

MASTERY OVER
FAITH
KILLERS

IFE ADETONA

ABOUT THE BOOK

You think that maybe you are growing in faith but the opposite is the case. This is because there are some factors that are in place hindering your growth.

This book therefore examines these factors which the author called Faith Killers. The author did a detailed work on explaining five things that can kill one's faith, how they work and how to deal with them.

The book is one that equips with the knowledge to fight and overcome the faith killers. I pray that this shall be your portion as you read this book in Jesus Name.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ife Adetona is an anointed preacher of the gospel. He is the President of the Sons and Daughters of Zion [SADOZ] Global Harvest Ministries. SADOZ is an interdenominational and discipleship ministry which has seen thousands of people baptized in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues and helped people develop a friend to friend relationship with the Person of the Holy Spirit. SADOZ's daily discipleship and devotional manual called Daily Communion reaches and blesses tens of thousands of people daily to the glory of God.

The author is also the president of the Koinonia Bible Institute [KBI], an online training academy of SADOZ which offers over twenty (25) courses that cut across all facets of life. Some of the courses/schools are: School of Ministry, School of Purpose, School of Leadership, School of Business, School of Prayer, School of Deliverance, School of Healing, Masterclass on Sex Education, Masterclass on Courtship, School of Mental Health, School of Sex for the married and more.

Ife Adetona is an author of over 60 books that is imparting the body of Christ maximally. He is the husband of Elizabeth Ife-Adetona and their home is blessed with godly seeds.

Faith Killers

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For further information or permission, contact:

sadozinternational@gmail.com

Facebook: @Sons and Daughters of Zion

YouTube: SADOZ International

Telegram: t.me/sadozite

WhatsApp/call: +2347060916344, +2347032063929

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scriptural quotations in this book are from the King James

Version of the Bible.

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FAITH KILLERS

Faith killers are those elements that kill our faith. They work against our prayers. A good understanding of it will establish you in the faith life forever. In this book, we shall examine the following: worry, anxiety, doubt, the 'if' prayer, 'let thy will be done' and people.

#1

WORRY

What does worry mean? Can you take a minute to define it on your own? What does it mean to you?

A. Worry is when you pray with faith but refused to have rest over that matter. When you have prayed, you had faith in an issue but you couldn't rest over it - that is worry. Looking at the story of Hannah, the other wife was mocking her (I Samuel 1:7-10) and she couldn't eat, but as soon as she approached God in prayer, Eli, the man of God told her: "Go in peace". She took that peace for an answer. She took that peace for a baby in her womb.

Afterwards, the scripture says she ate her food and her countenance was no longer sad. I am sure that when she was eating gladly, her husband and rival were asking if the prophet had given her a child. Of course, she knew she had gotten a child. That is unlike many of us, we prayed, we got a man of God to pray with us, we even had peace or (relief as you may call it) but, we quickly kill that peace by wondering if our prayers have been answered at all.

B. Worry is when you couldn't sleep over an issue, no matter how hard you tried, sleep refused to grace your eyes. Though you had prayed over that matter and you had peace and faith during the day but as soon as night fell, it all became past tense; worry came on you with full force.

C. Worry is when food refuses to go down your throat; when you suddenly lose appetite. I have seen people who are unhappy, and they didn't know the cause. I always tell them to flashback to one, two or

three unpalatable events that happened to them recently that made them sad but every sincere person that I have counselled that way always discloses the events that actually got them worried. The truth is, when you think you have packed or handled that unpalatable experience, it was only stored up in your sub-conscious and act out on its own later.

D. Worry is when your mind suddenly slips into worry! It could be an issue you have decided not to think over anymore, but your mind just wandered to it.

E. Worry is when you pace around in a corner of your house in deep thought over a situation.

F. Worry is when you cry over something you already prayed about.

G. Worry is when your heart pants over an issue. Your heart pants due to worry and you are carried away.

The effect of worry on man

1. Worry leaves you with a wrong choice: Let me give you an instance. You were asked for the federal capital of Nigeria in an examination with two options: Abuja and Akure. You knew the answer is Abuja, but you picked Akure. We would say that was foolishness, right? To every problem of life, there are two options before us: the right answer and the wrong answer. The wrong answer is to worry yet, many go ahead to worry over their problems, picking the wrong choice. Many think when they cry in prayers they move the heart of God.

My dear God is not a man, He is not moved by your tears, He can only be moved by your faith! And worry is a faith killer. No matter how long

you stand before a door if you don't put in the right key in the key hole, the door won't open up. You can bang the door or shout, you can even tell the door that you own it, but it won't open until you use the key. When we worry, we have refused to use the key and in fact, you are doing every other thing aside using the key.

b. Worry distracts you from praying: have you realized that when you become so worried over an issue, you often forget to take it to the Lord in prayer? At times, you think you have prayed but all you did was to worry not pray.

c. Worry unanswers your prayer: I can tell you categorically that by the reason of my relationship with the Holy Spirit, no sin abhors Him like worry. When you have prayed and you slip into worry, you have simply erased the answer to your prayer, unless you can recall yourself from the pit of worry.

d. Worry makes you sorrowful and heavy -hearted: Worry is an evil spirit that puts an enormous weight on you. Proverbs 12:25 says, "*Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad*". Isaiah 61:3 says "*to appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified*". Jump up and declare that you are delivered from the spirit of worry in Jesus Name.

e. Worry makes you helpless and hopeless: when you worry so much, you feel helpless; you feel no one can help you and God is therefore incapacitated to help you.

f. Worry makes you absolute with the situation: have you ever been worried to a point where you feel nothing has ever worked for you since you were born? You quickly remembered the number of times you have been disappointed. You concluded that everyone and everything including God and the weather are against you. You considered everything that is not working around you, and you declared that you are an unfortunate fellow.

Never allow the devil to push you to that point because at that moment, evil spirits of depression and suicide will begin to feast on your mind. At those times when I used to be worried, I learnt to concentrate on every good thing that has happened to me and glorify God for them. Then, I bring together every ill event around me at the moment, I analyse them, find the root cause for each and then prescribe biblical solutions to them separately instead of getting absolute or saying I was unfortunate.

Whenever I am tempted to worry, I turn to God and put my trust in Him, and I reassure myself that He is able to do it. When worry comes to your mind over an issue, sit down and address it. Deal with that worry.

How to deal with worry

1. Have faith in God: Mark 11:22. When you are in faith, nothing will worry or disturb you, nothing will make you lose your sleep. The reason food refused to go down your gullet is that you have no faith.

The Scripture says faith is the substance of things hoped for, evidence of things not seen. So when you are in faith, you already know you have it then. What's there to worry about? Some people would say, "I'm not worried, I'm just concerned". Whether you are disturbed or

concerned, you are still worried. 1 Peter 5:7 says “*casting all your cares [all your anxieties, all your worries, and all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares about you [with deepest affection, and watches over you very carefully]*”.

2. When you hope in God, nothing will disturb you: when you are in faith, nothing will worry you and when you hope in God, nothing will disturb you. As touching Abraham, the Bible says “*he staggered not at the promises of God,*” who against all hope believed in hope. He had no reason to hope, but still hoped in God. He had no reason or basis for hope. His situation was beyond hope yet, he hoped in God.

3. Fight the spirit of worry by rebuking it: you must agree with me that worry is a spirit. I have been in a deliverance session where the spirit in the fellow confessed it came into her when she was worrying and helped her to worry the more. To overcome the spirits of worry and heavy-heart, you need to put your mouth to work. Each time you slip into worry, you should confess out loud: I rebuke you spirit of worry in Jesus Name. You should say it repeatedly aloud as long as the thought of worry keeps flashing through your mind. If it comes a hundred times, rebuke it a hundred times. It would appear difficult at first because the thought would keep coming, but as you persist, it would reduce and fade off. You can really live without worrying a second. Acts 19:20 says “*so mightily grew the word of God and prevailed*”. If you are in a public place, a whisper would do or you cover your mouth with your hand, but you must not rebuke within, rebuke aloud. There is power in declaration.

4. Encourage yourself in the Lord!

And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons

and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God - I Samuel 30:6

That passage explained what happened to David and his men. The Philistines came to rob David when he was running from King Saul; they took his families and that of his followers. When they found out, the first thing they did was to weep. I have told you God is not moved by tears. Why are you crying instead of finding a way out? You have wept enough over that matter. It's time for you to encourage yourself in the Lord. Why weeping when you can pray?

There was a member of our ministry who had failed SSCE severally. There was a day she called me after checking her result. She was weeping because she failed again. She was weeping and rolling on the floor. Even the mother could not stop her from crying. When I got there, I asked for the way forward. We made plans for her to write another exam; the registration was closing in few days. We also planned for a tutorial class and to the glory of God; she gained admission with full sponsorship with the result.

We must learn to move forward. The first step David did was to encourage himself in the Lord. I love it. He didn't console himself but encouraged himself by faith that he can recover all and he did. Encourage yourself and move forward. Victory is yours.

#2

DOUBT

Doubt is when you are so filled with “what if and what if not”. What if it doesn’t work out? What if it doesn’t happen? What if I didn’t pass and so on. **“Doubt is when you look at the mountain with your natural eyes and you say to yourself, is it not done yet? This problem is still there?”**

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith - Mark 11:23

When you command the mountain to move into the sea, you have to begin to see (by faith) the mountain in the sea already for you to have your answer.

Have you observed that it is when you pray about something that it seems to get worse? It is when you pray about your finances that it becomes worse. It’s when you pray about a stubborn child that he seems to become worse. I tell you, getting worse on the surface is just to trick you because on the inside it is gone! Look at the fig tree Jesus cursed, the fig looked fine on the outside at that moment but, Jesus already knew it was dried off already. It was as good as dead. Getting there the following day, the disciples were surprised that it dried off, but Jesus knew all along. Peter told Him: the tree you cursed yesterday is dried off from the root today and He replied:

“for verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in

his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith”.

What does that mean? You can also curse a tree to dry off and it will surely dry off but mind you, it may not appear to be dry at that moment or point in time, in fact it might look fresher as though it will never dry off but on the inside it is dried already, because you have said it, it is as good as dead. When you speak to the mountain to move into the sea, the mountain may appear bigger and stronger, but I tell you it is just as weak as a loaf of bread thrown into water. When a situation appears to become worse, don't lose your faith, but be strong! **I have learnt to take a situation that becomes worse as a good sign of victory.**

Remember the child with the deaf and dumb spirit that was brought to Jesus Christ. He cast out the devil out of him but devil played a trick:

When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him. And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, He is dead - Mark 9:25-26

The situation of this young man appeared to be worse than when he was first brought to Jesus Christ. What happened? Initially, he only had a deaf and dumb spirit, but when Jesus cast the spirit out, it appeared as though the boy was dead to the extent that people said he was dead. That was the devil's trick. I have learnt to take a situation that turned worse as a good sign of victory. I have seen it happen that way more than a hundred times in my life and in the life of others.

Many of us have fallen victim to this trick of the devil and immediately we confess that the problem is still there or that it has become worse. We resurrect the problem and it happens just as we have confessed it. As long as Peter saw the sea as a dry ground, he could walk but as soon as he saw it as a sea, he began to sink. Begin to see things the way God wants you to see it and confess accordingly no matter how it seems to appear on the surface.

Doubt is when you have a Plan B for God. You resolve that if God doesn't show up at a set time, you would activate Plan B. God may never show up.

Doubt is when you are forced to repeat your prayers; nothing makes someone repeat prayer points than the fact that you are in doubt that your prayer was not answered in the first time. If you ask me for a book and I gave you a book, will you ask again? If you asked God for something and you have received it by faith, why would you go back to ask for it? You may wonder what to do if you are not to repeat prayers. You are to claim and keep claiming: "I am blessed", "I am healed", "I am successful," and so on as it applies to your situation. To strengthen your claims, you back it up with the word like: "I am fruitful BECAUSE God commanded me to be fruitful and replenish the earth."

For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

Some people do not only doubt in their heart, they also doubt with the words of their mouth. When somebody asks you: "hi, how are you

getting through?” And you tell them: “It is not easy, we are still looking upon the face of God”, that’s faithlessness. You should simply tell them what you believe. Tell those who ask and those who do not ask.

Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward- Hebrews 10:35. Your confidence has a reward: but let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways - James 1:6-8

#3

ANXIETY

The third faith killer we are going to examine is anxiety. Anxiety is the twin brother of worry. Anxiety is when you are loaded with the expected way as against the expected end. *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.*

We are quick to quote Jeremiah 29:11, but we do not take a careful look at the background story. The children of Israel were actually in captivity in Babylon. They have been there for a while and some fake prophets exploited the situation to give fake prophecies that they would leave the land of captivity very soon. They made it appear as though God was going to deliver them the next day. It was at that point that God sent Prophet Jeremiah to tell them that He would give them the expected end (deliverance from captivity) but not in the expected way (the next day) as the fake prophets had claimed. This can be likened to a situation where you are expecting a miracle from God, but you have calculated in your mind how it's going to work out.

Anxiety is when you are full of too many calculations and you see so many impossibilities. You look around you and you say “it’s impossible”, you wonder how it will be done. You look at Mr. A, Mrs. B, and Uncle C, you realize that none of them can help you and you ask if it is possible. When you are filled with anxiety, your heart is filled up with the expected way. You wonder if “God will do it this way or that way”. At times, you might be very sure it’s someone that will get it across to you and so, your mind is so much on the person, not on God. You are very anxious.

Whenever I talk about anxiety, I love to refer to David. Immediately he was announced as king, the enemy gathered against him. David inquired from God about how to face them and God directed him. He said they should go face to face with them. They prevailed, and the Philistines retreated.

Soon enough, they regrouped again to fight David. To my amazement; he went to seek the face of God on how they should fight the second time. One would think he should have just fought the same way he fought earlier and won but, he understood God doesn't work in the same way. He had to speak with God and surprisingly God led them through a totally different way. This time, God told them not to go face to face, but to hide and ambush the enemy. The lesson here is that God does not work in the same way; He could work in your life through different means, but anxiety will distract you from total dependence on God and make you lose His help.

Anxiety makes you make too many calculations and so, see so many impossibilities. Anxiety makes you not be at rest as to what the result will be or if there will be any way out at all. They tell you the result is going to be out by tomorrow and you are already panting today! You are not at rest! Is it going to work out or not? You are thinking, what if you failed? You are so worked up. Don't think everyone live in anxiety, you can live without it. You can also live free of worry.

Anxiety is when you want to help God to help you. There was a time I was very anxious about an issue that I forgot to pray about it. Then the Holy Spirit told me, "thank you for carrying my load and for doing the things I am supposed to do for you". I asked "what's that?" He said: "these things that you are anxious about are my duty to take care of while you go ahead with your roles in the ministry". I said

“wow! I’m not ready to carry any load, please I am committing everything into your hands from this moment”, and that was the end of it. He sorted it out.

Effects of Anxiety

a. When you try to help God to help you, He leaves you to take care of it all by yourself. God wants to be the God over your life and that situation. The reasons you haven’t received answer all these years is because you haven’t let go and let God take care of it.

b. Anxiety makes you restless.

c. Anxiety makes you to lose appetite and sleep.

d. Anxiety produces worry.

e. Anxiety does not solve the problem. If it’s not the solution, then why are you going for it? If it will not solve it but it makes it more difficult and makes you more sorrowful, why are you going for it? Anxiety will never solve the problem on your behalf. Why being anxious when you can actually commit everything into the hands of God? *Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad.* Proverbs 12:25.

What kind of word do you need? It is the Word of God!

Since I came to understand Philippians 4:7-9, my heart has been at rest and it changed a lot of things in my life! It has changed my perception of worry and anxiety. *And the peace of God [that peace which reassures the heart, that peace] which transcends all*

understanding, [that peace which] stands guard over your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus [is yours] Philippians 4:6, Amplified.

The passage says when I commit all to the hands of God, the peace of God is going to encircle and mount a guard as an army watching a place, over my life that I will be at rest and will eat my food and have a good rest without having to worry about the situation because a capable hand has worked on it. Hallelujah.

Didn't the Scripture say not to fret or have anxiety about anything? Just commit everything into the able hands of God. I take that passage very practical and personal. Whenever I seem bothered; I go on my knees or lie down or even sit and speak to God as if He is standing before me. Like a child, I will practically tell Him how I am feeling, tell Him what His word says and submit to His able hands. Have you seen a man who deposited money into his bank account and went home anxious and worried about the safety of the money? Of course not! He is sure the money is in safe hands. 1 Peter 5:7 says: *"casting all your cares [all your anxieties, all your worries, and all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares about you [with deepest affection, and watches over you very carefully]."*

Dealing with anxiety

The same way you deal with worry is the way you will deal with anxiety. You see it as an evil spirit and you must keep rebuking it. You make sure you don't repeat your prayers, but you keep declaring your answer.

#4

'IF' PRAYERS

The next we shall talk about on faith killers is the “*if* prayers”. When I say “if”, I mean prayers that start with “if”. For example, “if God blesses me”, “if I gain admission”, “if I become rich”, “if God grant me my heart’s desire”, “if I am healed” and so on. Whenever your prayers start with “If”, you have prayed amiss and may not get an answer. *If* prayers are negative prayers, they are wrong prayers. *If* prayers or statements negate faith and show you don’t have faith.

“IF” is a conditional word; it means maybe or maybe not. We are expected to know what we want and be sure that we have it by faith. The Bible says: “*what things soever ye desire when ye pray believe ye receive them and ye shall have it*” (Mark 11:23), not “may have it”. You have to believe that it is done. When you believe you have received something or that it is done, you won’t go ahead to use *if* statements in making your professions of faith. Whenever you use *if*, you are out of faith and your prayer may not be answered.

#5

THY WILL BE DONE

Many people spend good time and energy to pray and when they finish praying, they say: “let your will be done” or “if it’s your will”. They think they are being spiritual or that they are in faith, but actually, it is the opposite. While I was in the secondary school, we were told that when you have made your points in a debate competition, you must not end your speech with: “with this few points of mine I hope I have been able to convince you...” Once you say that, you have reduced your points. You may think such a statement is humble but, you have simply demonstrated that you don’t have confidence in what you said thereby losing the confidence of your audience and the judges in your points. Rather, what you must say is: “I believe with these points, I have been able to convince you....”

Likewise, when rounding off your prayer, saying *if it’s thy will* puts you at a disadvantage because, it shows you don’t even know what you are talking about, it shows you are not in faith, the scriptures in 1John 5:14 says “*and this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us*”

If we ask anything according to His will.... What is His will? His Word! Some people take the passage out of context, put themselves on a lazy spot and summarize their prayer requests in one sentence: “do unto me according to your will”, “oh let thy will be done over this matter”. That’s wrong. God expects you to look for His will which is His Word!

If His will concerning healing is that you will be healed then, you are expected to claim healing! Not to say *let thy will be done*, no! Claim

healing! What is His will concerning prosperity? That you will be prosperous, He says: *“I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth”* - 3John1:2. Once you find out what His will is concerning that issue, then you should pray accordingly! You should claim it using the word of God, which is the will of God.

There are several people who say *“let thy will be done”* because they have actually resigned to **fate** and not to **faith**. They say what will be, will be. His will says: *“this is the confidence that we have that when we ask according to His will, he heareth us.”* What a nice scripture to put God on the spot. You should say: “God, I have confidence in you that if I ask something according to your will, you will surely hear me and I’m claiming my healing and I receive it in Jesus name because that is your will for me and your will shall be fulfilled in my life and I receive it. Amen”. When you speak that way, God will say: “Yes, he knows my will, and he is praying according to my will”.

In many Nigerian homes, and I believe the same happens all over the world; once the children go to school, the parents also go to work, but the mother would have prepared lunch and leave it in the kitchen. Once the children return, especially in cases when they can return on their own, they would drop their school bags and race to the kitchen.

Any child would be stupid to refuse to eat because he doesn’t know whether or not it was the will of the mother. If any child does that, not only would his sibling eat his portion. When the mother returns, she will scold him for being so stupid. That is the same way; the devil has locked so many people up when they think if it is really the will of God for them to be healed. Is it really the will of God for me to succeed? Is it the will of God for me to be fruitful? A pastor once asked: “have you

found out if it is the will of God for you to prosper?” That’s an insult on God. You don’t sit thinking that way but you go ahead to claim your food in the kitchen! Claim your healing and never say “what will be, will be.” What is it that you want?

Before performing some miracles, Jesus asked them specifically: “what do you want?” Having said what they wanted, they were granted their heart desires, so what do you also want? Never say *let thy will be done* but receive that which God has prepared for you, never resign to fate, never say what will be, will be. You are emerging as a victor in Jesus Name.

Some would argue that Jesus Christ said the same prayer - *let thy will be done*. They forgot to add that Jesus stated the will of His Father and His before saying not my will but your will. *Then Jesus left them a second time and prayed, “My Father! If this cup cannot be taken away unless I drink it, your will be done - Mathew 26:42.*

We know that Jesus’ will was for the cup to pass over Him, for Him not to die or go through the torture. We also know the Father’s will was for Jesus to die and go through the torture. So, Jesus wasn’t speaking as though He didn’t know what the will of the Father was. He knew it and prayed accordingly—not as I want, but as you want. The only time we can round up our prayer with *let they will be done* is when we are dedicating ourselves to the service of God, just as Jesus did.

#6

PEOPLE

There is another category of faith killer that we must examine before this book ends and that is the human factor. We live on earth with men and not with angels. The Bible says not all men has faith.

We live in the midst of faithless people. You can find faithlessness anywhere even on the altar. You can find faithlessness in your spouse, sibling, friends, parents or children. Our environment is faithless and so everybody seems to grow in that atmosphere. To grow your faith and keep it from dying suddenly, you need to be able to know what to do with the human factor.

Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified, even as it is with you: And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: FOR ALL MEN HAVE NOT FAITH. 2 Thessalonians 3:1-2

1. Avoid-

The first thing you may have to do is to avoid faithless people and faithless discussions. God told Timothy at two different times to avoid such because it would only lead to more ungodliness. The same warning was given to Titus.

O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called:

1 Timothy 6:20

I was at a place and a lady was talking about people who say "I am strong" instead of saying "I am sick". I tried enlightening her of what

faith is but she was ready to argue. She said people who say such are liars and deceivers. I just kept quiet. There is no point fighting over it. I won't be able to change her mind and she can't affect my faith. I just avoid the discussion and she soon keep shut. The Bible say such people can be admonished once or twice, afterwards, leave them alone.

A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject;
Titus 3:10

There is no point going into the discussion of why you are confessing positively with your unbelieving roommates or debating with your mother on why you don't use drugs. When your faith is not well developed, things like debates and strives can sniff life out of it. Even if you think your faith is well developed then you should know that argument should not be found in you.

2. Reject-

In certain circumstances, you must learn to reject faithless and negative words uttered at you by people. The Bible says we must hold on to the shield of faith with which we can constantly quench all the fiery darts of doubts thrown at us.

Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. Ephesians 6:16

I remember a time that I wanted to pay my school fees. An older colleague who happened to also be my senior at my place of work said to me: "you will end up paying a late fee". Faith jumped up within me and I fired back: "I will not pay late fee". Lo and behold, even though the closing date was imminent, I didn't default. I didn't pay a late fee.

There are situations that warrants that you fire back as it comes. It may sound offensive but it is better to offend man than to lose your faith stance. A man once told Jesus: "if you can help us, help us". Jesus fired back: "how do you mean if I can? It's not a matter of if I can help you, I have all it takes. It's a matter of if you believe in me". The man shouted: "I apologize, I do believe, help my unbelief". That is the way we must handle faithless words thrown at us. For instance, in my house, food doesn't finish. Nobody must say a food item has finished. And so, God always fill it up.

The evil spirit often makes him fall into the fire or into water, trying to kill him. Have mercy on us and help us. Do something if you can."

"What do you mean, 'If I can'?" Jesus asked. "Anything is possible if a person believes." The father instantly replied, "I do believe, but help me not to doubt!" Mark 9:22-24

3. Wisdom

Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you. Mathew 7:6

You also need wisdom in dealing with people so as not to be a victim of the warnings of Jesus. You need to know when to keep quiet or protest or avoid.

A son of mine said God told him that he was going to get married in a particular year. I was making a general declaration at our annual programme and I said some people would get married that year. He said that he believed God was speaking to him. I didn't have any problem with him believing the word but he took it a bit further.

He didn't stop at telling everyone that care to hear that he was going to get married that year but went to his fiancée's family to say the same. He didn't have a suitable accommodation as at that time. His job wasn't doing too well. But he believed God had said he would get married and he was in the lady's family house to tell them that. It ended in a very messy way.

What he has or what he didn't have as at that time was not the problem. What he believed God had said to him is not the problem either but he lacked wisdom in stepping it down to the appropriate people. When I wanted to marry my wife, I didn't have so much also but I didn't go about saying God said I must marry her that very period. I didn't even utter "God said to them" even when I knew that was the plan of God for our lives. Those people didn't need that. It is not required. They are not so spiritually inclined.

But 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. 1 Corinthians 2:14

#7

ENVIRONMENT

The last faith killer we want to examine as a threat to our faith life is our environment. The environment can kill our faith just as people around us can kill it. The seed planted among the thorns did not survive for long because of what Jesus called: the issues of this world.

And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful. Mark 4:18-19

The period I wanted to resign into the full time ministry was when Mohammadu Buhari became Nigerian president and recession hit the Nigerian economy for the first time in many years. People were losing their jobs! Naira was falling against the dollar. Salaries of civil servants across the federation were unpaid. One day, I stood by myself questioning the steps of faith I wanted to take again. I said to myself: people are losing their jobs and I am here wanting to resign from mine. My mind quickly went to a woman who had told me to be careful not to lose my job on a flimsy ground but thank God, I held on to my faith. I knew that my supply is from heaven where no recession can hit.

You may be trusting God for good sales and open your shop in the morning to see that everywhere is "dry". You may put on your radio and hear all manner of news on how poorer the people have become. But you must remember that, that is not your own reality. Your reality is in God. I remember when we wanted to buy an item from abroad. While we were still gathering our savings, dollars to naira exchange

rate was skyrocketing. I kept declaring that our economy is from above and our currency is faith. To the glory of God, we got the item with full payment in spite the inflation.

Stop looking around if you know that your help is coming from above.

Meditate on Psalms 121

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills, from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: he that keepeth thee will not slumber.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel shall neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is thy keeper: the LORD is thy shade upon thy right hand.

The sun shall not smite thee by day, nor the moon by night.

The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.

The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil: he shall preserve thy soul.

The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

END NOTE

I believe by now, you can identify those things that have crippled your faith, and you have been delivered from them. Stay in faith and stay strong.

I urge you to pick up my comprehensive book on faith titled: We have other books in this series that you need to read, especially Faith Boosters.

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Receiving Salvation

You were born a sinner condemned to hell but Jesus Christ died for your sins, gave you power to sin no more and to enjoy life here on earth and hereafter. All you need to do is to believe and accept His works by declaring Him as your LORD and Saviour. Do you believe this? Say: Lord Jesus Christ, I accept that you died and resurrected for the remission of my sins, I declare you as my LORD and Saviour. Amen.

Steps to Receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost

1. You are not to ask or beg God for it, just expect it.
2. Believe He has given you and you will manifest it.
3. Don't hate tongues. That some people misuse it doesn't mean it has lost its power.
4. Don't pretend not to need it. Holy Ghost baptism is not just about tongues, it is about empowerment but tongues is the initial sign that you are baptized.
5. Clear your minds of doubts. God will give you but if you think that any sin can hinder you, ask for forgiveness now and now. (*Isa 1:18 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*). And forgive everyone in your heart.
6. As I pray for you, you will be baptized and you will speak in new tongues.
7. As I pray for you, the Holy Spirit will give you utterances and you will speak it out. Note that utterance means any sound produced

with the mouth. That means the utterance could be one syllable or two. It could be one word or more. Understand that you are the one that will pronounce the utterance in anyway it comes to your mind as the Holy Spirit gives you utterance.

8. When I pray for you, the utterance would come. Don't think you are the one thinking it, it is not you. Don't think you will be unconscious or lost, it is not so. Don't be bothered if you don't know the meaning just speak it. And keep repeating whatever comes to your mind.
9. Daddy thank you because you are a faithful God, you always hear me and you are eager to give us more than we are eager to ask. I pray for you: receive the Holy Spirit right now in Jesus Name.
10. Open your mouth and began to speak those tongues.

Steps to Receive Healing

1. **1Peter 2:24 says:** *He personally bore our sins in His [own] body on the tree [as on an altar and offered Himself on it], that we might die (cease to exist) to sin and live to righteousness. **By His wounds you have been healed.***
2. You have been healed. You have been healed even before you had that illness, what I'm about to do by praying with you is to proclaim your healing.
3. As I do that, the pains and symptoms will be no more.
4. After I pray for you move that part of your body just as though it was healed already because it is an instant healing.
5. I proclaim you healed and whole right now in Jesus Name. The last time you had that illness is the last you will ever have in Jesus Name.

6. Check it out and share your testimonies.

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