fact that with all the ambition I had, which obviously exceeded his, God had to put a stop to it and make a complete turnaround in my life. He refused to see reason in all I was saying but continued to beg for the refrigerator, so I asked him to leave my room, if all he had come to discuss were finished. He left the room and I went straight to bed. He came again the next morning with the same requests, but this time he began to say that all the properties in the house were jointly owned by each of us, hence it was his right to claim what belonged to him. At this stage, I demanded to know how come those properties suddenly had become jointly owned, he then said that we had a previous agreement that all the properties in the house belonged to all of us. I then asked how come they all had their individual properties, while mine belonged to everybody. He didn't have an answer to that, but began to demand for the sharing of all the money I had summed up from the sales. He went on to say that the third party's (the boy at UNICAL) share would be kept safely for him in his custody. I began to laugh at all he was claiming, then I got up, opened the wardrobe, and showed him where I had kept the money from the sales, asking him to reach out and take it if he wasn't afraid of God. I told him to take the funds if he really believed that he was saying the truth. He just sat there staring at me without making a move, then I became very angry and

shouted at him to reach out and grab the money. As my voice became louder, his cousin then came in and asked what was wrong, I told him we were having a little chat. He turned to my friend and asked him, he just smiled, got up from his seat and left the room. His cousin was confused at what he was seeing, then he asked me to tell him what was wrong, I declined and assured him that all was okay, and he left.

Later on that day, I went to have a discussion with my Pastor and intimate him on all that was happening with the sales, and the clash between my friend and I. After listening to me, he urged me to treat the matter with utmost gentility, and never to give way for wrath and violence. He let me know that "*the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.*"(James 1:20). He reminded me that I was not the same person I used to be anymore, therefore it was impossible for me to treat such matters the way I used to treat them before as an unbeliever, knowing fully well that the devil is always looking for an opportunity to accuse me before the Father in order to obtain permission to strike and destabilize the whole restitution. After several words of exhortation from the scriptures, I left feeling much better and relaxed.

At night, my friend gathered all his visitors to my room, demanding to have a meeting with me. I sat up on the bed and he began to speak. He narrated all that had transpired between us from the time he came back from his journey, and urged his visitors to talk some sense into me so that I

would see reason in sharing, according to him, our belongings. He threatened to bring so much trouble that no one could quench, should I refuse to share what belonged to us. His visitors urged us to have a private discussion and resolve our differences, since they weren't present in the past when we had the agreement. The man from Abidjan said my friend had told him a lot of good things about our friendship, how close we were and so on, so he was now pleading with us to sit down and privately talk things over and get everything settled. I made it clear to them that I couldn't obey man and disobey God, stating also that the claims my friend was making were all false, and he knew it. At this, they left us to talk alone. I then tried again to explain to my friend, all about restitution and the kind of covenant I entered with Jesus Christ, but all my words fell on deaf ears. The Holy Spirit had this to say through Paul about the Gentiles (unbelievers), "*Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart...*" (Eph.4:18). Unbelievers, because they are ignorant of the Word of God, have become separated from the life of God, and this separation has put them in spiritual darkness due to the hardness of their hearts. It all sounded like a big joke to my friend, that I had to sell all I had in order to pay back those foreigners, just for God to have mercy on me. He never believed what I was telling him but felt it was another type of fraud. This was the reason behind all his challenges against restitution,

which is God's commandment, He thought he was fighting me (man), not knowing that he was fighting God (the Creator), whose Word it is that restitution must be done.

When it became clear that my friend was not ready to see any reason in all my explanations, I got angry and told him to get out of the room. I also warned him of the dangers in opposing God's Word, making him understand that anyone, who attempts to stand in God's way, will be destroyed. He continued with his threats, then I asked him to go and do whatever evil he had in mind. He got up to go, then I asked him why he had told his visitors lies about the ownership of those properties. He said we had made such an agreement back in 1995 before we got money from fraud. I restated my stand on the issue, emphasizing that whatever he does won't be against me but against God, and naturally no one in all heaven and earth, can fight his or her Maker. He left the room and I began to meditate on all that was happening. A great fear fell upon me for the life of my friend, seeing that the devil had already planned to destroy him, but I prayed continuously to God for mercy. But from the scripture, it is clear that God **"cannot"** change His Word for anybody, for it is written, *"But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death."* (Prov.8:36). Nevertheless, I continued to ask God to turn my friend's heart from opposing Him.

The following morning, the Christian Brother from Festac Town came to visit me on the request of my Pastor, to

relay some messages God had revealed to him. I was told to remove all the money from the sales and put them into my bank account, to prevent what Satan was planning to do through my friend and his visitors. I immediately brought out the money and prepared to go to the bank, but my friend with his visitors, on seeing that the bag was being removed from the house, withstood us at the entrance door to the apartment, refusing us passage. They demanded that the money be shared equally according to their brother's terms, stating that we could not leave the house with the money unless we complied with their terms. I became so angry and moved to resort to violence, but the brother who came to see me, intervened and resorted to dialogue. He began to explain to them that God's commandment towards restitution demands that not only is the principal sum to be refunded, 20% of the whole sum must go with it. He took my friend into the kitchen and they spent time discussing privately, trying to make him understand, but all to no success. My friend confided in him and showed him a duplicate of the keys to my room he had made earlier on, stating also that he had entered my room in my absence the day before to take the money, but on second thoughts, withdrew from that action. He also claimed that I had been very cruel to him in the past, so the chance had now come for him to pay me back. My brother explained to him about the gravity of what he was doing, but he refused to listen and finally I put the money back inside my room and we left without it. At that moment, it

began to dawn on me that my friend might just become a great tool of unrighteousness unto sin towards what God was doing, as it is written, *“But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honor, and some to dishonor.”* (II Tim.2:21) I prayed to God not to allow the devil make my friend a vessel unto dishonor, knowing fully well within me that I could have been the one fighting God, if not that God just poured out His grace upon me in abundance. We went to my Pastor’s house and I told him all that my friend and his visitors had done. He said he would have been surprised if the restitution and my separation from the system of the world went smoothly, because that could have been an indication that God was not involved. He further said that persecutions are a must for any true disciple, if not, then the person is not keeping God’s Word. *“Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!”* (Matt.18:7).

The scripture above further supports the fact that a true disciple of Jesus Christ must suffer offences and persecutions, but woe to that man who offends or persecutes them. The Pastor directed two of the brethren under him together with the brother who had come to my house, to go home with me and have a warm discussion with my friend and his visitors. He emphasized the need for gentility and much patience in dealing with my friend and his visitors, stating that they should use the scriptures and

show them what I was doing, for them to see that it was God's commandment and choice not mine. After dishing out instructions, we all left singing praises all through the journey to my apartment. We got there, and I went inside my friend's room to call him and his visitors, but was told he had gone out. My brethren relaxed and began to wait for him till it became clear that they were going to pass the night there, even as my Pastor had told them to, if necessary. After a very long while, getting to midnight, my friend came back. I called him and he said he would be there in a short while. They all came into the room eventually, and I did the introduction, then my brethren led a short prayer after which we all sat down for the main issue. One of my brethren began by saying that they had come in the name of Jesus Christ, to hear my friend's side of the story. He also told them that they had come to mediate between himself and myself, as ministers of God, and through the scriptures, bring peace between us. He also made it clear that they were not there to take sides, but to declare the Word of God as concerning the present strife between both of us.

My friend started by narrating how we had come to know each other, down to the making of the money, with all the ups and downs, and ended with the issue of my going ahead to sell what was jointly owned by the three of us. He also mentioned that I had been a very cruel and horrible friend, in spite of all he had done to help me in the past. His visitors also spoke on all they knew from the time they got

involved. I then gave my own version of the story, making it clear that we never had any agreement as to any form of joint ownership of my properties. My friend kept interrupting me all the time stating that I was lying about the whole thing. We all spoke at length and gave our different accounts of the issue at hand, then my brethren began to speak. The first one went into the scriptures and read thus, *“If a soul sin, and commit a trespass against the Lord, and lie unto his neighbor in that which was delivered him to keep, or in fellowship, or in a thing taken away by violence, or hath deceived his neighbor;...in any of all these that a man doeth sinning therein: Then it shall be, because he hath sinned, and is guilty, that he shall restore that which he took violently away, or the thing which he hath deceitfully gotten, ...;he shall even restore it in the principal, and shall add the fifth part more thereto, and give it unto him to whom it appertaineth, in the day of his trespass offering.”* (Lev.6:1-5).

The brother went on to explain this scripture to them, causing them to see that those properties neither belonged to me nor to them, but to those foreigners. In which case, the Lord has commanded that all the money be returned to them with an increase of 20% of the total sum. He furthermore explained that due to the fact that I, whom the Lord had moved to do restitution, as the head of our fraud organization, it rested on me to pay back all I got from the company I shared the money with. Which also means that all the money and gifts that I ever gave them, were to be

paid by me, and that I was not meant to collect all I gave them in the past from the loot. He urged my friend and his visitors to sympathize with my condition and how great a burden I was carrying, bearing in mind that the Lord could also one day lay such a burden on any of them that will receive Him. My friend said he wasn't against restitution, but that I was selling what did not belong to me alone, but also to them. He stated it wasn't right for me to do such a thing, hence he had to put a stop to it. One of the brethren made him see the falsehood in what he was claiming, as my friend agreed that they all had their separate properties outside those he was claiming joint ownership. He told him it wasn't possible for them to own their individual properties, and still claim of mine, being the same type of items. He further stated that God wasn't the author of confusion, and that was why God commanded me to sell only the things belonging to me.

The scripture says, *"Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words."* (Prov.23:9).

All the words spoken to my friend seemed to him as though they were coming from mad people, because he kept arguing, stating that he just wanted his own little portion to be given him, as his right. Another brother cut in by telling him to examine my present condition, and to judge if it wasn't the proper thing that the stolen money be returned to the owners. All these words fell on deaf ears as my friend continued to protest that his little portion be given him for peace to reign. This brother likened the

present situation to a story he told. He said two of us (my friend and I) were swimming in a deep and mighty ocean and that I was leading the way. As we continued to swim, suddenly he saw me swimming back the opposite in so much hurry as if I had seen something terrible and was running for my life. My friend on seeing this never stopped to wonder why I was running back, instead he continued to swim ahead. He explained this story to my friend in this way: He said that it was clear that I was the one with the greater ambition to make money against all odds, while my friend tagged along. But as I began to achieve this ambition, all of sudden, I left everything that had to do with that great ambition and began to dispose of all I had acquired as riches. And my friend never stopped to find out why such a strange thing had happened. He urged my friend to take a better look at the present situation and see that there must have been some sort of danger ahead, which when I saw it, began to run for my life. The more they spoke, the more my friend and his visitors protested for their share. Then one of the brethren, who had not spoken since, cut in and spoke. He read out Acts of the Apostles, chapter 5, verses 38-39, which says, *“And now I say unto you, Refrain from these men, and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.”* As the brother read this passage, we all focused our attention on our bibles. He laid more emphasis on the last verse and

urged my friend to take heed and decide which side he would choose to go, whether as a friend or an enemy of God. On my friend's insistence, the brother then told him that he had just declared himself an enemy of God, and had also become his enemy since he was one with God. He also told him not to greet him if ever they met on the way, since he (my friend) had chosen to fight God whose servant he is. My friend said he had the opportunity of taking all the money when he secretly went into my room in my absence, but had withdrawn on second thoughts. My brethren told him to give God thanks for not taking the money, because if he had, the judgment of God would have fallen instantly on him. My brethren asked his visitors for their own contribution if any. The man from Abidjan said the problem was between myself and my friend, therefore the proper thing was for them to leave us alone to resolve our differences. My brethren told him that the condition had deteriorated so much that the solution couldn't come from such an option, calling back the issue of how I was withstood by them from taking the money to a bank. My friend's cousin said he had carefully listened to all that had been said, and had decided to instantly withdraw himself from the issue. He expressed shock at my faith and the decision I had taken to do restitution, and suffer with Christ. Hence he was fully convinced that such a decision did not come from man but from God. My friend and his visitors said they were tired and wanted to go to bed, but that they would talk things over and give an answer the

next morning. My brethren urged the visitors not to advise my friend negatively, warning that God sees everything even the intents of the heart. They left the room and my brethren lay down and slept off.

My friend obviously had a lot of bottled-up venom against me and was now using it as a basis for all his evil acts, but I also knew it wasn't the true reason for all he was doing. He wanted to capitalize on my new faith, having observed the changes in my character, that I would not resort anymore to violence, so that he could claim those properties, since I had taken a decision to do away with them.

The next morning, my friend came into my room and said he had resolved within himself, after some serious thinking, to have that his own little portion, that he can use it as he feels best. I pleaded with him to forgive me of all the evil I must have done to him in the past, and consider that I had to sell all I had, pack out of the house in order to retrieve the remaining rent, then pay back everything to those foreigners. And that's not all, because what I had at hand wasn't even up to half of what I owed, whatever offering I get must go into the same restitution. It was as if I was talking to a stone and he kept pressing for his little portion or else there would be trouble. My brethren after they heard my friend's decision, took the money I wanted to deposit in my bank account, and kept it in safe custody for me which I later collected and kept in my bank account. But before they left, they assured him that severe judgment would fall upon him due to his stand on the issue, and that

it would not exceed three months before God will rain judgment upon him. My friend said that since he would not be given his share from the amount gotten from previous sales, he was going to make sure that he got his share from any property that would be sold onwards. My brethren left while I stayed back and I meditated on all that happened. It is written, *“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes:...”* (Prov.12:15), and all that my friend was planning, appeared so right and just to him, because he had fed himself and his visitors with lies, so he now had a great task to prove to them that all he said was the truth. He just saw the beginning and never saw the end, being so sure that he would have his way. My friend was ignorant of the fact that I had gone into a covenant relationship with God, hence I was not the same person he used to know. I had become God’s special property with divine protection from the Almighty, because God said, *“And I will bless them that bless thee and curse him that curseth thee:...”* (Gen.12:3). God spoke this word to Abraham and it applies to all the seed of Abraham, which spiritually represents all true believers. My friend failed to see God’s presence in all that was happening because he had become blinded by greed, therefore all the evil he was thinking towards me automatically became directed towards the Almighty. And no man can think or act any evil against God, for it is written, *“There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the Lord.”* (Prov.21:30)

A man cannot fight God, it is impossible because man is flesh and God, a Spirit. It is also written in the scriptures that, *“the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them: because they are spiritually discerned.”* (I Cor.2:14)

Repentance, separation, restitution, and so on all sounded like extreme madness to my friend because these things are not seen with the carnal eyes, but with spiritual eyes. He was fully in the flesh, so all that appealed to him were things of the flesh because, *“For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh: but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.”* (Rom.8:5). This scripture explains why my friend never had any belief in all that I said as regards to my repentance. The bible also says that, *“Fools make a mock at sin:...”* (Prov.14:9), and that was exactly what my friend began to do. He saw my whole story as a big joke, and it hardened his heart towards more evil, in order to get what he could.

I later called my friend to apologize again for all the evil he said I did to him in the past, and explained to him how short the time is according to God's plan for the Universe. I spoke to him for a long time but he became all the more hardened, pressing for his own share, which if not given to him, would cause a lot of trouble between us. I warned him of the repercussions in fighting God, citing several examples of those that fought against God in the bible and their end. But he maintained he needed his own share of

everything sold and to be sold. I left him and went into my room pondering about the present strife with my friend, and the more I thought about it, the more I thanked God for reaching out to me. Later on that day, I went to see my Pastor to give him my own view of the meeting with my friend. I told him my observations and he asked me if those properties truly belonged to me or not. I told him the whole story concerning the origin of those properties, then afterwards he wrote a letter to my friend, attached a copy of his book titled, Submission, the Authority Channel of God and the only Way to the Kingdom of God, and gave them to one of the brethren who was present at the meeting, to go and deliver to my friend. The full text of the letter read thus:-

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. How are you today, and how are you meditating on the message you heard from my brethren and the Pastors under me, whom the Lord used to speak to you? I am instructed by the Lord to take this last step to save and warn you of the great dangers that may befall you or any vessel trying to stop the move of God.

I carefully listened to my Pastors as they explained one by one about what went wrong between you and your friend before the Lord met him. And from all indications, he has been very unfaithful, and has abused the right all of you bestowed upon him. I am speaking now from the human point of view, he not only duped other people, but also you

all that are his associates. And because of this greedy act, he has broken your "business bond", thereby sowing the seed of discord among the parties concerned. I pray that you have mercy on him and forgive him, as God will also forgive you today if you become convinced of our own atrocities and repent.

But from God's standpoint through His Word, you all are fraudsters. You all have sinned grievously against God and man by this act. The money and all the things bought with it, do not belong to any of you, it belongs to someone else. And God has asked your friend to make contacts with these people, which he has done and refund all the money he duped them with an interest of 20%. I mean my beloved friend, where can your friend get this money? Yet this is the Word of God, which must be obeyed, and if he fails to obey this word, he will perish in hell. He ate this money with all of you, no matter the amount you got, but he is not telling you to bring your own part and give him so as to pay back. Eventually you too will still repay your own if you find the Lord or you perish in hell. Are you not lucky that what you are to refund is not up to 1/3 of his own greedy amount? Do you want to heap more coals of fire upon yourself?

Please my beloved friend and brother to be, in the Lord, this is a message coming from the throne of God and no matter whom you are, God is no respecter of persons. The scripture says, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Heb.10:31). Everything bought with

that money he duped is accursed, and anybody trying to withhold anything there is likely going to face the judgment of God. As an Apostle of God, I do not want to see a soul that God may save through my warning perish and go to hell, for God will require the blood of that person from my hands. However, after warning you and you decide to love the things of this world more than the Lord Jesus, who died for you and me, know for sure that I have obeyed (Ezek.3:17-19), and your blood will be upon you. Tell anybody that is pushing you and counseling you against obeying God that you love your life and will not like to perish. Let the person likewise begin to run for his life, because a great horror is about to befall the world just within the next few years. I do not even think you will achieve that your life ambition before the mighty thing that will happen in Nigeria and the world in general, starts.

Do you know my dear, that if God Himself goes contrary to His word, He will go to hell? If you doubt it, see Prov.15:11, then how much less ordinary man who is made with dust? Please my dear friend, you cannot take a pin or one kobo from all that God has asked to be returned to the owner. You cannot do that because I do not want what happened to Pharaoh when he refused to let the children of Israel go, happen to you. Again, I have had a bitter experience of what I am telling you, I lost my brother in 1990, God allowed the devil to take his life by causing an armed robber to shoot him to death far away

in the United States, after coming to Nigeria, where he tried to stop the move of God in the life of my younger sister. There are so many other examples which I may not be able to tell you now. And mark you, God is calling everybody, so you must change the confession that God has not called you, but only your friend.

Finally, take this book as a gift from the Lord Jesus in me, study and digest, and ask yourself, where will I spend eternity if I keep to deaf ears, to constant warning? I will stop so far and may the good Lord bless you as you obey His Word in the name of Jesus, "Amen".

*With great love from the Lord Jesus and His Apostle,
Brother John Daniel.*

The brother got to my apartment and delivered the items to my friend. He read the letter without saying anything, but just acknowledged the receipt of them. At that my brother returned back to my Pastor's house, and narrated all that happened. After spending some time with my Pastor during which he warned me never to be confrontational in all the provocation from my friend, I left and went back home. On getting home, my friend came into my room to tell me my Pastor had written him a letter and also given him a book written by him as a gift. He left while I lay down and began to do some deep thinking on how God was transforming my life into what I never dreamed of. I remembered the sinful life I had lived in the past, and how on many occasions I blamed God for a lot of things, and how much

of a sinner I had become, being convinced by the devil that God never wanted anything good for me. I thought of the unconditional love of God towards me, despite all the sinful life I lived, and my eyes opened to the scripture which says, *“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”* (Rom.5:8). The fact that Jesus Christ who was holy and sinless gave His life for sinners, was something very difficult for me to comprehend, because it is normal for someone who hates evil to hate evil doers also. But Christ who hated evil, still loved evil doers so much as to die for them, I found out that truly what God did is a mystery. He is not a man because man can **never** do what He did.

“For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.” (Rom.9:15-16)

Honestly speaking, I had no single hand in my salvation, I never planned to become born again, let alone do restitution, never. These things **never** crossed my mind. Whenever the gospel was being preached, I would begin instantly to have a strong feeling of embarrassment, which always made me to go away from wherever it was being preached. God saw my heart with all the frailties and sins in there, but still stretched out His arm, gripped me and drew me out of darkness. This is beyond my own understanding I could not comprehend God's ways, they are truly not our

ways. All I was doing at this point of my life was never really clear or understood by me, but the Holy Spirit just continued to guide me into the will of God. For no man can do His will by himself because it is written, *“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do his good pleasure.”* (Phillip.2:13)

The following day, I continued with the sales and as I sold and put the money in my wardrobe for onward payment to my bank account, my friend would go there and take half of whatever was there. He first took Fifteen Thousand Naira then Fourteen Thousand Naira also. Each time I found out he took some money, I would call him to verify, and he would tell me he wasn't ready for repentance or restitution, hence he was taking what rightfully belonged to him whether I liked it or not. It took the amazing grace of God to stop me from dealing with my friend physically. In the past, I used to drive him out of the apartment and he would shed tears, begging me to have him return. But because of my new faith, he felt he could now do anything he liked and get away with it. On several occasions, I would almost move to beat him up, but God kept warning me not to, because His Word says, *“Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”* (Rom. 12:19)

The Lord made me to understand from the above scripture that the fight was His and not mine, because the devil was bent on making sure that restitution is not done. My friend

went on to say that he knew I was going to heaven, while he is prepared to go to hell, but that he wasn't bothered, all he wanted, was his own little portion of the properties and the money from the sales. The bible says in Proverbs 18 verse 21 that, "*Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit therefore.*" Whatever comes to us in this life stems from our confession. The confessions of my friend kept manifesting in his life, because the devil kept hardening his heart each time towards repentance. My friend and his visitors kept making the sale of the remaining properties difficult, as they kept intercepting buyers on the way, posing as the owners of those properties in order to get all the information they need, as regards the amount the things were being sold for. I reported this to my Pastor but he strictly warned me never to engage them in any scuffle, but to keep putting it in prayers to God.

Six

MY STRUGGLES TO PUT THE RAMPAGING ATTACKS OF MY FRIEND AND HIS ALLIES TO A HALT

One day, I went to my Pastor's house to give him a run down of events, and how much I had gathered in my bank account. We also discussed on my friend's attitude towards the whole issue, and how he has been dipping his hands into money meant for restitution. I left afterwards and returned home. I came into the apartment and went to the kitchen to drink some water. I came into the kitchen and could not believe my eyes. The whole place was empty! The refrigerator and the washing machine that occupied most of the space were gone. I rushed into my room, the printer and the cellular phone were gone also. My mind went blank, I didn't know what to do, but I noticed from the wet flour of the kitchen, that water must have gushed out from the supply to the washing machine, as it was being carried away. I stood staring without being able to move or do anything, then it occurred to me that my friend

might know what happened to those properties. As I thought about this, a rage of anger filled my whole heart, then the Holy Spirit began to calm me down as I remembered the advice of my Pastor, never to resort to violence, no matter the condition. I went and called my friend out of his room and inquired where those properties were. He said he had sold them, and with a piece of pen and paper, he wrote down the amount they were sold, then calculated his own share from it. He also said the other boy at UNICAL called from Calabar and asked him to keep his own share of everything for him, so he was keeping that also for the boy. He then said he was going to bring my own share the following day. I ran short of words, I just stood and stared at him, then I nodded in agreement to all his words, and went into my room and shut the door. I began to focus on how the situation with my friend was metamorphosing to worse conditions. He was becoming more and more hardened each day, as nothing happens each time he tries a new idea.

“Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.” (Eccl.8:11)

He had waited to see if anything would happen to him as he took those amounts from my wardrobe, and when nothing immediately happened, he went ahead to take the remaining properties left to be sold. He must have become convinced that I wasn't doing God's Word as I claimed to, for if it were so, God would have started dealing with him.

But being ignorant of God's Word, he didn't know that God is longsuffering, not willing that any should perish, for God says in His Word, *"Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die ? saith the Lord God : and not that he should return from his ways and live ?"* (Ezek.18:23).

It is not the will of God to execute His wrath on anyone to destruction, no. He wants everybody to make it to His Kingdom. My friend was abusing the longsuffering nature and patience of the Lord, but I was scared of what God would do to him when the time comes for that, if he continued with his obstinacy.

The next morning I left for Festac town to tell my brethren what my friend had just done. I got to their house and told them, they marveled at all the devil was doing through my friend. One of them read through the scripture where it says, *"The wicked through the pride of his countenance will not seek after God. God is not in all his thoughts."* (Ps.10:4). The devil had succeeded in putting my friend in the state of the wicked in the above scripture, but I prayed for God to have mercy on him. The devil never wants restitution to be mentioned, let alone doing it, once done, his kingdom is finished. Hence he saw the lust in my friend's heart for material things, and magnified it, causing him to be fully set on getting those properties, meant for restitution. The devil, knowing fully well that his time is fast approaching the end, is pouring out, beyond human capacity, the lust for material wealth and the legalization of evil. People no longer want to know how wealth is

achieved, whether by straight or crooked means, all they are interested in is getting it, so that the society can respect them. Wealth is held in high esteem in the society today together with all forms of success, no matter the source, but Jesus Christ Himself said, “...:for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.” (Lk.16:15). This is a sad reality, for whatever the world praises, is abomination in God’s sight. It is this desire to earn the respect of the people that draws men and women to all kinds of evil in order to acquire wealth, and eventually they go to perdition because the scripture says, “ *But they that will be rich fall into a snare and into many foolish and hurtful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition.* ” (I Tim.6:9)

The devil has also succeeded in making the world attribute poverty to Satan, and success (no matter the source and type) to God. This is why people abhor poverty. The whole world system is designed by the devil to reject poverty and highly esteem wealth, no matter the source or what it is being used for. But the mystery of the gospel is this, “*Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him ?*” (James 2:5). The poor of this world system have been chosen by the Almighty to inherit the kingdom, and that’s why Jesus said, “*How hardly shall they that have riches enter the kingdom of God! For it is easier for a camel to pass through a needle’s eye, than for a rich man to enter into*

the kingdom of God.” (Lk.18:24-25). Since it is impossible for a camel to pass through a needle’s eye, in other words, it is also impossible for the rich to enter God’s kingdom.

After discussing with my brethren, I left with one of them to my Pastor’s house. When we got there, I explained to my Pastor all my friend did and what he said when I inquired about the properties he took. He asked me what my intentions were, and I told him that I was ready to use any kind of force or option left for me, to retrieve those properties and put a stop to my friend’s rampaging attacks. He instructed me to avoid using any form of violence, but rather to lodge a report with the appropriate authorities, so that they can help me retrieve those properties. My Pastor also said that I should politely warn my friend to return all those properties within two days, or be prepared to face any kind of trouble with me. I did as He advised and after two days, as he didn’t return any of those properties, I went with one of my brethren, whom the Pastor had asked to accompany me for proper spiritual guidance, to incident the matter at the State Criminal Investigation Department, Panti Street, Yaba. A friend to the brother that went with me had also volunteered to go to the station with us, having heard all that happened. He wanted to introduce us to an officer, who can understand my plight and help to hasten the investigation and the recovery and release of the properties. When we got to the station, I gave the officer we met, a detailed information on why we had come, starting from the genesis of the problem to the end,

emphasizing that all I wanted was the recovery of the properties and for my friend and his visitors to vacate the house. The officer listened carefully to all I said amazed at what he was hearing, while I ended my story. He looked at the friend that brought us to him for confirmation on all I had just said and the friend nodded in agreement, expressing his shock also at the story. He (the police officer) told me not to return the money to those foreigners, since they too had an idea that what they were doing was fraudulent. He stated also that since God had forgiven me after my confession, it wasn't necessary anymore for me to still go ahead with the restitution. I told him that as a disciple of Jesus Christ, all I had to do was to obey God's Word and leave God to be the Judge of all things by Himself. The officer drew his chair closer to me and asked me to tell him if I was under any kind of hypnotism. I laughed and told him nobody had hypnotized me. I also let him know that I had abandoned my program at the University of Lagos, just to answer the Lord's call. At this, he flipped and couldn't contain what he was hearing. He pleaded with me to go back to school, stressing that education was not contrary to God's call, but I told him that the kind of calling I have demanded absolute dedication to the service of Jesus Christ. According to the scripture, the disciples of Jesus Christ abandoned their professions to answer the Lord's call, and it is still the same standard required today for true discipleship.

“So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.” (Lk.14:33).

It is the will of God for whosoever desires to run this Christian race as a disciple, to forsake all that he hath and fully dedicate himself or herself for the service of the Lord.

As we kept on talking, the friend who brought us to the station left, pleading with the officer to treat our case with carefulness, giving us full assistance. The officer asked what I wanted from them, so I made him to understand that I just needed the properties to be recovered, that I may continue with the restitution. I emphasized that all I wanted was those properties and not any prolonged problem with my friend and his allies. This officer then called a colleague of his and told him about our case. The second officer showed his surprise to the story as he asked some questions which the Lord answered through myself and the brother with me. I was given paper to write my petition and state all that happened. I put everything down on paper, stressing the fact that I could not effectively continue with the restitution if those properties were not recovered. Their Sectional Head approved the petition, and those officers were told to go with me to the house and get my friend and his allies arrested. We left for my house and arrived to find out that my friend had gone out with the man from Abidjan, leaving only the cousin and the brother. The officers asked them some questions about the whereabouts of the properties, but they denied having any knowledge of what the officers were asking. Before then, I

had found out from a girl that lived in that same compound, who said she saw my friend and his visitors carrying those properties out of my apartment. I gave the officers this information, so they got them arrested and taken to the station. They wrote their statements denying any knowledge of the whereabouts of those properties. They were detained while we were asked to return the following day to find out the extent of their investigation. We came back the next day and were told that they had confessed having knowledge of where those properties were taken. They said the properties were taken to my friend's sister's house at Festac Town, where she resides with her husband and children. They assisted my friend in carrying the properties from my house to a hired truck, because my friend made them believe all along that the properties were actually jointly owned. He showed them a fake receipt he had prepared for that purpose which had his name as the owner. After the required approvals, we all left for Festac Town. On the way, we stopped over to rent a truck that will convey the properties from Festac Town to the Station. My friend's brother apologized for all the trouble they had caused me, emphasizing on the fact that they did all that based on the lies my friend had fed them with as to the joint ownership of the properties. He also informed me that my mother was around because of this issue. My mother had come all the way from Enugu, and was staying with my sister and her husband, and they were holding meetings with my friend on my new faith. He made

me realize that my whole family including my friend thought I had gone mad from an external influence or force, so my relations had given my friend due support for all he was doing Their plans he said, were to take the properties away till I would come to my senses. I was shocked at this thing he was saying, due to the fact that the properties in question were bought with money got from fraud. It became clear to me why the Lord demanded my separation from everything, even from family. I felt betrayed that even my own mother knew all that my friend was doing, being a part of it, but I handed all of them to God the Father. Luke 14:26 says, *“If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.”*, became crystal clear to me at this point in my life. The Lord made this hard demand of discipleship because the prince of the power of the air (Satan) is controlling our earthly families, who are not born again, through one of his principalities. The Lord who honors authority, being fully aware that you cannot fight Satan while he is still your master, being under him, demanded total separation from all those who will desire to become His disciples. It is outright rebellion against authority for one to fight the principality controlling the affairs of one’s family, while he or she is still under that principality. That is why the Holy Spirit spoke through Apostle Paul that, *“For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the law to her husband so long as he liveth;*

but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is free from that law; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man.” (Rom.7:2-3). We as unbelievers were once married to Satan and during this time we couldn’t effectively fight him, but as we died to our will with Christ, Satan died also in our vessels, and that marriage was broken, hence we can now fight him effectively. This is why separation is of utmost importance in the life of a disciple, for it is written, “No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.” (II Tim.2:4).

One must completely detach himself from the system of this world and the affairs of this life, if he desires to fight Satan successfully, and please the Lord Jesus who called him. We reported at Festac Police Station before we proceeded to the house. We got to the house, retrieved all the properties which we packed into the hired truck. The officers left a note inviting the owner of the house and my friend to the station for a small discussion. After those properties were packed safely inside the truck, we got inside and prepared to go. I pleaded with the officers to let my friend’s relations go, since they had co-operated in the matter. They let them go while we left for the station. We also reported the recovery of the properties at Festac Police station before leaving for S.C.I.D. Pantí. On getting

to the station, all the properties were recorded and kept in a safe place, then I was asked to check on them daily to see if my friend and his people would come. They also stated that a period of two weeks must elapse, in order to give my friend ample time to come and prove ownership of the properties. I and the brother who was with me all through left to see my Pastor and give him a detail report of all our goings. As we came into his house and told him all that had happened, he assured me that such things were all part of the training for discipleship. He made me understand that ever since he started running this Christian race, all he had experienced were persecutions, afflictions, and tribulations, and that is how he knows he is still in the will of God. The scripture made it clear, "*Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*" (II Tim.3:12). Every true disciple of Jesus Christ must suffer persecution for the sake of Christ because the Word of God attracts persecutions. The following day, I met with my brother at the Police Station, and we went through series of questionings and interrogations, some together while some separate. They would separate us, and then question to see if our answers were the same. The Police accused the brother of hypnotizing me into doing restitution and abandoning my education, but God always gave him appropriate answers to all their questions. On my own part, they would threaten to have me detained and charged to Court for fraud, just to see how strong my faith is. This went on for some days until the officer-in-charge of Anti-

robbery called us for an interview, and after the interview in which God used us to reveal a lot about Himself to him, he concluded I wasn't under any form of hypnotism but thanked God for my conversion, and since that day, we became very close friends. One day, the officers asked me to bring a relation of mine that will testify to the fact that I was normal and not insane. I went to the cousin who came to my rescue with my sister, way back in Ghana when I was detained. After I explained to him all that had happened, and how I needed his assistance, he said he was so glad that I repented of my sins. He also said that I needed to have repented, in that my acts had all gone negative so much that he even began to avoid my company. He then told me that due to the close relationship between him and my sister, he wasn't going to come without first talking with my sister, though he promised that whatever my sister would say will not stop him from coming to the Station. He asked me to return the following day so I left and went back to the Station.

As I was about explaining my cousin's stand, the officers in-charge of my case told me an order had come from the senior officers authorizing the release of all the properties to me the next day. I was shocked at this development, then I asked whether they will not need my relation anymore, they told me that after several interviews with me, they were convinced that I was fully aware of what I was doing and that they were in support of the restitution. I was asked to come back the following day with a truck

that will convey the properties back to my apartment. I left with so much happiness that I couldn't say anything. Due to the fact that my cousin had a regular job as a banker, he believed his ways were right in the sight of God, while myself, a fraudster who had caused many people pain by defrauding them needed repentance more than himself. This belief is so common among many people especially among those people with regular jobs. They believe only criminals need Christ. This belief is very wrong for as long as one dwells in this flesh, we all descended from Adam and the same condemnation that fell upon Adam due to his sin, fell upon all of us. Except one receives Christ, he or she is condemned and will eventually go to hell after death, as it is written, *"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."* (Rom.3:23). The Lord Jesus while on earth disapproved of this belief when he was asked thus, *"There were present at that season some that told him of the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that those Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because they suffered such thing? I tell you, Nay: but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but except ye repent, ye shall likewise perish."* (Lk.13:1-5)

There are also some who were into fraudulent businesses, but when they become converted, they still hold on to

those monies and properties they got fraudulently, justifying themselves that the blood of Jesus has cleansed all their sins, or they will use the scripture that says, *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away, behold, all things are become new.”* (II Cor. 5:17).

This is apparently the teachings they received from some mischievous Pastors who selfishly refused to tell these people the truth, because of the dirty money they gain from this ignorant seekers of the Word. Please I want to make it clear that restitution is real, and must be done by any who is or was into any kind of fraud, or the person will spend the rest of his or her life in hell.

I blessed the name of the Lord for the mighty move He made having seen my cousin's refusal to come. If my cousin had come and the properties released, in the future, he would have begun to take God's glory. It is the Lord's duty to bring His words to pass once they are being obeyed, for He said, *“For as long as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.”* (Isa. 55:10-11).

The Lord went ahead to make the crooked places straight, and moved in the hearts of those officers to release those

properties without any certification from anybody, for He said, *“I am the Lord: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images.”*(Isa.42:8). He is the Lord over any situation and has the power to bring His Word to pass under any kind of condition, that His glory be not shared by any. I returned the following day to sign all the relevant documents after which all the properties were released, and I took them home.

One day, my mother, my sister and her husband, came to pay me a visit. They wanted to know about my faith and all that was happening in my life. I explained to them what God was doing with me concerning restitution and so on. They spoke at length urging me to consider all that had been invested to give me the best in life. They emphasized on the fact that I had reached almost the end of my education, and that I should go back and finish with school. After much persuasion, they saw that I was bent on doing God’s will. From the human point of view, I could have heeded to their words because of the love I have for them, but it was God that told me to do all I was doing. I cannot please man and displease God, since He knows everything and why my life had to take such a sharp turn.

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.”(Ps.37:23)

There are many things the Lord does that sometimes look as if He is wicked, but it is not so. We are mortal and cannot understand all things. Our understanding is limited,

but God is infinite in knowledge and understanding. A lot of things that appear good to us are actually evil, and it is only God who understands these things. All that is required of us is obedience to God's Word, because there are things too deep for us to grasp, in that we are flesh and not spirit. It is only when we dwell with the Lord in His Kingdom that all things will become clearer to us. I believe totally that my act towards my relations at that point in time was what God demanded of me, though it appeared as if I was cruel, but God in His Word said, *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."*(Isa.55:8-9). God's ways are much higher than ours but at the end, they will yield the fruit of peace, which is the ultimate goal of the Almighty, as it's written, *"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you an expected end."* (Jer.29:11). No matter how God's ways or thoughts appear at the moment, they are always good and will give us the best result in life, this is God's assurance.

One day as I was returning from my Pastor's house, officers from the Special Fraud Unit of the F.I.I.B. Alagbon, Milverton Street, were waiting to see me. I came into my house and as I began taking off my shoes, the officers walked in with that cousin of mine that works at the bank. In the past, I had sold one cellular phone set to a customer of mine and I had procured the Nitel line from

this cousin of mine who in turn got the line from one on the authorized Vendors of Nitel. My cousin came in looking very scared, the officers asked him if I was the person they were waiting for, he nodded. My cousin then said that a line he sold to me in the past had been used to defraud a foreigner, and that these officers had gotten to him through the Vendor, who also was there in my house with them. I asked him what the number was, and he told me, then I nodded in remembrance and told him that I knew where the customer that had bought the line lived. As I said this, my cousin took a big breath of relief because he felt I was going to deny having any knowledge of the line. I told them the customer's house wasn't too far away, so we got up to go there immediately. I told the brother that was living with me not to contact any of my relations if eventually they detained me, but to get my Pastor aware, and he would know what to do. We left for the customer's house but as we got there, the whole house was empty. The security agent at the gate told us he had packed to an unknown address. We left for the Police Station at Milverton Street, where I was eventually locked up that night after having written down my statement. They let the Vendor and my cousin go since they had gotten to me. As I was taken into the cell, almost all the inmates had slept off, so I managed to locate a little space at the end of the corridor, where I lay down and tried to sleep but couldn't. I wasn't particularly afraid, but as a lot of thought ran through my mind, the Lord told me nothing would happen

to me since I had become His disciple before the issue sprang up. I had the assurance that God had already planned my stay there, and also that it won't be long before I would come out. The following morning, the Investigating officer in-charge of my case brought me out for interrogation. I answered all his questions, then he asked me if there were other places the man I sold the phone to could be found. As I thought for a while, I remembered he had a Pharmacy somewhere in town. The officer arranged for a vehicle and we went to the address of the Pharmacy. On getting there, we were told the Pharmacy had been moved to a different location nearby, so we immediately drove to the new location. We got to the Pharmacy and I saw someone who looked like the man I sold the phone to, talking with someone in front of the Pharmacy. I pointed him out to the officers, so they approached him, got him arrested, and we left for the station. As we got to the station, the man was interrogated for hours and he denied ever buying a phone from me. He kept denying for a long time, then he suddenly pause and told them that it must have been his younger brother, who, looks almost exactly like he does, that they were after. The officers asked me to take another look at him and confirm, but because it had been a long time since the transaction took place, I couldn't really confirm if he was the one or not. I made this known to the officers, so after a short while, we were taken into the cell and locked up. My Pastor sent two brethren to visit me and find out what the

matter was all about, so I explained to them all that had happened in connection with the case. They left afterwards while I went back to the cell. Back in the cell, the man that had been arrested kept pleading with me, explaining that he and his brother looked very much alike, but honestly I wasn't sure so I just kept quiet. He told the officers that the said brother of his was presently out of the country, and would be back in a few weeks time. My Pastor came later on, talked with me then and also with the officers in-charge of my matter, and they promised to look into my case. My Pastor kept coming and finally he spoke with the officer heading the section about my case. He let him know of my faith and how that I was doing restitution. The officer, after he confirmed this from the officers that came to my house to arrest me, told my Pastor that they will try to get me out so that my repentance won't be in vain. They all were shocked on hearing that someone was actually selling all his properties to pay back what he stole from foreigners, and those officers who arrested me said that they had gathered from their sources that I was truly doing so. My Pastor was asked to return the next day for my release. Before he left the station, he sent for me and told me all that transpired between him and the officers, so I went back very hopeful. Later that day, the officers called me out and showed me a picture of the man they had arrested in connection with my case, and another fellow who looked so much like him, and I was asked to take a good look and point out which of them I sold the phone to.

I took a good look and pointed out the other man, as I remembered after a careful study of the two men. The officers confirmed that the mistake was from me, and so I was taken back to the cell. In the cell, I told the man I was very sorry for wrongly identifying him to be his brother, but that I had cleared that complication to the officers. All I did inside that cell was to read my bible and pray. The Lord through His Word strengthened me each time the devil came to put fear and doubt in my heart.

“He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me:...” (John 14:21)

“There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.” (IJohn 4:18)

Because I was keeping God's Word, He removed fear which comes from disobedience to His Word, and gave me peace all the time I was in there. Ordinarily, as an unbeliever, being locked up at Milverton, as it's normally called, would have been a great mishap for me, in that I dreaded such Police Stations. It is normally assumed that once you are locked up in Milverton, you will never come out and that would be the end of that person and his properties, because they would also confiscate all you have. It would have been death to come there as an unbeliever, I wouldn't have been able to contain it. The Lord Jesus knew this and He said, *“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace, in the*

world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33).

In the world, all you have is fear, fear of this and fear of that, because of disobedience to the Word of God. But in the Lord, you have abundant peace and even when you walk through the shadows of death, you will fear no evil because you won't even be aware of the dangers. This is as a result of obeying God's Word.

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear: but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” (II Tim. 1:7)

Fear is from the devil as a result of not keeping to God's commandments, but power, love and a sound mind come from God, because there is power and sound mind in love, which is perfect obedience to the Word of God.

On the seventh day, I was released from that station and was asked to keep reporting until the man I sold the phone to was located. I walked out of that station in the power of the Holy Spirit, and all the officers that knew about my case praised the Lord Jesus, for giving me a new heart to return all the stolen riches. I thanked each and every one of them, then left with my Pastor and two of my brethren. I came out from that cell the moment the Lord Jesus Christ was presented. The Lord is the Word of God and He made all things as it is written, *“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14)*

He is the Word of God, and will achieve grace and truth whenever He is presented. Once He is being obeyed effectively, in whatever circumstance it may be, no man can justify or condemn His disciple, even as it is written, *“Who shall lay anything to the charge of God’s elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.”* (Rom.8:33-34)

Only the Lord can justify or condemn me because I have been elected by His grace and not by my own works. No man can justify or condemn His chosen disciple because He has paid the price by carrying the sins of the whole world on the cross. As we were leaving that station, God used my Pastor to make me realize the great evil that Satan had planned to befall me, had it been that I wasted just a little time in accepting Salvation. I thank God Almighty, for truly His ways are higher than ours. My Pastor then informed me that my friend had written a petition to the Lagos State Commissioner of Police against the officers at S.C.I.D. Panti Street, my Pastor, brethren, and myself, stating that we all had planned and taken his properties by force.

Seven

MY ENCOUNTER WITH THE POLICE AS MY FRIEND PETITIONS THE C.P.

As we arrived at my Pastor's house, we prayed, giving thanks to God for the miracle He performed at Milverton by effecting my release from detention. My Pastor, after I had taken a bath and eaten, began telling me about the petition my friend wrote to the C.P. He said it was the investigating Police Officer (I.P.O.) from S.C.I.D. Panti Street, that came to inform us of the said petition, inviting us to come to the station, so that we all can go to the Provost Office of the Police, at I Oduduwa Crescent G.R.A. Ikeja, which had been mandated to investigate the petition. We arranged that I would report at the S.C.I.D. and explain why I had not come since they brought notice of the petition to my house. I was to go the following day and explain, but while I was still resting at My Pastor's house, God used him to open my eyes on all the devil had planned for me. It was the devil's plan to destroy me instantly through so many ways because he had seen by his observations, that God was making a move in my life.

“And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.” (Matt.24:14)

The nations mentioned in the above scripture stands for individuals while the end is perdition. This gospel will serve as a witness against any person on the judgment day who fails to repent and receive Christ. All those times the gospel was being preached to me, if I had hardened my heart, I would have died and gone to hell. The day of my death had come and I wouldn't have made it after those two weeks. This is a fact and nothing could have changed it, but God through His undying love and infinite mercies, made it impossible for me to refuse His call, by closing down all the things I could fall on when troublous times came. The Lord sent Moses several times to talk to Pharaoh so as to let Israel go, to prevent the wrath of God from falling upon him. It is never God's intention to have anyone go to hell because in His Word He said, *“say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel.” (Ezek.33:11)*

It is the constant hardening of the heart to the gospel of salvation that finally draws one to hell. What would have been the outcome, if those police officers from Milverton had come when all my properties and the documents I used for fraudulent acts, were still in the house? God saw the evil that was about to befall me, and sent His angels to turn

me to salvation. It would have been impossible to convince those officers that I was not the owner of the said phone used in connection with the fraud that they were investigating, had they seen all those properties. I would have gone in for it, probably be charged to Court and when found guilty, sent to Jail and dumped in a prison, where eventually I would have died from a severe attack of Asthma. The following day, I went and met the officers at Panti Street, and we had a long discussion. They showed me a copy of the petition and we agreed that I would bring back those properties mentioned in the petition. We finalized that I should come after two days, with my Pastor and the brethren mentioned also in the petition, together with the properties in dispute, for all of us to report at the Provost Office.

Almost all the properties listed in the petition had been sold some days after they were released, so I began to meet the buyers and explain to them the need for them to resell to me. God so kind, all of them just asked for the precise amount they paid for without any increase. I did as they requested and took back the properties to the station at Panti Street.

On the agreed date, we all except my Pastor went to Panti Street, met the officers and proceeded with all those properties to the Provost Office. My Pastor couldn't make it because of a teaching Seminar he had been invited to attend before this petition came up. As we got to the Provost Office, the officers from Panti Street, presented

their case file and explained all the procedures they observed before releasing the properties to me. After serious examination by the Provost Marshall and His Second-in-Command, they cleared the officers from Panti Street, seeing they had done their jobs without any form of partiality. The officers from Panti Street also told the Provost Marshall the genesis of the problem and how my friend stood against my selling all I had fraudulently acquired, in order to repay the rightful owners their money. The Provost Marshall and all his officers were shocked at hearing this story, so they called my friend for confirmation, and he confirmed the authenticity of the story. We were then asked to return on a set date with my Pastor, while the officers from Panti Street were asked not to bother coming back again, since they had been cleared from the accusation, as stated in the said petition. We all returned on that date and my Pastor explained to the officers how much he had done to make my friend see reason in restitution, but instead he went on to write a petition against him. The officers scolded my friend for hours, advising him to immediately make peace with us, because my Pastor vowed that he was going to write the I.G., if justice was not achieved from that section of the Police force, presently handling the case. They also told my friend to be content with whatever I had given him in the past since I wasn't demanding them from him as part of things meant for restitution. The relations of my friend apologized for all they did, and my friend also did the

same. He also vowed to pay back all he took from the money meant for restitution, by coming to the house to pick up his properties, which he would sell in order to fulfill that vow. All this was put down on paper and we all signed and took our various copies. The officers then asked us to come back the following week, after they must have written their final report to the C.P., so that the properties brought by officers at the S.C.I.D. Panti Street could be released to me. On the said date, we all came back to find out that the Provost Marshall and his Second-in-Command, had been transferred to different sections of the Police, hence we met new officers who were not ready to see reason in all we told them. They demanded that everything bought with the fraud money had to be brought to the station for onward prosecution in Court, as we will be charged with fraud also. We explained that we had already reached an agreement and that we had come to get those properties released to me, but they maintained their stand. They asked us to write our separate statements, which we did, and they saw from what my Pastor wrote on the fact that he would seek justice from a higher source, if they fail to do their work. Immediately, they seized my car, which we had come with, and parked it where they kept vehicle exhibits. Next, they wrote out a detention slip, which contained my friend's name, my own name and lastly, they included the name of my Pastor. We were asked to get inside a car they had arranged and took us straight to the State Traffic Division of the Lagos Police

Command, and locked us up in one of their cells. The rest of the brethren that went with us didn't have an idea as to where they had taken us to, but one of the officers later disclosed it to them, so they rushed and met us removing our clothes for onward detention in the cells. We were shocked at what was happening but kept quiet and went into the cell, asking the brethren to find out why such steps were being taken against my Pastor in particular, seeing he was not part of the fraud committed by my friend and I in the past. We kept pondering over the things that were happening and why such evil was befalling us, but the Lord Jesus said that we shall be hated of all men for His name's sake. (Ref. Matt. 10:22). The moment we walked in to meet those newly posted officers at the Provost Office, it became clear to us that they did not like us. Even before we explained why we had come, the hostility towards us was so much that everyone noticed it. The officers had plans of scaring us (my friend and myself) away with threats of prosecution and Jail, that they may take those properties. But with the presence of the Lord Jesus in my Pastor, they knew he was going to be an obstacle to their tricks, so they included his name on the detention slip, that they may begin to demand money for our release. My brethren continued going there for many days, demanding the release of my Pastor in particular, but they told them to bring some money before they could grant us bail. My Pastor instructed the brethren to immediately engage the services of his lawyer, so as to write a petition to the C.P.

for the injustice done to him. And also charge the police, especially those officers at the Provost Office to Court, for unlawful detention. He (my Pastor) said he knew everything they were doing by locking him up in particular at the S.T.D. were illegal. He said he neither knew my friend nor myself before then, talkless of being part of our fraudulent acts. And also if he should be detained for anything at all, it should not be at S.T.D. because he never committed any traffic offence neither was he a police officer. This is due to the fact that S.T.D. served as a detention camp for the erring junior police officers. He vowed to take the matter up, at least to show the officers that nobody can frighten him from doing the will of God. That night, the Lord visited him and told him not to do anything, as He is the One that brought him there for a purpose, assuring him that the properties will be released at His time and the restitution will be completed. My friend's sister was later informed, as my friend wrote her a letter, then she went with her husband to discuss with the officers, but they stood on their demands. They then went and saw the C.P., who ordered our bail and transfer of the case to G.I.D., after listening to their complaints. We stayed in that cell for a total of eight days. The need for my Pastor's presence in that cell unfolded as the days went by. It would have been impossible for my friend and I to make peace had my Pastor not been there. He single-handedly through the scriptures brought peace between us, explaining why it was necessary that we made peace. Right from the first day

at that cell, all the food we ate was brought from my Pastor's house on his orders, and it was the same food that we all including my friend, ate. God also used my Pastor to feed us spiritually, and my friend after seeing such manifestation of God's love, believed that God was truly there with us in that cell. He (God) had purposely included my Pastor's name in that list, to show my friend that His aim was to reach him also with salvation. The Lord also used my Pastor to show us the horrors about to befall the world after the Second Coming of Christ. My friend had earlier repented of all the evil he did to us, confessing that God had truly changed me for the better, as he saw during those eight days. He said that God had ordained it that we would continue to do business together. He asked my Pastor several questions relating to his worries and fears in all facets of life, and God answered him satisfactorily through my Pastor. We were bailed on the eight day and taken to G.I.D. for statements, which we wrote down, then the I.P.O. asked me to bring to the station, all the money I had recovered from the sales, together with the rest of the properties in my possession bought with money made through fraud. No mention was made of my friend's properties or constant reporting at the station, he was exempted from all this, but was told that when needed, he would be sent for. This was due to the fact that a lot of cash had exchanged hands between my friend's relations and the officers there. I was asked to get a written confirmation from the foreigner I was meant to be

returning his funds to, so that the properties with the money will be released to me. They expected us to give them some money there, but we refused to even entertain such requests, hence they decided to make me suffer, while my friend was cleared from the matter, even as it says in the scriptures, "*A wicked man taketh a gift out of the bosom to pervert the ways of judgment.*" (Prov.17:23).

We all left afterwards, and my friend vowed to keep his own part of the agreement, so as to pay back the money he took from that meant for restitution. When those officers from the Provost Office saw that the C.P. had called for the case file to be transferred to G. I .D., presented a terrible report of their findings which all were based on lies. They also backdated it to look as if it was written by that Provost Marshall we first met who later got transferred. The particular officer that was doing all this evil, is an A.S.P., who was next to the former Second-in-Command that was transferred. He had earlier vowed in the days of the transferred Marshall and his Second-in-Command, to deal with us if given opportunity. He also said he would get those properties confiscated. So when his superiors were transferred, he took over the case and the new superior officers that came in, didn't know much about the case, as he was the one that biased their minds and wrote out the detention order. In the false report, they claimed that my Pastor was part of the fraud my friend and I did years back, hence he was requesting for further prosecution of the matter. However God quenched all their

evil. My Pastor would have written a strong petition against those officers from the Provost Office, but while he would be cleared from the issue, my friend and myself would have suffered greatly, as they (the police), would have been forced to go to Court and have us charged with fraud. My Pastor considered all these things and yielded himself to great humiliation all through those days, according to God's guidance. God strengthened us those eight days with several messages, some of which are written below.

“In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for a moment; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer.” (Isa.54::8).

“The mirth of tabrets ceaseth, the noise of them that rejoice endeth, the joy of the harp ceaseth. They shall not drink wine with a song; strong drink shall be bitter to them that drink it. The city of confusion is broken down: every house is shut up, that no man may come in. (Isa.24:8-10).

“Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all. He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken. Evil shall slay the wicked: and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.” (Ps.34:19-21).

God used these messages to assure us that He was fully aware of all that was happening, urging us to have patience so that He will bring all the evil plans against us to an end. The following day, my Pastor and I brought all my properties with the cash I had got from the sales, to G.I.D.

where they were all recorded and stored. Those at the Provost Office were also recorded but left to stay there due to unavailability of space. I went ahead sending several fax messages to the foreigner that had initially answered my fax, telling him all that had happened and how I needed to have his confirmation on paper, but he neither called nor sent a fax. He must have thought it to be another kind of fraud where eventually he would be asked to bring some money. He cut off his telephone lines and made it impossible to reach him, so I reported all these to G.I.D., and the Investigating Officer relayed the same to his superior, who was the Second-in-Command to the O.C., who then asked us (myself, my Pastor and my friend) to come on a set date for an interview. After the interview, they were meant to decide whether they should release those properties to me or not. On that day, we all came and went before the Second-in-Command to the O.C., and what was meant to be a discussion, turned out to be a dictation. The officer obviously did not feel comfortable as he saw the Lord Jesus in my Pastor and myself, so he rushed everything without even giving any of us a chance to speak, but ordered the Investigating Officer not to release those properties until the foreigner comes to Nigeria. The Investigating Officer told him of the failed attempts to get in contact with the said foreigner, but he just pushed everything to the fact that he (the foreigner) must come before anything is done further. My Pastor cut in to explain things better to him, but he threatened to rope

my Pastor into the fraud we had committed in the past, if he continued to speak. Then my Pastor told him to try such if he wasn't afraid of the Lord Jesus Christ in my Pastor. After about two minutes, he told us to leave his office, ordering the Investigating Officer to get the foreigner come to Lagos. On this note, the interview that just lasted for about six minutes ended. We came out without knowing actually what next to do or say, then the Investigating Officer asked me to keep on checking him, and that the police would find a way to reach the foreigner.

“And moreover I saw under the sun the place of judgment, that wickedness was there; and the place of righteousness, that iniquity was there.” (Eccl.3:16)

It was shocking to find out that such a thing as restitution wasn't well received and accepted by the people God had kept to maintain the law. That first encounter with the Second-in Command, proved that the place of judgment had gotten polluted, as stated in the scriptures, and I know I was going to have a tough time getting those properties released to me. I compared the behavior of the officers at G.I.D. with that of the officers at Panti Street, and discovered that it is God that hath the power to make some people to honor and some to dishonor, even as it's written, *“Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honor, and another unto dishonor.” (Rom.9:21)*

My Pastor and I left and returned to his house, giving all thanks and glory to God in that He alone knows

everything, and the reason things were going the way they did.

Eight

THE ILL MOTIVES OF THE OFFICERS AT G.I.D. UNVEILED

As I kept checking on the officers at G.I.D., they too could not get in-touch with the foreigner, so I was asked to continue checking. I went to G.I.D. twice or thrice a week, but all I received were future dates to return. As I kept going there, the Investigating Officer one day said my friend was needed to come and clear the case. This was due to their findings that Kuwait had no Embassy of its own here in Nigeria, but were attached to the Embassy of Saudi Arabia, so it would take a much longer process to get in contact with the said foreigner. He gave me a date to return with my friend so that he (my friend) would write a letter of withdrawal from his previous petition, that the properties might be released to me, since the foreigner wasn't forthcoming. I left for my friend's house but when I got there, I was told he had gone out, so I left the message on a note I dropped for him. On the said date, I went to G.I.D. and waited for my friend to show up, but he didn't. As I continued to wait, the Investigating Officer asked me to come back in two days' time, so that he would use that

time and get in contact with my friend. I came back as agreed, but my friend wasn't there again, so I went and met with the Officer-in-Charge (O.C) of G.I.D, and explained all about the case to him. He received me well and thanked God for my conversion and grace to do restitution, then he asked his Second-in Command to get in-touch with my friend and obtain a letter of withdrawal from him, stating his withdrawal from the case and onward release of the properties to me. The Second-in Command then took me to his office and told me to bring my friend to the station to write out his withdrawal letter. From the look on his face, I noticed he wasn't happy at all that I had gone ahead of him to meet with his superior. He did not like it one bit, and as he asked me to bring my friend, I could tell he had other plans of frustrating my efforts, even if the withdrawal letter was eventually issued by my friend. I made several other attempts to reach my friend, but couldn't, though I left several notes for him. I made it a point of duty to go to G.I.D. twice or thrice a week, and on one of the days, I went and met my friend. He gave them the letter of withdrawal, as they demanded from him. I later left to return on a date those officers told me to, but again was asked to come back another day, because they said that the O.C. had not given any directive to them as regards my case. I went on several occasions to know the decision of the O.C., but the Second-in-Command, made it impossible for me to see the O.C., instead I'll be directed to him whenever I asked to see the O.C. And each time

when I would see him, he would laugh me to scorn. He told me point blank that those properties will not leave G.I.D. without my giving him money, but I kept explaining to him that my faith abhors bribery. He then told me to forget about the properties since God had forgiven me and had asked me to sell them and return the funds to the owner. He also said that leaving the properties in the hands of the police was the same thing as restitution, since the police eventually would have them returned to the owner. I then let him know that if I failed to finish this restitution as God had directed me, that I would die and go to hell. He then said I should forget about my beliefs and leave the properties for him, and let the sins be upon him. At this time, I told him he wasn't aware of what he was saying due to his ignorance in the Word of God. He also said my beliefs were not applicable in this present day, then I told him I had no other option than to obey God, even if it means going to jail or dying. He made a few more requests of the properties, then he said I should go and get him N500,000 (Five Hundred Thousand Naira) or forget those properties in police custody. I refused and he asked me to come back for the decision of his superior. As I continued checking, I met the worst kind of hostility I had ever met in my life, right from Second-in Command down to the Investigating Officer and all the officers in the same room was in. They became so abusive whenever I would inquire to know the O.C.'s decision. They asked me if my case was the only one they were handling, and why I had

become a nuisance by coming almost everyday to disturb their work. The more I tried to explain, the more furious and abusive they would become, and many times they would tell me to leave the premises or risk being detained at the Area F of the Lagos Police command, which had a reputation of having the worst kind of accommodation and environmental conditions. I became their number one enemy at that G.I.D. just because I was obeying the Word of God.

“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.” (John 3:19-20).

The moment those officers at G.I.D. knew I was doing restitution, they felt I wanted to prove a point by showing them how sinful they were, and this is that condemnation the Lord Jesus mentioned in the above scripture which must fall on any that rejects Him. All that those officers saw in me was how sinful they lived, and since the Lord said that those in darkness hate the light that their deeds be not reproved, they all moved with one accord to attack me in order to frustrate me and make me stop coming, that they stop seeing and stop feeling condemned.

On all the times I would come back to my Pastor's house to tell him all that was happening at G.I.D., God would use him to strengthen me, because truly speaking, at a point in time I lost hope and wanted to forget those properties,

because I had become tired of going there and wanted to stop. But my Pastor each time kept reminding me of the sin in not keeping a vow one has made to God, and God would use him to strengthen me through His Word.

“He is despised and rejected of men: a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.” (Isa.53:3).

This was how the Lord Jesus was received on earth by almost everybody then, and it is still the same way a true disciple of Christ will be received by most people today, because Jesus said, *“Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his Lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also.”* (John 15:20). Whatever the Lord Jesus experienced here on earth, that is what we are expected to experience, even death, but in this dispensation, it is the death of one’s self will. Anyone who obeys the Word of God will be hated by most people and will also be regarded as a big fool, even as I was by those officers at G.I.D. Even among all sections of the police, crime had become so legalized that that restitution sounded so impossible to them. Although all those words from the officers came from Satan, so one can’t totally blame them for that, as Satan is the one behind all their actions. It is written, *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers*

of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” (Eph.6:12).

All negative thoughts, words and actions, come from no other person than the devil, with or without the knowledge of the person being used to manifest such evil. That is why the scriptures say, *“Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.” (Rom.6:13).*

“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey: whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?” (Rom.6:16)

Whatever one yield himself to, whether to good or to evil, to that thing you are the servant and in bondage of. It is either you yield to the Lord Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit, or to Satan through your self will. The truth is that one is either in Jesus Christ or in Satan, there is no gray area, either you are on white side or on black side, whether in light or in darkness.

One day I went to speak with the O.C. G.I.D., and as I explained to him how that my case hinged on his decision which is being expected for such a long time now, and how my friend had written the withdrawal letter he said would effect the release of my properties, he asked me to see his Second-in-Command. I went to the Second-in-Command and told him all the O.C. had said, he immediately became

very angry and shouted at me for going ahead to meet his superior. He said a lot of bitter and painful words and finally vowed that he would make sure none of those properties were released to me. He also said my friend's letter had no basis or strength because he (my friend) lied in his petition as concerning the genesis of our problem. He also said that my friend had committed a crime of fraud with me in the past, hence did not have a good reputation, and whatever he says cannot be taken in this matter. I began to explain to him, how I had obeyed all their instructions, but he cut me short and asked me to leave his office. As I was leaving, he asked me to come back another day to enable them seek a final directive from the C.P. himself, whom the petition was written to in the first place. I came out of his office, went outside the premises, and sat down beside a nearby shop. I began to remember how this case had started and all things I had gone through because of it, and as I thought about these things, I broke down and wept so much that my whole body was shaking from the weeping. My mind ran back to many things in the past, and I wept so bitterly that the people nearby saw me but didn't know what to do or say to me. I called upon God to intervene because I had come to the end of my human ability, all my hopes were lost. There seemed to be no solution or help coming from anywhere, so I just wept and wept, till I could weep no more, then I wiped my eyes, got up and left. When I came to my Pastor's house and told him all that happened, he told me to have faith in

God, in that restitution is stated clearly both in the Old and New Testaments of the bible, so God must bring it to pass, because it is His word. He reminded me of how Moses would go to Pharaoh and the same God that sent him, would harden Pharaoh's heart. Also Moses had to go to Pharaoh several times before he could let Israel go.

I kept checking on the C.P.'s directive, but no such thing ever came from him. I went to G.I.D. for nothing less than forty times, before I sought the directive by myself. According to my findings in the files section, those officers actually wrote a report to the C.P., though I didn't see it, but they hid it under an entirely different file index where it would never be searched for and where it would be impossible for anyone to locate, but God had taken over and it was discovered. I reported this to the officers, but they pretended that they didn't know what I was saying, but said they would write back to the C.P. demanding for a directive in respect to my case. After several other weeks of visiting G.I.D., the Lord revealed to my Pastor what actually those officers had planned to do. Their plan was to use the confirmation the foreigner would have sent on paper, to frame up a case of fraud against me, take me to Court and get me jailed, so that they could share the properties among themselves. If that foreigner had replied, I would have gone to jail for it, because all they needed was that evidence of fraud on paper, so that they could take me to Court, due to the fact that self confession won't be enough proof to get me jailed. God who searches the

hearts, knew what they had in their hearts for me, and prevented any communication between the foreigner and myself or even themselves, from the time the police got involved in the case. No matter the plans one makes in life, it is God that decides which should happen and which shouldn't, for it is written, "*O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.*" (Jer.10:23). God is the One that directs our steps no matter whatever we plan.

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the Lord search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings." (Jer.17:9-10)

All that fuss by the officers in G.I.D., about getting the foreigner to send a confirmation letter that I was returning the money I defrauded him in the past, was just a ploy, so they could use it to send me to jail, and take all those properties. Meanwhile, I struggled so hard by making phone calls almost twice or thrice weekly to Kuwait, paying all that money, and even sending fax messages, just to get that reply, not knowing the evil that awaited me had I received that reply. I even at a time began to ask God why He has refused to allow the foreigner who had been communicating with me before that time, answer my letters and calls when it was needed most, so that my properties could be released and I'd continue with restitution, not knowing that the reply would have been my end. And it was God that blocked the foreigner from ever

communicating with me again. Truly, His wisdom and knowledge are unsearchable.

Nine

GOD'S INTERVENTION DISPOSES THE ILL PROPOSED PLANS OF THOSE OFFICERS

When it became so obvious from numerous visits to G.I.D., that those officers were bent on frustrating all my efforts just to acquire those properties, through guidance from the Lord Jesus in my Pastor, I sought the services of a lawyer who also happens to be a close family friend.

“Lay not wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; spoil not his resting place: For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.” (Prov.24:15-16)

Those officers had secured all plans to ensure that I didn't get back those properties, so that they could share them among themselves, but it is written that though a righteous man falls seven times, he will rise again unto perfection, but the wicked shall fall into mischief. It is also written, *“He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity and the rod of his anger shall fail.”* (Prov.22:8), so I was confident that all the things those officers wished me would eventually fall upon them, and with all this in mind, I spoke to a lawyer

for some advice. After I gave him a detailed explanation of my case, starting from when I repented to the present situation, he advised me to apply patience in dealing with the police but assured that the properties were going to be released in a matter of time. I employed the services of the law firm and they moved into action immediately. We went to G.I.D. a couple of times to speak with the Investigating Officer, but the moment he saw I had brought in a lawyer into the matter, he became very hostile in receiving us, and maintained that they were still awaiting a directive from the C.P. on what next to do. The lawyer then took some days to talk to the mother, who also is the Principal Counsel in the law firm, to get her involved and see if she could offer any assistance. After the mother had been briefed on my issue, one would have thought that with her profession and reputation in the society, she would have avoided such a controversial case as this one, but God moved in her heart and the son's also, to understand that I was suffering injustice in the hands of the police, so they vowed to give all their assistance in order to get those properties out, for me to complete the restitution. They were shocked and happy that someone close to them had taken a decision to return all the wealth he stole from people. I know for sure that this family received me not because of the family relationship, after all a lot of my relations began to avoid me the moment I became converted, but it was just because of the fact that I had become a disciple of Christ, and was being persecuted for obeying the Word of God.

Their reward truly is great for it is written, *“And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.”* (Matt.10:42)

Whatever good one does to a true disciple of Jesus Christ **never** goes in vain, and because God can never forget, though man may forget, He will surely, at His own time, reward the person greatly. The Lord Jesus also said, *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.”* (John.13:20). Even as that family received me and yielded themselves unto God through the Holy Spirit, Jesus Christ has come into their lives. Though they are not born again yet in the physical, they became birthed in the spirit the moment they received me and yielded to God.

We set a date to go and talk to a Commissioner of Police at Force Headquarters, Kam Selem House, whom they were close to, and on that date, I came and we went and spoke to the man. The man expressed his surprise at my story, thanking the Lord for such good news. He advised we apply patience in the pursuit, because not all knew whom God is, and unfortunately those employed to uphold the law now stood to frustrate the good thing God had laid in my heart to do. He gave us a note to his friend at the Lagos State Police Headquarters, who also is a senior police officer, so that he could take us before the C.P. of

Lagos State, to actually find out why his directive was taking such a long time to come. We met with this officer and he rejoiced at my testimony because he understood it, being a serious Christian also. On a date we agreed on, we all went before the O.C. G.I.D. to see if the presence of this officer would change their minds. Despite the fact that this senior officer that went with us had a very good relationship with the O.C. G.I.D., it was impossible to talk him into reasoning with us, for all that was said about restitution sounded like foolish and empty words to him. The officer informed the O.C. and his Second-in-Command, who stepped into the office shortly after we came in, that he was sent by the C.P. from the Force Headquarters whom we had gone to talk to initially. He pleaded with them to temper justice with mercy in that all they knew about the fraud came through a self-confession by me, because I was never caught while still in the act of fraud. They said it was because of this that they had not gone ahead to prosecute me, but advised me to leave the police to handle the restitution. The lawyer reminded them that the police could only confiscate and not retribute, urging them to charge the matter to court, if they felt like doing so, but they again maintained that the C.P. Lagos State was the only one to order such a release, since he has the final say. We left G.I.D. premises afterwards, while the senior officer advised us to have some patience in that those officers, as he noticed from the discussion, were bent on taking those properties. We briefed the C.P. who

directed us to the senior officer on the outcome of our meeting with the O.C., explaining that the officer to whom he directed us, said he wanted to respect the office of O.C. before going straight to the C.P. Lagos State, hence we first went to meet the O.C.

The C.P. from the Headquarters, having heard all we said, asked the senior officer to keep checking on them at G.I.D. for the C.P. directive.

On some days, I would go myself to G.I.D. but each time I went, I experienced the worst kind of hostility and humiliation from those officers, so I lost confidence in going myself to check on the expected directive. They assured me that even if I got the Head of State to come in respect of my case, that those properties would not be released. Each time they made such threats, I always replied and told them that God would release those properties miraculously, but they would always laugh at me whenever I said this.

The Lord said that, *“No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.”* (Isa.54:17).

All that those officers were saying came from the devil and as an heir to the Kingdom of Jesus Christ, I knew that those words would never come to pass because of the above scripture. Which came out of the mouth of our Lord God Himself. I kept on checking the senior officer at the

State H.Q., and each time I told him how the officers at G.I.D. were treating me, he would encourage me, advising me never to lose hope and go back living as an unbeliever again. This officer was such a great help to me all through those days and on several occasions, he would give me money for my transport and expenses. It is only God that can reward this officer who showed me so much love, despite the fact that we didn't know each other before then, but my case interested him so much that he also felt all the pains I felt. I praise God for the life of this officer. It is unbelievable to find such people still in the Nigerian Police amidst all the evil in the force. The C.P. from the Headquarters, once again called this senior officer and asked him to take me before the C.P. of Lagos State. This officer being very good friends with the O.C. G.I.D., and not willing to appear as if he dishonoring his office, took me again before the O.C. This time, the O.C. was mad at me for dragging such a high rank officer to leave all his work and attend to my case. He rained all kind of abusive words on me, stating that I wanted to have those properties at all cost, so that I could begin to use and enjoy them again. He said I shouldn't be taken serious because of the fact that I claimed to be doing restitution, stating that it was just another trick to get those properties out that I might begin to enjoy them. At a point in time after much pleading, the senior officer called the C.P. from the Force headquarters who had sent us, and told him what the O.C. was saying in respect to my case. The C.P. asked to speak

with the O.C., and they spoke at length, but the O.C. maintained his stand, that it was only the C.P. Lagos State, who could order the release of those properties. At this instance, the C.P. that sent us, told us to leave while he asked me to come and see him at his office the following day, and we left G.I.D. on this note.

The following day, I went to see the C.P at Force headquarters. He told me to put down on paper, all that had happened in this case starting from the beginning to the present, so that with it he could discuss with the C.P. Lagos State on how to help me. I left and did as I was told, and when I submitted the report, the C.P. asked me to continue to check on him to know the outcome of their discussion.

At this time, I had packed out of my apartment and was arranging for the refund of the rest of the rent. The Estate Agency kept bringing up one reason after another to frustrate me, because no one likes refund business, but I kept proving them wrong on all their faults. One day after I had spent several hours arguing with those Estate Agents on the fact that they claimed I was owing a large amount of money on N.E.P.A. bills, I left for Festac Town where I was squatting with one of my brethren. As I waited for the bus, I began to ponder in my mind, the refund of the rent, the properties at G.I.D., my friend who caused all these problems, and my head was full with those thoughts that I began to have a terrible headache. As if that wasn't enough, it began to rain, and everyone ran to find some

shade. I ran inside one compound to avoid the down pour, but I couldn't find a suitable place to effectively dodge the rain, so I just stayed on one particular spot while the rain poured down on me. Tears filled my eyes ready to fall, but immediately a song came to my heart, which goes thus, "God will make a way, where there seems to be no way" That song came from the Holy Spirit and it strengthened me so much. It lifted me above all my problems and worries, and I saw ahead that there is light at the end of the long tunnel, then I remembered the words of the Lord Jesus, "*Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me.*" (John 14:1). The Lord also reminded me of the victory He achieved for me with His words, "*These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace, In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*" (John 16:33). He also told me that He has overcome the world with all its ups and downs, and has given me peace, which is a contrast to the tribulation Satan gives to those in the world. All these words never ceased to strengthen me each time the devil would come to depress me through those words from unbelievers.

Each time I meditated on all I was passing through, it became clearer to me that God was going this way while the world keeps going the opposite direction. All that the Lord stands for are rejected and despised in this present world system. Several times, people, even my own friends, spoke evil about the Lord Jesus in me behind my back,

saying that it was just sheer laziness that caused me to forsake my education. People usually say that even the bible urged people to work for their food, but with the little experience I have gathered in the Lord, the bible can appear anyway you want it, and that is why it is impossible to understand the scriptures without its Interpreter, the Holy Spirit. Apostle Paul said that the letter killeth but the Spirit giveth life. He meant that the Word without the Spirit, will only minister condemnation, but with the Spirit, life. Anyone, who is not born again and under submission to God's authority channel, will only find condemnation in the scriptures, because everything in the scripture has a physical and a spiritual meaning. Only those in the perfect will of God, and are separated entirely from this world system, will discover abundant life in scriptures.

“And judgment is turned away backward, and justice standeth afar off: for truth is fallen in the street, and equity cannot enter. Yea truth faileth: and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgment.”
(Isa.59:14-15)

Because the society respects wealth irrespective of its source, evil has increased greatly and people not only feel comfortable with crime, but also encourage those that have become successful in it. Anyone, who now departs from evil or crime, is hated by most people even by his own blood relations, because they no longer receive gifts from him. The moment I became converted and started with

restitution, most of my friends changed their attitudes towards me, because they felt I now had nothing to offer. I also became a prey to those officers that rejected restitution, just because I departed from evil, and almost everyone hid their faces from me whenever they saw me. Most people never wanted to have any association with me, even as the scripture says in Isaiah 53:3. This is true and real. Also, any true disciple of Jesus Christ is seen as a total failure in this present dispensation, because this is actually not our kingdom, even as the Lord answered Pilate, *“Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.”*(John 18:36).

It is plain that a disciple suffers and is despised in this world because this system does not belong to us, hence we look for one wherein dwelleth righteousness, even as Apostle Peter wrote in II Peter 3:13.

At that point in time, I lost hope that those properties would ever be released but God used my Pastor each time I felt this way, to strengthen me. I kept checking on the C.P. from the Force headquarters, but nothing was happening, and due to the attitude of those officers at G.I.D., I saw why people had become hardened to sin, because those properties would leave G.I.D once I submitted to bribery. Bribery was the normal language there, so how could I expect things to go my way, when I was against it. I sought other avenues to get my properties released, and I even

went to speak with the son of the C. P. Lagos State, who is also a lawyer. He wasn't in the country then but I told my story to his partner, who offered to help by talking to the officers at G.I.D., since he too was close to them. I came back another day and he said they were demanding for N200,000, to get the properties released, while he was asking for less as legal fees. I couldn't yield to bribery and so I told him. He offered to shelve his fees till the properties are released and sold, just to assist, but I made it clear that my faith abhorred bribery. He said it would be impossible to get those properties released without bribery, but I told him plainly that those properties were going to leave G.I.D., without my having to spend one Kobo. He wished me luck and I left, and that option closed. I then made several attempts to speak directly with the C.P. Lagos State myself, but each time I would begin to explain why I needed his assistance, he would cut me short, telling me how busy he was, and would ask me to put my petition on paper and submit to the appropriate section which will eventually bring it to his table. I refused to do this because it would still pass through the tables of those officers that stood against the release of the properties.

As it began to approach nine months since those properties were seized by the G.I.D., the Principal Counsel of that law firm that was handling my case, went with me to see the O.C. G.I.D. We waited for a long while before we were finally asked to come inside his office, obviously he wasn't in the mood to speak to us. We went in and after she (the

Principal Counsel) discussed with him, he still maintained it was only the C.P. Lagos State who could order the release of those properties. We left to see the C.P. from the Force headquarters who had been assisting us and brief him on the outcome of that last visit to O.C. G.I.D.'s office. After discussing with him, he gave us a note to the C.P. Lagos State, and we agreed to go there in a few days' time. We went as scheduled, saw the C.P. Lagos State, and gave him the note. He asked us to explain our problem to him, which we did, then he sent for the O.C. G.I.D. and the Investigating Officer. As we waited for their arrival, the C.P. Lagos State confirmed writing a report on the matter, but could not locate it as he searched for it, so he resolved to wait for the officers in-charge. Within a short while, they two came into the office and met us there. As soon as they saw the woman and myself, their countenance changed, as they must have wondered how we had gotten to the C.P. Lagos State himself. The C.P. asked them to brief him on the case, which they did, and after they ended their speech, the C.P. sat back and thought for a while, then he spoke. He said it was not the job of the police to prosecute the case, but that if and when the foreigner comes, he then can do that, but not the police. He said further, that since the foreigner was not forthcoming, it would be unreasonable to keep the properties in their custody, but that the right thing to do, was to release them all to me, so that I can continue with what I was doing. As he spoke, he wrote out on a sheet of paper, an order for the release of all those

properties to me, requesting also for the case file to be brought to him for the final closure of the case. The Investigating Officer with his O.C. could not believe their ears, as their faces clearly revealed the shock they felt from the words of the C.P. They looked as if they had just been given the news of the death of a close relation. This is the same way Haman must have felt and looked when after stating what should be done to a man King Ahasuerus wanted to honor, thinking it to be himself, the honor came to Mordecai, his enemy to his greatest surprise.

The C.P. Lagos State asked us to come back the following week and receive all those properties, while he would write a report and close the file. We thanked him and left his office, but the Investigating Officer and the O.C. had left shortly after the C.P. wrote the order and gave it to them.

The scripture says, *“The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.”* (Prov.21:1).

I am a living, true and faithful witness to this Word of God. I came out of that office, a different person. I have no words with which to describe the way I felt. The Lord is faithful, once the time He sets comes, there’s no delay whatsoever. The thing that looked impossible and had taken nine months just happened and was concluded in less than 30 minutes. All the nine months of struggle took between 20 to 25 minutes to come to an end. I also understood better that indeed God had set a time for

everything, and no one can push Him to do anything before its time.

“A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.” (Eccl.3:4)

God had suddenly changed the circumstances and turned the tables round. All my days of sorrow had ended. I that mourned and wept was now given the opportunity to laugh and dance. I went straight to my Pastor's house to give him the good news, and I got there and told him all the Lord did with the C.P. Lagos State, and we all rejoiced and gave great thanks to the Lord again for a great miracle. On the said date, two of my brethren accompanied me to G.I.D., but when we got there, we were asked to return in a few days' time for the completion of the necessary paper work. We went back after some days, and with the Investigating Officer went to the Provost Office and got the properties there released to me, then we came back to G.I.D. and picked the ones that were kept there. All those officers at the Provost Office were so amazed at the release that they couldn't utter a word, while we greeted them and carried the properties away. Back in G.I.D., I got all the properties released to me, but couldn't get the cash because the Exhibit Keeper who had the money locked in a safe, wasn't available at that time, so I was asked to come back the following week for the money. I signed all the relevant documents, then went to thank the O.C. G.I.D., his Second-in-Command, and all the concerned officers, for all their support in my struggles. As I thanked them, they just

nodded and managed to squeeze out a few words from their lips. They couldn't believe their eyes and ears. All I had said about getting those properties released without bribery, had just come to pass, it was unbelievable because things never went that way in there. They knew that a Supernatural power had gotten those properties released, and there was nothing they could do to stop it. I went and thanked those officers in accordance to God's Word which says, *"Recompense to no man, evil for evil. Rather things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."* (Rom.12:17-18).

Because all the properties couldn't get into the car that was also just released, it became necessary to hire a truck, but we didn't have enough money for that. To my greatest surprise, God moved the Investigating Officer who in the past had been so hostile to me, and he gave us his salary, which had just been paid to him that same day, as a loan to enable us hire the truck. This we did, and took all those properties home. After a few days, we came back for the cash which was also released to me, and we paid the Investigating Officer back the loan. The scripture says, *"When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him."* (Prov.16:7).

The all-hostile Investigating Officer, all of sudden changed, and became humane, even to the point of offering his salary for assistance, without any assurance of ever being paid back.

Later on, I relayed the news of the release to the C.P. at Force headquarters, who gave his assistance all through, and he rejoiced with me on all that God had done.

“For mine own sake, even for mine own sake, will I do it: for how should my name be polluted? And I will not give my glory unto another.” (Isa.48:11).

God by His mighty hand got those properties released that His name will not be blasphemed among all that knew about the case. It had gotten to a point where those officers and even my own friends and relations in the flesh, began to doubt if I was truly doing God's will, and if so, why I had run into such complicated problems while obey God's Word on restitution. They made such comments like stating that God would not have allowed such things to befall me if truly I was obeying God, as I claimed. They sometimes would say that, who was even sure that restitution was from God? The Lord heard all these murmuring and moved and released all those properties without any condition and without bribery.

Praise be to Him, Amen.

Ten

THE JUDGMENT OF GOD FALLS ON THOSE THAT RESISTED THE RESTITUTION.

“Seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you.” (I Thess.1:6)

Whatever befalls a servant of God who walks in the will of God daily, the Lord knows and is aware of them all. He will surely pay back those that troubled his servant, though it might take long, it will surely be recompensed. Normally, there is always some delay in the execution of the judgment of God because we are in the flesh and always anxious for God to deal with those that trouble us. The delay is caused by God’s long-suffering and infinite mercies, to give room for repentance, and this is clearly stated below, *“The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness, but is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” (II Pet.3:9).*

Those on the evil side were also created by God, hence He is not willing that they should perish because it will also be a loss to Him. Therefore He waits and gives countless

chances for repentance, after which He executes His wrath on all that refuse to repent.

Nine in God's Arithmetic of Numbers, stands for Fruit, hence the fruit of the womb is formed and delivered after nine months. Exactly nine months after the seizure of the properties by those officers, God manifested its release, which is the fruit of all the sufferings and patience on our side. The Lord used those crushing nine months to teach me many things like patience, and so on. He sent Moses several times to Pharaoh as a form of training for Moses, and also to show His power in Pharaoh, even as He said in Exo.9:16. If those officers from G.I.D. had done what they were supposed to do as law enforcement agents, they would have received the blessings of God, because Jesus Christ said, *"For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward."* (Mark 9:41). Those officers rejected restitution, hence rejecting the Lord Jesus who is the Author of restitution.

"And the Lord said, Because the cry of Sodom and Gomorrah is great, and because their sin is very grievous; I will go down, and see whether they have done altogether according to the cry of it, which is come unto me; and if not, I will know." (Gen.18:20-21).

God did the same thing He did in the above scripture, by sending me to G.I.D., to see for Himself if all that was being said about the place was true or not. As soon as it was confirmed that much evil dwelt there, God released

those properties the same way he brought out Lot and his daughters out of Sodom and Gomorrah, and rained judgment on all that fought the restitution.

Shortly after the release of all those properties from G.I.D., God moved in the heart of the Inspector General of Police, and he closed the place down and dissolved that section. There had been numerous petitions against the officers at G.I.D. and it was what prompted the dissolution of the place. Those officers, the O.C. G.I.D., the Second-in-Command, with all the concerned officers except the Investigating Officer, got transferred to different states of the country, where I know they will be passing through some other forms of punishments according to the Lord's decree. This sudden closure was a big blow to those officers because that place had become a haven for all kinds of fraudulent acts that raked in large sums of money for them. The O.C. and his Second-in-Command got transferred to remote areas of the country and this was their biggest nightmare, which had just become a reality.

The Investigating Officer wasn't among those transferred. God had mercy on him as he yielded to the Lord by assisting us financially that last day as we needed money to hire a truck for the properties. In his report also, he stated that there is a genuine desire in me to do restitution, but that a confirmation from the foreigner was not forthcoming. Whenever he was called upon, he maintained that I had truly given up all those properties, and that even the clothes I bought with the fraud money had been sold by

me. He kept on hammering on the fact that his superiors overruled all his findings, hence he could not do much to facilitate the release during that long delay. It is God's Word that He will have mercy on whom He will, and that Investigating Officer received this mercy from the Lord.

The officers at the Provost Office that looked us up for eight days illegally, got transferred to various places around the country as God scattered their evil group, and I know they will be reaping the fruit of their evil doings wherever they got transferred to.

"The wicked is snared by the transgression of his lips: but the just shall come out of trouble." (Prov.12:13)

Time would fail me if I begin to write all the negative confessions that came out of the lips of my friend. They were so many that only God can remember all of them. He said he did not want to do restitution, or go to heaven, but all he wanted was his own little portion to be given him. He didn't stop at that, but went ahead to resist God's commandment and dip his fingers into money meant for restitution. Because he took that last step of carrying those properties away from the house, the police came into the matter and God's Word suffered delay, as he petitioned the servants of God to the heathen. No matter what a disciple does to grieve God, it is God who will judge and punish him, they (disciples) will never suffer condemnation by the heathen; as it is written, *"Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea, rather, that is*

risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.” (Rom.8:33-34).

It is God that judges His people who are called through grace, and never the heathen. This is shown also in this scripture, *“For thus saith the Lord God, My people went down aforetime into Egypt to sojourn there; and the Assyrian oppressed them without cause. Now therefore, what have I done, saith the Lord, that my people is taken away for nought? They that rule over them make them to howl, saith the Lord; and my name continually everyday is blasphemed.” (Isa.52:4-5)*

God hates His name being mentioned by the heathen, let alone to blaspheme it. He will do everything to make sure His Word is fulfilled in His sons to avoid blasphemy. My friend took us to Provost Office then to G.I.D., where all kinds of evil were done to the Lord Jesus in me and my Pastor, as those officers on many occasions told me that restitution was an impossibility, hence saying that the Word of God cannot be done. By taking us through all these places, he was time and time again taking us away from the presence of God. Hence denying God His food, which we offered through praise, worship and intercession, which we could not offer effectively because of the constant reports to those stations. Though God made countless efforts to save my friend from doom, he hardened his heart to all God's Word. Later on, during those eight days in detention with him, he repented of all the evil he had done, and vowed to return all the money he took. He didn't keep his

word after coming to take all his properties from the apartment, therefore God passed judgment on him and it manifested in all areas of his life.

He received a severer judgment in that he was the main obstacle to God's move in my life.

In the past when my Pastor and I came for an interview with the Second-in-Command of G.I.D., my friend arrived looking very pale and unhealthy. He was so weak all through that he kept staggering and looking for a place to sit down. I asked him what was wrong with him and he said he was ill. We then went in to see the Second-in-Command, and after a short while, came out and took a seat outside the premises of G.I.D. I asked him again what the illness was, and then he began to weep. He wept so much before he calmed down and managed to speak. He said he had been suffering from kidney problems ever since we were released from those eight days of detention. He further said he had done two laboratory tests and they both showed he had A.I.D.S. He tested H.I.V. positive to both the tests. I wasn't sure of what I had just heard so I asked him again, and he confirmed that he had A.I.D.S.

At this, I was lost. I almost screamed, but managed to control myself, but my mouth flew open in shock the moment he repeated those words, "A.I.D.S." He continued by saying he was receiving treatment at a Herbal Clinic which gulped all the money he was getting. He then showed us a putrefying sore on his foot, which had developed as a result of the virus. He also informed us that

the virus had attacked his kidney. My Pastor told him immediately that if he would obey and keep his word to pay back the money he took, God would heal him of all those ailments. He also let him know that he had taken all his properties as agreed but since then, he had not done according to his vow, instead he heeded to the words of his sister and abandoned the agreement we had, thinking he was doing it to man. My Pastor let him know also that God is not a covenant breaker, so no matter how much he suffers, if he doesn't keep to that covenant, God will not lift a finger to heal him. We spoke to him at length, then left for our homes. When we got home, I spent time meditating on my friend's judgment, which occurred at about 3 months from the time we all held a meeting at my apartment, when one of my brethren told him prophetically, that God would deal with him within such a time. Despite the fact that peace was achieved between us all, God still rained judgment because He is not sympathetic. I remembered the words of the Holy Ghost through Solomon which says, *"An evil man seeketh only rebellion; therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him."* (Prov.17:11).

"He that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy." (Prov.29:1).

It is clear that anyone who hardens his heart after much reproof and advice, but stands against God, shall face

destruction because God is a Spirit and man is flesh, therefore how can one fight against a Spirit you cannot see? A man can run for refuge under the shadow of the Almighty when pursued by the devil, but where shall he run to, when pursued by God?

“It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” (Heb.10:31)

Indeed, it is a fearful thing to fall into God’s wrath because none can save.

“When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed.” (Eccl.5:4)

A.I.D.S. is pestilence and God allows the devil to send it to the disobedient and rebellious. It is therefore only Him that can cast it out because it is caused by a demon spirit.

My friend and I still saw each other, as I visited him in his sister’s house when those properties were released. He was still under that torment of A.I.D.S., but I pray that God will make a way for him to keep to that agreement and then receive the Lord Jesus, and become completely healed. It is of great importance to me that my friend receives the Lord Jesus. I have cried unto God in prayers to help him because he didn’t know what he was doing.

All those properties were later sold and the restitution was finalized according to God’s guidance, as I still had the foreigners bank account particulars, and I now have peace in the name of Jesus, seeing that the work of righteousness is *peace*.

“And the work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance forever.”
(Isa.32:17).

I stand as a faithful and true witness, whom God has passed this truth in his flesh, and I urge as many fraudsters whom the Lord is calling like He called me, to seek this example if they ever intend to see Jesus, talkless of making heaven. Many may say, shall I go through all these obstacles and headaches to return such ill gotten wealth? The answer is, not necessarily so, because once one person obeys the Word of God, abundant grace is released upon as many as want to do the same. For this reason, the Holy Spirit spoke through Apostle Paul, *“Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation, even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”* (Rom.5:18-19).

This scripture is understandable for as soon as Christ died for the sins of the world, God then justified or made righteous, those who agree with this price which He paid, and accept Him as their personal Lord and Saviour. The same is applicable to any who believes and accepts to do this that I have done, he too will be forgiven and then made righteous, and according to the Word of God,
“And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.”
(Heb.10:17).

Yes, God will not remember your sins and iniquities any more if you do this, and continue to obey Him to the end, but if you refuse and continue to rebel, you will be devoured with the sword and perish in hell, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.

CONTACTS

PASTOR JOHN DANIEL
HELP & RECONCILIATION MINISTRY AND BIBLE
TRAINING COLLEGE
HOUSE 2, D CLOSE
4TH AVENUE
FESTAC TOWN
LAGOS-NIGERIA
TEL/FAX: 234 1 7943450

PASTOR JOHN DANIEL
P.O.BOX 537
SATELLITE TOWN
LAGOS-NIGERIA

**THIS BOOK IS NOT FOR
SALE**