# ANSWERING THE CALL TO MINISTRY

# ABOUT THE BOOK

When you believe in your heart that you are called into the ministry, what next? What step are you to take? Where do you go from that point where you felt the tug in your heart? Having sat down with several people to guide and train them on the immediate steps to take, I have decided to put this knowledge in a book and place it in your hands with the belief that the Holy Spirit will breathe on it and enlighten your heart.

"Answering the Call to Ministry" is not just a book, it's a life-changing resource that will inspire and equip you to fulfill your God-given purpose.

This comprehensive guide is designed to help you discern and answer the call to ministry.

With valuable insights and practical advice, this book will take you on a journey of discovery, helping you understand what it means to be called by God and how to prepare for ministry.

But this book is not just for those who are already involved in ministry. It's also for anyone who is considering it, or who simply wants to deepen their relationship with God. With its engaging style and powerful message, "Answering the Call to Ministry" will inspire you to take the next step in your journey of faith and service.

So, if you're ready to discover what God has in store for you, this book is the perfect place to start.

# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Ife Adetona is a renowned preacher of the gospel, known for his anointed ministry and dedication to discipleship and nurturing believers into maturity. He is the President of the Sons and Daughters of Zion (SADOZ) Global Harvest Ministries, a dynamic and

interdenominational discipleship ministry that has touched the lives of thousands of individuals worldwide.

SADOZ has been instrumental in facilitating spiritual transformation and empowering believers in their faith journeys. The ministry has witnessed countless individuals experiencing the baptism of the Holy Spirit, accompanied by the evidence of speaking in tongues. Additionally, SADOZ has played a pivotal role in helping people establish a personal, intimate and a friend to Friend relationship with the Holy Spirit, cultivating a genuine and

deep connection.

One of the notable contributions of Ife Adetona is the creation of the daily discipleship and devotional manual known as "Daily Communion." This powerful resource has become a source of blessing and inspiration to tens of thousands of individuals on a daily basis, as they engage in spiritual nourishment and growth.

In addition to his ministry responsibilities, Ife Adetona serves as the President of the Koinonia Bible Institute (KBI). KBI is an online training academy affiliated with SADOZ, offering a comprehensive range of over 30 courses. These courses cover various aspects of life, including the School of Ministry, School of Purpose, School of Leadership, School of Long Life, 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, Miraculous School of Conception, and Encounter School for Singles, among others.

Ife Adetona's impact extends beyond his preaching and ministry work. He is also a prolific author, having written over 70 books that have had a profound influence on the body of Christ. These books cover a wide range of topics and have been instrumental in imparting spiritual wisdom and insight to believers worldwide.

Ife Adetona is married to Elizabeth Ife-Adetona, and their home is blessed with the presence of their daughter, Faith Ife-Adetona.

Through his preaching, discipleship ministry, writings, and leadership roles, Ife Adetona continues to inspire and transform lives, leaving an indelible mark on the body of Christ. He his highly resourceful and passionate about impacting knowledge for the empowerment of people from all walks of lives.

# **Answering the Call to Ministry**

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

Version of the Bible.

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# Testimonies from the School of Ministry [SOM]

SOM has opened my eyes to what it truly means to be a peculiar minister in His Vineyard. It has provided me with a comprehensive understanding and maturity in every aspect of ministry. I now operate with knowledge and understanding, fully aware of my uniqueness in the body of Christ. SOM has helped me discover my office in Christ and equipped me to handle various ministerial aspects. I have gained valuable insights through the lectures, learning the basics needed to become a good leader. All glory to God forever and ever. - Olakanla M."

"The KBI School of Ministry has exceeded my expectations and taught me far more than the fee paid. I now have a clearer understanding of my calling, especially in areas that I had never encountered before. The SOM opened my eyes to new levels of understanding. After completing this school, I am now fully committed to serving God with my entire being. During the course, God revealed the scriptural foundations of my calling, and I am overwhelmed with gratitude. I thank KBI for pouring out this vast knowledge and I pray for blessings upon SADOZ ministry and Pastor Ife Adetona. - Aremu T."

My experience in the School of Ministry has been an amazing wonder to me and my future. It was in this school that I received the right direction and a proper understanding of ministry. I have also gained clarity on how to work towards fulfilling my ministry. - Akinsowon J."

"This school has been a tremendous blessing, and I sincerely appreciate God for the lecturer. I thank God for His grace and insight upon His servant, who has blessed our hearts tremendously. The lectures have shed light on various aspects of ministry, including the identity and ethics of a minister. I learned the importance of raising men, knowing their identity, purpose, and responsibilities. I also learned the significance of having my own unique message from God and understanding my audience. The school has been enriching and impactful, especially in clarifying my calling. I was previously involved in various activities that left me overwhelmed and discouraged, but thanks to this school, I am now clear about my call and actively working in it.

- Ngam N."

"Studying at KBI has been a golden experience. From the very first day, it expanded my understanding of ministry. I now have the confidence to speak and minister to members. KBI has taught me the importance of knowledge, character, and relationships in ministry. - Nkaka J."

"The experience so far has been awe-inspiring and life-transforming. I pray that the source of this wisdom will never run dry. May God strengthen the president for more good works. - Ezekiel T."

# INTRODUCTION

All the time, there is always someone who is asking me questions on what to do when they feel that they have a call of God to the ministry. We have resources such as books and KBI courses that are comprehensive and addresses their questions but I always feel that would be too much since what they need is an immediate actionable step to take. I have sat with many people like this to explain to them the very next steps to take.

At a point, I realized the need for a comprehensive guide that would help individuals discern and answer the call to ministry. And so, I wrote "Answering the Call to Ministry" - a book that provides foundational knowledge about ministry and the necessary steps to take when you realize that you are called by God.

In this book, I share my personal experiences and insights, as well as biblical principles and practical advice, to help you understand what it means to be called by God and how to prepare for ministry. Whether you are already involved in ministry or are considering it, this book will inspire and equip you to fulfill your God-given purpose.

So, if you are ready to discover what God has in store for you, I invite you to join me on this journey of transformation. Let's explore together what it means to be called by God and how we can serve Him excellently.

# **CHAPTER ONE**

# **HEARING THE CALL**

I didn't know he was the one, but when God sent me to baptize with water, he told me, "The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit". John 1:33

Knowledge has not only increased in this generation, confusion has also been in abundance. Many are not sure if they are called into the ministry or not while some are sure but do not know what to do next. By the Spirit of God, this book will bring you into the understanding of the basics and what calling into the ministry is all about. We will also clarify the numerous confusions that are attached to this concept.

# Are you called?

What comes to your mind? Is it a No or Yes or you are not sure? Anyone serving in the ministry must be able to answer this question confidently without flinching. If you are called and you have answered the call, I want to commend your courage but if you are confused or contemplating on whether to answer the call or not, I believe you will be helped as you go through this book.

There are up to five channels available for an individual to be sure if he has been called to serve God in the ministry, namely: vision, burning desire, audible voice, third party and the word.

# 1. VISION:

And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

# your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions - Joel 2:28.

Here, God is saying that in these last days, there will be a lot of visions. There are up to four kinds or types of vision and we are going to describe them briefly. I want you to take note that whenever I talk on vision, God usually release His Spirit and gifts upon people for impartation, so make sure you pay attention.

# a. Open vision:

Open vision can take up to three to four dimensions. The first is when your eyes are wide open, your physical environment is suspended and you begin to see right into the spirit realm. Those standing with you or around you may not see those things but you can see clearly as though you are looking at it with your natural eyes. John the Baptist had such experience at the baptism of Jesus Christ. He said: "I saw the Holy Spirit descending like a dove from heaven and resting upon him. John 1:32 NLT.

Many Christians, probably due to the way it was portrayed in the movie we all know as the Jesus film thought that it was everyone standing by the river that saw the dove but that was not so. It was a sign given only to John the Baptist: *I didn't know he was the one, but when God sent me to baptize with water, he told me, "The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit"*. v33.

Open vision could also take the dimension of seeing a Spirit being, either with your eyes opened or closed. There are a number of

heavenly beings. One of them are angels. When many see angels today, they see the angel in a form. What they saw could be someone clothed in white. They didn't really see the face or any visible part of the body but just some standing whitish object and they say it is an angel. They are right because it could be an angel appearing in a form but that is not an open vision. Joshua saw an angel in Joshua 5:13-14. That is an open vision. You see the heavenly or other spirit beings, including Satan or demons clearly in the way they really are either with your eyes opened or closed.

And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, [Art] thou for us, or for our adversaries?

And he said, Nay; but [as] captain of the host of the LORD am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my lord unto his servant?

And the captain of the LORD'S host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest [is] holy. And Joshua did so. Joshua 5:13-14

Third, open vision is being caught up to the third heavens. People ask where God was when He created heaven and earth. I tell them that the heaven God created in Genesis is the firmament (Genesis 1:8). Firmament is another word for "sky". That is the first heaven. The third heaven has always been and that was where God's throne is. Paul talked

of a man who was caught up into the third heaven (2 Corinthians 12:2). When I found myself in the third heaven in a revelation, I discovered that it is divided into three areas just like the structure of the Old Testament Temple: outer court, inner court and Most Holy Place. In that particular vision, I didn't move past the outer court. It has lots and lots of angels. It seems spherical in shape.

Fourth, open vision is when you see the spiritual dimension of a natural event either with your eyes opened or closed. "And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him". John 1:32

When Jesus was rising from the water, the Holy Spirit literarily descended upon Jesus like a (spiritual) dove but it was only Jesus and John the Baptist that saw it. For every physical event, there is a spiritual dimension. When Jesus was born, angels came to the earth and were singing and rejoicing but not all saw them, not even Mary and Joseph. As you are reading this book, there is a spiritual activity going on around you. It could involve angels or demons but they are there. If God opens your eyes to see it, that is open vision.

# And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying. Luke 2:13

As I am typing this book, there is a spiritual dimension. There are angels all around here. I didn't see any of them, yet but I could feel their presence. It's like a fear or awe around here. You could feel it too!

In summary, open vision is seeing a vision with your eyes open. Or seeing a spirit being with your eyes opened or closed. Or being caught up into the spirit realm. Or seeing the spiritual dimension of a physical event either with your eyes opened or closed.

All you see in the Book of Revelation is an open vision. John says: I was in the spirit on the Lord's Day and I heard behind me...and I turned to see (Revelation 1:10) and he began to see. That was why the book was titled, Revelation.

Let me cite a warning here. Open vision is strong and highly convincing but it is not your duty to seek for it or to ask that He must speak to you through that means. God usually use this means in situation where the person is likely to be very stubborn or when the person is totally out of touch from Him and God needed to get his attention like in the case of Moses and people whom had never known God.

It takes the burning bush to get Moses' attention. Not just that, he kept asking for several signs. My spiritual father, Bishop Paul Ivbarue had been in the ministry serving under a servant of God. He had believed and professed publicly that he was not going to be a founder. He planned to serve under that man of God for the rest of his life. One day, he was in his room, a man walked in and told him: you will start a ministry and call it Seed of Grace. The person walked out again. He called upon his wife and asked if she saw the person that just walked in and out; she said she didn't see anybody. That was how his church vision was birthed. If God didn't speak to him through that channel, he may find it difficult to get convinced. That was because he was neck deep into that

man's ministry and the man was really counting on him. He had also repeatedly said openly that he was not going anywhere. Even with the vision, he still had a very tough time leaving but the clarity of the vision kept him strong and unmovable.

This method for receiving the call is mainly based on need according to the wisdom of God. If you don't need it, you won't have it; it doesn't mean that you are not spiritual or that the calling of God upon your life is weak. God called many people who had an idolatry background into the ministry using open vision or audible voice just because that is the only way they can understand God.

# b. Trance

This is when you fall asleep briefly and you see some things like a short movie in the spirit realm and then you wake. This time, your eyes are closed or you doze off for some seconds or minutes but not like a dream. When you have a trance, you will ask yourself: when did I fall asleep. It would be as if you have been sleeping even though you didn't sleep.

Peter had a very good experience of this:

On the morrow, as they went on their journey, and drew nigh unto the city, Peter went up upon the housetop to pray about the sixth hour: And he became very hungry, and would have eaten: but while they made ready, he fell into a trance, And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth. Act10:9-11

# c. Picture or closed vision:

In this case, your eyes are closed and you see a picture like a flash and it goes off. It comes briefly like a flash across your face. This is the commonest kind of vision. No matter how long a close vision seems, it is usually about a second. But when you are explaining it, it seems like an event that happened over a long period.

# d. Night vision:

It is also called dream but the difference is that, a dream can be a nightmare or just a rehearsal of what you had thought of or done in the day. But a night vision carries revelations. In the book of Joel, the Scripture says: your old men will dream dreams. Daniel had lots of night visions- Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel 2:19. Paul also received a direction through the vision in the night (Acts 16:9).

I often advise that when you are called into the ministry through close or night visions, you should be patient to see it up to three times or confirm through other channels through which God speaks. That is because visions especially this two can be manipulated by the devil.

# 2. Burning Desires

Someone may not have a vision or dream or hear any voice but have a burning desire. This desire usually comes from the heart, from the spirit of a person. Ministry is not bread and butter; it is not an occupation where people can do as they wish. When someone is having an extra ordinary urge for missions or the ministry, it could be a serious sign that

the person is called into the ministry. We saw how Paul got a strong conviction in his spirit: Acts18:5- And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ.

The desire we are talking about here is not the one that arise from your flesh or lust but right from your spirit-man. It is not the one that comes from the wonderful sight of how Pastors dress or the kind of cars they ride. It also goes beyond your love for God or emotions. David desired to build a temple for God but he wasn't allowed. The peculiar feature of this desire is the intensity; it will be long lasting and very deep. You may even be drawn to the point of shedding tears for days or at different times. Even though God spoke to me about the ministry through diverse ways but I shed a lot of tears at different times both in the public and private.

# 3. Audible Voice

God can call through an audible voice even though it is not very common. Someone like Saul that became Paul was called by God through an audible voice -Acts9:3-4. The audible voice could be accompanied by a vision or sight. Paul saw a blinding light alongside the voice and Moses also saw a burning bush. Just like what I said about open vision, Paul was called through this means because that was the only way he could be convinced. He was totally out of touch with God.

# 4. Third Party

This is when somebody tells you that you are going to become a minister or when there is a prophecy said over your life concerning the call of God. While this channel is quite good, it cannot be solely relied upon. We

often say that it should be a confirmation of an existing word from God and if you are hearing it from a third party for the first time; you need to hear God personally. If you can't hear God when He calls you, how will you hear the message He wants to send through you to the people you are called to minister to? There are a lot of people in the ministry today who were called by their spiritual fathers and not by God. I wonder who gave them the message they are preaching.

# 5. The Word

Scriptural word(s) is needed to affirm your call into the ministry. If you don't have one already, please wait upon God to get it. God can also call through His word before backing it up with other means. In addition to the word, make sure the Holy Spirit bears witness with your spirit that you heard God well. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one-1 John 5:7.

Let me emphasize that God can lead through more than one channel and in the mouth of two to three witnesses shall every truth be established-2Corinthians 13:1. So, it is safe to ensure that God leads you through various means or up to three times even if it is the same means. Some of you may want to know if those who are called through open vision or audible voice are more relevant to God than others. Those two channels are not a regular tool God uses to call people into the ministry. More oftentimes, God use it to gain the attention of those who aren't already in fellowship with Him or those who have a tendency of stubbornly refusing Him if they don't have a strange encounter just like I have explained

earlier. People like Moses and Saul may never pay attention to God if He didn't use these two channels.

# **CHAPTER TWO**

# LAYERS OF CALLING

# In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. Romans 12:6

There are up to three layers of calling and a believer must answer at least two of these callings: call unto salvation, call into service and call to the ministry.

# 1. Call unto salvation

The call unto salvation is for all mankind. The Bible says those who call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved-Romans 10:13.

# 2. Call into service

After answering the call unto salvation, the next calling is the call into the service of God. God expects that everyone will serve in His Vineyard. Many people are called by God at a very tender age. It doesn't mean that they should venture into the ministry immediately but they must serve in one capacity or the other in the house of God. It is in that process that they can be led into the ministry. Also, some people are called into the ministry at a more advanced age; such people are expected to immerse themselves into service before venturing into the ministry. Most people such as converts from other religions or those converted from occultism or from the world, that didn't pass through calling into service before entering the ministry usually become invalid within a short time.

Meanwhile, call into service is not only for those who are called into the ministry. The book of Romans 12:6-8 detailed various service gifts. I believe these gifts are actually limitless; they are as much as it is needed

in the body of Christ. Today, we can include: music, ushering, protocol, evangelism, interpreting and many others.

In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you.

If your gift is <u>serving</u> others, serve them well. If you are a <u>teacher</u>, teach well. If your gift is to <u>encourage</u> others, be encouraging. If it is <u>giving</u>, give generously. If God has giv-en you <u>leadership</u> ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for <u>showing</u> kindness to others, do it gladly.

# CHAPTER THREE

# CALL INTO THE MINISTRY

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

In the previous chapters, we have examined how to know that you are called and the two types of calling all believers must answer. Here, we shall examine what call into the ministry is. It is more than just, "I have a call". There is more to it just like other professions. You will gain understanding in Jesus Name.

Call into the ministry could also be referred to as calling to the "pulpit ministry". This could be further categorized into three: lay ministry, part-time ministry and fulltime ministry.

# a. Lay Ministry:

This has to do with a believer who is involved in pulpit ministerial work. Pulpit ministry simply involves preaching or teaching the word of God to a congregation. A lay minister may not be called into the ministry but is appointed to teach the word or pastor a congregation. Such person is also allowed to go about doing his career. What it takes to be involved in the lay ministry includes: being a believer, a lover of God and available to bear the demand. This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work. A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach- 1 Timothy 3:1-2.

The word Bishop here means being an overseer or elder. As we can see in the passage that it is all about desire and availability. A lay minister can go as far as establishing a branch of a church or lead an established branch. A lay minister can also be a teacher or preacher in a para-church organization (interdenominational ministry). Lay ministry is simply an extension of call to service.

# b. Part-time Ministry:

This is a person that is called into the ministry but doing it partly. The person is doing another work entirely and still doing the ministerial work alongside. There are a number of reasons why those called by God into the ministry are found in the part-time ministry. Some of these reasons are good while some are bad and could have adverse effects:

- i. <u>Self-will or permissive will</u>: these are categories of those who God actually called into the ministry but by their own will they have remained as part-time ministers. That is how far they can go for God or let me say, that is how much they can offer God.
- ii. <u>Stage</u>: Life is in stages and men are in sizes. There can be a stage in a man's life when he is permitted to be in the ministry on a part-time basis for a while but anything after that stage can be a result of a permissive will.
- iii. <u>Temporary demand</u>: Someone who is into the ministry on a fulltime basis can have a temporary demand to get himself involved in some jobs to support the ministerial work and himself. This is mostly the case for missionaries, evangelists and pastors posted to rural areas with little or

no financial support. That was the case for Apostle Paul. Many people assumed that Paul was a part-timer but that's not the case. Let us examine Acts18:1-5.

Then Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he became acquainted with a Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently arrived from Italy with his wife, Priscilla. They had left Italy when Claudius Caesar deported all Jews from Rome. Paul lived and worked with them, for they were tentmakers just as he was. Each Sabbath found Paul at the synagogue, trying to convince the Jews and Greeks alike. And after Silas and Timothy came down from Macedonia, Paul spent all his time preaching the word. He testified to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah

Here, we saw that Paul engaged in a part-time ministry because of a temporary demand. He was waiting for Timothy and Silas to come and join him because he left them at a place where there was trouble. He had sent for them and while waiting, he ministered in the synagogue on Saturdays only while he did business during the week but as soon as they arrived, the Bible says he spent all his time preaching the word. Another version says; he gave himself fully to the ministry.

i. <u>Lust of the eyes</u>: For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world-1 John 2:16.

Bishop Dag Heward-Mills said he was surprised when he saw a fulltime pastor who left the ministry to go into some business. He said he was shocked at first until he realized that a lot of people were leaving the ministry for other jobs. There are ministers who were exposed to some businesses or jobs and because of profit, they ventured into it partly. And in some cases, they eventually left the ministry. We have also heard of pastors in the African continent who left their ministry to travel abroad in search of greener pastures. For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica- 2 Timothy 4:10a.

The point here is that, no one is actually called into a "part-time ministry". You will realize that from the reasons stated above, part-time should be a temporary thing for anyone who has the calling of God. Some may not even be permitted to pass through the part-time stage at all.

# **CHAPTER FOUR**

# **FORMS OF MINISTRY**

# And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it. Colossians 4:17

For someone that sense the call of God upon their lives, it is necessary that you know that there are forms and aspects to ministry. Several decades ago, all that is known about ministry is mainly the denominational church organizations but things have changed, we now have other forms of the ministry where people are fulfilling their mandates as ministers of God;

- Denominational or Church Ministry
- Non-denominational ministry
- 1. Denominational or Church Ministry: we are familiar with what this means. They are the local church denominations which are self-dependent.
- 2. Non-denominational Ministry: this is a ministry which does not operate as a church and it is not an arm of any church. It is both non-denominational and inter-denominational. There are organizations that are inter-denominational but cannot be referred to as non-denominational because they are arms of established churches.

# **Aspects of Ministry**

Before now, you might have ignorantly thought that all there is to ministry is to head a church but the ministry is a lot wider than that. Here, I will be stating different aspects of the ministry that God can

specifically call a person into. I believe that it can be more than what we cover here. Ministry is like the medical profession where we have an endless list of aspects and specializations working in harmony on the body of man.

- <u>Children Ministry</u>: these are people who are called specially to reach out to children. We also have people who are specially called to minister to youths, adults, the aged and so on.
- Language Ministry: some people are called to minister to people of a
  particular language or tribe. Some of them can be involved in
  missions or just serve as interpreters. They have the advantage
  because they understand the language or were led to learn the
  language.
- Missions: mission is a large concept on its own; within it are other several specializations like cross-cultural, rural based, city based, language based missions and so on. It is within the missions that you have tent-ministry. This is a system that allows a person in the full time to do a work that allows them access to the people of the community.
- <u>Bible Translation Ministry</u>: we may not appreciate the specialization of some people because we do not hear their names but their impact across our Christian lives cannot be denied. Bible translating ministry enjoyed prominence and even dominance in the body of Christ from the days of the "copyists" to the days of William Tyndale and it further extends into the future. It is reported that the printing technology came into being in an effort to get the Bible distributed on a larger scale. Before the printing

technology, every copy of the Bible was handwritten. I can tell you that as at this moment, there are tribes all over the world and even in Nigeria that are yet to have a complete Bible written in their languages and a lot of people are working around the clock to get it done.

• <u>Specialized Teaching</u>: these are men inspired by God to teach a concept or topic of the Bible in depth. For instance, Smith Wigglesworth is known as the Apostle of Faith.

Like I said earlier, the list is endless. We have those called into Marriage, Drama, Music and Book ministries. The aspects we are called into may be a stage or phase and it may not be revealed to the individual at first but it will unfold as they obey God's instructions, follow in His steps and grow. Apostle Paul finished his ministry as a writer of the Scriptures. Bob Gass, the author of "A Word for Today" said God told him that he would retire as a writer. Many can also be allowed to combine several aspects of the ministry effectively.

# CHAPTER FIVE

# **GROUP OF MINISTERS**

The purpose of every man determines his makings

We have been talking about ministries but another concept we must examine is what I call group of ministers and we have two basic groupings: pioneers and under-shepherd.

- a. Pioneers are those who are specially anointed to start something either a non-denominational or church ministry.
- b. Under Shepherds are those who serve under someone or under an umbrella. We also have under shepherds who plants branches of a ministry.

I want you to understand that a thing like this is a matter of predestination. It is not what someone ventures into by wish or desire else such will be frustrated. **The purpose of every man determines his makings.** If you aren't made for it, you should not try it. There is a lot of difference in planting a branch of a ministry and starting a ministry. It may look alike but it is not the same. I do not take the grace of God upon me for granted to be a president or pioneer of a ministry but I actually wish I am under an established body. There came a point when I already decided to stay with the ministry I was serving with for life until God reminded me of my purpose.

A pioneer is not higher than an under-shepherd as far as God is concerned and I believe that in heaven it is not going to matter as well. All that would matter is if you fulfilled your mandate. And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it. Colossians 4:17. People like Yonggi Cho, the pastor of the largest church on earth and Apostle Ayo Babalola were under-shepherds. It will be terrible for any under-shepherd minister to think that he is only helping the pioneer. He is helping himself and not anybody. He is fulfilling his ministry and God is his President not any man.

The challenges for these two groupings are unique and I believe everyone is equipped emotionally and spiritually to handle them. That means it will be a big trouble for you to do what you are not sent to do. Let me add that, a person can transit from being an under-shepherd to becoming a pioneer. In most cases, that is how pioneers are trained because to be a pioneer requires being trained and successfully passing the test of followership. And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own? Luke 16:12.

# **CHAPTER SIX**

# ACCEPTING THE CALL

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation-Romans 10:10

The first question I asked was: are you called? After you have come to terms with that, the second question is have you accepted the call of God? You need to say yes to God with your mouth and heart right now even when you are not yet into it. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation- Romans 10:10

Another thing you must say YES to is the fulltime ministry. You can do that right now. It doesn't mean that you are going into fulltime ministry immediately but you are entering an agreement, contract and dedicating yourself to Him. You can drop the book and say YES to His call right now.

# Implications of Accepting the Call

You may be wondering why you need to consciously say YES to Him even when you are not right into it or ready for it. There is a difference between asking my son to wash my clothes and asking my dry-cleaner to wash them. Although I asked them to do the same thing, however, they will receive different rewards and they will approach it with different perception and I will also handle them differently. In the same vein, there is a difference between a person who is serving in the house of God as a believer who answered the call to service and a person who has the call of God upon His life. One would approach it consciously as a training ground for the ministry while, the other will approach it as a service unto

God. While God rewards the former materially and spiritually, He would reward the latter with necessary gifts and grace for where he is taking him to. I wish I can say that enough. I want you to know that God pays wages. God pays wages! *The harvesters are paid good wages* -John 4:36 NLT

More so, if you don't serve in the consciousness of your calling, you won't learn the things God has prepared for you to learn or see those things He wants you to see. I started serving God with the call consciousness when I was thirteen years old. From that time, I didn't serve like others did. I served consciously and went the extra mile for God. The same attitude will be in you if you face anything you do from now with that perspective.

# **CHAPTER SEVEN**

# **FULLTIME MINISTRY**

The first thing and the most regular sign is a sense of dissatisfaction in your spirit. –Ife Adetona

How do you know when it is time to go into the ministry fully? You might have been serving God as a regular believer who answered the call to service or as a lay or part-time minister but there comes a point when you need to fully be in the ministry. Many people believe that it is at a point when the ministry is large or when God appears to them in a vision but that may not always be the case.

The first thing and the most regular sign is a sense of dissatisfaction in your spirit. At that time, you will lose your peace, though all things may seem to be going well around you but you will have a sense of emptiness within. It may be so strong that you are forced to withdraw for a retreat. At this point, many might tell God to let them know if He wants them to resign from their job and go into the ministry fully. They will expect God to speak through dreams or visions or in some spectacular way but He has already spoken! He is only waiting for you to act! That was the same experience Apostle Paul had: Acts 18:5- And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ.

The Greek word used here is "eko" which means to be pressed in an extraordinary way. That was my experience years ago.

If you are called into the ministry, you have a noble and honourable call. I am a happy minister of God. It will surprise you to know that the reason why I gave my life to Christ was that I was told that God wants to use me. I was just eleven years old at that time. The ministry unto souls is the most important occupation on earth and I believe ministers will have more eternal rewards. If God wants everyone to be involved in evangelism as the great commission then those of us who are privileged to be called into that very commission are most fortunate. Take heed to your ministry.

# **CHAPTER EIGHT**

# MY CALL TO MINISTRY

And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia, Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews that Jesus was Christ.

Acts 18:5

I became aware of God's call on my life at the age of 11 through a third party. In fact, it was the reason I dedicated my life to Christ. My first discipler approached me one day and said, "Ife, God wants to use you." I was overjoyed and thrilled to be chosen by Almighty God. I started following my discipler closely as he taught me about the Word of God and prayer.

Two years later, when I was thirteen, I had a night vision. I saw a tractor-like vehicle attempting to demolish a weak fence, but the fence remained steadfast. Then, I saw an elder from our church who was fair-skinned and highly respected. In the vision, his skin glowed as if emitting light. Next, I witnessed what appeared to be an angel reading from a book that listed the names of deceased ministers of God. The reading not only included their names but also their overall fulfillment scores. I couldn't determine the era or generation of ministers that was included in the list began, but it was quite lengthy. I decided to commit at least one name to memory, even though I couldn't remember them all.

I managed to recall two names. The names stood out. The first name fluctuated in terms of score, sometimes reaching around 98% and then dropping, only to rise back up to 98%. The second person had a perfect score of 100%. To this day, I remember their names vividly. It was as if

the elder I had seen was still present while the list was being read. He then instructed me to follow him to the church. Since my father didn't attend our denomination, I told him I needed to ask for my father's permission. He responded by saying that my father couldn't prevent him from inviting me to the church. Suddenly, I found myself in the church without fully comprehending how I got there.

Multiple personal visions, including this one, confirmed that I had received a calling from God. I rededicated my life to God at the age of 13, and since then, I have been serving Him as if I were already in the ministry. I engaged in personal discipleship, follow-up, and evangelism.

While I was still in secondary school, I consciously responded to God's call. I should have been in SS2 at that time. I began shaping my life as if I were already a pastor. My father spoke to me and advised me to prioritize my education while not discouraging me from pursuing the ministry. It was like a wake-up call because his words prevented me from getting distracted from my studies. I became serious about my education, actively participating in the prayer and evangelism units of the church while also excelling as the top student in my class.

After completing secondary school, I started working at a factory. During that time, I contemplated whether to enter the seminary or pursue a secular education. Then, I had a revelation. I saw myself in a rush, and a white man told me that it wasn't yet time. I argued vehemently, but he instructed me to check the time. When I looked at the clock, it was suddenly covered by smoke. Once the smoke cleared, I realized that only a few minutes remained until the appointed time. In that revelation, I

confessed that indeed it was not yet time. I understood that I wasn't ready to enter the ministry or the seminary.

Subsequently, I enrolled at the Federal College of Education, where I obtained my NCE certificate in Special Education and English Language. After graduating, I secured a position with Scripture Union Nigeria (SU), an interdenominational and nondenominational Christian ministry. This marked my first deep involvement with a non-denominational ministry. SU Nigeria had been in existence for 68 years when I joined, and the global SU organization was 144 years old at that time.

I was passionate about my work in the ministry to the extent that I often worked overtime. I felt uncomfortable receiving payment for doing God's work, so I committed to working tirelessly. I served in Scripture Union between 2011 and 2015. At one point, I even decided to dedicate the rest of my life and ministry to Scripture Union. I was prepared to give everything until my initial mentor contacted me that year and said, "Remember that you still have your own ministry." That statement marked the beginning of a shift in my life.

During my time at Scripture Union, two things were simultaneously happening in my life: my education and the ministry that God would later establish through me.

I contemplated resigning from Scripture Union to pursue my university education, but I received a revelation from God instructing me not to abandon the lives I was discipling for full-time education. Instead, God led me to pursue a distance learning program. I had my reservations

about it, but considering the financial constraints I had at that time, I eventually embraced God's plan. The Lord also said I shouldn't resign from SU to get other jobs. I wanted to flaunt that instruction when I applied for a federal government work but I was rejected. After that, I stopped applying for jobs or take on any side jobs.

I kept following up with my disciples, as I had been doing since the time I gave my life to Christ. I had a good number of disciples during my NCE days, and I stayed in touch with them. Additionally, I began to have disciples among the secondary school students I met while carrying out my SU assignments. SU organizes fellowships in secondary schools.

Over time, I started losing contact with some of my disciples, and I heard news of some of them backsliding. I felt burdened to gather them together. In December 2013, I organized an end-of-the-year prayer meeting as God instructed. Then, in 2014, the Lord asked me to organize another prayer meeting with them. At that time, I could only gather seven of them because we were planning to travel to a prayer mountain. During the meeting, we discussed how we could keep in touch, and we decided to create a Facebook group called "Sons and Daughters of Zion" (SADOZ). We held that meeting on May 1st, 2014, which was a public holiday.

While at the prayer mountain; the Lord spoke through up to four prophecies, indicating that we should meet again. Initially, I thought that would be our last meeting for the year, but it became clear that God wanted me to hear Him loudly and clearly and so, at least four of the seven individuals prophesied that we should meet again. So, we met in

town on May 29th, which was another public holiday in the state where I resided. Once again, God said we should meet. We gathered again on June 12th, another public holiday. I requested that only "my disciples" attend, but some of them invited their friends.

## The Call to Resign from SU

In December 2014, I was at a mission SU camp in Eruwa town, Oyo State. When the camp ended, as a camp official, I was ensuring that students had left the hall and packed their things. I encountered a lady who had recently finished school, and she was resting her head on a locker. I tapped her to let her know it was time to leave. Then, I began to hear her saying, "Thus saith the Lord." The Lord spoke to me for quite a while that day. The main message was that even though I had settled in with the Scripture Union and had no issues, it was about time for me to leave. God explained to me using the illustration of Abraham. He said Abraham was so loved by his people that even Lot, a man whom is known to love the good things of this world, abandoned all and followed him to the unknown destination. He said that I loved my work in the Scripture Union and the people also loved me but my audience was no longer there and it was about time for me to leave.

When God said that, I thought to myself that God didn't explicitly say to leave; He only mentioned that it was about time. It could still be a long time in the future. In March 2015, after returning from the SU Easter Conference and while undressing, I heard a clear voice in my spirit saying, "If you don't prepare to leave, you will never leave." That's when my troubles started. I became unsettled and prayed and sought advice from many people. I kept telling God, "If you want me to leave, just tell

me, and I will leave." At that time, God didn't say anything, but the burden in my heart spoke volumes. I traveled for a retreat with one of my distant disciplers, and it was there that God showed and spoke to me through Acts 18:1-5.

The passage was about Paul leaving Athens and going to Corinth. There, he met Aquila and Priscilla, who were tentmakers like him. Paul lived and worked with them, and each Sabbath, he preached in the synagogue. When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah.

I read that passage in the NIV, and verse 5 stood out to me: "When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah."

That's when I made the decision that there was no turning back. My fiancée fully supported me, and I had a meeting with my dad. Although he couldn't convince me not to resign, he suggested that I wait until December of that year instead of October. This reminded me of the significance of the earlier vision when I mentioned informing my dad. I submitted my resignation notice in October and vacated the official lodge in December 2015. I had my formal ordination in May 2016 during the SADOZ 2nd anniversary and convention, which was called the May Anointing Service.

After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth;

- {18:2} And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them.
- {18:3} And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers.
  {18:4} And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.
- {18:5} And when Silas and Timotheus were come from Macedonia,
  Paul was pressed in the spirit, and testified to the Jews [that]

  Jesus [was] Christ. Acts 18:1-5

### **END NOTE**

The aim of this book is to guide individuals who believe they have received the calling of God on their lives and are unsure of what steps to take next. Throughout this book, I have provided you with foundational knowledge about ministry and the necessary steps to take when you realized that you are called by God.

As I conclude this book, I want to emphasize that when you are called into ministry, the first thing to do is to accept the call and begin functioning in the capacity of "call to service" with the understanding that you are serving in the ministry. Additionally, you can continue pursuing your education or career in the meantime.

Luke 16:10-12 says, "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. If therefore ye have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if ye have not been faithful in that which is another man's, who shall give you that which is your own?"

This passage reminds us that faithfulness in small matters leads to greater responsibilities. It teaches us that our current area of service is a training ground.

In deciding your area of service, look out for opportunities that allows you to minister in terms of the word, sharpen your spiritual gifts and develop your leadership abilities among others. If you believe that you are called into a song ministry then, you should join the choir and if you have a prayer ministry, join the prayer department together with any other department that can develop your ability in the word. The teaching or preaching of the word is primary to every calling. Apostle Peter says: we can't leave the word and serve tables (Acts 6:2). Apostle Paul says that those that teach the word should be given double wages (1 Timothy 5:17). That tells you that the ministry of the word is the most important ministry if the purpose of ministry is to be achieved. Ministry is meant to develop the saints and build them into maturity (Ephesians 4:10-13).

As you serve with the mindset of ministry, your understanding of your calling will expand, and you will be equipped with spiritual gifts and leadership abilities for the work that God has entrusted to you even before you were born.

It is also important to seek opportunities for training and growth. In SADOZ, we offer the School of Ministry and the School of Full-Time Ministry, which provide comprehensive training through our online academy for ministers like you.

As you embark on this journey of ministry, may you embrace the call, grow in your understanding, and serve faithfully. May God bless you abundantly as you fulfill the purpose He has placed on your life.

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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.

## Impartation for Vision

- 1. You must be baptized in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues.
- 2. Be ready to intercede for people, places or programme.
- 3. Write the names of those people you are interceding for on a sheet of paper
- 4. Start by worshiping God
- 5. Pray in tongues for the first name on the list for up to 5 minutes at a stretch.
- 6. Whatever you see or received concerning them, write it down.
- 7. Do the same for all the names and items on your list
- 8. Approach them to confirm what you saw. Talking to them would boast your faith just like Gideon was instructed to approach the Midianites
- 9. Get Dream, Vision and Revelation by Ife Adetona

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