

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP



IFE ADETONA

ABOUT THE BOOK

The Christian ministry has long been seen as a mere religious institution with no special contribution to humanity. Communists and other autocratic governments know better and that is why they try all means to silent the church wherever they are in power. They know that the only institutions that can raise men that will challenge their leadership are the Christian ministries.

The struggle for independence of African nations can also be traced to the activities of the Church and other Christian bodies in liberating the minds of Africans to realize that they are as good as their white oppressors. The Church has not relaxed in this role. In fact, Christian ministries are doing more today than ever done in human history by any institution.

Coming across this masterpiece that sheds light on the hidden treasure in Christianity is all you need to maximally benefit from what it offers. I only urge you to take advantage of the knowledge that you are about to receive and apply it fully. Before you know it, you will emerge as an outstanding leader in your community and in your generation.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Ife Adetona is an anointed preacher of the gospel. He Is the President of Sons and Daughters of Zion [SADOZ] Worldwide. 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.

Ife Adetona is also the president of the Koinonia Bible Institute [KBI], an online training academy of SADOZ which offers various courses/schools: 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 and more.

He is the husband of Elizabeth Ife-Adetona and their home is blessed with godly seeds.

Christian Leadership

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

Version of the Bible.

DEDICATION

To churches, ministries and fellowships that contributed to my
making as a leader.

And to all the leaders and trainers I came across in those places.

I do not take your labour over me for granted. Thank You.

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Testimony from the School of Leadership, Koinonia Bible Institute, SADOZ

I thank God for this School. I have learnt a lot. The lectures have molded me into a better person; it is so obvious that people are noticing and talking about it. **Adejumo F.**

School of leadership is not just for leaders as everyone needs to learn some principles. These principles, taught in this school, will make you know how to relate with everybody thereby, bringing out the best of people. School of leadership cut across different walks of life. **Akinyemi A.**

At first, I didn't believe SOL will be this expository. It has always been new lessons for each lecture. Being a good and productive leader requires taking responsibilities being humble and not dominating others. I'm really blessed through this school. Thank you Pastor Ife for giving yourself to God, you are indeed a blessing to us. More anointing in Jesus name. A wonderful thanks to my tutor for his commitment. God bless you. **Olawale R.**

I appreciate God for this great school. This school has blessed and impacted my life greatly and today, I have acquired knowledge that I might not be able to get anywhere else. Graduating from school of leadership, I see myself emerging as a great leader from my personal life and everywhere I find myself both now and in the future. God bless His minister. May he continue to be relevant in Jesus name. **Akintola L.**

I always thought that I lacked the basic skills of a leader but with the rare gem of information acquired here, I am pretty sure that I am rising as the next great leader that is ready to transform this generation in better ways. **Oni T.**

Passing through school of leadership opened my understanding to so many things. I have learnt that I need to prepare myself for a quality leadership in future and how to dish out a job to my team. It made me to know the way leaders learn by observing closely and I have learnt to be calm in making decisions. I understand that a leader succeeds when he work with a team successfully. SOL has made me to know my temperament. **Adewale B.**

To God be the Glory, this school has been a blessing to me in many ways. My eyes have been widely opened to what it takes to be leader not just a leader leading by example. Leadership is not about forcing and there are many ways to prove a good leader and to correct in love. **Olukanni O.**

School of leadership has impacted me in many ways. My motive about things has changed especially things about leadership; I now understand that we are all born to be a leader which does not exclude me. I got a second thought about leadership that a good leader must be humble and relate with people in love. I now understand that to be a leader is not all about attaining a post and everything is not with forceful actions. I really enjoyed the time in the school of leadership the lectures are wonderfully arranged to suit everybody's quest. I appreciate the leadership of KBI for obeying the Lord's instructions and my tutor for his time and patience to create time to mark the exams. **Atanda O.**

I have been really blessed in this school of leadership. I thought I knew much about being a leader until I attended KBI-SOL. One particular lecture I can't forget in this school is Attribute of a Leader (AOL). Since I heard the lecture and started applying those attribute, my leadership style has really been improved. God bless KBI-SOL. **Yemitan B.**

INTRODUCTION

I once read the story of a man who wanted to learn Taekwondo. He was expecting to be placed in the ring immediately for his training to begin but his master rather asked him to scrub the floor of the training arena every day for three months. He thought that was all when his master informed him that he won't have to scrub the floor any longer. He was shocked to hear that his new task was to paint his master's house. It was a task he had to do all alone. He wanted to quit. He wished he had gone to another master. He concluded that his master was a wicked man and a time waster.

Upon the completion of that task, his master placed him in the ring. That was when he discovered that he had developed the required dexterity and flexibility around his joints, legs and hands, which is required of a professional taekwondo fighter. Those activities that seem unconnected to his dream at first were responsible for its realization.

Every man desires to be a leader and, in fact, to become a great leader. When God in His wisdom places such men in the Church and Christian ministries from their childhood, many do not understand this strategic system of God. They take it for granted and leave the training arena in no time. Some others, like Martin Luther King Jnr didn't know what God was up to but just gave themselves to the trainings in obedience and they turned out to become exceptional leaders.

It is my desire and prayer that as you turn to the pages of this book, you will discover the wisdom of God in making you a member of that Christian ministry. You will submit to this leadership training and the best will come out of you in Jesus Name.

May the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

Ife Adetona

July, 2021

CHAPTER ONE

LEADERSHIP IN CHRISTIANITY

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. 2 Timothy 2:2

Christianity is a great point for leadership. It is a great training point for leadership roles in the society. History and even what is happening in our contemporary days has shown us that the church and Christian ministries at large have given so many the opportunity to experiment with their leadership ability by giving them roles to play. In the children's department of the church, for instance, we have the choir leader who is a child. There you will also find a Sunday school teacher who is likely a teenager. They are consciously being trained for leadership every time they prepare for their anniversary. As a believer grows, there are several units where he can serve. A child who grows in a children church will be transferred to the teenagers church or department and from there to the youth church and from there to the campus fellowship and then to the National Christian Corpers Fellowship (NCCF). After leaving the NCCF, he returns to the adult church. All through those stages, he comes across opportunities to serve as leaders. Many are also exposed to Christian leadership in interdenominational ministries. All these help to reveal and develop the leadership capacity in man.

Many people like me had their first leadership experience in Christianity. Many wouldn't have gotten any leadership exposure early in life if not for churches and Christian ministries. Community and political leadership are so skewed that believers shy away from them. And before you can get

a job where you will demonstrate your leadership potential, you must have grown into your early adulthood. Christian ministries bridge this gap and present an unending leadership adventure for as many as desire it.

Denominationalism in Christianity

We do not only have various units and departments in the church, we also have different denominational and interdenominational ministries. Many have criticized denominationalism as a division within the church, but such people are ignorant of church history. Church denominations do more good than wrong. I believe it to be strategic in the mind of God not only to take the gospel across the world but to serve as a multiple training platform for leaders. If not for church denominations, many of us will never discover the leadership potentials in us.

I often draw reference from campus fellowships when speaking on this subject. On campus, you may have as much as 20 denominational fellowships. Many have argued that there ought to be a single denomination, but I completely disagree with that. There is a body in most Nigerian campuses called the Joint Campus Christian Fellowship-JCCF. Note that it is called by different names on different campuses. This body contains membership of all the campus fellowships. In my own school, the JCCF meets one to three Sundays in a semester. Every time we met, I saw several hundreds of students. In some campuses, they are in thousands. I can't but wonder how it would look like if all of us were to worship in that same place every day. Someone like me would never have the opportunity to lead. I am not the type who loves to be seen and I rarely talk in public gatherings, especially when it is an unfamiliar place.

I can spend several hours in a place without mingling with people. And there are many people like me. But I couldn't hide in my campus fellowship. We were fewer. Eyes were on me. I was compelled to join a unit and in my first year I became a member of the executive. I am sure that I could never have been an executive if it were to be a joint Christian body. Nobody would notice me. But because we had up to 20 campus fellowships, we were able to produce 20 presidents of fellowships every session and we would have hundreds of executive members. That is a very fertile ground to train and prepare hundreds of students for leadership roles in the society. Tell me, what other platform on earth avail people of such?

Things Fall Apart

In Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart*, he narrated how Christianity came to Igbo land in Nigeria. In the book, we realize that the first set of people who embraced Christianity were the *Osu*. The *Osu* caste system existed in the primitive Igbo culture. The *Osus* were regarded as outcasts. These were people who were believed to have offended the gods or banished by the king for an offence or disobedience. Many of them were sold as slaves. They could not own lands or properties and they were seen as an abomination. People did not interact with them and they were not allowed to relate with other people. When they died, they were buried in the evil forest. Once someone is labeled as an *Osu*, all his children and generation are together treated as outcasts. So, there were people who were *Osus* because of the family they came from.

When Christianity came into Igbo land, the *Osus* were the first to embrace the Gospel. They were very zealous and demonstrated high

leadership traits. It was a taboo for the *Osus* to cut their hair; their hair must not be cut as a sign that they belong to the gods, but the church cut their hairs and turned them into normal human beings. They were equally amazed by the acceptance they enjoyed from the missionaries. People who were seen as inferior; not worthy of any chieftaincy title, became vibrant leaders in the church. That is the beauty of Christian leadership.

Another category of people, as explained in *Things Fall Apart*, that were given prominence and exposed to leadership in the church were the *Osugos*. *Osugo* simply means woman but it is used for men who are seen as weak, inferior and with no chieftaincy title. Through the church, they proved they were not weak and that they have leadership endowments.

Women and children were another category of people that embraced Christianity when it was first introduced. The Igbo tribe, as well as many other tribes across the world, sees women as second rated or second-class citizens. Some tribes describe women as properties. Men in the primitive Igbo culture do not seat where women are seated. But the church changed the narrative. When the women got to the church, they were readily accepted, and they could express their leadership abilities.

What I am trying to point out is that the Christian ministry is a vital point and foundational place for leadership. It is a good training ground for leaders and a place to experiment with leadership abilities. If you can get it right, as a Christian leader there is no position where you won't stand tall in the society. A right standing Christian leader will be exceptional everywhere he goes. Be it at the political level, in his

workplace, community leadership and what have you. It is unfortunate that there are so many people who get it wrong in Christian leadership.

My Leadership Journey

As we have discussed earlier, nothing gives early exposure to leadership like Christianity. A living witness is me. I gave my life to Christ at the age of 11; I started leading at that time even though my church was a large one, but I found my place in the children, teens and youth departments. The youth department has a prayer and evangelism arm where I quickly fit in as a leader. I continued that way until I gained admission to the college of education at a young age. I found my place in one of the campus fellowships as a member and later as a leader. When I left campus, a Christian interdenominational ministry employed me. In that place, my duty was to raise secondary school students as believers and to train them for Christian leadership. I worked there for five years and oversaw the appointment of many secondary students as fellowship leaders. Some of them are still in touch with me till date. They have grown to become influential leaders in their campus fellowships, churches and work place. One of them became the Student Union president of the university he attended.

The Levites

Early exposure to leadership was part of the basic and foundational vision of Christianity. It was required, according to the law of the Old Testament, that Levites should be initiated into leadership from the age of 20.

These were the sons of Levi after the house of their fathers; even the chief of the fathers, as they were counted by number of names by their polls, that did the work for the service of the house of the Lord, from the age of twenty years and upward. 1 Chronicles 23:24

Training for Selflessness

Another major benefit that Christian leadership gives is that it builds selflessness in men. It produces a selfless leader, which is the scarcest form of leadership. Christian ministries are seen as non-profit-making organizations. When you work there, you are not expected to be paid. In fact, you are required to spend your money and time. Only a few people would work sacrificially in a place where monetary gift is not attached. And we have seen a lot of such men in Christianity. If a man would serve selflessly and sacrificially in a place where he is not being paid, how much would he do where he is being paid?

On my first day at work as a missionary, I was told that the work was very tedious. They took me on a tour to some secondary schools where I would oversee. We came to a place where I was so tired and had to seat on the staircase. While I sat there, I said to myself: *“Oh Lord, the work I am assigned here is just like what I did in the campus fellowship. The only difference is that, while on campus, I wasn’t paid, but here I would be given a token at the end of the month. Just watch out and see how well I will work. I will do double of what is required of me. I will go out and give my very best”*. I made that vow because if I had my way, I wouldn’t even accept payment, but in such a case where I would be paid a token, I should work harder. That was my orientation and my work was distinctive. ***I am convinced that any man who expresses zeal in***

working for God selflessly would be the best employee in his office and wherever he finds himself.

In the same vein, anyone that fails in Christian service cannot be fit for any other leadership capacity. This is a tested and trusted fact.

There are over a thousand young adults who have passed through the leadership of our ministry, and several hundred are still in the system. Among those that have left, I can accurately predict the ones who would succeed in any role they are assigned and the ones that may fail. It is not because of anything in particular, it is simply the law of nature. Anyone who is not faithful in little things will surely mess-up complex things. Jesus said it:

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much- Luke 16:10.

I mentioned earlier that the scarcest form of leadership is selfless leadership. ***Anyone who fails the test of selflessness cannot oversee the lives of fellow men.***

The Scripture presents us with several examples of selfless Christian leaders. Looking at Acts 4:36-37; *And Joses, who by the apostles was surnamed Barnabas, (which is, being interpreted, The son of consolation,) a Levite, [and] of the country of Cyprus, {4:37} Having land, sold [it,] and brought the money, and laid [it] at the apostles' feet.* That man did something that is rarely done in the history of man. He sold his property, and he gave it to the church; that was selflessness. In 2 Timothy 4:6 (NIV), Paul said, *“for I am already being poured out like a drink offering and the time of my departure is near”*. Paul said that he gave up

everything as touching himself to the service of the Lord. Selflessness is a core value in Christian leadership and those who can pass this will eventually emerge as outstanding leaders in the family and in the society.

Spiritual Build-Up

Christian leadership helps our spirituality. Many factors around us today have downplayed the spirituality of man. Technology, social media influence, modernization, globalization and many more have diverted the attention of man from his spiritual status. Take it or leave it. Man is first a spiritual being before he becomes a natural being, and it is the spiritual that controls the physical. A man is a spirit that has a soul and lives in a body, but our educational system emphasizes more on soul-building and our environment emphasizes body beautification, paying no attention to the spiritual aspect of man. When a man is right spiritually, everything about him becomes right. It is only Christian leadership and Christian education that lay emphasis on the spirituality of man.

For to be carnally minded [is] death; but to be spiritually minded [is] life and peace. Romans 8:6.

Many suicides, depression and hypertension issues that have become prevalent today are because of the refusal to labour on the building up of the spirit of man. Even great, mighty and wealthy people in the world still commit suicide. Many of them lived on antidepressants. That is because they have stamina in their body and soul, but they are very weak in their spirit. It is only Christianity that works on building a man's spirituality, which is why, as a believer; you dare not play down on being involved in

Christian leadership.

A merry heart doeth good [like] a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones. Proverbs 17:22.

The great neurosurgeon Benjamin Solomon Carson emphasized that he is everything he is by the grace of God. He is a Christian leader. He remains a Sunday school teacher in his church even when he was a busy surgeon, well sought for all around the world. His spirituality aided his success in career as well as in life.

Christian leadership teaches discipline.

One of the habits of a Christian leader is what we call “quiet time”. Quiet time is a disciplined routine. We live in a world of spontaneity. We believe in doing things spontaneously, but great leaders will tell you their routine, schedule, and also tell you things that they have disciplined themselves to be accustomed to.

A Christian leader is known for fasting, which is denying oneself of food for a period. A trained Christian leader can delay gratification. A Christian leader prays regularly and practices giving. These are acts of discipline that are only taught by Christian leadership. They are things that make a man morally sound and fitting for leadership positions.

Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 2:3

Here, Paul was telling his son, Timothy, to endure hardness, not hardship. Hardness is training. A Christian leader is seen as a soldier

and you know the discipline a man goes through to become a soldier. In another part of the Bible, Christian leaders are described as athletes running a race. One of the most disciplined people on earth is athletes. Christianity builds all these virtues in us consciously and unconsciously. Christianity is the breeding ground for influential leaders. Prominent leaders in America, Europe and Africa all came from the church and Christianity. We should not be too busy in our career to be a Christian leader because it is in doing so that you can emerge a genuine leader. Praise God!

Christian leadership trains people to become responsible

Christian leadership is not just about fasting, praying, evangelism, and so on. In Christian leadership, we have units, committees, and executive arms. We have various bodies and teams within a Christian ministry that are tasked with achieving certain goals. ***When people are trained to become goal getters, they become highly sought-for leaders.***

Christian leadership trains people to become problem solvers. In the book of Acts, there was a problem in the early church. The problem was the polarity that characterized the daily distribution of food among the believers. The twelve apostles met to deliberate on the matter, then they came to present an idea to the congregation. They suggested the need for a food committee. This food committee would oversee and ensure an even distribution of the food items, irrespective of tribe or affiliation. The entire congregation loved it and they were given the opportunity to select those they wanted on the committee. Seven men were selected. Those men solved the problem, and that was the end of complaints and murmurings over food issues in the early church. In my book, *Developing*

the Leader in You, I mentioned that leaders are problem solvers. ***The existence of a problem is due to the absence of a leader.*** And the only thing that can take that problem away is if a leader is introduced.

The church assigns responsibilities to people and they carry it out efficiently. In that same book, I explained that good leaders always take responsibility. They don't shift blames. The problem of Nigeria and other Africa nations is that we have too many irresponsible leaders. Our leaders today have no goals, targets, vision, programmes and system; all they have are propaganda and lies. It is high time world government especially, African governments learn leadership from the church. Many churches in Nigeria have become institutions. They are spectacles of excellence. When you visit Cannanland and Redemption camp, you will realize that some problems that exist in Africa countries do not exist there. They have 24 hours power supply; they have a good waste management system, they run their water effectively and so many other things run seamlessly. Despite millions of people that visit those places during their annual programmes, there has never been a stampede. They have excellent traffic and crowd control. All the roads are in good condition. You won't find pothole on their roads. They have a working drainage system.

The best university in Nigeria today is owned by a church. The first two largest auditoriums in the world are in Nigeria. At this moment, I know two churches that are constructing auditoriums that would seat over a hundred thousand congregants. One of those auditoriums is larger than the largest stadium in the world. These are infrastructural edifices that exist nowhere else but in the church.

African continent must look into the Church for leadership. The Church has leaders that have been trained and proven. There was a time I said if the Nigeria government allows me and my team in the ministry to handle Nigeria elections, it will run smoothly. We have handled complex matters and have seen positive results. So, I am very confident of it. The early church ran a massive food programme that silenced all the complaints. During the Covid-19 lockdown in Nigeria, the Federal Government couldn't achieve much in their food programme. Churches and Christian ministries in Nigeria run food programmes during that period successfully.

Find your Place

Don't just be a church goer or an ordinary member of a Christian ministry, engage yourself in the leadership. It is the best place to be trained. It is the best place to learn. It is the best place to grow. The church has all the resources needed to inculcate leadership values.

CHAPTER TWO

THE CORE OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! 1 Corinthians 9:16

While there are many aspects of Christian leadership where a believer can serve, there are three major areas where everyone must serve. You must find your way into those three areas. It is the responsibility of every footballer on the field to score a goal. Those that score goals are recognized more than those that do not. A defender may not score many goals unlike a striker or a midfielder, but he must have a record of career goals. It is a must. Even goal keepers have career goals. In the same vein, believers may have specific areas where they function in the body of Christ, but there are core areas where they can't afford not to be involved.

90:3 Principle of Effectiveness

There is a principle called 90:3 (ninety ratio three) principle of effectiveness. This principle says that in your occupation or given job, there are three most important things you must do. Those three things represent 90% of the reasons you were employed. When you do those three effectively, your service will be highly recognized. As believers, we were called by Jesus into specific assignments. In this chapter, I will address those three important areas of your duty as a born again Christian.

Meanwhile, you must be born again. If you are not born again or you

can't remember if you are or you can't point to any day in particular when you became born again, you can do that now. All you have to do is to put your hand on your chest and say: *"Lord Jesus, I surrender my life to you. I accept you today as my Lord and personal Saviour. Forgive my sins. Be my God and guide, now and forever in Jesus Name"*.

Our Core Works

There are many things the Christian ministry does today; we run charity programmes, build hospitals and schools and many others. These things are not bad, but there are three things that must be on the top of our priority. Those three things are soul winning, soul calling, and soul discipleship.

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen.

Matthew 28:18-20.

Soul winning is preaching the gospel of Christ to others using different platforms. I usually say that in those days, we had house to house evangelism, but these days, the world has changed. In fact, if two people are in the house, they may not talk to each other for hours. They might sit beside each other without talking to each other. That is because they are both online, on social media. In the same vein, we can turn house to house evangelism into social media evangelism. We can make it WhatsApp wall to WhatsApp wall evangelism. We can make it DM to DM

evangelism. To win souls, we need all the technological resources at our disposal.

Notwithstanding, house to house evangelism as well as shop to shop evangelism is still effective in this generation. I go out for evangelism. I go into streets, meet people in their shops and preach the gospel of Christ to them. Whenever I enter a public transport, I look forward to speaking to the person beside me or the driver or motorcyclist. I preach to them about Jesus. The last street evangelism I went for, I spoke to 23 people and 18 of them gave their lives to Jesus. I still do DM to DM evangelism.

Soul winning is not a task for the newly born-again believer and it is not solely the responsibility of evangelists. It is the duty of every one of us. When I started street evangelism, I realized many people are in the church, but they are not in Christ. They claim to be Christians, but couldn't identify the particular day they surrendered their lives to Jesus. Some would even argue with you that they were born into the Church. The Holy Spirit inspired method that I use in preaching to people is one that is very effective and doesn't waste time. Speaking to 23 people, for instance and winning 18 people tells you that 80-90% of those I speak to surrender to Jesus. And everything takes around two minutes per person.

Once I stop in front of the shop, I greet them courteously and inform them that I bring the word of God to them. Few would snap at me and say they don't want to hear, while many others would say I should go on. Some would even ask me to seat. After that, my next statement will come in form of a question: *"have you given your life to Christ?"* It is at this

point that I get to hear many responses. Those who go to Church would tell me “yes” confidently. Then, I ask, “*When did you give your life to Christ*”. The usual answer is: “*a very long time ago*” or “*I was born into the church*”. I then ask if there was any day in particular. So far, I have spoken to several people on the street that way. None of them has a set time when they surrendered to Jesus. I don’t bother to argue with them, I just ask them to repeat after me. Most would look up and say: “*how do you mean?*” I would repeat: “*Just say after me*”: “*Lord Jesus, I surrender my life to you. I accept you today as my Lord and personal Saviour. Forgive my sins. Be my God and guide, now and forever in Jesus Name*”.

When I notice a level of resistance in some people, I would start by asking: “*can we pray?*” Everybody in Nigeria loves prayer. They would readily say “yes”. Then I would tell them to repeat the sinner’s prayer after me. When they are done doing that, I would pray briefly for them. Then, I would invite them to join our interdenominational meetings for follow-up. That way, I always get converts. It is easy. You just have to put your legs out first. For those who told me that they are Muslims, I usually attempt to persuade them and if I realize that they are adamant, I would courteously excuse them.

Soul Calling

The second core mandate of believers is “Soul Calling”. When Jesus came into the world, several people introduced him. Some beckoned to others and said; “*come and see*”. There was a time John the Baptist pointed to Him and said: “*Behold the Lamb of God*”. Upon hearing that, at least two of John’s disciples followed Jesus from that day. When Jesus entered the Samaritan village, He needed someone who would introduce Him to the

people and would call out to the people. Jesus found a woman on the outskirts of the village. He started a dialogue with her about water. Jesus told her to give him a drink. The woman was surprised and raised a popular debate about the discrimination of the Jews against the Samaritan. The woman said she was even shocked that Jesus, a Jew, could ask her for water. Jesus only asked for water, but they met him with a fierce argument. What if He had walked into the town to preach? He probably would have been stoned about being a Jew. So, He needed someone that would introduce Him to the people. He needed someone that would herald His presence and invite them to Him. Jesus would do the talking; all that the person needed to do was to call the people.

The woman was soon convinced that Jesus was the Messiah and on that spot, the scripture says that she left her water pot and ran into the village. Prior to that time, the most important thing to her was the water jar. It was very dear to her. But she let it go for the purpose of soul calling.

The woman left her water jar beside the well and went back to the village and told everyone, "Come and meet a man who told me everything I ever did! Can this be the Messiah?" So the people came streaming from the village to see him. John 4:28-30.

That woman was just like a minute old believer or a minute old convert. She did not even have much to say to people about Jesus, but she could do one thing: she could call people to come and hear from Jesus Christ.

We are actively engaged in soul calling when we go out to invite people to

where they would hear the word of God. When your church or ministry has programmes, inviting people in to draw from the knowledge of the word of God is integral to the great commission. Instead of spending your time in gossip, this is the right thing to do.

Upon the invitation of the woman, people came rushing out; men and women, as well as children, came to hear Jesus speak. That woman was a revivalist. Jesus Christ spoke to them and this was their response:

Many Samaritans from the village believed in Jesus because the woman had said, "He told me everything I ever did!" When they came out to see him, they begged him to stay at their village. So he stayed for two days, long enough for many of them to hear his message and believe. Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe because we have heard him ourselves, not just because of what you told us. He is indeed the Savior of the world." John 4:39-42

They first believed because of what the woman said, but later on, their conviction was based on what they heard directly from Christ. Although Jesus has been preaching for so many years among the Jews in Israel, they never affirmed that He is the Saviour of the world, but in a strange land those who were seen as outcasts affirmed Jesus Christ as the Saviour of the world. Glory to God! It is a great thing to partner with God as a soul winner and also as a soul caller.

The harvesters are paid good wages, and the fruit they harvest is people brought to eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike! John 4:36NLT.

Soul-Discipleship

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen. Matthew 28:19-20.

Soul winning and soul calling are means to an end and that end is Soul-Discipleship. To catch a fish from the river and return it to the same river is a waste of energy. So also, is a soul won that is not discipled. Whatever outreach program we do should be a means to an end, and that end is discipleship. The Bible says:

He gave gifts unto men: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers;

For what purpose?

For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

Till when?

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ

So that,

That we [henceforth] be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, [and] cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive.

Ephesians 4:8-14 paraphrased.

Coming unto perfection requires a process called discipleship. Several people just hear the word of God through the right ear and it goes out through the left ear. They heard, but they were not blessed. They were taught but not touched.

Bro. Gbile

Bro. Gbile Akanni (as he is popularly called) shared his experience with how he came about the discipleship mandate. He told us that when he was a student at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria; they held a program in the campus fellowship. He noted the programme was powerful. Many people wept as they heard the word. The preacher did a good job and was mightily used by God. When the service ended, Bro. Gbile went outside the auditorium on his way home and to his amazement, he saw people laughing and gisting as if nothing happened. He was bothered about how quick those people had forgotten the encounter they had few minutes ago. While he was still brooding over it, God whispered to him: *“do you want to make a research? Visit those people who heard the word with you in their hostels”*. He went from one room to the other and, to his amazement; many had even forgotten what the preacher said. Some had forgotten the title of the sermon. He became burdened and God spoke to him again, *“do you want to help?”* And that was how he came about discipleship.

Discipleship is Soul Building

Soul discipleship is all about one-on-one building up of souls. I have been in the discipleship business since forever. I have been there since I got to lay my hands on it, and we found our ministry on the principles of discipleship. We lay emphasis on one-on-one building up. We tell each

other that we were raised to raise others. All our activities and programmes in the ministry are a means to an end, which is discipleship. Our devotional is called Daily Devotional and Discipleship Manual. All our leaders are consciously involved in discipleship.

Discipleship is grooming individuals from the time they gave their lives to Christ into maturity. The person you are building may not even be your convert, but was converted by someone who is not as mature as you are in the things of God. Discipleship is the apex call and purpose of what God has called us to do. It is the basis of Christian Leadership. Get involved in discipleship today.

Discipleship, in a simple word, is called “follow -up”. As much as I am fully engaged in the ministry's work, I am active in the three core areas of the believer's calling: soul winning, soul calling and Soul Discipleship. And I would do this for the rest of my life. Jesus said that *His meat is doing the will of His Father, and that will is the great commission- John 4:34 paraphrased.*

When you are involved in those three areas, you are feeding on spiritual meat. You must be actively involved.

CHAPTER THREE

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her. Luke 10:42.

The spiritual controls the physical. The spiritual controls every human activity thus, the need for spiritual soundness of man cannot be overemphasized. As a believer, you need to build your spiritual life. You must be sound within.

To equip yourself spiritually, there are three major areas you must pay attention to: the word, prayer and signs and wonders. In this book, I am going to lead you step by step to enjoy these possibilities in your life. The Lord opens your heart to understanding in Jesus Name.

In the Book of Acts 6:4, the Apostles were talking about the most important duties that they were called to do:

Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples [unto them,] and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. Acts 6:2&4.

They said that they could not leave the ministry of the word and prayer to serve tables. This doesn't mean that the food programme committee was useless. No, they played a very vital role. And in fact, it was the part they played that afforded the apostles the opportunity to be focused. However, the apostles could not allow it to take the place of the ministry of the word and prayer. We later saw in the book of Acts of the Apostles

that two of the men assigned to serve tables- Stephen and Philip- left the table for the word. Among the seven selected, they were the only ones whose names were mentioned again in the Scriptures. We heard nothing more about the others.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her. Luke 10:42.

Martha was busy over too many things while her sister, Mary was involved in only one thing, listening to the word. Martha was preparing a sumptuous meal for Jesus when she came to accuse her sister of not helping. She was expecting some applause from Jesus, but what came to her was a shocker. Jesus told her she was busy over too many things, but only one thing was important and Mary has found that thing. May you find that one thing in Jesus Name. That one thing is the word of God.

Approaching the Word

The word of God is the most important thing about God. You can't know God without knowing His word and you can't know His word without knowing Him. The Scripture says, He lifts His word far above all His names (Psalms 138:2). So, a believer must pay good attention to the word. It doesn't matter what your profession is. The Psalmist says, *thy word have I hid in my heart that I may not sin against thee (Psalm 119:11).*

Reading

I read a post on Twitter written by an influencer. He said the scriptures is not a novel or story book and so people shouldn't read it as such but should be studied. As good as that may sound, it is highly erroneous. You can read the word like a novel or story book or in any way you like.

Studying is not the only way to approach the Bible; it is just one of the ways.

Reading the scriptures includes setting a target for yourself. You can decide to read the book of Mathew for the whole of a week. Or read the first and second kings for the whole of a month. It doesn't have to follow a particular rigid pattern. A method taught by my son, Pastor Damola, in his book *My Bible, My Friend*, is that you can use your name as an acronym of Bible books and characters. He said it was God that taught him that system. For instance, my name is IFE. So, I have Isaiah, Felix and Ezekiel. That way, I would start by reading Isaiah, then move to Felix. Felix is not a book of the Bible but a name of a Bible character. I would simply read the book of the Bible that contains that name, which is the book of Acts. Then, I would move to Ezekiel. After reading through your first name, you can pick your second name or surname, and so on. I tried that system when I read it from his book and I found it very interesting and effective.

Another method is to choose to read throughout the four gospels- Mathew, Mark, Luke and John. You could decide to read the historical books of the Old Testament spanning from the book of Judges to second Chronicles and so on.

Where can you read?

You can read the word anywhere and at any time. Have you tried reading the Bible from your phone in the toilet? Have you tried reading it while you are on a queue in the Bank? Having a specific time in the day is very good, but it shouldn't be limited to that. Reading it always is the best. The Scripture says we must write the word everywhere and we must read it while standing and while sitting. We must always read the word. If you decided to read the word anywhere and at any time, before long, you will cover the whole scriptures.

Therefore shall ye lay up these my words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes. {11:19} And ye shall teach them your children, speaking of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. {11:20} And thou shalt write them upon the door posts of thine house, and upon thy gates. Deuteronomy 11:18-20.

Version to read

I always tell people to find contemporary versions other than the Old King James Version of the Bible to read. If you must read the King James Version, use the New King James Version. I am used to New Living Translation. I still use KJV because I am familiar with it, but in my regular reading spree, I use NLT. When you read from a contemporary English version, you will enjoy reading and you will be less confused. Whatever you would need clarification or further digging on if you read from contemporary versions would come to you as a revelation. I usually

say that many erroneous understanding of the scriptures today has its root in the refusal of people to read other versions aside KJV. Many revelations you hear today are misunderstood English words. That's one of the reasons I tell people to read the Bible in their indigenous language for more clarification.

The Story of a Dirty Basket

An old man once told his grandchild to go to the stream and fetch water for him with a basket. The boy dashed off to the stream, fetched the water, and by the time he got home, the basket was empty. The old man told him it was because he didn't run fast enough. So, the boy went again, ran as much as his legs would carry him yet, he got home with an empty basket. The old man told him to go again and that he should run faster. The boy tried his best to run the third time but as expected; the basket was empty. The boy sat down, tired and lamented about the wasted effort. The old man told him to observe the basket closely for any change in it. The boy said he could not find any rather than the fact that the basket was very dirty at first, but it had become very clean. The old man pointed to him that it wasn't a wasted effort after all; the basket could not retain water but was washed by it.

The word of God is the Water

Our mind is the basket and the word of God is the water. As you pull your mind in and out of the water of the word, it comes out cleaner and cleaner. That is what the scripture means when it says that we must always renew our mind with the word. I have counseled people who complained that they read the word and couldn't memorize or remember most of what they had read. Some even told me they feel bad because

they couldn't memorize the scriptures. I always smile each time I hear such comments and my response is always a shock to them. I would tell them that they don't need to remember! You aren't reading to remember; you are reading to renew your mind. If you could retain some, that's good and if you could only retain a little, it's also good, but the fact that you read the word will make a lot of difference in your life.

Take for example, reading an erotic novel. You don't need to think or remember what you read for you to become lustful. You didn't become lustful intentionally, but as your mind moved through the pages of the book; it became corrupt. It also happens that if you just finished reading a proper novel or story book, your spoken English would change and sound refined for a while. You were not taught English in the book you read, but it caused a change in your mind without your knowledge. It is the same as the word of God. When you are given to reading it, it brings about many changes in your mind. At a time when I was troubled, I picked the scriptures to read. I didn't read in other to come across a place that addresses my situation. I just read to have my heavy mind washed. And that was what happened. The peace of God saturated my mind while reading.

Other Approaches

Other approaches to the word include studying, meditating and teaching. You can lay your hands on the book *My Bible, My Friend* or get my teaching *The Ministry of the Word* on our telegram channel t.me/sadozite or download it from naijasermon.com app for a comprehensive knowledge about the approaches. Believers have not only the responsibility to read or study the word, but we have the responsibility to teach the word. One

criterion in selecting a deacon is being *apt to teach*. This means being able to teach the word. Paul called those who do not teach others the word babes (Hebrews 5:12).

MINISTRY OF PRAYER

Another ministry committed to our hands is the ministry of prayer. One important thing you must know about prayer is that it requires discipline. You must have a routine prayer system. It could be any hour of the day, but the best time is in the morning. Some may also prefer praying late at night. You shouldn't feel bad if you can't observe vigils for a long time. You can make your own prayers in the day or in the evening. In our ministry, we have our routine of prayers and fasting slated for Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, which members and leaders are expected to observe.

When we pray, what do we do?

There are different things we do while we pray. It is a great time to communicate with God or speak our heart desires to Him but most importantly, we minister in prayer when we supplicate and intercede for others. And the best way to do that is praying in the Holy Ghost. If you are yet to be baptized in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues, check the last pages of this book for a guide.

The Scriptures say: *for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: Romans 8:26*. It does not say we do not know how to pray, but it states that we don't know it as we ought to, but by the language of the Spirit we pray right. When the Bible says men ought always to pray and not to faint, it implies that we ought to intercede and supplicate always. It is our ministry; it is our mandate.

MINISTRY OF SIGNS AND WONDERS

The ministry of signs and wonders is another spiritual area of the Christian leadership that must be fulfilled in our lives. Signs and wonders are not strange to believers; it is part of our duties as believers. Apostle Paul speaking says:

And my speech and my preaching [was] not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power. 1 Corinthians 2:4

For the kingdom of God [is] not in word, but in power- 1 Corinthians 4:20

For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. 1 Thessalonians 1:5

When Jesus was giving us the divine mandate for the great commission, he mentioned that some signs shall follow them that believe in His name:

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. Mark 16:17-18

The NLT version says: *these miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: they will cast out demons in my name, they will speak in new languages, they will be able to handle snakes with safety and if they drink anything poisonous, it won't hurt them. They will be able to place **their hands on the sick, and they will be healed.*** Emphasis on

healing.

Healing

Healing is part of Christian leadership. We must heal the sick; we must deliver the oppressed with the name of Jesus. If you have never healed the sick, then you need to learn the biblical principles of healing. When I was with a ministry as a missionary, it was my duty to visit school fellowships. Every time I went, there was always a student who was not feeling fine. I am a pastor, but I couldn't help them. I didn't even know how to pray for their healing. I became angry one day, and I decided to settle the score with God. I woke up in the middle of the night and said: *"God, it is either you give me the power to heal the sick tonight or I don't sleep"*. Just as I said that, the Holy Spirit whispered to me and said: *"sleep, when you wake, get a book on healing"*. I asked him; *"do you mean it?"* *"I should sleep?"* He said *"yes"*. I said, *"at least let me pray a bit."* He replied: *"when you are done reading the book, you can then pray"*.

Lo-and-behold, I got a book,, and that was the beginning of my healing ministry. I didn't return to pray for power to heal the sick, I just went ahead to heal the sick. To the glory of God, I prayed for a lady who had asthma and she was healed permanently. Today, we run a School of Healing where men are being trained as healing evangelists. The school is fully online, just like the rest of our courses. I urge you to apply to the school and become a sign and a wonder to your world. *For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God. Romans 8:19.*

CHAPTER FOUR

PULPIT LEADERSHIP

This is a true saying, if a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. 1 Timothy 3:1

I probably wouldn't have included this chapter in this book if pulpit leadership or pulpit ministry involves only pastors and those that are called into the full-time ministry. The pulpit leadership as we have today has been expanded to include many people, starting from lay preachers to those who are not necessarily called by God but they are appointed to head a church. When you also go to the campus fellowships, you will find students who are occupying the pulpits.

The truth is that several people have been given access to the pulpit and so it is necessary that we all understand what pulpit leadership entails. If you need a deeper knowledge beyond what I put in this book, then you should apply to the *School of Ministry* or get my book titled *Understanding the Call and the Five Fold Offices*.

Develop Yourself

One vital thing about pulpit leadership or ministry is that you must develop yourself. Self-development is not an option, and it is not up for negotiation. Don't forget the sons of Sceva. They were seven, their father, Sceva, was a Jew and the chief of the priests, but those things didn't qualify them to confront the devil. *And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? Acts 19:15.*

You can't give what you don't have. There are many people occupying the

pulpits today, including those who were called by God but what they try to do is to give what they don't have. They teach things they know little or nothing about. I have seen young boys who just caught a little revelation and they went wild, saying all sorts of rubbish. A lot of them say they don't even need the Old Testament and the gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and that they only need the letters of Paul. They are easily confused and swayed by false teachings because they are not grounded. Ironically, they go to teach the erroneous things they learnt.

If you are called into pulpit leadership or if you desire it, you have to develop yourself. Yes, you can desire deaconship role or the eldership roles just to serve God. It is beautiful to desire it but don't try to give what you don't have. The Bible says that the mighty men of David strengthened themselves in rigorous training so as to become strong enough to put David on the throne.

These also [are] the chief of the mighty men whom David had, who strengthened themselves with him in his kingdom, [and] with all Israel, to make him king, according to the word of the LORD concerning Israel.

1 Chronicles 11:10

It is one thing to be called; it is another thing to be trained. Evil spirits disgraced the seven sons of Sceva. It leaped on them, tore their clothes and they ran out naked. They fled naked and wounded. That will not be your portion in Jesus name!

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15

That was the first scriptural passage the Lord gave to me when I was

appointed as the Bible Study and Discipleship coordinator of my campus fellowship. I said to myself that I can't afford to put myself to shame. I must study to show myself approved. Those who don't study become embarrassed and ashamed at the end. Study!

PRINCIPLES OF HONOUR

These things happened to them as examples for us. They were written down to warn us who live at the end of the age. 1 Corinthians 10:11NLT

One culture you must learn about the pulpit leadership is the principle of honour. You must honour your pastor. You must honour men of God. It doesn't matter if you are a man of God yourself. And if you have the opportunity to serve close to the pulpit, you mustn't allow familiarity erode honour from you. You may be a believer or worker in the house of God but you must respect and honour whoever occupies that pulpit.

The matter of honour is being downplayed in this generation and it is an enormous risk. The Scripture says he that dishonours his parents would die suddenly and his eyes would be plucked out. So, it is a curse not to honour the fathers of faith and men of God- the ones that are set directly above you and those around you.

We have examples of the consequences of dishonor in the scriptures. The Bible says the stories recorded in the scriptures are written as examples to those of us who are living in this precarious generation. David repented for daring to even cut the cloth of King Saul. One would think that God put Saul, his enemy, in his hand to kill, but God put him there as a test to David. David only cut a piece from Saul's garment just to

prove it to Saul that he was close enough to kill him, but that was a mistake on his part and he repented of it.

Afterward David was conscience-stricken for having cut off a corner of his robe. He said to his men, the LORD forbid that I should do such a thing to my master, the LORD'S anointed or lift my hand against him; for he is the anointed of the LORD. 1 Samuel 24:5-6 NIV

It doesn't matter if Saul was wicked and rejected, if David had killed him, that would have marked the end of David. When Saul died, someone thought David would be glad to hear of the news and so he decided to lie that he was the one that killed him in order to get a reward but David ordered that he should be killed for daring to kill the anointed of God. David never doubted for a moment that Saul was anointed regardless of his attitude. David knew that even **yesterday's anointing can strike anyone that dishonours its bearer**. The Bible says; he that breaks the hedge, the serpent shall bite him (Ecclesiastes 10:8). It is not a thing to be discussed; it is a biblical fact any day no matter how civilized the world may seem.

Korah, Dathan and Abiram

One day Korah son of Izhar, a descendant of Kohath son of Levi, conspired with Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth, from the

One day Korah son of Izhar, a descendant of Kohath son of Levi, con-spired with Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On son of Peleth, from the tribe of Reuben. 2They incited a rebellion against Moses, along with 250 other leaders of the community, all prominent members of the as-sembly. 3They united against Moses and Aaron and said, "You

have gone too far! The whole community of Israel has been set apart by the Lord, and he is with all of us. What right do you have to act as though you are greater than the rest of the Lord's people?"

4When Moses heard what they were saying, he fell face down on the ground. Numbers 16:1-4(NLT);

Korah, Dathan and Abiram were men who incited rebellion against Moses and Aaron. Look at the case they presented: *"What right do you have to act as though you are greater than anyone else among all these people of the LORD?"*

Is it not the same kind of statement we hear everywhere today? You hear statements like "we are all sons; we are the same and so on". Read Moses response carefully:

4When Moses heard what they were saying, he fell face down on the ground.

5Then he said to Korah and his followers, "Tomorrow morning the Lord will show us who belongs to him and who is holy. The Lord will allow only those whom he selects to enter his own presence. 6Korah, you and all your followers must pre-prepare your incense burners. 7Light fires in them tomorrow, and burn incense before the Lord. Then we will see whom the Lord chooses as his holy one. You Levites are the ones who have gone too far!"

8Then Moses spoke again to Korah: "Now listen, you Levites! 9Does it seem insignificant to you that the God of Israel has chosen you from among all the community of Israel to be near him so you can serve in the

Lord's Tabernacle and stand before the people to minister to them?

Numbers 16:4-9(NLT)

One thing we must understand from this Scripture is that, Korah was a Levite. He served on the altar while Aaron was the chief priest. Korah being a Levite stirred up a rebellion against Moses claiming that they were all equal and the same before God. He told Moses that he had gone too far. Then Moses told him that he was the one that had gone too far. That you are chosen to serve on the altar as a deacon or elder, or probably as an assistant pastor or the main preacher, does not mean that you should misbehave.

Korah, He has given this special ministry only to you and your fellow

Levites, but now you are demanding the priesthood as well!

The one you are really revolting against is the LORD! And who is Aaron that you are complaining about him?" Numbers 16:10-11.

Now Moses had sensed jealousy and envy in their speech. It wasn't about what Aaron or Moses did, they only leveraged on that. It was all because Korah particularly wanted the priesthood. He was already a Levite just as Aaron was, but the family of Aaron was ordained for priesthood.

I read many things on social media today and I see how the foolish sons of this world criticize pastors. They seem to have a good presentation, but deep down in their hearts, there is more to it. You can't be foolish to nod your head at their seemingly good points.

Moses summoned Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, but they replied,

“We refuse to come before you! Isn’t it enough that you brought us out of Egypt, a land flowing with milk and honey, to kill us here in this wilderness, and that you now treat us like your subjects? What’s more, you haven’t brought us into another land flowing with milk and honey. You haven’t given us a new homeland with fields and vineyards. Are you trying to fool these men? We will not come.”

Then Moses became very angry and said to the Lord, “Do not accept their grain offerings! I have not taken so much as a donkey from them, and I have never hurt a single one of them.” And Moses said to Korah, “You and all your fol-lowers must come here tomorrow and present your-selves before the Lord. Aaron will also be here. You and each of your 250 fol-lowers must pre-pare an incense burner and put incense on it, so you can all present them before the Lord. Aaron will also bring his incense burner.”

So each of these men pre-pared an incense burner, lit the fire, and placed incense on it. Then they all stood at the entrance of the Tabernacle with Moses and Aaron. Meanwhile, Korah had stirred up the entire community against Moses and Aaron, and they all gath-ered at the Tabernacle entrance. Then the glorious presence of the Lord appeared to the whole community, and the Lord said to Moses and Aaron, “Get away from all these people so that I may in-stantly de-stroy them!”

But Moses and Aaron fell face down on the ground. “O God,” they pleaded, “you are the God who gives breath to all crea-tures. Must you be angry with all the people when only one man sins?”

*And the Lord said to Moses, “**Then tell all the people to get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.**” Numbers 16:10-24(NLT)*

You need to depart from the tent of Korah, Dathan and Abiram. I'm also warning you. Get away from the tent of men who are quick to abuse, insult, revolt and revile men of God else you will share in their fate. **Yes, men of God are not God but God doesn't see you as equal with them. You are not mates.** There are ways to correct people, but you may not be in the position to correct some people. When you are not in the position to correct some people, you either report to people who can correct them, or you keep quiet and speak to God about it and if you are not satisfied with what the pastor is doing, then you can leave his church or ministry causing no trouble. You mustn't partake in a rebellious act that would bring death to you. You must not be part of those who insult men of God because you have cheap data or what have you. The pulpit leadership and ministry is holy and sacred. It is not just about that person standing in the office but about God who put him there. When you dishonour men of God, you directly dishonour God.

So Moses got up and rushed over to the tents of Dathan and Abiram, followed by the elders of Israel. "Quick!" he told the people. "Get away from the tents of these wicked men, and don't touch any-thing that be-longs to them. If you do, you will be de-stroyed for their sins." So all the people stood back from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. Then Dathan and Abiram came out and stood at the entrances of their tents, together with their wives and children and little ones.

Numbers 16:25-27 NLT

God allowed Moses to dictate the judgement!

And Moses said, “This is how you will know that the Lord has sent me to do all these things that I have done—for I have not done them on my own. If these men die a natural death, or if nothing unusual happens, then the Lord has not sent me. But if the Lord does something entirely new and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them and all their belongings, and they go down alive into the grave then you will know that these men have shown contempt for the Lord.”

He had hardly finished speaking the words when the ground suddenly split open beneath them. The earth opened its mouth and swallowed the men, along with their households and all their followers who were standing with them, and everything they owned. So they went down alive into the grave, along with all their belongings. The earth closed over them, and they all vanished from among the people of Israel.

Numbers 16:28-33(NLT)

That would not be your portion in Jesus Name! Don't overstep your boundary.

Don't Desecrate the Pulpit

If you are serving on the pulpit and you dare to desecrate the pulpit, you should know that you cannot escape its consequences. If God could deal with those who dishonour those who are serving on the pulpit, how much more is He going to deal with ministers who directly desecrate the pulpit? It may not happen immediately or suddenly, but when you desecrate the altar of God, you will surely be desecrated because judgment will start from His house. Don't forget, Aaron lost his first and second son on the same day to desecrate the altar of God.

Miriam and Aaron

I believe you remember the story of Moses, Miriam and Aaron. Aaron was the chief priest, and he got carried away thinking that Moses was his mate. Aaron believed he was close enough to scold Moses. Moses' elder sister, Miriam also joined in it.

While they were at Hazeroth, Miriam and Aaron criticized Moses because he had married a Cushite woman. They said, "Has the LORD] spoken only through Moses? Hasn't he spoken through us, too?" But the LORD heard them.

So immediately the LORD] called to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam and said, "Go out to the Tabernacle, all three of you!" And the three of them went out.

Then the LORD] descended in the pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the Tabernacle. "Aaron and Miriam!" he called, and they stepped forward.

And the LORD] said to them, "Now listen to me! Even with prophets, I the LORD] communicate by visions and dreams.

But that is not how I communicate with my servant Moses. He is entrusted with my entire house.

I speak to him face to face, directly and not in riddles! He sees the LORD] as he is. Should you not be afraid to criticize him?"

The LORD was furious with them, and he departed.

Numbers 12; 1-2, 4-9 NLT

God told them how dare you criticize my servant? How dare you? God said, are you not afraid? Oh, I see fearless and foolish generation who has zero regard for any man of God.

As the cloud moved from above the Tabernacle, Miriam suddenly became white as snow with leprosy. When Aaron saw what had happened, He cried out to Moses, "Oh, my lord! Please don't punish us for this sin we have so foolishly committed.

Don't let her be like a stillborn baby, already decayed at birth."

V10-14NLT

In verse 11, Aaron realized Moses was his lord and not his mate. KJV used the word "master". There is a mark, there is a difference. They are not the same. Moses prayed for Miriam but she was isolated for seven days and then she was healed.

There are certain things we must note in the rebellion of Aaron and Miriam. Miriam, Moses and Aaron were family members. Moses was even the youngest. Aaron and Miriam were elderly to Moses but there was a difference. Moses was the head man, Aaron was the priest, Miriam was only a prophetic choir leader. You will realize that Miriam and Aaron committed the sin, but it was only Miriam that was punished and that was because if God had made Aaron a leper, he wouldn't be able to serve again as the chief priest so God only warned him but he punished Miriam immediately.

When you see someone indulging in wrong doings and you choose to imitate the person, probably because he is your pastor, he may be spared from punishment and you may pay heavily for it. He may only be warned but you will pay for it.

If there was no need for ministers in the body of Christ in the New Testament then, God wouldn't have sent us Apostles, Prophets, Pastors, Evangelists and Teachers. He sent them because we need them. And their presence must command honour. Not only towards them, but their spouses and those they delegate.

My point so far is that leaders who serve on the pulpit must be honoured, and those serving there should not desecrate it.

CHAPTER FIVE

FAITH, INTEGRITY AND LOVE

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God
Mathew 5:8

Another thing you must understand about pulpit leadership is the aspect of faith. Faith is an essential component of the Christian leadership. Three times the Bible says *“the just shall live by His faith”*. A minister must understand the principles of faith. Don’t assume that you know what faith is. I used to assume that I do until I started studying on faith. We run a course tagged, the *School of Faith*, and I have written books on faith that you can lay your hands upon.

Integrity is also highly required of a Christian or pulpit leader. I said earlier that you must not desecrate the pulpit. The Bible says *“blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God”* (Mathew 5:8). A pulpit leader must demonstrate integrity in relation to the opposite sex, money and the words of his mouth. To have one and not have the other is meaningless and dangerous.

Love is also very basic to Christian leadership. The primary commandment that God gave to all Christian leaders, and all believers is love.

Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Hear, O Israel!

The Lord our God is the one and only Lord.

And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’

The second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' No other commandment is greater than these."

Matthew 12:29-31

We know that we are pass from death unto light because we love the brethren, he that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

1 John 3:14

He that loveth his brother abideth in light and there is no occasion of stumbling in him.

1 John 2:10

Love is an essential component of our service or Christian leadership. Your motivation for all you do must be love. In your service in the house of God and to humanity, you must always ask yourself: "what is my motivation?" Is it the love for God or love for fellow believers? Paul said a man could even die for another person without being motivated by love. And such sacrifice is meaningless. Love is the greatest.

These three will last forever- faith, hope, and love-and the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

You are not working for nothing

Before I come to the end this book, I have important information to give to you as a Christian leader. **You are not working for nothing.** You are not only working in order to get to heaven. Yes, there are rewards in heaven, but here on earth, God also pays. Peter asked what their reward would be. I thought Jesus would scold him for asking such a carnal

question but no, Jesus replied genuinely,

Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee.

And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting.

Luke 18:28-30

At another place Jesus said:

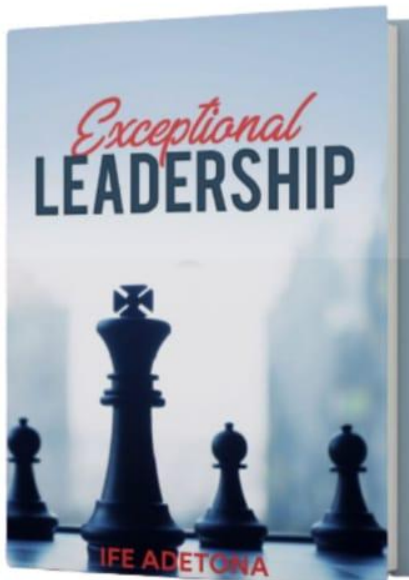
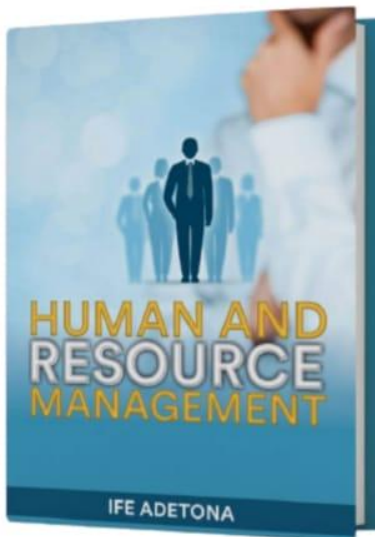
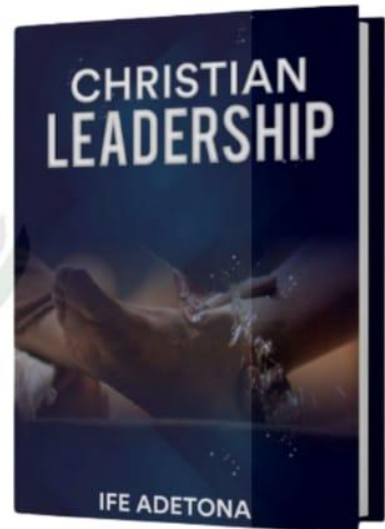
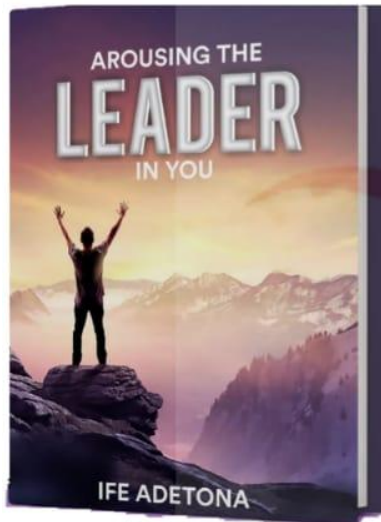
The harvesters are paid good wages and the fruit they harvest is brought into eternal life. What joy awaits both the planter and the harvester alike?

John 4:36.

Note that the word “wages” and not salary was used. We are being paid good wages on a daily basis as we serve in Christian leadership.

I pray that you will find joy serving God! May you also find self-development and the right training while serving. May you develop your spirit man and your leadership capacity as you partake in Christian leadership! May you be motivated with love! May the Lord keep you from sin and from desecrating His pulpit! May the Lord keep you, strengthen you and bring the best out of you! May you not miss your reward in Jesus Name. God bless you!

LEADERSHIP SERIES



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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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